



# Communicator

## an edition of

# The United Methodist Reporter

The people of The United Methodist Church

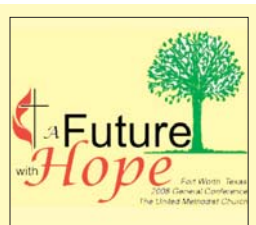
Two Sections, Section A

VOLUME 154 NUMBER 45

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MARCH 14, 2008

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



April 23-May 2 —  
General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas

**The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference**

Laity Session  
June 7, 2008

Clergy Executive Session  
June 11, 2008

Annual Conference Sessions  
June 13-15, 2008



July 13-18 —  
Jurisdictional Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

## Guest Speakers Announced For 2008 Annual Conference Sessions

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference is being blessed two-fold this June by the speakers that have agreed to be with us when we meet for our Annual Conference Sessions from June 13-15, 2008 in Princess Anne, Maryland.

As we "Gear Up," for Annual Conference we welcome Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Episcopal leader for the West Virginia Area and Dr. William Timothy McClendon, District Superintendent for the Columbia Area in the South Carolina Annual Conference and Episcopal Nominee in the Southeast Jurisdiction, will be with us. Bishop Lyght will be bringing the message for Ordination and the Service of Remembrance and Dr. McClendon will lead us in Bible Study.

Bishop Lyght has a connection to our area, having been born in Salisbury, Maryland. He is a graduate of Morgan State University (B.A. in History,

1965), Drew University (M.Div., 1968) and Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M., 1970 and D.Min., 1979).

He has served four pastoral appointments, including ten years of pastoral ministry at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair, NJ, followed by seven years as a District Superintendent. He was elected as a delegate to the 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996 General Conferences and was elected to the Episcopacy at the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference where he was assigned to the New York Area. During the 2004 NEJ Conference he was assigned to the West Virginia Area.

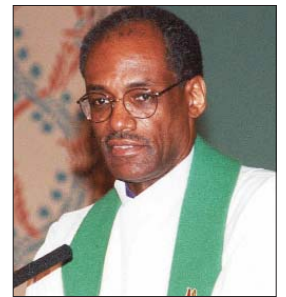
Bishop Lyght and his wife, Eleanor, have two sons: Eric Shaw and Erwyn LaFrance.

Dr. McClendon is a native of South Carolina. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina (B.A., 1976), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in



**Dr. William Timothy McClendon**  
Boston, MA (M.Div., 1979) and Emory University, Candler School of Theology (D.Min., 1996).

He has served five pastoral appointments in South Carolina and is currently the Columbia District Superintendent. Dr. McClendon has served on many committees and agencies from the local level to the General Church level. He was elected as a delegate to the 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 General and



**Bishop Ernest S. Lyght**

Jurisdictional Conferences and has been nominated by the South Carolina Annual Conference as an Episcopal candidate.

Dr. McClendon and his wife, Cindy, have three children: Rev. Narcie McClendon Jeter, Rev. Joshua (Josh) McClendon, and Caleb McClendon.

We welcome our guests to the Eastern Shore and are blessed to have them with us.

## 16th Annual African-American Clergy and Laity Summit Scheduled

The 2008 Summit has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th and Thursday, June 12th in Princess Anne, Maryland. The "Embracing Our Past . . . While Marching Toward Our Future" Summit will hold Wednesday afternoon and evening activities at Metropolitan United Methodist Church and Thursday activities in the Student Services Center on the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore (UMES) campus.

Wednesday evening's worship service will feature Jamar KaVon Jackson as the guest speaker. Jamar is the son of John and Tywana Jackson and the grandson of Hinson and Mable Finney of Pocomoke, where he resides.

At the age of 13, Jamar received and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and was baptized. Now, as an associate member at Mt. Zion UMC in Pocomoke, he serves as a musician,



**Jamar KaVon Jackson**

directs the 'Expressions of Praise' musical ensemble, and works with the Friday Youth Church School. He is a 2006 graduate of Pocomoke High School and is currently attending Wor Wic Community College working on an Associates Degree in Electrical Engineering. On completion of his degree he hopes to transfer to UMES to continue his education.



**David W.M. Cassidy**

David W.M. Cassidy is the guest speaker for Thursday evening's worship service. Rev. Cassidy grew up in Compton and Los Angeles, California. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1973, received a B.A. in Urban and Rural Studies from the University of California, San Diego in 1979 and received his Master of Divinity degree in

1990 at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), C.H. Mason Seminary. He was licensed in 1982 and ordained in 1990 by Bishop George Dallas McKinney, Jr. in the Southern California 2nd Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Rev. Cassidy is a published writer and artist. His medium of choice is oil painting and he is known for a cubist abstractionist style, the boldness of expression and attention to details of color and composition in his paintings. He is currently the pastor of Mother African Zoar UMC, the oldest continuing African American congregation in the Methodist denomination.

Rev. Cassidy and his wife, Rev. Lillian C. Smith (Director of Connectional Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference), have two sons: David Charles Jasper Smith-Cassidy and Hayward Felton Earl Smith-Cassidy.

## From the D.S.

**R**EMEMBERING that Dr. Lovett Weems challenges church leaders (laity and clergy) to ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS, LET US REFLECT upon these questions in the remaining days of Lent as we anticipate moving into the season of Easter, of New Life, as "Resurrected Leaders" of God's People/God's Church:

☞ "Is it possible to be a faithful servant of a Resurrected Christ and serve as [a leader, whether as laity or clergy,] within one of the mainline denominations?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ How do we translate faithfulness into fruitfulness? (Bishop Jeremiah J. Park)

☞ "[Are you] choosing life over death?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ "[Are you] choosing community over isolation?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ "Who do you say that I am?" (Bishop Jeremiah J. Park/Matthew 16:15)

☞ "[Are you] choosing fun over drudgery?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ "[Are you] choosing bold over mild?" (Paul Nixon)

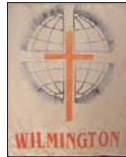
☞ "Do you love me?" (Bishop Jeremiah J. Park/John 21:15-17)

☞ "[Are you] choosing frontier over fortress?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ "[Are you] choosing now rather than later?" (Paul Nixon)

☞ "Will you follow me?" (Bishop Jeremiah J. Park/Mark 1:16-20)

Your Partner in Ministry,  
William M. Fitzhugh



## Good Samaritans at Leeds

**L**eeds United Methodist Church Sunday school children learn to be Good Samaritans in their own community. After learning the Bible story of the Good Samaritan the Sunday school children took that learning and put it into action.

They created first aid kits which will be distributed to the homeless community in Elkton. They also collected a special offering from the congregation which was used to buy coats, hats, gloves, and various items to help the homeless out in the cold to stay a little bit warmer. Along with the monetary donations there was a donation of several sleeping bags and other items. The children were very excited about the opportunity to help others and plan to continue to reach out to the community through projects like this one. They learned that regardless of their age each person can make a positive impact on the world around them.

Please be a Good Samaritan in your area. If you would like to support this outreach program please send your donation to Leeds United Methodist Church and mark it "Sunday school outreach program."



## Old Wine in New Skins

**Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris**,  
Chair – WDCUCM

**I**t is sometimes believed that you can not pour old wine into new wine skins and make a difference. Some believe that action is wasteful and useless. However, that is not the case with the Wilmington District Urban Center Ministries Fund.

The vessel of the old wine was Silverbrook United Methodist Church which had a rich history and long life. After the

small Silverbrook congregation decided to close their church building and move their memberships to other congregations, the conference trustees entertained several proposals for use of the property. The decision to sell the property resulted in a sale that has now provided funds for other ministries. The principal amount is invested and the interest earned becomes income that is to be used to further ministry in the urban center of the Wilmington District. These funds are distributed through grant awards.

During a district meeting, the "Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries Fund" was established consisting of clergy and laity from the district as voting members, and representatives from United Methodist agencies were included as non-voting members. The committee developed grant application guidelines, publicly announced the application availability and closing dates, with notification that non-United Methodist applicants were welcome. The committee also established that a minimum of 60% of the grant

awards are to be United Methodist applicants. While this ensures that the Silverbrook funds nurture and facilitate United Methodist ministries, it also means that non-United Methodist applicants have an opportunity to receive funds.

The available funds for grant allocation this year included interest income that had been earned since the Silverbrook sale over three years ago. Out of 40 applicants, 15 grants were allocated totaling \$68,615. United Methodist and non-United Methodist ministries were fund-

ed. Ministries for children, youth and adults were funded. Long-term ministries and new ministries were funded. Because we know the power of God as he works through the Holy Spirit, we know lives will be changed, transformed, saved! The saints of Silverbrook United Methodist Church shall have the legacy – the Old Wine of the Silverbrook ministry is in the new wine skins of the Wilmington District Urban Center Ministries and that old wine will be pouring new life into more lives than could ever have been imagined!

### Wilmington District Urban Center Ministries 2008 Grant Recipients

(\* = United Methodist Sponsored/Related)

Name	Purpose	Amount	*Mt. Joy United Methodist Church	Report Card Ministry	\$ 1,130
Catholic Charities	HIV/Aids Services	\$ 3,000	*Mt. Salem UMC	Outreach Marketing	\$ 5,000
Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc	PLATO educational computer program license & teacher development	\$ 5,000	*Mt. Salem UMC	Christian Education	\$ 6,835
*Elise R. Brown Family Life Center, Inc.	Kidz for Christ Summer Camp	\$ 5,500	Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children & Families	Parents Anonymous Program	\$ 2,500
F.A.I.T.H. Center, Inc.	Money Management Program	\$ 2,500	Rodney Street Tennis & Tutoring Association	Children & Youth Tutoring & Tennis Program	\$ 2,000
Gateway House	Men-to-Men Mentoring & Rehabilitation Program to reduce youth violence & school suspensions	\$17,000	*Stop the Violence Coalition, Inc.	Student Educational/Parent Training & Support Program	\$10,000
*Methodist Action Program	Children & Youth Community Outreach Ministry	\$ 1,150	UrbanPromise Wilmington	Camp Harmony Summer Camp	\$ 2,000
*Mt. Joy United Methodist Church			West Center City Seekers, Inc.	An ecumenical after-school enrichment program Sponsored by four area churches	\$ 2,500
			Total Amount of Grants Awarded		\$68,615

## A Heart for the "Missing Ones"

**H**opewell UMC in Port Deposit, MD is a vital and growing congregation. But they have not gotten comfortable with things "the way they have always been done." The church and their Pastor, Rev.

Vaughan Hayden, noticed that although what they were doing was working for those they were reaching, there were still many "missing ones," a whole generation that was all around them but not in church. God moved on their hearts to

reach out to these "missing ones" by doing something new. Starting in April 2008, Hopewell will be changing its worship schedule from Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. and one "blended" worship service at 10:15 a.m. to a new schedule which will

start at 8:45 a.m. with a Traditional service, Sunday school at 9:55 a.m. and a new Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m.

Hopewell UMC is also putting on "Behold!" a 13 song original musical Passion Play -.

There will be two performances, one on Good Friday (March 21) at 7:00 p.m. and again the following evening, Saturday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. The whole community is invited. For more information, contact 410.658.2684.

## Boyd's Blessings

**T**ogether, we are striving toward the goal of healthier congregations in this Annual Conference. What greater measure of vitality and strength could there be than vibrant worship? It is through worship that most people are connected to Christ in life-transforming ways! Bishop Robert Schnase devotes an entire chapter to "passionate worship" as one of his *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Abingdon Press, 2007).



Rev. Boyd  
Etter

A vignette in the book is much more than a myth: In fact, it is a true story that has become reality in many of our most vital congregations in Delaware and on Maryland's Eastern Shore. A "traditional" congregation was offering a quality worship experience with an average attendance of 300. That's already a healthy church, most of us would say. But they noticed an aging trend among most regular worshippers. Church leaders began consulting with other churches that had successfully launched contemporary services. Visitors ventured out to some of those services. A music team was recruited, mainly from within the existing congregation. They began a planning process with musicians, worship leaders, and volunteers with technical skill who would operate audio and video systems. The pastor was more comfortable with the existing traditional service, so she sought coaching from colleagues who had made a similar transition to multiple styles of worship. She decided to preach primarily the same message in both services, but to come out of the pulpit and to move more freely among the congregation in the contemporary worship experience.

Three years later, attendance at the traditional service remained at 275; however, an additional 135 persons were attending the growing contemporary service. The key to the overall growth in numbers of persons connecting with Christ was the active support and encouragement of established church members who had no interest or preference toward contemporary worship! In fact, many of them rejoiced that their children had returned to church following an absence of many years! Because congregational leaders cared most about transforming experiences in the lives of the unchurched, they prayed and planned together to avoid the "worship wars" that have plagued other communities!

Linda and I have the privilege of sitting side-by-side in congregations on many Sundays for the first time in almost 30 years! We are experiencing vibrant, vital worship that nurtures and nourishes our souls in both traditional and contemporary settings. I trust that you, too, have a passion for enhancing your worship in ways that will connect others to Christ in an exciting, Easter season rapidly approaching. If so, feel free to call us at the Dover District Office. We will happily put you in touch with those who have faithfully followed Christ's call to "go and make disciples" for the transformation of the world!

### Dover District Lay Speaking

— call District office for registration form — 734.3082

Saturdays, April 5 and 12 at Seaford: Mt. Olivet

Advanced Classes:

Healing, Stewardship, Evangelism, Leadership, Social Principles

Saturdays, April 19 and 26 at Seaford: Gethsemane

Four Basic Classes and an Advanced Class for Safe Sanctuary

### February Fun Activities at Grace in Georgetown

By Rev. Mike McGee

**O**n Sunday, February 3, Grace UMC had a benefit auction and hot dog/chips dinner to help our members who may be having problems with paying their utility bills. Good donations were received and a local auctioneer donated his time at the sale. All proceeds helped church members first and then were available to community needs.

Also, on Valentine's Day, a dinner was sponsored by our new "Cooking Club." Music was provided by a local church and jazz singer. Fun, games, gifts were enjoyed by all.

## Dover District Laity/Clergy Celebration

By Kathryn Dreasen

**O**n Saturday night February 22, 2008, nearly 200 people attended the Dover District's Annual Laity/Clergy Dinner and celebration at Grace UMC in Georgetown. The Rev. Earle Baker led the group in grace and then one by one diners took their choice of fried chicken, ham, chicken salad, coleslaw, potatoes, sweet potato casserole, lima beans and way too many desserts to mention. The Call (from Friendship United Methodist Church in Millsboro) inspired us all with such favorites as "I'm A Friend Of Jesus" and had even the most reserved get up and clap and sing along.

Following the dinner, Randy Chambers from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes told us about his organization and gave a stirring personal testimony. This past year, many student athletes have given their lives to Christ as a result of this organization. The help of every church on the peninsula was solicited for prayers, donations, coaching and mentoring assistance. If you would like more information, contact Randy at 302.222.9397. Randy's own story took him from corporate America and an aspiring career at MBNA to a walk with Christ. He surrendered all, put his faith in God and is honored to serve him every day. He shared his struggles, the demons that tried to stop him and now the many joys that God has bestowed upon him. He and his wife just recently attended the Walk to Emmaus.

Cliff Toomey (DBOLM member) urged participants to let us know what your church is doing. Share your mission with other lay speakers in the District. If you have a special project that you believe can be replicated or others may also want to participate in, please call Cliff Toomey at 302.539.9075 or email cliffsr@mchsi.com.

Certificates were given to nine churches for extraordinary mission and evangelism outreach. Those churches were: Milford: Avenue, more than 30% of budget to missions; Bethany Lowes Crossing, Horseback riding camp for urban children; Cannon, multicultural services; Cheswold Charge, revival services; Hickory Hill, revival services; Long Neck, Mission outreach in the midst of major construction; Prospect, Mission outreach; Wesley Georgetown, Hope Café; Wesley Seaford,



29% of budget for mission outreach.

Levin acknowledged three special spiritual warriors this past year. Richard Huston received the Josheb-Basshebeth Award for insight and practical wisdom. Jerald Howard received the Eleazer award for a loving brother who cleaves to the Word and Randy Chambers received the Shammah award for a brother who will climb to great heights.

Pastor McGee of Grace Georgetown gave the closing benediction. We are so thankful to Grace for the use of their hall and for the set-up and clean-up assistance.

## Exciting Summer At Wyoming UMC

**T**he summer of 2007 was an exciting time at Wyoming United Methodist Church as steel began arriving and site work got under way for a long-anticipated new church building on Wyoming Mill Road. It was a groundbreaking with a difference on Sept. 9 as members of the church family each wielding a shovel turned the "official" first dirt, exactly seven years after the congregation voted to build. The \$5.5 million building with sanctuary seating for 600 is being built on 20 acres donated by the Papan family and annexed by the town of Wyoming (approximately one mile from the existing church on Broad Street that has served this community for 150 years.)

One of the busiest ministries at Wyoming UMC is Family Emergency Relief, a program that provides financial assistance, food and furniture to the less fortunate in our community. Clients are referred through state service centers, schools and other agen-

cies equipped to screen and assess needs. Donations of furniture from members of the congregation are picked up and delivered by a team of volunteers. But a recent phone call with an offer of "some free beds" challenged the capacity of the well-oiled FER machine. A company in Pennsylvania with a contract to replace beds in the transient quarters at Dover Air Force Base wanted to donate 250 queen size box springs and mattresses, used but in very good condition. One hitch: the beds would have to be moved immediately from the base to a place of storage. Administrative Assistant Renate Passley, without hesitation, accepted the generous offer and set about making the phone calls to make it all happen. One church member provided truck transportation, another arranged for warehouse storage and a team of volunteers completed the move. Renate then sent a message through her network, inviting other churches, schools and state agencies, to share in the windfall.

## UMCOR Needs Our Help

### Help Sager Brown Deliver Kits of Hope

In Georgia, happy faces, smiles and hundreds of cheerful voices filled a room when children saw the arrival of school kits, health kits and sewing kits donated by UMCOR last September. UMCOR Georgia and a local partner, the Fund to Support Disabled IDP Children, jointly distributed the kits to 300 displaced children, including 55 physically and mentally disabled children from Abkhazia, who live at the Collective Center for Internally Displaced Persons. Seven-year-old Gio said excitedly, "This is the happiest day in my life. Thank you for this."

Every day lives around the world are touched by the gifts you give to UMCOR. Large tangible items like food, clothing, shelter and clean water are gifts of survival. But it's also the smaller everyday gifts—a needle, thread, a ruler, a pen, a pillow or sheet—contained in an UMCOR supply kit that is bringing hope in a more personal way.

### Supplies Are Low

UMCOR's relief supply warehouse, the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., needs your support to provide much-needed bedding, sewing and layette kits for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Sager Brown has received fewer kits over the last year and stocks are becoming alarmingly low.

## Easter Commercials Scheduled Locally and Nationally

The United Methodist Church is currently running ads on cable television stations for Lent/Easter. Stations including CNN, MSNBC, Animal Planet, BET, Discovery Channel, Food Network, Hallmark Channel, TLC and TBS started running the "Finding Yourself" commercial on March 10th and will run through Easter Sunday.

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference will also be running this commercial during Holy Week (March 17-March 23) on WBOC-TV 16 and FOX 21 television stations. A few of the time slots that you will be able to see our local commercial include: during the 5:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. morning news weekdays, during the Oprah/Dr. Phil showings, during the 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. news rotation on WBOC-TV 16 and various spots in the morning and afternoon rotations and during the 7:00-8:00 p.m. rotation on FOX 21.



### Communicator

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## Young People's Ministry

Look around your church on a Sunday morning. Chances are you will find that at least one age group is underrepresented. In many of our churches that group is young adults; those between 18 and 30 years of age. All too often we can count the number of people in this category on our fingers. So what are the reasons for our failure to reach this demographic and what can we do about it?

I believe one of the main reasons for this problem is systemic. For generations the church operated under the assumption that we would lose many young people after they graduated from high school but they would return after they got married and started a family. For many generations this theory worked. In recent years however, societal trends have changed. The average age at which young people get married has risen dramatically. Many young couples delay starting families or choose not to have children at all. The milestones that we assumed would bring young people back into an active role in our ministries are delayed or never happen. Too often, those who leave the church after high school never return.

Thankfully, in recent years, the church has realized that we must be intentional in our efforts to reach young adults. On February 2, we hosted a Young Adult Ministry Forum to share our struggles and successes in ministry with this age group. We spent most of our time talking about young adult ministry at the local church level and a little bit of our time talking about young adult ministry at the conference level.

Here are some of the suggestions from our conversation that day (and a few others for good measure):

- Remember the diversity of this age group. The needs of

an 18 or 19 year old college student are probably very different than those of someone in their late 20s who is raising a family and a career.

- Many young adult ministries are finding the most success when they meet outside of the church walls. Consider meeting on a college campus, in a coffee shop, or in someone's home.
- Most young adults have a great desire to serve others and a passion for worship. Give them lots of opportunities to do both.
- We must do a better job of helping our students transition from youth ministry to other areas of the church. Do not forget about your college students. Keep them in prayer, keep them on the church email list, and send copies of the church newsletter to their school address. Send care packages to college students and those in the military at least twice a year. (Youth ministries need to do their part. Don't let your youth ministry become an island in the sea of the church. Work hard to involve students in the life of the church as a whole to help keep them from graduating from church when they graduate from high school.)
- Do not be discouraged by low numbers or the sporadic attendance of some participants. The demands of classes or families may make consistent participation a challenge. Plan events that will be successful even if only a few people can participate.
- Young adult ministry is not simply youth ministry for a slightly older crowd. If your young adult ministry looks like a carbon copy of your youth ministry it may be time for some adjustments.



Shane Hinderliter

- Young adults have grown up with technology. Use (and don't be afraid of) the technology that is part of their everyday lives. Use email or text messaging for communication. Host an online Bible study. Make sure that young adults (and others) can learn more about your church via your website. Use video resources in worship services.
- Give young adults a voice in your church. The Discipline recommends (and sometimes mandates) that young adults are represented on church committees. Many young adults believe that their opinions will never be heard by church leaders and "the way we've always done it" is the only way we will ever do it. Help your church embrace changes when they are necessary. Encourage young adults to be leaders in your ministries.

When our conversation turned to young adult ministry at the conference level we agreed that we need to spend more time in prayer discerning God's will for our annual conference and we need to involve more people in our conversations. We set up another gathering for Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. at Asbury UMC in Smyrna. We would love to have you join us. Get directions to the church at [asburysmyrna.org](http://asburysmyrna.org) and email Penny Carney at [pcarney@pen-del.org](mailto:pcarney@pen-del.org) to let her know you will be there.

## 2nd Oldest Conference Pastor Celebrates 98 Years

Rev. William Moses Tasco has witnessed many things during his lifetime. On February 27th Rev. Tasco celebrated his 98th birthday. On the 24th the members of Grace UMC in Wilmington, Delaware celebrated with a birthday party in his honor.

This Peninsula-Delaware Conference pastor, according to friends, is still active, very alert and remembers everything. In fact, he attends Grace United Methodist Church, as his pastor, Rev. Bob Mongold remarks, "as often as he can and is very faithful and humble." He even insists on Rev. Mongold addressing him as 'Brother Bill' of which Rev. Mongold obliges graciously. Rev.

Tasco also continues to shop and cook for himself, is not on any medications, and has both good hearing and sight. How many of us not even half his age can say that??? He lives in the Ministry of Caring apartments for the elderly but, unlike some facilities well known to the United Methodist Church, this apartment complex gives residents much more independence.

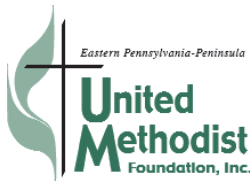
According to conference records, Rev. Tasco was ordained a Deacon in 1945 and an Elder in 1947. During his time as an active pastor he served in the Delaware Conference in Smyrna and Harrington, in the Southern New Jersey Conference in Frodville, in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in



Rev. William Moses Tasco

Philadelphia and in the Peninsula Conference at Zion in Federalsburg. He retired in 1975.

The two other pastors that make up the top three 'most senior' Peninsula-Delaware clergy include Charles Willis, (currently residing in Knoxville, TN) who will be 101 this April, and David Baker, who turns 94 in July.



# Charitable Gift Annuities

All of us face the April 15th deadline to file our 2007 income tax returns. For many of us we take this opportunity to review investments, look at current investment income, and search for tax strategies that will benefit us when we file our 2008 returns a year from now. One strategy to consider for 2008 is establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit your church.

The concept of the charitable gift annuity in America dates back to 1843. A merchant in Boston donated a gift of money to the American Bible Society in exchange for a flow of income during his lifetime. Today, the concept includes many valuable tax benefits to the donor for making the donation. Perhaps more valuable to the donor than the financial advantage, is the satisfaction of knowing they have made a lasting contribution to the church, church project, or specific ministry to continue the mission and good work of the United Methodists.

The concept of a gift annuity is simple: A person wishing to support the church makes a gift of cash or marketable property to a specific church, the conference, or ministry. The Eastern Pennsylvania-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation then reinvests the assets and agrees to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life (and, if desired, for a second beneficiary's lifetime). Upon the death of the last beneficiary, the funds are available for use of the named church or ministry.

The transaction is partly a charitable gift and partly the purchase of the income interest. The annuity rate is the dollar amount returned to you annually as a percentage of the value of your gift, and these rates are related to the ages of the recipients. The contract specifies the frequency of payments and the date of the first payment.

### How Do You Benefit?

You have the benefit of life-time payments, but there are numerous tax advantages, as well:

- **Income tax savings.** Part of the amount you receive is considered a tax-free return of capital, excluding it from gross income until you reach your life expectancy.
- **Charitable deduction.** The portion of the transaction that is considered a gift is eligible to be included as a charitable deduction if you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return.
- **Estate tax savings.** If you and/or your spouse are the only beneficiaries, the value of the annuity may not be taxed in your estates. (It may qualify as a marital deduction.)

By investing your gift through the Eastern Pennsylvania-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation, a nonprofit organization, there are additional cost savings in investment charges. The Foundation invests the gift in a socially responsible manner, remaining faithful to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. Additionally there may be savings in probate attorney fees and estate settlement costs.

### How to Fund a Charitable Gift Annuity

Cash from a maturing investment is the most common asset used to fund a CGA. If you contribute appreciated securities such as bonds, municipal bonds or stock, you will need to pay some capital gains taxes—over your life expectancy—on the gain on the “sale” portion of the transaction. Another option for funding a charitable gift annuity may be real estate holdings.

### Savings Account or Charitable Gift Annuity:

Many of us remember the days of high interest rates when a savings account or certificate of deposit could be counted on for reasonable income and earnings. You never had to give your investments much attention other than to roll them over by the rollover date. With the recent dramatic decline in interest rates you may now be looking for new income options that combine a higher rate of return and a gift to your church.

Charitable life income plans, including charitable gift annuities, could be the solution.



Jack Brooks

Depending on your age, you can receive a payout rate that is substantially higher than non-charitable plans that provide life payments; an important consideration in these days of economic uncertainty.

Compare a charitable gift annuity and a savings account and see the differences. In this example, the amount under consideration is \$10,000 in a savings account, and the age of the person is 70. (See table below)

Your cash flow is further enhanced because you are allowed an income tax charitable deduction. In this example, the deduction allowed for the tax year the gift is made is \$4,276. Although the annuity payout rate is 6.5 percent, this additional tax benefit produces an effective rate of return on the net cost of the gift of 7.3 percent.

Savings accounts never offer a charitable benefit to your church nor do they provide a tax deduction. Charitable gift annuities, however, provide you with life-time payments and the balance thereafter helps support your church's mission.

If you would like more information on how a Charitable Gift Annuity program may help you and your church, please contact me at the Eastern Pennsylvania-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation. My office number is 800.828.9093 or by email to Jack.Brooks@epaumc.org. I look forward to sharing with you the many benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity to both you and your church family.

*This information is intended for educational purposes and not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax professional or investment professional.*

Option	Annual Payout	Tax-Free Portion	Taxable Portion	Spendable Dollars After 25% Taxes
Charitable Gift Annuity	\$650	\$360	\$290	\$578
1% Savings Account	\$100	\$ 0	\$100	\$ 74

This example is based on quarterly payments and a 5.8 percent charitable midterm federal rate.

# Cokesbury Connection

As we gear up for more intentional disciple-making ministry in our local churches through the covenant ministry plan of the Healthy Church Initiative remember this: growth is natural to healthy churches. Just as babies and little plants grow if they have the right nutrients, so will our churches grow if lives are being transformed within our churches. The author of “Beyond Business As Usual,” Neal O. Michell, has many other insightful observations for those looking to strengthen their church leaders and in turn their church community. Using Acts 6:2 as his favorite Biblical image for defining the ministry of the church . . . i.e. “the Twelve called together the whole community of the disciples . . . to divide up the work of the church . . . so that the twelve disciples could concentrate on prayer and preaching.” Thus “Lay” leadership was born, and the gospel-spreading reach of the church was expanded.



Madeline Beall

How can Cokesbury help you and your church in the work of transformation? I'm so glad you asked. DISCIPLE Bible Study is one of the best ways. For over 20 years more than 1.5 million people have participated in DISCIPLE long-term studies and shared their stories of transformation and new insight. Is 34 weeks too long? Cokesbury has five Short-Term Bible Studies lasting 8-11 weeks. All include the life changing combination of weekly small-group meetings, independent study and video presentations by scholars.

After you celebrate the resurrected life of Jesus Christ this Easter, why not continue the celebration and commit to an in depth Bible Study. The fruits of your efforts will be spiritual growth, renewal and transformation for you and your church.

“Ministry is the overflow of the beloved in community.” Henri Nouwen

Madeline Beall  
Cokesbury Consultant  
Toll Free: 1.877.792.5410  
Email: mbeall@cokesbury.com



## Important Dates To Remember!

Please Join The Conference Board Of Lay Ministry on the following dates:

### Clergy/Laity Banquet

Friday, May 9, 2008  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$30.00

Whatcoat U. M. Church  
341 Saulsbury Rd., Dover  
Delaware 19904

Call Dover, Easton, Salisbury & Wilmington district offices for tickets.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Laity Session

Saturday, June 7, 2008  
8:15 to 12:00 p.m.  
Registration: 8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m.

Schwartz Center for the Arts  
226 S. State St.

Dover, Delaware 19904  
Included in this Gathering will be a Special Training Session for all New Members of the Annual Conference! (Those members that have attended the Annual Conference before will benefit too!)

We need your help to make these two events Successful!



## From the D.S.

**G**reetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It certainly is an exciting time on our District.

First, one last word about Christmas. The Easton District Office hosted an open house for Christmas. Many folks came by for a visit and some good Christmas cheer. It underscores one of our goals to make your District Office a welcome center. If you haven't had a chance to stop by and see your office and meet Beth, our District Administrative Assistant, please do so. We are located at 32 South Washington Street, Suite 2 in Easton, Maryland.

I do want to share some exciting things about your District. I, along with members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, have completed 3 sessions of the second phase of Covenant Training at three locations on the District. The response was wonderful. As we move into the development of Covenant Ministry in each church, I am starting to receive phone calls about how to do things with the covenant, and whether or not a certain item could be part of the covenant. People are asking and acting. I have received many copies of local Church Covenants. They are wonderful!!! Thank you for taking it so seriously. You will see big dividends in your ministry and the quality of life in your congregations.



Rev. Bill Sterling

I am starting to get questions like, "When is the next training going to take place?" These are healthy questions.

Did you know that our District has a free lending library in the District office? We have books on leadership, worship, and spiritual growth. By the end of March, we are going to have some training/ Bible Studies that can be borrowed and used in local churches. We will be getting study materials on Stewardship and Leadership Development. Books can be signed out for 30 days. Study materials for the length of the study.

Did you know that our District sends out a weekly email? It has all sorts of information about local churches around the District, the District and the Conference. It is a great way to stay up to date. If you are not on the list, email the office at eastondistrictoffice@goeaston.net. Include your name, church, and charge. We will put you on the list.

Throughout 2008 there will be training and Spiritual Growth opportunities in local churches, on the District and in the Conference. Each one is designed to deepen a person's relationship with Jesus Christ, fuel their passion for Christian service, and strengthen them in serving Christ.

Life in faith on our District is an adventure. Come, get on board for the ride of your life.

Blessings, Bill

## Around The District

### Good Friday/ Easter Sunday Events-

- Good Friday Showing of "The Passion of the Christ" at Calvary-Asbury UMC-Sudlersville, at 6:30 p.m. Free Admission. Due to the graphic nature of this movie, it is suggested that children under 12 not attend.
- Church Hill Burrisville Charge, 2008 Good Friday Worship Service, "Jesus"



Rev. Bonnie Shively, Lawrence, and Dianne Brice enjoy the Open House held at the District Office - Christmas 2007.

Seven Last Words from the Cross" at Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, 12:00 o'clock noon. Preached Word By Rev. Clarence Rochester, Rev. Hilbert Watson, Evangelist Eunice Rochester, Rev. William Johnson, Rev. Emmanuel Johnson, Rev. Robert Brown and Bishop James Ashley. Rev. Genevieve Brown, pastor. For more information: 410.778.2822

### Union United Methodist Church, St. Michaels.

The United Methodist Women of Union United Methodist Church, St. Michaels, will celebrate their annual United Methodist Women's Day on Sunday, March 30, at 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Minister Brenda Molock, along with The Echoes of Heaven of Dorchester County. All are welcome. Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson, Pastor.

## Youth Group "Gearing Up" For Summer Mission

By Rev. Larry Jameson

**T**he youth group of Olivet United Methodist Church in Galena is going places, literally. Over the last four years this group of Kent County teen-agers has been to Niagara Falls, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and most recently to New Orleans to do volunteer work for disabled, elderly, and disadvantaged people. In June of 2008 the Olivet Youth Group is planning to fly 23 students and 7 adults to a Group Work camp at the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Ashland, Montana. "Lots of people ask us why we travel so far away" said pastor Larry Jameson, the youth group leader. "Helping people is actually a fringe benefit of these trips. The primary reason we attend Group Work camps is to build up the spiritual depth and maturity of our young people" Jameson said.

Taking 30 people to an Indian Reservation in June of 2008 will cost over \$30,000 for the church based group. "The young people and their parents work very hard all year long to raise the necessary funds. They do car washes, yard sales, candy, soda and pizza sales, singing telegrams, Roast Beef dinners, and publish a cookbook in addition to accept-



ing donations from church members and local businesses." Jameson said.

The Olivet Youth Group meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Olivet United Methodist Church in Galena. The average attendance is about 35 youth and 3 adults. In addition to helping people far away, the young people will give free assistance to anyone in the Galena area who really needs their help.

More information about the Olivet Youth Group is available by calling the Church office at 410.648.5212. Rev. Dr. Lawrence D. Jameson, pastor or Dawn Webb, Youth Director (PO Box 107 Galena, Maryland 21635, office phone - 410.648.5212.

## 100 year Birthday Celebration

**O**n Sunday, January 13, 2008 Waters United Methodist Church of Oxford celebrated with Ms. Nellie Brooks Leatherberry her 100th birthday. Ms. Leatherberry's actual birthday was on Wednesday, January 9th. After months of planning and prayer the day was a success and Ms. Leatherberry was overjoyed. The day began with morning worship at Waters United Methodist Church. During this time many resolutions were read that included words and well wishes from the White House, the State, the Talbot County Council and the Oxford Town Commissioners. The Friendship Choir of Waters sang "This Olde Building" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness" which are two of Ms. Nellie's favorite hymns.

Later that day the entire church continued to help Ms. Nellie celebrate and joined her at



Ms. Alice Banks (left) and Ms. Nellie Leatherberry (right w/ corsage) and standing are Charles and Rev. Alma E. Boulden-pastor of Waters.

a fellowship dinner that was held at The Holy Church of the Trinity in Oxford. Ms. Nellie was joined by many family members from Florida and Pennsylvania and everywhere in between.

Not being as active as she used to be, Ms. Nellie continues



Ms. Nellie Leatherberry, standing giving a birthday speech)

to be a great and strong supporter of Waters UMC. At one point she stood during the birthday celebration and gave everyone encouraging words that reminded us that she continues to be grateful and always thanks God for her time here.

## Congo Report for the Easton District

\$3,500 was given in December alone from the Easton District for our Conference Congo Partnership matching grant emphasis amounting to a total of \$7,000. This was added to Conference wide support for a total of \$64,406 for the year 2007. We exceeded our goal of \$60,000 by \$4,406. Praise the Lord and thank you for allowing the people of West Congo to receive help in ministering to their people.

Rev. Don Hamilton,  
Chairperson of Missions

## Guideline Books Available

**T**he Easton Office has several copies of the Guideline books "Stewardship," and "Worship." These are the same books that we have used for the District Leadership Training Events,

both last year and this year. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of one of the books, you may pick them up from the District Office. All books are \$5 per copy. Please make checks out to "Easton District."

The Easton District Page is printed once a month (September-June) as part of the Communicator. The next District Page will be published in the April 11th issue. Please have all articles/photos, etc. to the district editor, Tonya J. Pinkett (Lamoree6075@aol.com), or the District Office no later than Friday, March 21st.

## Youth Fellowship Continues To Grow

By Eric Warner,  
Immanuel UMC, Crisfield

February marks one year since Immanuel United Methodist Church hired a youth pastor to restart the long dormant Methodist Youth Fellowship. It is appropriate that we spotlight this ministry as it reaches this milestone.

The first year of youth ministry has seen significant growth and developments. The primary MYF meeting on Sunday evenings has grown from a few faithful members to the point that attendance is in the mid-teens every week. Sunday school is going strong, special activities such as camping and crabbing excursions to Janes Island (State Park in Crisfield) have been well attended, and just last month seven of our teenagers joined with over 4,000 area youth and adult leaders in the Whatever Youth Conference in Ocean City (sponsored by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference).

But most exciting of all, three teenagers accepted Christ this year through the ministry of Immanuel's MYF!

Now MYF starts a second year of ministry amid exciting possibilities! Almost every week brings a new face to MYF as kids invite friends from their schools and neighborhoods. There is increasing cooperation with other churches in our area, including shared activities with Asbury and Mariners (in Crisfield) and a joint mission trip for Appalachia that is being planned

with Bethesda UMC in Salisbury for the summer.

None of this could have happened without the support of the congregation of Immanuel. One year ago, Immanuel UMC prayerfully decided that a ministry to youth was important enough to pursue even though it was not in the budget. Church members gave sacrificially, and the entire MYF budget – including the youth pastor's salary – was raised in full by the donations of the congregation.

MYF continues to rely on the support of Immanuel United Methodist Church. How can you help this ministry? 1) Pray for MYF! As the youth like to say: "It don't mean a thing, if it ain't for the King!" 2) Continue to support MYF financially! MYF has not taken a cent from the general fund of Immanuel UMC; this ministry is supported entirely by the gifts of the congregation and others who recognize its value. 3) Be a MYF volunteer! Ideally, a youth group should have one adult for every seven youth in attendance. MYF has grown to the point that more adults are needed Sunday evenings. If anyone is looking for a place to get involved in the ministries of the church, please consider volunteering in MYF – even if only for one Sunday a month. You are needed, and you will have fun.

(Editors Note: This article first appeared in Immanuel's monthly newsletter and was picked up by The Crisfield Times and printed under "Guest Commentary.")

## In The Line Of Duty....

By Barbara Kelly

On Sunday, October 14, Rev. Nichols, your District Superintendent, and I stepped off the Crisfield dock at 12:30 p.m. for a 45 minute boat trip to Smith Island. The day was beautiful and our spirits were high. A District Superintendent doesn't ever know what their duties will bring them and on this day it found her going for an overnight stay in Ewell on Smith Island in order to hold 3 Charge Conferences (Ewell United Methodist

Church, Calvary United Methodist Church from Rhodes Point, and Tylerton United Methodist Church from Tylerton). All three churches came together at the Ewell UMC on the main island but Tylerton UMC also had to travel by boat to attend! Sunday evening found us at Calvary UMC for their Sunday evening worship time. This is all part of the charm of Smith Island. The people were most gracious and the food was even more than expected! We spent the night at a Bed and Breakfast on Ewell and on Monday morning, I worked with

the new secretary of the Charge. Rev. Rick Edmund then took us in his skiff over to Tylerton for a wonderful lunch and a tour of the church and the town. Even though we were "working," it was a wonderful way to connect with another area of the Salisbury District and its laity and to rest and relax before returning to the mainland. Thank you, Smith Island, for your wonderful hospitality and for sharing what you are doing and your visions for the future of your churches! We look forward to visiting you again.



## St. Andrew's Memorial Garden The story of God's Garden of Grace . . .

In 2003 a notion of making the lot behind St. Andrew's United Methodist Church into a place of welcome for the people of the neighborhood was formed. Addison Smith then visited in 2005 with his vision for some type of memorial to his parents & his father's ministry here (1958-1961.)

When God, through his people, provided for the paving of the parking lot in November 2005, little did we know that the perimeter of God's Garden of Grace was formed. Discussions were held, drawings made & Kathie Brittingham offered ideas for plantings. In January 2007 God sent Rick Parker, a brick mason, back to the church of his youth.

By spring the project had taken on wings with God's timely addition of a labyrinth designer, Penny Morrow, one day when Kathie, Rick & Pastor Sally were meeting to discuss the project! The congregation became involved purchasing 170 bricks. Four families purchased memorial benches & Dean Ennis of Pocomoke Monument became a partner in the project. Wilson & Shirley Smith Davis became involved in the design of the cross & the landscaping by Mark Lynch.

The garden now offers: a memorial to loved ones, a safe & pleasant pathway to the building, a labyrinth for reflection & prayer, and a place of welcome when the doors to the building are locked: an accessible outdoor chapel for all!



† purposeful – practical – peaceful †  
What is the purpose  
of the labyrinth?

### Rediscovering the labyrinth as a spiritual tool

Labyrinths have been used as a meditation tool throughout history by persons of different religions & spiritual disciplines.

A labyrinth may look like a maze at first glance, but it is not a maze. It is a single pathway, not a puzzle. There are no wrong paths. This is a 5-circuit labyrinth.

The labyrinth is a physical structure to enhance spiritual focus. Moving along the path of the labyrinth engages the whole body, mind & heart.

## Praying that the Flood Gates Open

By Pastor Rick Edmund,  
Smith Island Charge

On Tuesday, February 19th, representatives from the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland came to Smith Island to meet with the watermen. In the seven years I have been on the Island as their minister there have been several new restrictions (in the form of regulations) that limit

the number of crabs the watermen can catch, which, in turn, effects their income. The intention of these regulations is to allow more crabs to live and reproduce, hopefully to increase the population. However, the picture of how to preserve the crab numbers is very complicated with many factors in the equation. The easiest factor to control is the watermen, which a DNR official admitted. The reg-

ulations can be passed one day and enforced the next. However, bringing water treatment plants up to date, limiting the amount of fertilizer homeowners put on their lawns, and restricting cows in Pennsylvania from being near streams – all of which cause more nitrogen in the Bay – are much harder to enforce. Another large factor is the recreational crabbers who may catch as many crabs as the commercial water-

men.

I attended this meeting and others because of wanting to help bring God's creation back into balance. Another very large factor in this equation is the predatory fish like Rock and Croaker which eat enormous numbers of baby and larger crabs. Also this is the main source of income on Smith Island. Without the crabs to catch the watermen will move off

and change jobs. Many already have. The future of the Island and, therefore, church life hinges on the number of available crabs in the Chesapeake Bay.

Please pray that justice is done in this area! The watermen are willing to do what is fair to all. But to just focus on their catch is not the answer. If you would like to help in this matter please contact me at edmund@dmv.com. Thank you!

# Pray For Our Delegates

**G**eneral Conference will be starting in 40 days. Since mid-February our delegates have been receiving books with proposed legislation, reports, instructions, and many mailings from official and non-official agencies of the United Methodist Church. As volunteers, your delegates have and will be spending countless hours reading all of the materials they have been receiving prior to their time in Ft. Worth, Texas and again after they arrive for sessions. It is an awesome task and responsibility that they have agreed to as our delegation and we need to be in continuous prayer for them before, during and after the General Conference Sessions.

The following was handed out at a briefing held in January for the delegation heads and communicators. We pass it along to you with the hope that you will pray for and along with our delegation.

## A Call to Prayer For General Conference 2008 From The Central Texas Hospitality Team

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."* – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Just as prayer is as essential to the Christian life as breath, so prayer is essential to our shared life together as we prepare for General Conference 2008.

We on the General Conference Hosting Committee Prayer Ministries Team invite you to pray daily for General Conference 2008 and for all the preparations and deliberations leading up to it so that in all that we do we are **"rooted and grounded in love."**

We as a church need the cleansing, healing and guiding breath of prayer

- As we tend to all of the details in preparation for General Conference 2008,
- As the delegates prepare, deliberate and discern,
- And for every other large and small thing



that goes into General Conference. Please join us. We pray that our work before and during General Conference 2008 may itself be an act of prayer and that we will be attentive through it all to God's Presence in the Holy Spirit. We pray that through it all, we may follow the lead of the Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ, and that we are able to let go as we offer and entrust all things to the Holy One.

*O Holy One, Be Thou our Vision, For the church...*

*For all the United Methodist Conferences We pray for Your guidance and Your strength.*

*Be Thou our Vision for the world . . .*

*We pray for Your justice and Your peace.*

*Through Your amazing grace . . .*

*Help us to see what we need to see . . .*

*Help us to be who You call us to be . . .*

*Oh Holy One, let our breathing lead us into a place of ever deepening faith. Let us be awake to the Divine Indwelling where you promise, "I shall live in them and I shall walk the corridors of their heart." Let this be a time of . . .*

*Holy Listening . . . Holy Conversations . . . and Holy Conferencing*



# igniting MINISTRY

## Local Churches To Receive Matching Grants

**T**he Communication Commission of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference would like to congratulate St. Mark's UMC in Wilmington and Rev. Thomas Edwards, Marshallton UMC in Wilmington and Rev. Patricia Bryant Harris and Wyoming UMC in Wyoming (just south of Dover) and Mr. Dave Hill on receiving matching fund grants from Igniting Ministry for the Lenten/Easter season. St. Mark's received their grant to offset costs associated with an LED sign while Marshallton and Wyoming's grants will help them with local radio advertising.

Matching Grants are available through Igniting Ministry at United Methodist Communications in Nashville, TN. Churches that would like to submit an application for one of the two remaining opportunities for 2008 (Back-To-School and Advent) can find the application online at [www.IgnitingMinistry.org](http://www.IgnitingMinistry.org) and clicking on "matching grants" or contact the Communications Office at the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center. Applications will be accepted for both of these time-frames between May 1st and June 1st of this year.

## Interesting Facts About Easter

**E**aster is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

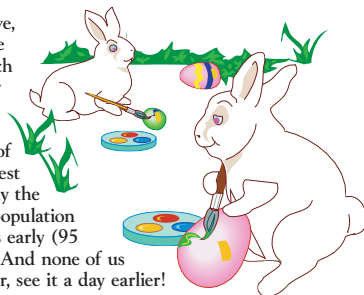
Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.

This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here's the facts:

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

(Editor's Note: the above was received in a recent e-mail)



# Conference Calendar of Events

### March 2008

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 15 | <b>United Methodist Women Spiritual Life Retreat</b> , Chester, MD: Union-Wesley UMC, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  | 5  | <b>Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.   |
| 17 | <b>Annual Conference Hospitality Team Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.                        |    | <b>Committee on Clergy &amp; Laity Leadership Meeting</b> , Dover: Wesley UMC, 9:30-11:00 a.m.                               |
| 19 | <b>Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting</b> , Wesley College: Room #206, 4:00 p.m.                      |    | <b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium and Celebration</b> , Bridgeville: Union UMC, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.                   |
| 21 | <b>Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.                            |    | <b>Young Adult Ministry Follow-up Meeting</b> , Smyrna: Asbury UMC, 2:00 p.m.  |
| 25 | <b>Good Friday</b> —BFEM Resource Center Closed  | 8  | <b>Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.   |
| 27 | <b>Conference Board of Trustees Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.                              | 9  | <b>Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting</b> , Wesley College: Room # 206, 4:00 p.m.                                       |
| 29 | <b>Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting</b> , Centreville, MD: Camp Pecometh, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | 10 | <b>Advocacy Resource Team Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 2:00 p.m.  |
|    | <b>Embracing The Black Church Task Force Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.                     | 12 | <b>Camp Pecometh Volunteer Day</b> , 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.   |
|    | <b>Communication Commission Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.                                  |    | <b>Pecometh Capital Campaign Kickoff</b> , Wilmington: Chase Riverfront Center, 6:00 p.m.                                    |
|    | <b>United Methodist Women Salisbury District</b> , TBD   | 14 | <b>Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting</b> , Easton: St. Mark's UMC, 9:00 a.m. – Executive Committee & 9:30 a.m. – Full Board |

### April 2008

- |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|----|--|
| 2 | <b>Emmanuel/Chrysalis Clergy Training</b> , Wesley College Rm. #206, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | 15 | <b>Council on Finance and Administration Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m. |
| 3 | <b>Vision Team Meeting</b> , Wesley College-Chapel, 7:00-9:00 p.m.                        |    | <b>Investment Committee Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.                  |
|   | <b>Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.  |    | <b>Insurance Committee Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.                   |
|   | <b>Resource Development Management Team</b>   |    | <b>Board of Pensions Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.                     |
|   |   |    | <b>Conference Personnel Committee Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.        |

# Save The Date



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**  
**Saturday, April 5, 2008**  
**8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
**Union UMC, Bridgeville, DE**