

Sandra's Snippets

Remember the story of the cleansing of the Temple? Remember? Jesus walked into the Temple and began turning the tables in the temple upside down, and chasing the money changers out. Turning tables upside down was a symbol of Jesus' entire ministry. His whole message was that of turning things upside down. Not just tables but our perceptions of the world and our place in it.

As followers of the one who turn things upside down, the challenge for our lives then is to realize that Christianity isn't just a parade or party, but a way of living life. It's about placing ourselves in God's hands and allowing God's plan, not ours, to unfold in God's own good time.

Sometimes it's hard, it's not safe, and it's downright inconvenient to take seriously Jesus' message to "follow me", when following means we have to turn things

upside down too. When we realize that some of our expectations and priorities are wrong; when we have to change directions or old habits or jobs or relationships or views of power and prestige. When we have to change the very way we see the world. And it's hard to change.

But when we change, when we allow God's plan to unfold, then we learn that though following Jesus turns us upside down and we may feel strange or different, the good news is that we're not really upside down, but right side up, in the kingdom of God, and that is good news.

May you allow Christ to turn things upside down in your life – cleanse you and transform you – so that you can truly experience a resurrection.

Blessed are all those who come, and follow, and walk, and live, in the way of the Lord.



Rev. Sandra Steiner-Ball

When the Saints Go Marchin' In

By Randy Hultman, Wyoming UMC

We aren't the first, nor will we be the last to borrow this line from the gospel favorite to describe our plans for an **adult** mission trip to New Orleans this summer. But I may have a unique spin on the tune.

Oh, when the stars refuse to shine

That's exactly what happened in New Orleans on August 29, 2005. Hurricane Katrina, the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico, made landfall just east of New Orleans. The ocean storm surge ravaged the city from the south, and levees holding back Lake Ponchartrain were breached the following day, leaving 80% of the city flooded. Over 1,400 people were confirmed dead, and over 2,000 are still unaccounted for.

Oh, when I hear that trumpet sound

The trumpet call for help sounded, but the response was underwhelming. The best plans of men couldn't match the need, and over six months later, many parts of New Orleans are still undergoing basic cleanup. But many have heard the call, and one of the biggest responses has been from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Oh, when the saints go marchin' in

Sure enough, the saints are marching in. Group after group, from all across the US and beyond, teams are coming to help in the cleanup. God's people are distinguishing themselves by their compassion and sacrifice to help others in need. Wyoming UMC has responded as well. I have the privilege of leading a group of adults on a repair and reconstruction trip from June 14 through June 24. The team is comprised mostly of our own members but also includes men and women from other churches in the area.

I want to be in that number

You can be! There's much to be done, but not a single bit of it is beyond most people's ability. If making the actual trip is not possible for you, please consider providing other help. There are several ways to serve from Delaware, including Prayer Coordinator, Travel Coordinator, Fund Raising Coordinator, and Publicity Coordinator.

So if you want to be in this number, please call me, Randy Hultman,



Café of Hope – First Year Anniversary (Wesley's Soup Kitchen in Georgetown)

By Rev. Anne Pruett-Barnett

If you were to enter Jones Hall on a Sunday afternoon following 11:00 o'clock worship, you would see tables and chairs set up – often by the people at 9:30 worship – for what we are now calling our *Café of Hope* (previously our *Soup Kitchen*).

The *Café of Hope* is a ministry led by Shirley McDougall which offers a safe place for people in the community to come and fellowship with others over a tasty meal which *almost always* includes a hearty soup, a sandwich, quesadilla, or salad, fruit, dessert, and beverage which is provided at no expense. The meals, *to date*, have been funded through contributions from individuals in the church.

A team of people, most of whom are from our church family, cook and serve the meal, welcome those who come, provide activities for the many children, and sit among the people to listen and share. I believe that Shirley has indicated that almost 50 persons have served in this area to date.

The *Café of Hope* has been in existence for one year and has

grown from seven people when it debuted on a very cold, snowy day in January 2005 to approximately 150 people, men, women, boys and girls, Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo, church people and people without any church background, people struggling to make ends meet, single parents, parents with young children. This is not an exhaustive list; but as you can see, there are many different types of persons who gather on a Sunday afternoon in our church hall.

If there is one common denominator that I have found, it is that these folks come together not because everyone *knows* everyone else but because we have found a place where we can belong. I say "we" because most Sunday afternoons you will find me – and Mark – at the *Café of Hope* participating in this community of people who seek each other out and linger around the tables talking, laughing, enjoying one another.

A few weeks ago, I was introduced to Luis Almandoz, his wife Soccoro, and his seven year old daughter Malkha. They are going to be present at the *Café of Hope* on a weekly basis in order to help

us communicate the good news of Jesus Christ more effectively to the people who come. They have started coming to worship (both 9:30 and 11:00 celebrations) and Malkha is going to Sunday School as well. Take the time to meet this delightful family which is dedicated to helping us help the Hispanic folks of Georgetown to learn English and the ways of the culture here so they can function more effectively in the community. He is also willing to offer some basic Spanish to anyone who would like it so that we can be instruments in bridging the gap. This class will be offered to us – and to others in the community who would enjoy it – each Monday evening in March and April and will be held in Jones Hall.

The *Café of Hope* is one small way in which we can come together as a community in our small town and get to know each other more *personally*. I hope that you will join me in the *Café of Hope* for a meal one Sunday following worship so that you can see what God is doing in our community through this ministry!

Striving to be faithful to Christ!

The Leaning Steeple of Kenton

By Pastor Scot McClymont

A long, long time ago, in a town not so far away, there was a church. On this church was a steeple that many years ago had started to lean. It did not lean out over the street but it leaned towards the church itself. So for many years a project had been started to do some work on this steeple.

To our surprise, there weren't many companies in Delaware that wanted to touch this project. One day in March, one of those windy days, the pastor got a call from a roofing company that was working across the street from the church. He asked the pastor to come and look at the steeple because he thought it was going to come down on its own.

The scene was a bit breathtaking. Not only was the steeple leaning into the church but now, because of the strong winds, it was shifting side to side 6 to 12 inches. That is a lot for a steeple many feet up in the air! So Jeff Ulrich, Wayne Ford, and Pastor Scot McClymont got a team together to decide how fast we could get this steeple down. With the aid of our general con-



tractor, the architects, the construction company, and the crane company we could get the steeple down on Friday. Two days later! Would it last that long? Yes! God put his finger on top of the steeple and to our amazement held it in place for those two days. Praise God!

Before the bell came out of its cradle it was rung to symbolize the fact that it will be rung again in the town of Kenton. I would like to thank God for keeping the

steeple in place for as long as it has been and for all the people that prayed for it at anytime past or present.

If anyone has been through a project like this, please contact us at Kenton UMC (302.653.3677 or 302.233.8227) because we will be putting something else up in its place and we would like the good and the bad and what companies you used. Any information would be a great help. Thanks and God Bless!



District Clergy Plan Farewell Cruise and Dinner May 23rd

All clergy active and retired and their spouses are invited to our May gathering which will be held on the river boat "The Dorothy Megan." The date is Tuesday evening, May 23rd and will leave from Suicide Bridge about 6:30 pm. There will be a chicken and

crab dinner with all the fixins' and a two hour cruise. The cost is \$40.00 per person.

During the evening we will have the opportunity to share our thanks with those persons leaving the Easton District either by retirement or pastoral change.

Message from Your Editor

Being a Christian is not so much a matter of doing as it is of being. God wants us to stop just telling people Jesus loves them and start letting Jesus flow through us to meet their needs.

It has indeed been a blessing to me, to be able to share in the ministry of communication these past few months. I have had the privilege of attending; Opportunities of learning, (Institute for Small Membership Church, District Training Event for Local Church Leaders, and our Lay Academy) Spirit filled socializing (Luncheons and a wonderful Afternoon Tea) and Loving support (District Council Meetings).

The best way to show the love of Christ is by example. People in the world want to see Christians who live what they preach and teach.

The only way we can ever properly represent Jesus to the world is to let His character show

through our attitudes and actions, and that is exactly what I witnessed on Saturday evening March 25th when Shirley Hotten, Pastor Jonathan Whitney and other members of Faith Community UMC came together in celebration giving certificates of appreciation to the young women and young men who played on the North Dorchester High School basketball team.

I witnessed the love of Christ on Saturday April 8th at the graduation ceremony of our Lay Speakers that was held at St. Marks UMC. Family, friends, and church lay leaders were all there in support of those who are answering their call to serve. Praise God.

Our District page will return in September. Please continue to send in your articles and help us be informed of events that are happening so that we can keep others informed of what is going on in and around our communities. Thank you.

You are invited to attend a reception for the departing Superintendent of the Easton District,

Rev. Tom and Judy Donnachie

On Saturday, June 3, 2006

3 to 6 pm

At St. Mark's UMC in Easton

100 Peachblossom Rd.

Easton, MD 21601

We want to create an informal open-house style atmosphere where we can all express our love and appreciation to the Donnachie family for the significant leadership and pastoral care given to us all during Tom's tenure as Our District Superintendent.

Congregations are encouraged to send a Love Offering for Tom and Judy. And it is appropriate to send cards and letters of Encouragement as well.

For more information visit www.EDCOP.org

This event is sponsored by The Easton District Committee on Superintendency

Did You Hear Bells in Chestertown???

If you happened to be 'out and about' around noon on Wednesday, April 19th in Chestertown and you thought you heard bells, well, you probably did. No, you're not crazy, what you heard was the joyful acknowledgement of the 300th year of the incorporation of Chestertown. As

some of you may know, Chestertown has been here for a good long time - 300 years to be exact. There will be numerous celebrations going on throughout the year to celebrate Chestertown and the community. Even though Francis Asbury, in his journals, referred to Chestertown as a wicked place,

there is a lot of good and wonder that can be associated with the community. So, if you find yourself in the area, be sure to participate in the events and celebrations going on until the end of the year.

(Editor's Note: above article adapted from a recent newsletter from First UMC)

Scenes from the Lay Academy



Basketball at Faith Community.



Easter

The Easton Page will be taking a break and will return in September. For articles/photos that you have between May and September, please contact Tonya Wongus at Lamoree6075@aol.com or by leaving a message at 410.221.0158. The deadline for the September issue is Friday, September 15, 2006. This is your opportunity to share the news of your church and community with the Easton District and the entire Conference. Please send in your photos and articles/announcements to be included in a future District Page.

Homeless Welcoming Center Program



Andrew Sheppard, a volunteer for the Homeless Welcoming Center, is washing a load of clothes for a homeless person. Every Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Salisbury Urban Ministries opens its doors to the homeless population in the city of Salisbury. These three hours are a brief respite from life lived on the streets and under bridges. When the doors are open these homeless people come into a welcoming space, a table filled with coffee, other drinks, pastries and other treats are available. They are allowed to sit in a welcoming space, watch movies or gospel music concerts on TV, or just talk with one another. Along with getting a load of clothes washed, they are allowed to use the facilities to take a shower. Lots of toiletries are available for use and to take out for future needs. People donate clothes, blankets, tents, backpacks, bikes, and other basic needs.

This program has been in existence for two years and each Saturday 20-25 homeless individuals are served. Donna Clark, Parish Nurse for Salisbury Urban Ministries, is available for case management working with individuals and directing them to other community agencies to address their needs. This program is staffed by a cadre of volunteers. Many of these volunteers were formerly homeless themselves who are working their way back into society. Andrew says that he volunteers for this program because he wants to give back to people who helped him. Also to be involved in a positive endeavor, he will not be tempted to get involved in negative activities. Salisbury Urban Ministries serves as a place to empower homeless people through a program of hospitality, care, support, and Christian fellowship.

Programs offered by Salisbury Urban Ministries

Homeless Outreach Center Program

God's Kitchen

Lazarus Emergency Assistance Fund & Food Pantry

Youth & Children's Safe Haven Programs

Health Outreach Ministries

For more information please call Rev. Grant Johnson, Executive Director, 410.749.1563, salisburyum@verizon.net.

Good News Corner

The Salisbury District is proud to announce the graduations this Spring four of our pastors. Rev. Sally Dolch, St. Andrew's UMC in Salisbury, Dean Perdue, Whaleyville-New Hope Charge, Sherwood McGrath, Salisbury-Riverside Charge, and Baron Hopkins from Berlin-Ironshire: Calvary. Rev. Dolch and Rev. McGrath are both graduating from Wesley Theological Seminary, Rev. Perdue is graduating from Palmer Theological Seminary (formerly Eastern Baptist Seminary), and Rev. Hopkins is graduating from Howard University.

Please congratulate them when you see them, this honor means that they have attained a wonderful accomplishment in their lives.

Easter Sunrise Service at Bethany UMC

On Easter Sunday morning members of Bethany United Methodist Church near Berlin joined with Pastor Patty Frick to offer a Sunrise service at Assateague State Park. As the sun made its way above the horizon, over 135 campers and visitors worshipped our risen Lord with hymn singing and prayer. A time of fellowship followed and many visitors commented on the beauty and meaning of Easter in such a lovely place. Later, as the Bethany congregation welcomed many visitors to their 10:00 service, a cross filled with burdens and flowers greeted them. This cross symbolized the renewal and wholeness that comes through walking with the Risen Christ and sharing our burdens with him. It was a joyous day of celebration, love and fellowship. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Salisbury District Gathering April 8, 2006 'Celebrate Our Connection'

The Salisbury District is going all out to help support the delegates from their district who are attending the World Methodist Conference in July. The delegates are Rev. Charlotte Nichols, Rev. Grant Johnson, Mrs. Darlene Webster, and Ms. Barbara Kelly. A fund-raising committee was established with Rev. Dianne Henry as Chair and Rev. Shirley Evans as Co-Chair to encourage the churches on the Salisbury District to give financial support for their delegates. The first phase of the fund-raising campaign culminated with a district-wide gathering at Asbury United Methodist Church in Salisbury on Saturday evening April 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Featured during the gathering was a worship service. Available prior to the start of the service was a time of fellowship where those in attendance could sample foods of various ethnic origins such as Korean, Soul Food, Native American, and American. It was obvious that Methodists from all ethnic backgrounds not only worship the same God but share the Methodist "tradition" of feeding its people well! Many there were able to sample ethnic foods they probably would not have otherwise tasted before.

Rev. John Moore offered prayers in the Lakota language and presented himself dressed in

Shalom Training
Saturday, May 13, 2006
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wesley Temple Church
133 West Rd., Salisbury

We Need Your Teens!!

By Elaine Moreland

On Saturday, June 10, 2006 at the Annual Conference held at UMES, we will be having a Health Fair. We are looking for 36 teenagers willing to help us at the Fair. They can dress up as clowns or something cute but appropriate for the occasion. We'd like to have 18 teens work from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and we will provide lunch at 1:00 p.m.. The other 18 teens would work from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. so we would have all 36 there between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.. The second group would be provided dinner. Their jobs would be to hand out water, fill popcorn bags, hand out brochures, put stickers on paper, register people coming into the Health Fair, give out T-shirts when someone has completed the required steps through the Health Fair, and other jobs as needed. We want this to be "fun" for everyone.

Please ask your teens if they would help us. I need to have the number of teens committed to help so that I am sure I will have enough. Please call me at 877.736.3351 extension 16 or email me at emoreland@pen-del.org.

Thank you for your assistance!



his Native American dress.

The Salisbury Korean Congregation was well represented and their women were dressed in native Korean dresses. One of their men was also in traditional dress. They sang as a choir in Korean (see above photo). We could not take our eyes off the women as they were beautiful in their native dress.

During the service a collection was taken wherein churches and individuals from the district offered their financial contributions for the delegates. On Saturday night the collection totaled \$1,100.00. Since

then more donations have come into the District Office. The delegates are all very appreciative of this show of support from the district.

If anyone would still like to make a contribution, it will be gratefully accepted. Payment in full was due from each delegate by May 1 without a late charge. Each delegate still has a way to go to make their full payment of at least \$3,600.00. There is still time for churches and individuals to support the delegates.

The Salisbury District church family has truly demonstrated "family" support to their delegates.

The Salisbury Page will be taking a break and will return in September. For articles/photos that you have between May and September, please contact Rev. Shirlyn Brown at sistalady@hotmail.com or by leaving a message at 410.957.0689. The deadline for the September issue is Friday, September 15, 2006. This is your opportunity to share the news of your church and community with the Salisbury District and the entire Conference. Please send in your photos and articles/announcements to be included in a future District Page.

From the D.S.

We know that the Church is called "the Body of Christ," but have we recently reflected upon what such an affirmation might mean for us? Paul in I Corinthians 12:27 wrote: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." We, from time to time, sing "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together!" What might these affirmations mean for us?

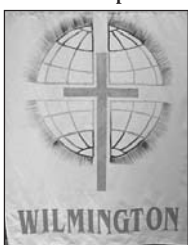
After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the world comes to know and to experience the love, mercy and grace of God in and through "the Church" — through us. As God took on flesh and dwelt in the world in Jesus of Nazareth, now the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of the world takes on flesh and dwells among us in the lives of individual persons of faith, followers of Jesus, and in our life together as the Church of God—"the Body of Christ." Such a truth means that I am, you are, we are the church together. If we are the Church, then we are "the Body of Christ" in the world today, at work in the world today. Such an affirmation suggests that I am the enfleshment of Christ, you are the enfleshment of Christ, we are the enfleshment

of Christ as we are joined together in that expression of the Church known as The United Methodist Church, The Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Wilmington District of The Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church. Now, that is a humbling affirmation!

In a prayer of St. Theresa we read: "Christ has no Body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the

feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all of the world." I challenge each of us to be more determined and deliberate about being the lay and clergy servant-leaders that we have been called to be. I invite us to be more determined and deliberate about leading our specific congregations in being more dynamic and vital channels of God's justice, mercy and love. Let us pray daily for God to guide us and enable us, individually and congregationally, to be what we are — the very eyes, feet, hands of our Teacher and Example, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ — "the Body of Christ" making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh



What Is Love and Logic All About?

The Love and Logic Institute and its sister company, School Consultant Services, are dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. They provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. All work is based on a psychologically sound parenting and teaching philosophy called Love and Logic. To enroll or find out more about the program call St. Paul's UMC office at 302.378.2420 or go to our new website at www.stpaulsodessa.org.

"Legacies of Justice" was the theme of the 2006 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Ha'Shoah). "A single landmark of justice and honor does not make a world of peace." *Former U.S. Secretary of War, Henry Stimson January 1947.* This year's theme was in honor of the courage of, and the precedents set by, those who testified during the trials of Nazi war criminals. It also was a tribute to those who tirelessly work for the cause of justice both then and now. Hosted by Leeds UMC, Elkton this special Remembrance of the Holocaust service was held on April 24 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Rick Vance of Leeds UMC, Rev. Jack Cohen of Bethel UMC, Lewes and Rev. Asher Tunik of Tome and Asbury UMCs, Port Deposit — all Jewish Christian pastors, led this observance. We remembered the 6 million Jewish and other victims of the Holocaust as well as those who survived to find a Europe and world in which it seemed that they no longer had a place after losing not only their families and possessions, but in many cases their communities as well.

In view of the issues our churches and nation face today, recalling the individual and corporate acts of heroism and resistance to great evil during the Holocaust provides a powerful example to the Body of Christ of our crucial response to such acts of hatred and inhumanity.



Art & Worship and a Pentecost Experience St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Odessa

Why art in church? The tradition of the Church has had a close relationship with the arts whether musical, dramatic, movement or visual. In the early Church, the arts were a tool for teaching a largely illiterate congregation of believers. The genre of the morality play, for instance, was a direct result of attempts to teach scripture and values to those who couldn't read or who would never be able to afford very

expensive Bibles. So, too, with stained glass.

More importantly, the concept of *Imago Dei* — in the Image of God — is part of our theology; we are created in the image of God who is a creator. Therefore, creativity reflects the divine gifts with which we are endowed by our loving Creator. And to not use them to praise our God is, well, sinful.

St. Paul's in Odessa offered

the first opportunity to explore the art of Pentecost on **Thursday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, facilitated by Rev. Karin Tunnell. Photos of worship areas were explored as ways to visually bring Pentecost into the midst of the worship experience. This opportunity was St. Paul's Pentecost gift to you and your church. For more information call Rev. Karin Tunnell at 302.378.2420 or email at pastortodessa@stpaulsodessa.org.

A Program for Caregivers of Elderly Relatives

The Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and the Sellers Senior Center are offering Giving Care/Taking Care, a program for caregivers of elderly relatives and friends. The program was held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10 and again on Wednesday, May 24. The location is the Sellers Senior Center, 500 Duncan Road, Wilmington 19809 (off Philadelphia Pike in the old

Mt. Pleasant School.)

The workshop program is especially for family caregivers that want to enhance their skills and abilities to provide care and to learn about resources and services that make their tasks easier. It was designed by caring health care and social services professionals and, above all, family caregivers who know how it is to have an elderly loved one at home.

The first day covers basic topics, such as home safety. The second addresses more intermediate topics, such as caring for bedridden

patients and giving medications. Preventing caregiver burnout and accessing community resources are covered throughout the program.

The primary trained is the Rev. Dr. Karen Moore, a United Methodist clergyperson who has also worked as a nurse and been a family caregiver.

There is no cost and luncheon, refreshments and resource materials are provided at no charge.

Pre-registration is requested; please call Ms. Christa Winter at 302.225.1040.

Jacob's Well Launched in Chesapeake City

On Easter Sunday, a Charge wide redevelopment effort began to bear fruit. Using a new church start model, Town Point and Trinity Churches, which comprise the Chesapeake City Charge, began a new worshipping community.

Jacob's Well is held at Bohemia Manor High School in the auditorium at 10:00 a.m. At this first worship service on Easter, God brought together 160 people for worship at Jacob's Well. Town Point and Trinity Churches were also filled. Jacob's Well is a contemporary worship service, with a praise band, multi-media sermon, and stations for prayer, communion, and offering offered at the end of worship. Town Point and Trinity worship in a more traditional style.

God has moved in many wonderful ways. Missionaries from Town Point and Trinity were called by God to serve this new ministry. Twenty servants have been working for more than a year preparing. Both Town Point and Trinity moved their worship times to make room for Jacob's Well. The Charge musician, Patti Blakeney, agreed to lead the praise team, in addition to her responsibilities at both traditional churches. Megan Shitama serves as our youth director and is a part of the preaching and worship team. Rev. Jack Shitama is integral to the leadership team, plays guitar, will also



preach, and led our relationship with Portable Church Industries, from whom we purchased equipment. God has sent resources, funding (including vital support from the Annual Conference), and brought in people who were not active in a local church onto the praise team and launch team. A member of Christ Church in Elsemere offered his services at a very low cost for signage. (Contact Chris Pennington for a great sign man who loves the Lord.)

Most of the new visitors indicated that they learned of Jacob's Well because they were personal-

ly invited. This was our primary way of spreading the word and inviting people. We used printed invitations from outreach.com, the size of a business card. Members of both churches were asked to visit a practice service during Lent, and then invite people to Jacob's Well. In addition, road signs, newspaper advertising, and servant evangelism distributing juice boxes at a local Egg Hunt, helped to get the word out.

We see ourselves as a multi-campus ministry. We are excited about reaching new people in new ways with the love of Jesus Christ.