



Communicator

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MAY 11, 2007

Vision Statement

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference, as the body of Christ, will live out the ministry and teaching of Jesus Christ – boldly, cooperatively, and inclusively – through life-changing communities of compassion.



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General & Jurisdictional Conference Nominees

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Africa University (AU) Appeal Close To Goal

By Tamara Ward

At the 2003 Annual Session of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference a resolution to fund an Africa University scholarship was passed with a goal of completion by the end of 2008.

According to our Conference Missions Resource, Kevin Goodwin, we are just \$28,011 shy of reaching that goal right now. It is the hope of Bishop Matthews, newly elected to the Board of Directors of Africa University and Deputy Chairperson of the Africa University Executive Committee, that we do our best to raise the remaining amount by this year's Annual Conference.



James H. Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement for Africa University, will be a guest at our conference in June where he will be leading our Bible Study sessions. It is the hope of our bishop and others that we can announce at Annual Conference, and to Mr. Salley, that the entire amount, \$116,000.00 has been raised for the scholarship, over one year ahead of our goal.

With the assistance of Kevin, we have been able to break down the amount remaining so that each and every one of us can contribute to this goal. According to his calculations, if each person attending a United Methodist Church in our conference gave \$1.00, we will reach our goal before Annual Conference in June. Imagine that, just \$1.00. When your dollar is put with my dollar and so on and so on, that means the world to a student in Africa who wants to experience what so many of us take for granted, an education.

Africa University (AU) opened for classes in 1992 with 40 students and currently has an enrollment of 1,246 (thanks, mostly to scholarships like this one). Located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, AU is the first fully accredited, United Methodist-related institution on the African continent established by action of the 1988 General Conference. There are six faculties or colleges: Theology, Education, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Management & Administration, Humanities & Social Sciences and Health Sciences. There are five postgrad-



Bishop Marcus Matthews

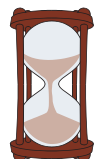
uate faculties: Agriculture, Management & Administration, Theology, Health Sciences, and Peace, Leadership & Governance.

You can contribute to the appeal individually, by family, by congregation, etc. Please help us meet our goal by June 8th (first day of Annual Conference).

Pre-Conference Orientations—2007

PURPOSE: To celebrate our faith, rehearse our vision and mission, and give expression to our connection; To provide an orientation for the Annual Conference Session for lay and clergy members; To receive comments and questions from lay/clergy members.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All clergy, lay, equalization, and reserve members of the Annual Conference.



6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

– GATHERING TIME

– Worship

– Lay and Clergy Member Orientation

– Closing



Each session will be identical at the four regional sites provided for our orientations. Please choose the date and place most convenient for you to attend.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Dover District
St. Paul UMC
3rd & North St.
Milford, DE
302.422.0709

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Wilmington District
Simpson UMC
907 Centerville Rd.
Wilmington, DE
302.998.4222

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Easton District
St. Luke UMC
712 Bradley Ave.
Cambridge, MD
410.546.4669

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Salisbury District
Whatcoat UMC: Snow Hill
Federal & Washington Sts.
Snow Hill, MD
410.632.0181

*For directions, see MAPQUEST on the internet or call the church.

Young People's Ministry

The first few weeks on a new job is always interesting. You meet many new people, sift through notes left by your predecessors, and attempt to learn as much as you can about your new position and the people you will be working with. This has been my life for the past week and a half. My name is Shane Hinderliter and I am the new Director of Young People's Ministry for the annual conference and I am very excited to be here.

Some of my goals for the near future include learning about what is happening in youth and young adult ministry in the conference and getting to know as many youth and young adult ministry workers as possible. I have spent much of my time thus far learning about the youth rally — what's happened in the past and what is already in the works for next year. I have met several local church youth workers and have begun to contact members of the Conference Council on Youth Min-



Shane Hinderliter

istries for the 07-08 term. If you are a youth or young adult ministry worker in the conference I would love to hear from you. Drop me a line and tell me how I can help you in your ministry or what you think the conference could do to help local churches be more effective in ministry to, with, and by young people. I have recently created a Yahoo

group for youth workers in the conference as a place where we can connect to support each other, ask each other questions, or invite each other to participate in joint activities and events. Members of the group post messages that all of the other members receive and can choose to reply to. Please email me if you are interested in joining this group. I am also available to come to your church to help train adult youth workers or student leaders or to help you evaluate and plan for your youth and young adult ministries. Please feel free to contact me by phone (1.877.736.3351, ext 15) or e-mail (shinderliter@pen-del.org) for assistance with your current youth and young adult programs or to help you explore your needs and creating a program for your church.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and look forward to meeting many of you along the way.

Shane Hinderliter

Peninsula United Methodist
Homes, Inc.
Your Gifts Make a Difference!

May 13, 2007 — Mother's Day Offering for Benevolence Needs

For almost 50 years, our Conference churches and you, their members, have made a difference in the lives of residents at Methodist Country House, Methodist Manor House, Cokesbury Village and Heron Point. You have volunteered your time, talents and treasure from the earliest days of the founding of Peninsula United Methodist Homes.

Each Mother's Day, our Conference has graciously offered Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc. the opportunity to conduct a special Mother's Day Offering for Benevolence. The Benevolence Fund provides support to residents who have outlived their life savings. This worthy program assures that **no resident who requires financial assistance will have to leave a PUMH community.**

PUMH communities are very grateful for your loyalty and support over the past years. The provision of benevolence within the PUMH retirement communities has become increasingly unique, since retirement communities operated by public corporations do not

provide a charitable benevolence program.

In 2006, the benevolence program provided \$431,000 in financial assistance to residents. The Mother's Day Offering at member churches raised \$16,000 and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference provided an allocation of \$10,500 toward the benevolent need at PUMH communities. The Benevolence Fund is also supported by gifts from many other sources including special events, auxiliary activities, friends, residents and their families. Now, as always, we depend on charitable contributions to help us to sustain our commitments to our residents, to enhance their quality of life, and to achieve our charitable mission. As partners in this ministry, we appreciate the Conference's willingness to help us meet the challenges that we face and are addressing every year.

When you see this year's Mother's Day Offering envelopes, please make a gift to support the benevolence needs at PUMH communities. All who benefit are most grateful for your kindness.

People Coming Together; There is Power in Assembly!

Jim Dorton, Small Group Task Force

Why do we, as churches, need small groups? Why do we, as individuals, need small groups? Consult any of the myriad of resources concerning small groups in the church (or attend the next Peninsula-Delaware Conference training session in October!) and you will find a list of reasons, to include most if not all of the following:

Prayer	Outreach	Support
Mission	Service	Study
Fellowship	Caring	Sharing
Personal growth	Church growth	

Certainly these are all true, valid, wonderful reasons to integrate small group ministries into the life of your church. May I add one more? There is power in assembling, power in believers coming together. Consider the 2nd chapter of Acts, the story of the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. The sound like a mighty wind from Heaven and tongues of fire! The sudden capability of common folks to speak and understand languages which were completely foreign moments before.

That was some day!

But before all the miraculous, wondrous activity, something quite normal took place. "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place."

(Acts 2:1)

Do we hear that? "... they were all together in one place."

There is power in coming together, is there not? Certainly God makes His Holy Spirit available to individuals, and certainly He can work wonders through one person at a time. But would this day have been the same were they not all "together in one place?" There is a significant power available to those who assemble together in Jesus' name, seek God, and are open to His Spirit. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians; "When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus... (His) power is present."

Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into His *small group* of Apostles and promised His presence when two or three are *gathered* in His Name. And in this passage from Acts 2, God presented this power and gave this gift, to the *assembled* believers. It is a power like no other. It is a great power that brings unbelievers to Him in a great way. It enables the meek to speak mighty words...and for those words to be heard and understood.

Why do we, as churches, need small groups? Why do we, as individuals, need small groups? God pours out His Spirit on groups of believers. So if we will do that quite normal thing first... come together in one place... what miraculous, wondrous activities might God enable through us?

From Your Wesley College Chaplain

I was just going in to meet with a music candidate with the rest of the search committee when I heard from my wife Anne (Pastor of Wesley UMC in Georgetown). One of her church members, a student at Virginia Tech, had a class in the hall where so much of the shooting had taken place. Suddenly, the situation in Blacksburg, Virginia, as frightening as it already was, came literally close to home. There were a number of students in the Georgetown area who went to Tech. Anne called back again with the good news that those students were all right. For others the news was agonizing. One of our students had a friend who was shot in the head twice but who was being operated on in a hospital. I haven't heard since then about how that person was doing. We had a time of remembrance during our last chapel service of the semester. Another student shared about how his friend who worked at Tech was safe.

"Safe" is one of the words that is now also a question. How safe can we be at Wesley? Security steps have been taken. There are now the "blue light" security alarms at strategic places around the campus; the outer doors of the dorms can only be opened with security cards;



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

students are reminded all of the time to lock their room doors and to not let into the dorms people they can't identify as students. There are limits. One of our students asked me rhetorically how we could lock down a campus as open as Wesley. We both knew it couldn't be done. It would take a wall and walls don't solve anything. In Ephesians, we read how Christ broke down the walls between us. Wesley would become a fort and not a college connected to the world that Christ came to save.

Your Brother in Christ
Mark

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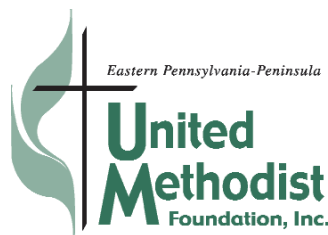
Dear Peninsula-Delaware Conference Clergy and Lay Members,

At the 2006 Annual Conference, an unofficial advocacy group called Grace for All sponsored legislation (R-6) that opposed Judicial Council Ruling #1032, which states that presiding pastors have authority to decide readiness for membership in a local church. #1032 was one of two rulings in the case of the Rev. Ed Johnson, a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference who was removed from ministry for denying membership to a self-avowed, practicing gay man. When R-6 failed to pass, the Annual Conference adopted legislation to hold a "Colloquium on Membership" for further discussion of the subject in a non-adversarial setting. The Colloquium was successfully held on March 3 in Dover. Later, in August, Grace for All also mailed an introductory pamphlet and book — Jack Rogers' *Jesus, The Bible, and Homosexuality* — to all active clergy. The book theologically supports Grace for All's stated purpose within the Annual Conference: "to advocate for the inclusion and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the Christian Church, both in policy and practice." As a Community Member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, this means, among other things, the endorsement of ordination for sexually active homosexual clergy and the celebration of same-sex unions.

Since September, a group of concerned pastors (see below) have been considering a positive response to Grace for All. We believe that the Membership Colloquium made a good start, but that further thought should be given to the broader underlying issues. So, we are offering a gift to the Annual Conference — a full day educational event "Exploring Biblical Sexual Ethics" to be held on Saturday, May 19 at St. John's UMC in Seaford, DE.

Sponsored by Transforming Congregations, the workshop will feature Dr. Robert Gagnon, a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Author of *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, Dr. Gagnon has also written several articles that counter several of the claims in the Jack Rogers book. There is more information about Dr. Gagnon and "Exploring Biblical Sexual Ethics" in a brochure available on the conference website. The workshop is open to the public, so please feel free to invite other interested folk in your church and community. We have also put together a packet with information about the Judicial Council decisions, which you can download at www.transformingcong.org/gagnon.htm. The material includes copies of the oral arguments, the full wording of Rulings #1031 and 1032, and briefs regarding Judicial Council reconsideration. We also encourage you to do further research by reviewing a wide range of commentary on the case, including the pastoral letter from the Council of Bishops and scholarly papers

See Transforming on page 8



Why hire the EPP-UM Foundation as the Church's Investment Manager

against appropriate benchmarks set by the Foundation's Board and reviewed frequently by the Board and its Investment Committee.

Manager of Managers: This results in the Board serving as the 'Manager of Managers' for each of our clients. By serving as the Consultant, the committee at the local church can focus on their ministries rather than trying to find the best large cap manager or fixed income manager – the Foundation's Board does this for you already.

All of the investments are high quality, striving for the highest return while achieving the lowest risk. Including investments in the international and small cap asset classes actually reduces the risk of a portfolio by diversifying the investments to markets beyond the larger companies in the United States.

Which Funds to Use: Each of our clients buys units of the funds listed above to suit their asset allocation needs – that is how much should be invested in stocks and how much in bonds. The Foundation works with the Trustees/Finance/Endowment Committee to determine the best allocation for their pot of money. This is based on the ministries to be supported, the size of the fund, the level of additions or contributions into the fund, and the risk tolerance of the Committee.

The Foundation has established a recommended allocation of the equity funds, as follows:

40% Growth Fund



Stacy Martin

40% Value Fund
15% International Fund
5% Small Cap Index Fund
100% Equity Allocation

We believe that this equity allocation provides the appropriate level of diversification given current market conditions. The Board is also responsible for changes to this allocation should conditions warrant.

The investment offerings above can be applied for designated or undesignated funds. Further, we have many resources available to the local church from sample endowment policies, spending policies and gift acceptance policies (how a gift is evaluated prior to acceptance by the church).

Please feel free to contact me at the Foundation office for more information about our services.

Stacy J. Martin
Executive Director

Email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org
1.800.828.9093 x247

The past few articles have shared the Foundation's Board's responsibilities and processes as well as the types of services offered and how those services are customized to meet the needs of the local church. I would like to detail what the investment options available to the local church for any of their investments, both permanent or temporary funds.

Funds Offered:

- US Large/Mid Cap Growth Fund
- US Large/Mid Cap Value Fund
- Small Cap Index Fund
- International Fund
- Fixed Income Fund (average duration of 3.4 years)
- Short Term Income Fund (ranging from 1-3 years in duration)

The Foundation has hired investment firms to actively manage all the funds except the small cap index fund. The investment firms have policy guidelines and objectives specific for each of the funds they manage. They are responsible for making investment selections within those guidelines, and, staying in compliance with our United Methodist social principles. That is to say that they buy the stocks and bonds held in the fund. Their performance is measured

Cokesbury Connection

You Are Invited . . . to the Cokesbury Book Display at Annual Conference! June 8-10, UMES Princess Anne, MD

Where: The Ballroom (new location this year) in the Student Service Center Building.

What To Expect!

Bishop Matthew's Recommended Titles

Book Signing with Bishop Clifton and Jane Ives – At the Dinner Hour on Saturday

Book Signing with Rev. Tom Starnes – Dinner Hour on Saturday

Free Trade Coffee – Thanks to Rev. Amy Yarnall and the Justice Ministry Team

Celebration of Ministry Cake and Krispy Crème Donuts – Courtesy of Cokesbury

LOOK FOR: 30% OFF

COUPON IN YOUR PACKET

Specially Requested books on Native American, African American and Small Membership Church ministry.

Many new and exciting resources from Cokesbury including *Zion Still Sings* and new Youth



Madeline Beall

Products

Sale items***Robes/Stoles
Jewelry

Nothing But Nets T-Shirts (BuzzKill) a Malaria Prevention Mission Project

Sponsored by the People of the United Methodist Church & Cokesbury

www.nothingbutnets.net
www.umc.org/nets

See you there!

Madeline Beall

Cokesbury Consultant

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mbeall@cokesbury.com

Transforming

Continued from page 2

from the recent GBHEM gathering. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of us. Thank you for all you do to serve your local church, our Annual Conference, and the Body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark Avens

Rev. James Bongard

Rev. Karen Bongard

Rev. Karen Booth

Rev. Martha Callaway

Rev. John Dunnack

Rev. Dale Evans

Rev. Bill Hopkins

Rev. Dave Humphrey

Rev. Kari Jones

Rev. Alan Jones

Rev. Everett (Bunky) LeCates

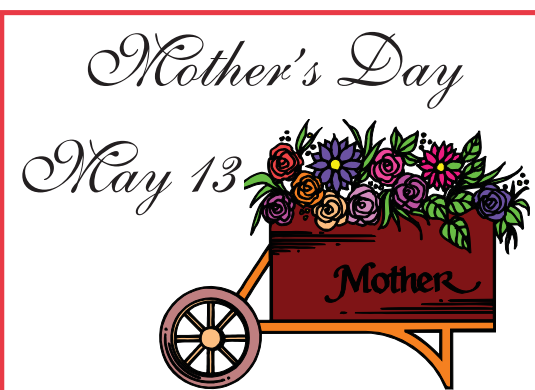
Rev. Rob Townsend

Conference Calendar of Events

May 2007

- 14 **Volunteers In Mission Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Peter D. Weaver Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 **Equitable Compensation Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.
Pre-Conference Orientation, Dover District: Milford-St. Paul UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 16 **Pre-Conference Orientation**, Wilmington District: Simpson UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 17 **Archives & History Committee Meeting**, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
Pre-Conference Orientation, Easton District: Cambridge-St. Luke UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 18 **Conference Laity & Clergy Banquet**, Dover: Whatcoat UMC. 6:00 p.m.
- 19 **Exploring Biblical Sexual Ethics**, Seaford: St. John's UMC, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 21 **Disaster Relief Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 **Congo Orientation Meeting**, TBD, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 **Pre-Conference Orientation**, Salisbury District: Snow Hill-Whatcoat UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 24 **Conference Hispanic/Latino Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 **Memorial Day Observed – BFEM Resource Center Closed**

- 4 **Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 6-7 **African-American Summit**
- 8-10 **Annual Conference**, Princess Anne, MD.: University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
- 11 **Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Peter D. Weaver Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 12 **Congregational Development Corporation Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 **Conference United Methodist Women Mission Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
- 19 **Conference United Methodist Men Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 21-23 **New Church Development for Urban Ministry Workshops**, TBD



June 2007

- 1-2 "The Bridge" Young Adult Event – Cancelled

2007 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, 2007 (unless otherwise indicated).

Mr. Jerry Howard (Certified Lay Speaker with the Dover District Lay revitalization Team) appointed to the West Harrington Charge (Dover District)

Rev. Howard Brooks (FE) to Elkton: Leeds (Wilmington District) from Greensboro – Burrsville Charge (Easton District)

Rev. David Rector (FE) to Quantico – Rockawalkin Charge (Salisbury District) from Incapacity Leave

Rev. Dean Purdue to the Bishopville Charge (Salisbury District) from the Whaleyville – New Hope Charge (Salisbury District)

Rev. Olivia Costango to the Princess Anne – Mt Vernon Charge (Salisbury District) from Incapacity Leave

Rev. Ronald Bell from Denton: St. Luke's (Easton District) to Director of Salisbury Urban Ministries (Extension Ministries)

Rev. Bob Starrett (RE) from Todd's Chapel/Trinity Circuit (Dover District) to Frankford UMC (Dover District)

Rev. Charlene Reitz (RLP) from Central Pennsylvania Conference to Greenwood: Todd's Chapel/Trinity Circuit (Dover District)

Rev. Beth Mallozzi (FE) from the Wyoming Conference to Woodside UMC (Dover District)

Rev. Cynthia Burkert (FE) to the Baltimore – Washington Conference from Trappe-Bruceville Charge (Easton District)

Rev. Maleia Rust (FE) to the Trappe-Bruceville Charge (Easton District) from the Townsend Charge (Wilmington District)

Rev. Darlene Dixon appointed to Assoc. Pastor Easton: St. Mark's UMC (Easton District) from Assoc. Pastor Salisbury: Bethesda (Salisbury District) (misprinted in April 13th issue)

Marcus Matthews