

## Inaugural Organ Concert held at Aldersgate UMC

**I**nternationally acclaimed Stefan Engels was the guest organist for the Inaugural Organ Concert at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 10.

The Aldersgate organ was rebuilt and enlarged last year by the Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders of Denver, North Carolina, and dedicated on January 30, 2005. Using Walker Technology, 72 digital stops were interfaced with the existing 29 pipe ranks, and the new four-manual console has MIDI implementation, a Yamaha MDF-3 Sequencer, and 120 levels of mem-

ory. The instrument is maintained by Robert G. Pierce Pipe Organ Service of Monkton, Maryland.

Stefan Engels was appointed to the organ faculty of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in 1999. In addition to his current duties at Westminster Choir College, he also serves as Principal Organist at First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania and maintains a vigorous concert schedule both in the USA and abroad. Beginning in October 2005, Mr. Engels will be Professor of Organ at the Musikhochschule in Leipzig, Germany.

## Rev. Karen and Craig Dial visit supporting church

**R**ed Bird missionaries, the Dials, will be visiting Hockessin UMC the evening of May 18th. Others interested in learning about Red Bird Mission in Kentucky are welcome to come for dinner (\$3) at 5:30 p.m. or come to the presentation around 6:00 p.m.



## Abstract paintings, quilts coming to Gallery at Grace

**D**uring the month of May Delaware painter Judith Schwab is displaying her abstract paintings in "Gallery at Grace" at Grace Church in downtown Wilmington. Quilter Deborah Barr is joining her with a selection of her contemporary quilts. The paintings and quilts will be on exhibit through May 27, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Schwab's paintings – Judith Schwab's paintings have been heavily influenced by a recent bout with cancer, which sent her on a journey of healing through art. Most of her recent work contains figurative elements that assume "life-affirming postures." Working over the heavily textured surface that she creates with textured acrylic gel, Judith attempts to build a dynamic contrast

between dark and light. Schwab created an original CD recording of performance art that was an important component in her active and positive search for healing.

Barr's quilts – The contemporary quilts of fiber artist Deborah Barr are made of exuberantly colored cotton cloths, many dyed by the artist. The quilts often include recognizable images of natural forms in movement—images such as leaves, animals, birds, hands, or eyes. Deborah often receives inspiration from the music she plays while working over her quilts. She sees quilting as an art form and intends her quilts for hanging like paintings.

The "Gallery at Grace" is located at Grace Church on Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth streets in downtown Wilmington.

## Upcoming Concerts at Harts UMC

**T**he USAF Heritage Brass Quintet will perform Saturday, June 18th at 6:00 pm at the Hart's Church Amphitheater located on Route 272, six miles south of North East, MD. Formed in 1973, the USAF Heritage Brass Quintet takes great pride in the quality of its performances at concert halls, hospitals, retirement homes, churches, and theaters throughout

the Eastern United States. The variety of music presented will suit the tastes of all audiences.

The USAF Airmen of Note will perform Saturday, August 27th at 6:00 pm. A premier jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note tours twice each year and is one of the few touring big bands in the United States.

For more information contact Hart's UMC at 410.287.2650.

## Behind the Curve

**G**reetings to all brothers: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reason for the hope you have." I Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Men! We are behind the curve on this important event, The Annual Executive Meeting.

To all brothers in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, I encourage you to immediately make plans to attend the Executive Meeting on May 21, 2005, at Hurlock United Methodist Church, Hurlock, Maryland. I offer each one of you an apology for any inconvenience that may occur because of the lateness of this information.

I know that the window of opportunity is rapidly closing in and this leaves little time for procrastination, so please act immediately!

We need to get our brothers, Christian and non-Christian, to commit to becoming involved in our movement. We need to go forth and make disciples for Christ Jesus. We need to have a spiritual enrichment as we experience and renew

our own personal relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is not about us or what we did yesterday or yesteryear, but what will each of us do today that will count.

Each of us will offer numerous excuses as to why not, and those same excuses have put the Methodist Men in the situation in which we find our self or ourselves behind the curve. There is a lack of interest, participation, and commitment to our mission purpose and to ministry and mission. All of those are good but action is needed. Actions always speak louder than words, therefore the time is now for you and I and others to become involved.

In summation, this year's annual Executive Meeting will be held at Hurlock United Methodist Church, Hurlock, Maryland, on May 21, 2005. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. and closing will be at 2:30 p.m.

It is vital that we encourage all men in our daily travels (work-

place, district, local church, wherever there are men present) to become active and aware of the GOOD NEWS that Jesus Christ has risen.

Although one can register at the door the day of the event, it is important for you to pre-register. Pre-registration will help us to make your stay more pleasant, hopefully trouble free, and also help us plan for the meal that will be prepared. Unless you tell us, we have no idea of your intention to attend.

Please mail the registration form along with the remittance of \$20.00 to cover expenses to:

Calvin Blake, Jr.

815 Springfield Circle

Salisbury, Maryland 21804

Make your check or money order payable to:

Peninsula-Delaware Conference  
United Methodist Men

"We shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banner in the name of our God." Psalm 20:5 (NIV).

## A Matter of Life and Death

A program about End of Life Care – May 16, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

**A**ldersgate's pastoral care team will present a panel discussion on the spiritual, emotional and practical issues surrounding end of life decisions and care. The program will include using a living will document to help families honor wishes of the dying person. The panel will consist of Pastor Jonathan Baker, physician Robert Rosenbaum, Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Attending Physician at Christiana Care Emergency Department, and

Anne Murray, Parish Nurse and clinical specialist in gerontology. Panel roles:

- Pastor Baker will bring the faith perspective on end of life care and will explain the position of the United Methodist Church on advance directives as well as the role of the faith community for dying persons and their families
- Dr. Rosenbaum will discuss end of life care from a physician and hospital perspective. He will clarify the difference between a living will and a 'do not resuscitate'

order, explain withdrawal of care and limited treatment, and give examples of measures that allow persons to die with dignity

- Anne Murray will present the Five Wishes living will to prepare for end of life decisions.

Come and learn how to help your family help you by knowing how to communicate *your wishes* should you be unable to make decisions for yourself. Please join us for what promises to be a meaningful discussion on an important topic for all of us.

## What is Five Wishes?

**F**ive Wishes is a living will document that prompts you to consider five questions about the types of medical care you want-or don't want- if you become incapacitated.

- Who your healthcare agent should be.
- What kind of treatment you want in various situations.

- How comfortable you wish to be
- How you want people to treat you.
- What you want your loved ones to know.

Featured on the NBC Today Show and in the Wall Street Journal, Five Wishes created by Aging With Dignity, is described as one of the best templates of a living will there is.

It is a legal document in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and NJ and available at Aldersgate for \$1 through the parish nurse office. (The \$1 charge covers only cost)

Other types of living will forms are widely available, each state provides a form and attorneys can help persons to complete advance directives.

## Laity Clergy Banquet



## Snippets from Sandra

"We Are More Than We Have Become!"

**G**od has designed and created us to be more than what we have become.

In *The Lion King*, there is this wonderful series of scenes where Nala, Simba's childhood friend, finds him in the wilderness many years after Simba, feeling responsible for his father's death, runs away from the pride believing that he cannot fill his rightful place as the leader. Nala actually believed that Simba was dead, but when she discovers him alive, she tells him that the pride is dying and desperately needs him to return and take his rightful place in the circle of life. Simba feels that he cannot do this and again runs away. In the midst of a field, feeling defeated and confused, Simba encounters Rafiki, a spiritual leader. Simba asks, "Who are you?" Rafiki responds by turning the question back to Simba saying, "The question is, who are you?" Simba doesn't know who he is anymore. Rafiki tells him that he knows who Simba is. He tells Simba that he is Mufasa's boy. Simba tells Rafiki that his father is dead. Rafiki tells him that he is wrong that his father is alive and that he will show his father to him. At this point Simba chases Rafiki through a dark forest of twisted and entangled roots, branches, and moss. Eventually, Rafiki and Simba emerge from the forest and Rafiki brings Simba to the edge of a clearing and a pool of water. Rafiki points Simba to the pool of water. Simba looks over the edge and tells Rafiki, "That is not my father. It's only my reflection." Rafiki points him back to the water and tells him to "look harder." As Simba looks back into the water Rafiki tells Simba that his father lives in him. It is at this moment that Simba is enabled to see his father reflected in the water and hears his father call his name. After calling his name, Simba hears his father say that Simba has forgotten him. Simba says, "No, Father, I have not forgotten you." Mufasa says, "You have forgotten

who you are and so have forgotten me." He tells Simba, "Look inside yourself. You are more than what you have become. You must take your rightful place in the circle of life." Simba responds by protesting, but Mufasa says, "Remember who you are. You are my Son and the rightful heir. Remember who you are. Remember!"<sup>1</sup>

I believe that we, as individuals and the church, are much like Simba. For a variety of reasons, we have run, walked, or wandered away from the pride, the Kingdom of God. We have forgotten who and whose we are. Therefore, we too, in the same way that Simba forgot his father, have forgotten God. Because we have forgotten who we are, we are not able to be all that God designed and created us to be, and therefore we are, and have indeed been created to be, more than what we have become. Like Simba, we need to travel through an examination process embodied in the story by Rafiki, which helps us to remember who we are. When we remember who we are, we once again are able to more fully recognize God's presence, which enables us to come through the dark, twisted, tangled places of life, to a clearing where we are enabled to see beyond our own reflection to the true Source of Life. Once again aware of and in touch with the true Source of Life, we are then empowered to remember who we are. In remembering who we are, we become able to receive healing and forgiveness, to live more fully, to be transformed, into all that God created us to become: a reflection of Christ, a people empowered to return in thought, word, and deed, to God, our circle of life.

<sup>1</sup>The Walt Disney Company, *The Lion King* (Burbank, California: Buena Vista Home Video Department CS, 1999)



## \$2.00 and a Prayer

**O**ver 135 years ago a small group of women in Boston, Massachusetts organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society that set their dues at "2 cents a week and a prayer," so that it was affordable to everyone. The women of Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover, DE wanted to keep this theme alive by asking for a gift of \$2.00 for mission. For your gift, persons received a prayer request for a mission project. There were 5 specific prayer requests each printed on 1/2 sheets of paper, rolled, and tied with a ribbon. The UMW sponsor many local, national and international missions helping women, children and youth. This mission project took place during April.

## Dover District Trainings

Saturday, May 14 — Calvary UMC, Milford — 8:30-noon  
\$5.00 per person; \$25.00 maximum per church

1. Staff Parish Relations Committee Training
  2. Don't Shoot the Horse, till you know how to drive the tractor
  3. Let the Children Come
- Call the district office for more information.

## Grandma's Truck Held Agape Love

**L**ove was packaged by two sisters and sent to the victims of the Asia Tsunami on Saturday March 10. Rebecca (14) and Caroline (12) Turner of Selbyville, DE raised over \$2000 by holding a community Tea fundraiser at Salem United Methodist Church.

The project started two months ago when they learned about the massive tsunami that affected parts of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the islands of Sri Lanka and Maldives. They approached their parents Steve and Cynthia Turner and asked if they would help if they prepared all the food and desserts. Collectively the

Turner family reached out through their church community and planned a great event that involved about 100 participants and attendees.

A play was written by their Grandmother, Caroline Hudson, entitled "Grandmas Trunk" that reflected on the great times in a grandmother life with her grandchildren.

Music filled the air as many children played songs on the flute and piano. The highlight was a fashion show that involved all ages from preschoolers to adults. A wide variety of fashion bridged over 200 hundred years of costumes that were provided by The Calvin House

Museum, the Bass Outlet and Oshkosh. Several "grandmothers" raided their personal trunks and attics to provide fashions from many periods.

Area businesses purchased advertising space in the events' program and friends and parents joined together in the kitchen. When the dust settled, they presented a check to be forwarded to UMCOR to assist tens of thousands of tsunami survivors in South and Southeast Asia.

The biggest winner of the day was the love exemplified by Rebecca and Caroline that spilled over to everybody involved.

## Calvary Café

By Linda Grabowski  
Taken from the *Lamplighter*,  
Calvary UMC, Milford:

**A**s I was taking a walk this morning, I realized that I was a day late in submitting an article for the April newsletter. I thought about sending an email saying that I didn't have anything to say this month. But God had other ideas.

I started thinking about the many faces of the people that come to Calvary Café. Maybe you can identify with some of these people.

- There is the mother and daughter who came to Calvary Café every week until Mom had to start treatment for cancer. The adult daughter continued to come until Mom got so bad that she could not be left alone. We send meals home to them almost every week.
- Then there is the lady that we gave money to through the Reach Out Fund to help her get to Texas so that she could be with her twenty-something daughter when she died of cancer. Now this lady is back in

Delaware struggling with her own chemotherapy treatments while trying to care for her four-year old daughter. She owes all kinds of bills but we can give her some relief by providing one meal a week and clothing.

- Or look at the face of the college-educated woman who is fluent in Spanish but cannot hold a job due to the mental issues she suffers from after spending twenty years in an abusive marriage. She calls every week to find out what we are having and to tell us who needs to be picked up on Saturday.
- One lady lived in a homeless shelter for over a year. God finally gave her a house to live in — just in time too. For her daughter brought her five children to live with their grandmother because she could not take care of them anymore due to problems she was having. We were able to give her some food, clothing and bedding.
- There are many people who are new to our area, having come from different states or different countries look-

ing for a better life. Many are here without their families. We give them a place to fellowship with others.

• And the children. So many kids are thankful for the books they receive each week or the toys that we have on occasion. Their smiles speak a thousand words.

These are just a few of the stories that we know about. I am sure there are many, many more. Are there people who come who don't really need a free meal or who don't come with an appreciative attitude? You bet there are. But I can't help but believe that some of those 5,000 people that Jesus fed with a few fish and some bread came with the same attitudes. Maybe they saw a crowd and wondered what was going on. Maybe they heard there was free food and they hadn't had fish for a while. Whatever their motive, Jesus fed them all and that is just what we are doing at Calvary Café. We leave it to God to deal with any of those with less than grateful hearts.

God is doing great things through Calvary Café. Wouldn't you like to be part of it? Call 422.8884.

## Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

**T**here are many things that can make one lose their hair; things such as stress, heredity, or even a child or two. The pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Seaford may lose his hair for another reason. Pastor Ed Kuhling has been the Pastor at Wesley UMC in Seaford for almost 4 years and now this 116 year old country church needs a major expansion. Pastor Ed has promised his parishioners that if they raise \$75,000 by March of 2006, he will allow one of them to shave his dark hair and mustache off. One of the teenagers of the congregation said they are going to ask everyone in their school to donate \$5 because he wants to use the razor on Pastor Ed's head.

Wesley Church is in desperate need of more space. We have Sunday school classes meeting in the sanctuary, in the pastor's small office, and had to combine grades 4-8 due to lack of space. It is difficult to invite new people when there is no place to put them. The Wednesday Night

dinners are held in our community house near the church. The seating capacity there is approximately 120 and with increased attendance we are now serving about 100 people each week. These dinners are served each Wednesday before the worship service and there are several members who do not come to dinner anymore because it is too crowded. Wesley's other problem is that we cannot do a combined worship service or activity because our facilities will not accommodate all the members at one time.

The church members are very excited about having a bald Pastor and the fund raising has begun. Wesley gave each member \$5 and the Pastor preached about the Five Talents. Members were encouraged to use their God-given talents plus the \$5 and see if they could multiply the talents. A young man raised several hundred dollars washing windows and some members started a salsa product that sold quite well. Baked goods, bird feeders, blankets, and many other items were created with

the \$5. In all we made over \$3,000 for the building fund. The church is planning a Giant Yard Sale on May 14th, along with dinners, car show and other fund raisers. We plan to measure the funds on a chart — not the normal thermometer — but a picture of Pastor Ed with his hair disappearing as the money comes in! I must admit, if you know Pastor Ed, it is scary to see him without his hair or mustache. We are trying to talk his wife Linda into a shave if we double the \$75,000 in one year.

There are many days we feel like the little train that said I think I can, I think I can. We really believe, however, that God wants this expansion for his glory so we remind ourselves daily, "With God all things are possible." We are looking into grants and donations from the community.

If you would like to see Pastor Ed Kuhling's head shine next March, donations may be mailed to:

Wesley UMC  
22025 Atlanta Road  
Seaford, DE 19973  
302.629.3029



## Preceding Events

### Christian Education Ground Breaking

**O**n April 10, Calvary-Asbury UMC (Pastor David Doraisingh) broke ground for their new Christian Education Building. During the morning worship service, District Superintendent, Rev. Tom Donnachie, led the ceremony. "The CE Building is an outward sign of an inward vision laid upon the hearts of Calvary-Asbury Church members for a long time," Pastor David said. "This is to celebrate the children and youth of our community. They are this community's future. The building will provide the community a space to nurture and grow the next generation and generations thereafter."



### Over Night Lock-in



**T**he youth group of Calvary-Asbury United Methodist Church in Sudlersville participated in a Lock-In Saturday night, April 9th just prior to the groundbreaking ceremony of the Christian Education building at the church. Twenty middle and high school youth group members met at the church at 6:00 p.m. where they enjoyed big screen movies, music, dancing, tie-dye T-shirts, pizza party, snacks and games all night long. Their event ended with the groundbreaking ceremony and worship service the next morning.

## Succeeding Events

### Mission Trip To Costa Rica

**T**he Sudlersville United Methodist Charge is going on a mission to Costa Rica this summer. They are in the final stages of fundraising, having raised over \$15,000 of the needed \$18,000. All donations are accept-

ed. A group of 23 persons will be going on this, their first international mission trip. A team of Volunteers in Mission is going from July 14th to July 30th. For more information please contact: Gil Hoffman 410.785.3519.

### Native American Sunday

**T**he United Methodist Church has several Special Giving Sundays, World Communion Sunday-October 2, 2005; United Methodist Student Day – November 27, 2005; Human Relations Day – January 16, 2005; Native American Ministries Sunday-April 10, 2005; and Peace with Justice Sunday – May 22, 2005.

On Sunday, April 10, Native American Sunday, Chief Sewell

Fitzhugh, of the NAUSE-WAI WASH Band of Indians, Inc. came to New Revived United Methodist Church where Rev. Turhan L. Potter is the pastor. Chief Fitzhugh came reciting seven generations of his genealogy, the creation, thirteen generations of his ancestor's history. Chief Fitzhugh left teaching a prayer song, to be sung four times, once for each direction-north, south, east and west.



### Bryan's UMC Winter Activities

By Deborah S. Brown

**D**ecember '04 was a busy one for Bryans UMC in Grasonville that started with a "Hanging of the Greens" on December 11th. The congregation held a service that included an explanation of all the decorations that were placed in and around the church for the holiday season. Christmas carols filled the room as those that participated enjoyed fellowship as they readied their

church for the coming of our Lord.

Also during December the church ushers took on the project of collecting and filling boxes for the sick and shut-ins of the community. 35 boxes were prepared with non-perishable foods to be delivered prior to Christmas Day. Members of the church brought in items that completed the boxes, which was much appreciated by the organizers of the project and the recipients as well.

During January, Bryans sponsored a concert of the Maryland Boychoir. This group of young men of all races and nationalities sing a variety of music that travel and put on very enjoyable concerts. The church members pulled together and cooked a nice meal for the young men who were thoroughly happy about the nice home-cooked meal and were ready to jump in and do anything that needed to be done to help the congregation serve them.

### ... On Journeying

**I**n all things give thanks.... Do all things for the glory of God. If we truly believe in these phrases and portions of scriptures how can we – as Christians – mumble, grumble, complain or utter negative words when we are prompt spiritually to complete a task for God.

The work of the church can sometimes be so very strenuous. But if we keep in mind that what we are doing is to bring forth the kingdom of God, it can be as soothing as a soft whisper of cool breeze on a warm summer day. We should get excited about the fact that God, by way of the Holy Spirit, has invited us to do a certain task. Being oh so thankful should we

that God doesn't give up on us because of our disobedience.

From our past experiences, we know that God will provide step-by-step instructions on how to complete each task that we accept. We know that God will equip us with whatever we may need to succeed. We know that God will provide angels to assist along the way.

We are not to be actively participating to bring about self-gratification and we are not doing this work for man, but for God. Knowing and believing this – how can we not joyously run on? How can we not anticipate the learning experience that will accompany the process of the task? With the thought of

knowing once this task has been successfully completed another one will follow, how can our hearts not be filled with joy as we – as Christians-do the work of God.

It takes but a moment to change a negative thought to a positive one. Try It! I challenge you. The next time a negative thought comes to your mind, just say stop! Then replace it with a positive one. Even when you are speaking, go back and change your negative phrase, replace it with a positive one. You may say, easier said than done. It takes how many days to change/create a habit? ... Start with one thought or phrase at a time. Do it really for the glory of God.

*Thank you for all the articles and/or photos that you have shared with the Easton District through this page during the last several months. The District page will be back in September so please continue to send in your articles and events that have happened, are going to happen, or ideas on what to include on the page. This is your publication, the Easton District, and we want your input for future issues. E-mail your information to easton-district@dmv.com or call the District Office at 410.221.1786.*

*Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor*

## BEHIND THE CURVE

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Make your check or money order payable to: Peninsula-Delaware Conference United Methodist Men

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Respectfully Submitted  
Charles E. Brummell, Jr.  
President of United Methodist Men  
Peninsula-Delaware Conference

### REGISTRATION FORM

Mail To : Calvin Blake, Jr  
815 Springfield Circle, Salisbury Md 21804

Make Checks/Money Orders Payable To :  
Peninsula-Delaware Conference United Methodist Men  
United Methodist Men's Annual  
May Conference Meeting  
Will Be Held On May 21, 2005  
At Hurlock-Preston United Methodist Church  
Hurlock, Maryland  
Registration Begins At 8:30 a.m.

The cost of registration, lunch, and other expenses: \$20.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church name and location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

District: (please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Easton \_\_\_\_\_ Dover \_\_\_\_\_ Salisbury \_\_\_\_\_ Wilmington

If you have any questions, please contact Calvin Blake, Jr. at 410.749.4140.

## Free Prostate Seminar & Screening

**MAY 21, 2005**

10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
407 Oxford Street  
Pocomoke, MD 21851



Speaker: Lennox Graham, Program Coordinator  
University of Maryland Statewide Health Network

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact  
Karen Purnell or Lisa Gattoni at 443-260-9113,  
or Leila McCann at 410-641-9268

### FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

- Cholesterol - 12 hour fasting
- Glucose - 4 hour fasting
- PSA - Prostate Cancer Screening
- Blood Pressure
- Pulse Oximetry - *Measure of oxygen in blood*
- Oral Cancer
- Body Fat Index
- Body Mass Index

### PROSTATE CANCER SEMINAR

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Men's Fight Against Prostate Cancer

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lennox Graham, Program Coordinator for the University of Maryland Statewide Health Network has been in health education for over 10 years. Lennox specializes in prostate health and has given numerous presentations to diverse audiences throughout urban and rural areas of Maryland, including state government agencies, health advocacy organizations, and community and faith-based organizations.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
Statewide Health Network  
Department: Maryland Cancer Prevention Program



Worcester Health  
County Department

Governor's Wellmobile Program

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
Pastor: Shirlyn Henry-Brown

## A VIEW FROM THE DISTRICT WINDOW

by Barbara Mumper  
Administrative Assistant

**T**his time the view is not from one of the windows in the District Office but from the rear window of my car through the rear-view mirror. It is the view of Drayton as I drive out of the driveway.

In February the Lydia (quilt) Guild from my church (Rock-a-walkin) spent our last semi-annual retreat at Drayton. We have been doing this for several years and were able to go at least twice a year to quilt, laugh, eat, sleep, and fellowship in the wonderful spiritual setting provided at Drayton. At first we took over the East Room but that immediately proved too small so we moved to the dining room and the staff graciously accommodated us by setting up our meals in the area where the food is served via buffet. With 15, 18, 20 women, this proved to be a bit crowded but who minded?! We left our tables in the main dining room to eat and then returned to sew and laugh. Oh, the East Room and the large ante-room (parlor) just before the dining room were used to spread quilt pieces out on the floor to get an idea of how to arrange a

specific pattern, etc.; so not much of the house went unused during our stay. Walks were taken outside, even on the cold days, just to stretch and enjoy the atmosphere God provided at this special place. And when the deer appeared in the vast front lawn, everyone crowded to the window to watch them (and, perhaps, be watched BY the deer). God blessed us with so much when we spent time at Drayton.

The February trip this year was our last at Drayton. And, we had the distinction of being the last group to use Drayton as a retreat. I had the distinction of being the last vehicle out of the driveway as we departed. I honestly can't say that was a wonderful thing. I already could sense the change in "spirit" there during our stay. When we drove out of the drive that last Sunday evening and I looked back at the house, I must say that it did not seem to sparkle as it had. The lights were on as they usually are but there was something missing. When I put my mind to it, I realized that the Spirit of God does not ever leave where He is invited, and we asked during one meal blessing that the Spirit be

there to guide all those who may use this place in a different setting, but the glow was dimmer on this particular evening for me. It was a very sad feeling and I was almost sorry that I had looked out my rear view mirror that one last time.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3 "A Time for Everything." "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:" (Ec. 3:1 NIV). The "season" as we knew it for Drayton has ended. We thank God for this magnificent home and for His use of it in our lives. All of the memories all throughout the Conference, and further, are never to be known except by God. The spirits that were uplifted, the lives that were changed, the hearts that were lightened of burdens, the peace that untold people found fulfilled God's purpose for this particular "season" of this house. It now goes on to serve another purpose. I pray that the Spirit of God and the spirit of those who have passed through it's doors while it was in the hands of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference will speak to those who are yet to go through those doors and that they will know that God's Spirit resided, and still resides, in this place. Amen.