



The people of The United Methodist Church

The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

Communicator an edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

Three Sections, Section A

VOLUME 154 NUMBER 27

043000

NOVEMBER 9, 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.



Online Daily Devotions

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December 31 Is Coming!

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Miller Named President of Bethany College

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Bishop's Midwinter Retreat Planned

To Our Annual Conference Members,

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ!

You have probably seen something in earlier issues announcing the 2008 Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat for clergy and their spouses that is taking place from January 15-17 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland.

We are hoping that you will encourage your pastors and their spouses to attend this event as a time for them to fellowship with their colleagues and a time of rest after the busy holiday season that will have just passed.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Nixon, author of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*. Brochures were mailed to your pastor with two options for registration this year, on-line at www.epauc.org or by sending one in through the regular mail.

Please support your pastor and their spouse to attend this event. The deadline is **November 30th** so the next time you see him/her, ask them if they have sent in their registration and remind them of the deadline. Our pastors and their spouses need time away to regroup, reflect, refocus, and just plain relax together! As an added bonus, child care is also being provided this year.

For more information and to look at the brochure, log on to our website at www.pen-del.org. The right side bar on the homepage will direct you to additional information.

Keynote Speaker/Preacher

Paul Nixon is pastor of Epicenter DC, a new church being launched in the greater Washington, DC area, a multi-site project focused on serving the people in emerging urban neighborhoods of high density housing along the subway lines. He is a member of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Until 2007, he served on the extended cabinet of Alabama-West Florida Conference, overseeing congregational development. For nine years, he served on the pastoral team of the 4000 member Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church near Pensacola. Paul was founding pastor of the Community Life Center, the east campus of Gulf Breeze, overseeing it from its conception to 650 in worship attendance. Paul consults with churches and conferences all across North America, with a special passion for coaching church planters and churches with initiatives to reach new demographic groups in their communities. He is author of three books, *Fling Open the Doors*, 2002, *Healing Spiritual Amnesia*, 2004 and *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, 2007.

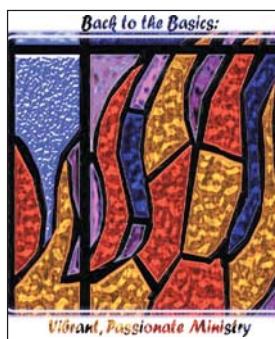


Paul Nixon

Save The Date

The 2008 Session of our Annual Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, June 13-15 in Princess Anne, Maryland.

The Laity Session will be held on Saturday, June 7th at the Schwartz Center in Dover, Delaware and the Clergy Session will be held on Wednesday, June 11th at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in Dover.



Bishop's Advent Day Apart for Clergy of the Philadelphia Area

It's all about Challenge!

Dear Friends,

A walk through the scriptures invariably reminds us of the many challenges faced by those who answered God's call. How are you handling the opportunities that come your way? Previously, we have dealt with the power of our "connection" and the "conciliar" nature of our denomination that encourages dialogue. In this year's Advent Day Apart, we now turn to the "challenge" of leadership that is focused and purposeful.

Please join me on **Monday, November 26, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at Aldersgate United Methodist Church to take some time apart in order to reflect on the challenges of leadership.

Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr. will be our guest presenter. We will begin the day with a time of fellowship and enjoy some light morning snacks (beverages, bagel, fruit). We will then gather in the sanctuary for singing, sharing, our guest presentation, followed by a worship service and communion.

As your Bishop, I look forward to greeting each of you as we prepare our hearts for Advent and are challenged to reflect the hope that sustains us throughout the year.



Schedule for the Day

- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – Fellowship time with continental breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. – Rev. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., presentation
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., message, worship and Holy Communion shared by our Bishop and Area Cabinet.
- 12:30 p.m. – Departure

Registration

This year you are asked to register with your District Superintendent's Office and take advantage of fellowship opportunities.

There is no registration fee; however, a love offering will be taken to help defray breakfast costs.

Keynote Speaker/Preacher

Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. is a Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership and Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He came to this position in 2003 after eighteen years as president of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. Previously as a local church pastor in Mississippi, his years were marked by an emphasis on both evangelism and social concerns.

A native of Mississippi, Dr. Weems is a graduate of Millsaps College; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; and Wesley Theological Seminary. He holds honorary degrees from Baker University and Central Methodist University.

The author of several books published by Abingdon Press, his latest is *Take the Next Step: Leading Lasting Change in the Church*. His earlier book *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, and Integrity* is described by Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter of Harvard Business School as "an invaluable guide to leadership in the church." His books *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit* and *John Wesley's Message Today* are widely used by United Methodist laity and clergy. He is editor of the online newsletter, *Leading Ideas*, available free at www.churchleadership.com.

Dr. Weems and his wife, Emily, a public school teacher, are the parents of four grown children.



Dr. Lovett H. Weems

From the Director of Connectional Ministries

Committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership

The committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership is up and running and a member of this committee will be calling the Pastors of the charges to which they have been assigned to set up a meeting with both the pastor and key lay persons of the charge. The members of this committee and the charges for which they are responsible are now posted on our Conference Web site. One of the responsibilities of this committee is to set up a meeting with the pastor and key lay persons from the charges for which they are responsible over the next several months. There are several purposes for this first meeting. First the member of the Committee will be sharing information about the



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

Healthy Church Initiative. Second, the committee member will be exploring as to whether or not there are gifted persons on the charge that may have a passion for and welcome the opportunity to serve at the Conference or District level on a Team, Board, or Agency. Third, we want to know about the charge's successes in ministry and mission so that we at the Annual Conference can highlight and celebrate the good things that are happening in our Local Churches. Fourth, the committee member will be asking about what the charge needs in order to be more effective or more healthy in ministry so that the Annual Conference might begin to help resource the needs of the Local Churches. Please welcome your member of the Committee and begin to develop a relationship. This committee member is one of the many faces of the Annual Conference that is passionate about helping our Local Churches be all that they can be for the sake of making healthy, excited, passionate Disciples of Christ!

Boyle and Heesters Assume New Roles at the PUMH Foundation

After serving as Vice President since 2000, Ray Boyle has been appointed Executive Vice President of the PUMH Foundation. The PUMH Foundation is the supporting fundraising organization of Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc., a non-profit corporation that operates continuing care retirement communities across the Delmarva Peninsula.

As Vice President, Boyle developed and expanded planned giving initiatives, managed charitable programs and developed strong relationships between PUMH residents, staff, donors and board members. His efforts have enhanced the profile of PUMH as a trusted beneficiary, strengthened allegiance among donors, and built additional support for the organization.

As Executive Vice President, Ray will oversee all areas of the Foundation activities including charitable programs, capital campaigns, planned giving initiatives, Foundation and corporate relations, and appeals. In addition he will be part of the senior leadership team of PUMH, Inc., providing input on operations, business development, and program development.

Boyle is a member of numerous professional organizations and community groups. He has been involved in non-profit administration since 1981, previously serving with health care, higher education, public broad-



Ray Boyle

casting and human service organizations in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. He is a graduate of Penn State University.

After serving as Director of Capital Campaigns for several years, Lois D'Alonzo Heesters has been promoted to Vice President of the PUMH Foundation.

As Director of Capital Campaigns, Lois has provided PUMH with leadership in developing major gifts, managing capital campaigns, and soliciting challenge gifts from individuals and foundations. Her efforts have enhanced the profile of PUMH as a trusted beneficiary, strengthened allegiance among donors, and built additional support for the organization.

As Vice President, Lois will continue her work as director of capital campaigns. Additionally she will be respon-



Lois D'Alonzo Heesters

sible for developing and expanding a new major gift initiative while providing leadership within the Foundation and among PUMH staff, donors, and board members.

Heesters is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE) and a member of numerous boards and professional organizations. She has previously worked for Winterthur, the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council, and St. Francis Hospital, and is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

(Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc. owns and operates four continuing care retirement communities on the Delmarva Peninsula: Country House in Greenville, Manor House in Seaford, Cokesbury Village in Hockessin, and Heron Point in Chestertown, MD. All are fully accredited and offer equal housing opportunity.)

Young People's Ministry

Are you looking for a 2008 summer mission project for your students to participate in? The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is sponsoring a new mission opportunity for you next summer. Mission: Possible will be a week-long mission camp for students who have completed grades 7-12 during the 2007-2008 school year. It will be held Sunday, July 27 through Saturday, August 2 at the Everett Meredith Middle School in Middletown, DE. The goal is to offer a low-cost mission opportunity within our own annual conference boundaries.

Students will work on either a Reach-Out or Build-Up project. Students participating in Reach-Out efforts will lead Vacation Bible School or similar outreach endeavors while those participating in Build-Up will help repair homes, churches, or other buildings. The CCYM hopes to partner with local churches close to the Middletown area to sponsor both types of worksites. Students will eat, worship, and play together at the school in the evenings.

Youth ministries throughout the annual conference are invited to participate. Students must register with a group. More details and registration information will be sent to youth ministry leaders



Shane Hinderliter

as soon as they are available (I am writing this article on the day that I received word that the Everett Meredith Middle School is willing to host us). For now, mark your calendars for July 27-August 2. Look for the information in the mail soon and call me if you have any further questions after you've read all of the detailed information.

Mission: Possible was planned after the CCYM spent a great deal of time evaluating their efforts to support youth ministry throughout the annual conference. Student missions is one of the areas that we agreed we needed to focus on. In addition, we are planning a leadership training event for students and adults in youth ministry for fall 2008 and an improved Confirmation Rally (scheduled for Sunday, March 2 from 3-6 p.m. at a location TBA) is in the planning stages.

On-Line Daily Devotions Submissions Sought

If you have had a chance to review the daily devotions on the website, thank Rev. Elaine Ayres, Director of Strengthening the Black Church, for providing these to us since the Lenten Season this past spring.

We want to offer local churches the opportunity to participate in the on-line devotions and are asking for your submissions. We would like to receive a month's worth of daily devotions (we will try to accommodate the month of your choice) beginning with January 2008.

If you would like to participate in this new endeavor, please contact Tammy Ward, Communications Coordinator, at 1.877.736.3351, ext. 24 or by e-mail (tward@pen-del.org).

Should you be interested in January, February or March, please contact her by December 15, 2007. Participants will be acknowledged on the website and newspaper for their contributions.

This is something that a local church group/organization could



get together and do or a local congregation, or an individual. As the spirit leads you, please consider this project for the upcoming year.

Communicator

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Individual subscriptions, \$9.50 per year
All information marked UM
Reporter within the Peninsula-
Delaware Conference newspaper is
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It's December, summer memories are faded, so why do we remind you that the end of the year is coming? No, not to get started on your Christmas shopping, but rather to get started thinking about your year-end giving. December 31st is not only the end of the calendar year, but also the end of the tax year! Charitable giving is often thought about this time of year because charitable income tax deductions are a great way to offset our tax bill. If you are looking for a tax deduction think about some of the following ways to make a gift to your church:

1. **An outright gift of cash, stock, bonds, or mutual fund shares.** For gifts other than cash, you want to give assets that have appreciated in value. When you give appreciated assets you not only get an income tax deduction, you also don't pay any capital gains taxes. Remember to give appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares directly — don't sell them and then give the cash. Since many of us still have depreciated assets thanks to the stock market, you might think about doing

December 31st is Coming!

the opposite — sell assets you have a loss in and give the proceeds. This way you get to claim the deduction and the capital loss on your taxes.

2. **Create a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with the United Methodist Foundation.** This is ideal for people who need a large charitable deduction (perhaps to offset a sale of property, or a business) but do not want to give all of the money to the church at one time. A DAF allows you to create a "charitable account" where you get a one-time charitable deduction for the full dollar amount, but then pass the funds onto the church over time.
3. **Enter into a Charitable Gift Annuity Contract.** A gift annuity is a contract that pays you a fixed income stream for the rest of your life, based on your age when you enter the contract. If you are 75, you would qualify for a 7.1% annual income stream (single life annuity) for the rest of your life. Sure beats CD rates! Additionally you can take a partial income tax deduction for this year. At your death, the remainder of the assets goes to your local church.
4. **IRA Transfer/Rollover to your church.** This is available to individuals over age 70 ½, that have IRAs. Until the end of the year, individu-



Stacy Martin

als may request a distribution directly to a qualified charity from their IRA. The distribution will count toward your required minimum distribution, but (here's the best part) is not taxable to you as other distributions from your IRA are. A greater tax benefit may be realized by individuals that receive Social Security because less taxable income may mean less of their Social Security is taxed. These are only some of the many options available for making a gift. Some take planning so its best to start now, to make sure your gift is done prior to December 31st. For help call the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation at 1.800.828.9093 or your attorney or tax preparer. And by the way, you should get started on your Christmas shopping too!

Wesley's Miller Named President of Bethany College

After 10 transformative years at Wesley College, President Scott D. Miller will leave to assume the leadership of Bethany College in Bethany, WV, effective January, 2008.

According to Charles "Chip" R. Dashiell, Jr., Chair of Wesley's Board of Trustees, "His is a legacy of accomplishment. During Dr. Miller's tenure at Wesley, the College's enrollment has tripled, fund raising has been remarkable, endowment has doubled and the institution has been named to the prestigious Regional Best Colleges list of *U.S. News and World Report* for the fourth consecutive year. Thanks to his strong strategic leadership, Wesley has become a vibrant, progressive institution, well-positioned to take advantage of new opportunities."

Bethany College, located on a picturesque 1,300 acre campus in West Virginia's northern panhandle near Pittsburgh, PA, is the oldest college in the state and one of the nation's small, elite liberal arts institutions. Founded in 1840, it offers undergraduate degrees in 30 fields of study, including pre-professional programs in dentistry,



President Scott D. Miller engineering, law, medicine, ministry, pharmacy, physical therapy and veterinary medicine. The College operates the Mountain-side Conference Center, Campbell Mansion and Museum, and Historic Bethany Visitor Center. "It's been a memorable and highly rewarding decade," Miller says of his leadership of the College since 1997. "Our team has been blessed with a committed and effective Board of Trustees and many dedicated alumni, faculty, staff and volunteer leadership, and Wesley would not have become the outstanding institution it is today without their hard work and guidance." The Wesley Board of Trus-

tees will announce a search process for a new president soon, Dashiell said. Dr. James L. Fisher, long time counsel to the Board of Trustees, will assist the Board with the search.

A leader in higher education nationally, Miller was cited in 2004 in an American Council on Education (ACE) book, *The Entrepreneurial College President*, among 17 college presidents who have advanced their institutions through entrepreneurial leadership.

A western Pennsylvania native, Miller noted that his new post will bring him closer to his family roots as well as those of his wife, Annie, in Ohio. He is a 1981 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, the University of Dayton (M.A., 1984) and The Union Institute and University (Ph.D., 1991). He also holds the Ed.S. from Vanderbilt University (1988). Now in his 17th year as a chief executive officer, he was president of Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee from 1991-1997 before coming to Wesley.

He was Executive Vice President (1988-91) and Vice Presid-

See Miller page 8



CHANGE! Have you noticed how change just keeps happening...sometimes whether we want it to or not! That is the strange thing about change! Yes, even God tells us to watch out (behold) I am doing a new thing. There are a few **NEW** things at Cokesbury as well!

If you have been to the BFEM Conference Resource Center in Dover lately you will see lots of changes . . . people, paint, carpet, walls . . . and no Cokesbury Booktable! You say how can this be? Change, my friends, change! And change can be a good thing.

Cokesbury service is temporarily interrupted because of the refurbishments and because Cokesbury is looking at how we currently do Booktables and Events. So, please be patient. And as Jesus so kindly told us . . . I will not leave you desolate . . . I will send you the Comforter. Cokesbury will also not leave you alone . . . there is www.cokesbury.com which is bigger and better AND new and improved! You also have yours truly to call on and come see you regarding orders, curriculum suggestions and custom items.

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES: Our recent partnership with GBGM is another change! We are proud to be filling orders for this international mission agency of the UMC. Yes, you can now purchase GBGM products . . . and even order the free ones . . . from Cokesbury. When you go to www.cokesbury.com the tab for GBGM is in the top right corner. It will take you to a listing of all the ministry areas served by this agency. The Women's Division is still being handled separately out of Dallas.

UPCOMING EVENTS . . . where you may visit a Cokesbury book display: Youth Rally: January 4-6, 2008

Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat: Jan. 15-17, 2008

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: AT THE BALTIMORE AND KING OF PRUSSIA COKESBURY CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES
November 15-17 25% OFF most items.

Wasn't Jesus the best change the world ever witnessed! Thanks be to God.

(Reminder: Cokesbury is part of the United Methodist Publishing House which contributes over \$1 million to the pension fund for retired clergy and their dependents so by supporting Cokesbury, you are supporting your pastor's pension fund)

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Advance Program Has New Look for 60th Birthday

The Advance for Christ and His Church, the designated mission giving program of the UMC, has a new structure and staff and will have a new look in coming months.

The Advance, lodged within the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), is the "second-mile" giving channel for mission, meaning giving beyond mission support that comes from congregational apportionments. It includes disaster relief through the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR); supplementary support for missionaries; and ministries in evangelism, church development, and human services around the world.

In a typical year, the Advance receives between \$30 million and \$35 million for missions, with a number going much higher when catastrophic natural disasters occur. However, giving through the Advance is not keeping pace with mission needs.

A revised structure designed to strengthen operations and increase income was approved a year ago by the Advance Committee. One major change replaces field offices in each of the denomination's five U.S. jurisdictions with direct links to the annual conferences. The new arrangement follows recommendations made by a study that included many segments of the church. "Our new staff team represents a new structure of accountability designed to improve internal communication and fortify relationships with the broad mission constituency," explained Shawn Bakker, who became director of the almost 60-year-old program in 2006.

The UMC will observe the Advance's 60th anniversary in 2008. Plans are under way to introduce a new logo, promotional materials, and a Web site at the 2008 General Conference. Contributions through the Advance can be made through congregations, by mail, or through online giving at <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/give/advance>.

Miller

Continued from page 5

ent for Development (1984-88) at LMU before becoming president. He is also a former Director of University Relations and Alumni Affairs (1981-84) at the University of Rio Grande (OH) and was a newspaper journalist in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

"After 10 years on the Peninsula, we will both miss Dover and the community that we have called home. We have raised our two daughters here and forged life-long friendships, both personally and professionally," Miller added.

Wesley's community initiatives and partnerships with organizations including the Schwartz Center for the Arts —of which the College is now a co-owner, the Wesley Boys & Girls Club, Campus Community School, the Wesley YMCA and others — have been especially rewarding, he emphasized. Miller is currently co-chair of the Kent County United Way of Delaware campaign, past chairman of the board of the Schwartz Center for the Arts and past honorary commander of Dover AFB. The Millers are active members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover.

"But now, thanks to a strong strategic process, Wesley is a vibrant, progressive institution well positioned to take advantage of new opportunities. It's time to let others build on this firm foundation while I take on new challenges," said Miller, 48. He noted that Bethany's strong tradition of liberal arts education, strong sense of mission and small, student-centered campus were additional factors in his decision to accept its presidency.

According to a Bethany College spokesperson, over 100 nominations and applications were received for the position. Miller will take the helm from Bethany College's current president, G.T. "Buck" Smith, who is retiring after four years of serv-

ice to the institution.

"After an exhaustive national search, I am confident we have found the best person to lead a program of significant growth and change at Bethany College," said Gregory B. Jordan, Chair of the Bethany College Board of Trustees. "Dr. Miller is the right person to provide leadership for this important period in our institutional history. His record at Wesley demonstrates exactly the dynamic vision and successful leadership skills we need to achieve a very bright and vibrant future at Bethany."

Major accomplishments of Miller's leadership at Wesley include:

- Total enrollment increases from 1,052 to 3,210, with undergraduate enrollment soaring from 617 to more than 1,500;
- \$67 raised in the Campaign for Wesley, with more than \$40 million earmarked for capital renovations and new construction of the Academic Village, expanded Wolverine Stadium, and restoration/ expansion of nearly all other facilities;
- A doubling of the endowment; alumni participation in the Annual Fund at 29 percent;
- Acquisition of partial ownership in the landmark Schwartz Center for the Arts and a strategic alliance for operation of the historic Barratt's Chapel and Museum;
- Creation of four graduate programs;
- Establishment of a New Castle campus for Adult Studies;
- Launching of a four-year undergraduate nursing program and five other new undergraduate majors;
- Leadership in new global awareness initiatives and articulation agreements with foreign institutions for student and faculty exchange;

- Membership in the selective Capital Athletic Conference and addition of new varsity programs in men's and women's cross country, women's volleyball, women's and men's track and field and women's lacrosse, and
- Leadership in the creation of a new UMC congregation, Hope United Methodist Church, meeting in the Wesley Chapel on campus.

Miller expects to return to the Peninsula often to visit daughter Ashlee, 20, a junior at the University of Delaware, and his residence at Bethany Beach.

"With both girls (daughter Katie, 22, is a first-year doctoral student in pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Virginia) grown and concluding their academic careers, this is a good time in the life of our family to make a move," he noted.

A nationally-known speaker and writer on national higher education issues, Miller served two years as vice-chair of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Board in Washington, DC, currently chairing its New Presidents Program. He is frequently featured in trade journals including *Trusteeship*, journal of the American Association of Governing Boards (AAGB), and *College Planning and Management*, among others. A new book, *Presidential Perspectives: Creating Competitive Advantages*, co-edited with Dr. Marylouise Fennell, was released for distribution in January 2007; his monthly reflection, *The President's Letter*, is distributed to more than 12,000 subscribers online.

The October issue of *University Business* includes Dr. Miller in a cover story entitled "Special Report: The State of Higher Education: Higher Ed Leaders Weigh In on the Most Pressing Issues of the Day."

Time to look ahead to Lent!

Need help advertising?
Need help with the cost of advertising?

Igniting Ministry can assist you! Applications for Lent 2008 will be accepted November 1-December 1, 2007. The application form is available to download at <http://www.igniting-ministry.org/matching/overview.aspx>.

One million matching dollars (\$1,000,000) are available to local churches each year to assist with TV/cable, radio, cinema or billboard advertising. By using our professionally created commercials and collateral advertising, we have also saved the church design dollars that can be used in other ministries. Take a look at all of our advertising on the Media Warehouse at www.mediawarehouse.org.



Step forward to get your grant dollars!

- 1st Step: Call us for quotes for your area. Jackie Vaughan or Pam Buck will assist you: 1.877.281.6535.
- 2nd Step: Download and complete the application.
- 3rd Step: Download and complete the "narrative" outline.
- 4th Step: Submit to Igniting Ministry, Matching Grants, P O Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202 by December 1, 2007 or fax to 615.742.5777.

If you have questions regarding any part of the process, we are here to serve you. If you are getting your own quotes, we need to approve them *before* you submit your application and narrative.

Local churches can apply for these grants on their own or you can contact the Communications Office in Dover for assistance. If you do submit an application, please let us know so that we can track the progress of the application and be notified when your application is accepted.



In Sympathy

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference shares their prayers and concerns for the following conference and family members that have passed away since June of this year.

- † Florence Tubbs, surviving spouse of Joseph Tubbs passed away on June 1st
- † Naomi Winchester, Full Member Deacon, passed away on July 4th
- † Xavier Charleron, Part-time Local Pastor, passed away on

July 30th

- † Samuel L. Wilkins, Full Member Elder, passed away on July 27th
- † Thomas Wall, Full Member Elder, passed away on August 30th
- † John Scott, Retired Local Pastor, passed away on September 17th
- † Lawrence Ernest Wimbrow, Full Member Elder, passed away on September 18th
- † Rev. Dr. Marion O. Ballard, Retired Elder, passed away on Wednesday, October 17th at the age of 104.

(The following was submitted by Revs. John and Gloria Penn)

We would like to share with our colleagues and the faith community concerning the death of Gloria's father, Rev. Dr. Henry L. Parker. This announcement was not previously communicated with you. Dr. Parker died on Friday, October 12, 2007. He lived a good and long life until the age of 94 years old. He was both an educator and a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After earning a Ph.D. in Biology, he was a professor for 25 years at Alcorn State University in Lorman, MS. His homegoing was on October 20, 2007. Dr. Parker is predeceased by his wife, Genevieve M. Hines Parker.

Conference Calendar of Events

November 2007

- 12 **Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting**, Hockessin: Hockessin UMC, 9:00 a.m. —Executive Committee & 10:00 a.m. — Full Board
- 12-14 **Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 12-14 **Nurturing Wholeness In Community Retreat-Level 1**, Rehoboth, DE: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 13 **Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.
- 13 **Annual Conference Sessions Meeting**, Wesley College: Carroll Room, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 14 **Conference Hispanic/Latino Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 **Health Ministries Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 **Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 **Embracing The Black Church Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 15 **Communications Commission Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.

- 16-17 **Black Methodists for Church Renewal 40th. Anniversary Celebration**, Dover: Whatcoat UMC
- 22-23 **Happy Thanksgiving-BFEM Resource Center, Closed**
- 26 **Bishop's Advent Day Apart**, Wilmington: Aldersgate UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 29 **Vision Team Meeting**, Wesley College: Rm. #206
- 29 **Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
- 29 **Advocacy Resource Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00 p.m.
- 29 **Enabling Ministries Resource Team Meeting & Dinner**, Bridgeville: Union UMC, 6:00 p.m.
- 30-Dec. 1 **Youth Rally Design Team Retreat**, Ocean City: Carousel Hotel

December 2007

- 3 **General & Jurisdictional Delegation Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 6 **Resource Development & Management Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 **Episcopal Area Christmas Party—BFEM Resource Center Closed**
- 10 **Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.