



Communicator

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The United Methodist Reporter

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Two Sections, Section A

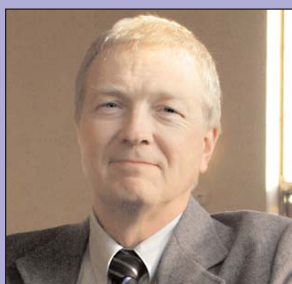
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OCTOBER 13, 2006

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.



From Your Wesley College Chaplain

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Cokesbury Connection

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For more information on the origin of the logo, please go to www.pen-del.org and click on the logo in the right-hand column.

Bishop's Advent Day Apart to Feature Bishop Woodie White

By Tamara Ward

"It's All About Connection." That's the theme of this year's Bishop's Advent Day Apart scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th at Aldersgate UMC in Wilmington. As Bishop Matthews says "Advent is a time to celebrate our connections. We celebrate the connection that God made with us through His Son. That connection allows us to receive forgiveness and find hope in our daily lives."

Bishop Woodie W. White, a native of New York City, will be the guest speaker and preacher for this event. He is a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School in New York, Paine College in Augusta, Georgia and Boston University School of Theology (S.T.B.). He was the first General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race in The United Methodist Church from its inception in 1968 and served in that capacity until 1984 when the North Central Jurisdictional Conference elected him to the episcopacy where his first assignment was to the Illinois Area (1984-1992).

Bishop White was on a four-person task force to examine racism and race relations in Aus-



Bishop Woodie W. White



Bishop Marcus Matthews



tralia and New Zealand for the Committee to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches. He has written extensively for

denominational and ecumenical periodicals and is co-author of *Racial Transition in the Church*, *Confessions of a Prairie Pilgrim*,

and *Conversations of the Heart*. He holds honorary doctoral degrees from Adrian College, Rust College, McKendree College, Illinois Wesleyan University, McMurry College and Evansville University. He holds numerous other honors, including a Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University, an Urban Award from the U.S. Government Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Distinguished Service Award from the United Committee on Negro History.

Bishop White retired in 2004 and is currently serving as the Bishop-In-Residence at Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The event will start at 8:30 a.m. with fellowship time and a continental breakfast. At 9:30 a.m. Bishop Woodie White will give a presentation on clergy being connected with a time for questions and answers and at 10:30 a.m., he will bring the message. Holy Communion with Bishop Matthews and the Area Cabinet (Peninsula-Delaware and Eastern Pennsylvania) will conclude the time together.

Bishop Matthews looks forward to greeting the pastors from both conferences as we begin Advent together.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

By Tamara Ward

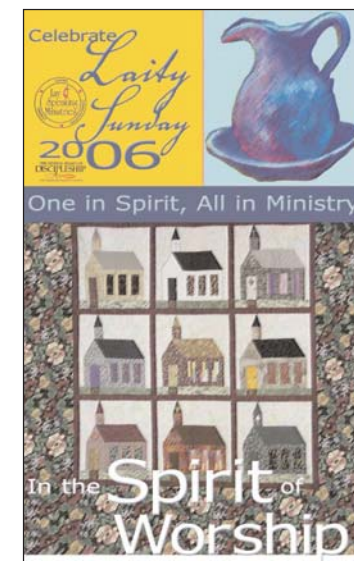
Did you know that the religious communities set aside one month every year for pastor appreciation? That isn't to say that we shouldn't 'appreciate' them every month, but this designated month gives congregations a special opportunity to recognize and thank their pastors. So you may be asking, how do we do that??? The ways in which you say 'thank you' are as varied and numerous as any other way you thank an individual/team. Some of our churches are blessed to have a

team of two or more pastors that minister to their congregation. There are even a few congregations where the pastors are married couples.

Congregations can show their appreciation by giving them a Sunday 'off' (utilizing your Lay Speakers is an excellent choice – if choosing this option – I would suggest consulting with your pastor prior to making this decision), offering to babysit for your pastor if they have young children so that they can spend an evening out with their spouse, gift certificates to local establishments (see if you can find out a favorite

place your pastor likes to go), have a coffee hour after your service and invite the entire congregation, and so on and so on. The sky is the limit when you think of all your pastor(s) do for you. Be creative and have fun. Always remember, though, that October may be the 'designated' month of the year but you can recognize and show your pastor(s) your appreciation of their dedication and hard work throughout the other eleven months as well.

Thank you to our pastors in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and God Bless you for your service.



October 15, 2006

DO NO HARM: Sex in the Church

Submitted by Rev. Sally Dolch

The church has been so reluctant to talk about sex that, by default, we have created an environment conducive to sexual misconduct. The July 2006 'Do No Harm' conference speaker, Karen McClintock, addresses human sexuality with frankness and humor. She makes three points about sex and the church: 1) The church is called to care, not to shame. 2) The church must separate individuals from behavior. God abhors the deed, but offers love and forgiveness to the repentant doer. 3) The church has separated the "sacred gift of human sexuality" from God who intends us to be people of grace, not people of shame. (Rev. Karen McClintock is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, a therapist and adjunct professor at Southern Oregon University. She is also the author of *Sexual Shame: An Urgent Call to Healing and Preventing Sexual Abuse in Congregations: A Resource for*

Leaders)

So what is sexual misconduct? In the Peninsula-Delaware Conference (Sexual Ethics Policy, 2000) "It is misconduct when any person in a ministerial role of leadership or pastoral counseling (clergy, religious, lay) willingly engages in sexual contact or sexual behavior (communicates sexual interest and/or content) with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, etc (adult, teenager, child) in a professional relationship." This definition also includes sexual harassment consistent with the Book of Resolutions 36 (2004) and 37(2000) and Social Principles ¶1611.

McClintock asserts that Jesus had no secrets and no shame. He spoke the truth in love. He brought the outcast in and he offered physical healing that brought about restoration to the community. Yet, within our families or origin, our culture and our congregations, the issue of human sexuality has become taboo. This is odd, she points out, when MTV studies indicate that "chil-

dren watch more sex on TV than their parents have had in 18 years."

McClintock goes on to explain that the taboo has become like a blanket of shame and shame is like the "cooties" or "second hand smoke, nobody wants it!" When we encounter sexual misconduct in church, our shame is played out as denial and even rejection of victims. When the body of Christ does not, with compassion, promote truth and healing, there is no grace.

"Talking about sex is the first step in prevention," says McClintock. "We are not people of shame, we are people of grace."

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference CARE Team is sponsoring training on Boundary Crossing in the Salisbury District in February and is currently planning Safe Sanctuaries training for all upcoming Lay Speaking Academies. For more information about the CARE Team, go to www.pen-del.org and watch for monthly articles under the heading DO NO HARM.

From Your Wesley College Chaplain

The semester here at Wesley College is off to a good start! Wednesday Worship at Wesley (WW@W) has had good attendance. The Wesley College Choir, directed by Professor Elliot Jones, has grown over last year and they sound great. Our one tenor now has company! The service is open to everyone. If you have the opportunity, join us. It is on Wednesdays, of course, from 12:15-12:50, so you can't complain about the service being too long! We have a study opportunity starting up on Thursday nights at dinnertime. I thought I might be able to catch students when they were eating! It will be a discussion of a book by William Willimon and Tony Campolo: *The Survival Guide to Christians on Campus*. It seemed like an appropriate book! Adjusting to campus life has its own stresses and strains and concerns.

Two of our students, Braulio Torres and Jeffrey Lecates, participated in the first Dunkle/Mackey preaching seminar at Grace Church in Wilmington.



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

The ministry of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes continues to grow and have an impact among our athletes. One of our WW@W's recognized the fall sports teams. A combined teaching effort between Wesley College and Wesley Theological Seminary began two Saturdays ago with our Lay Speakers in the Conference. Dr. Lew Parks of the seminary and I are teaching about our Methodist heritage. We have a great group. This will be the first of many such opportunities, Lord willing.

God continues to work here on your campus. The Chaplain's ministry is becoming more rooted in the College community and is becoming more visible. I'm finding that each year is different and that God's timing is always right. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or e-mail me.

Your Brother in Christ,
Mark

Mark Pruett-Barnett
Chaplain of Wesley College
302.736.2485
barnetma@wesley.edu
revmarkpb@aol.com

Health and Welfare Task Force – Parish Nursing

By Alma Faul, P.N./F.C.N.

Until three months ago, I had been a professional, a registered nurse working in the secular world. Now I have a new career. I am taking that lifetime of training and experience and working in the Church and Community for God who gives me life and purpose and being. The apostle Paul speaks of it when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." All believers are bound to Christ, through that belief, a Royal Priesthood, ordained of God to minister to the needs of others. Through a \$250 grant from the Health and Welfare Task Force Committee and \$500 given by the Wesley Women's Fellowship (Elkton, Md.), I was able to attend the Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, June 12-17, 2006, held at Neumann College in Aston, Pa. Each day began and ended with devotions and prayer led by different participants including myself.

Topics of instruction included:

- Christian Theology of Health
- Health Healing and Wholeness in the Faith Community
- History and Philosophy of Parish Nursing
- Ethical issues
- The Parish Nurse as Volunteer Coordinator, as Counselor, as Educator, as Advocate and Developer of Support Groups
- The Domestic Violence discussion and viewing the video (very intense and emotional). This class ended after 9:00 p.m. Tuesday evening.
- Parish Nurse as Integrator of Faith and Health and Referral Agent
- And finally on day three, we were instruct-

ed on "Getting Started!!"

- A healing service in the Chapel concluded the day.
- Prayer and Worship as Intervention was enforced by student teams planning and demonstrating services.
- Grief and Loss
- An R.N., now a Legal Attorney in Phila., Pa., representing fellow professionals in health and welfare issues, presented Legal Issues.
- Thursday evening, we had the privilege of meeting past graduates of the program at a "Class Reunion," which was very encouraging and informative.
- Health Promotion/Health Maintenance
- Classes continued the day of our Commencement, which included working in a Ministerial Team and Self Care.

The Service of Affirmation and delicious luncheon was celebrated with six members from my Church. It was beautiful!! God is good!!!!

Three months later, we established the following at Wesley U.M.C. in Elkton, Md.:

- A new Prayer and Care Ministry with Prayer Service each Sunday evening, including a Healing Service the first Sunday of the month at the Historic Wesley Chapel.
- Implemented a Prayer Phone Chain which involves approximately 30 faithful members and another 18 on the e-mail contact list.
- Health Ministry Newsletter to the Church publication "The Tidings" on a monthly basis. Topics included: Scream for Sunscreen for July, Surviving Summer Heat for August, Cholesterol – The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly for September, and READ IT, HEED IT, dealing with prescription drugs for October.
- Incorporated Health Ministry in existing Church programs:
 - At V.B.S., I taught proper handwashing technique to approximately 50 children and 20 adults at 20-minute stations.
 - B.P. Screening at our first Community

Cruise Night. Hypertension and diet literature distributed. I personally handed out prostate cancer info. to the men.

- Submitted monthly parish nurse reports to the Administrative Council demonstrating accountability, which included the following contacts: 30 telephone, 18 church, 14 home visits, 2 hospital, and 1 funeral.

With the tools from the Parish Nurse Preparation Course and the grace of

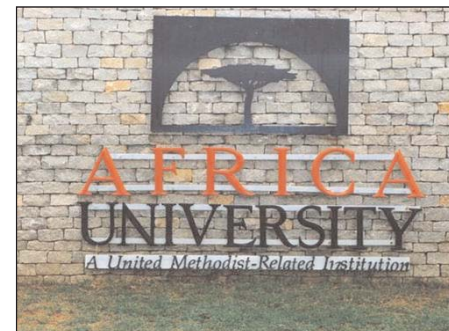
God, I have been blessed with wisdom, discernment and a compassionate servant heart; that's all I need to carry on Jesus' healing works at Wesley and in our Community.

Africa University Sunday Nov 12th

By Kevin Goodwin

Conference Missions Resource

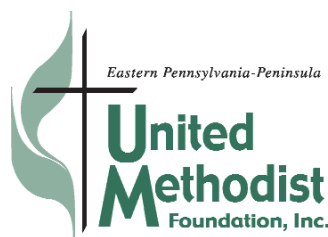
Imagine yourself on a dusty road in Zimbabwe. Sitting on the side of the road, tired and dirty from a long day's walk is a student from Africa University on the way home to their village. A crop failure back home means no more money for an education. Dejected, she lifts herself up and continues her journey home. Despite the low cost of attending, most students depend



on us for scholarship aid. You would too if college cost 10 times what the average African family earns in a year. Help keep students in school with your gifts.

Every church is asked to do a love offering on November 12th to help endow a scholarship at Africa University. Our new Bishop has been to Africa University many times. If he could be in your church on that Sunday, Bishop Matthews would tell stories of how much your dollars are making a difference to the people of Africa.

We need to raise \$52,000 to complete the scholarship funding. Bishop Matthews has challenged us to do this by June 2007. Your gifts will make a difference.



Donate to Your Church Directly from Your IRA

On August 17, 2006 the Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("the Act") was signed into law. Despite its name, many of the provisions impact income, gift and estate tax planning. One of particular interest during our fall stewardship campaigns is the creation of a qualified charitable distribution.

The Act provides a new rule that permits IRA owners to make a gift to their favorite charity and not include the distribution in their gross income. The otherwise taxable distributions from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA may be made with **all three** of the following requirements:

- 1) the distribution must be made by the IRA Trustee **directly** to the qualified public charity (certain private foundations are included but donor advised funds are not)
- 2) the transfer must occur on or after the date the IRA owner **attains age 70½** and
- 3) only for distributions made in **2006 and 2007** without carryover into any subsequent year

Note that the distributions must go directly to the charity from the IRA Trustee. The distributions are counted as part of the IRA owner's required minimum distri-

bution for that year. This temporary provision states that these distributions are not included in gross income and therefore are not included in the owner's deduction for contributions to charity.

Benefits arise for taxpayers that are affected by limitations on itemized charitable donations and for those taxpayers who do not itemize. For the former group, they can meet some or all of their required minimum distribution using this provision and their deduction matches the amount, rather than being reduced by AGI limitations. For the latter group, their gross income is not increased at all.

Interested donors need to contact their Trustee to learn what is needed to initiate the transfer – letter of instruction or a form they will provide. If the Trustee will wire transfer the funds, call your church treasurer to get the name of the church's bank, the routing (ABA) number, and the account number. If a check may be mailed, be sure that the church is the payee and the check is mailed to the church. I recommend including an "attention to" line with the church treasurer's name, and, a call to that person to let them know it is coming.

As a former tax preparer, I advocate keeping copies of all the correspondence you send and receive from your Trustee. Re-



Stacy Martin

view your Form 1099R when you receive it in January. This distribution will be coded differently so that it is not included in taxable income. Provide the copies to your tax advisor for his or her file. As noted above, this provision will expire at the end of 2007 so be sure to act soon.

Finally, enjoy the sense of giving you experience knowing you have made a difference in the lives of others through your gift. Share the idea with others in your congregation – both the tax benefits of this provision and the idea of responding to God's gifts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions from this or other Foundation issue at:

Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula
United Methodist Foundation
1.800.828.9093 x247
Email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org

New Training Resources Available For Certified Lay Ministers

For the first time in United Methodist history, resources are available to help prepare United Methodist laypersons to be certified as lay ministers within the denomination for assignments to pastoral leadership posts.

The resources, developed by The General Board of Discipleship in partnership with the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, are a response to action by the church's 2004 General Conference authorizing a new form of church leadership, said Sandy Zeigler, director of Discipleship's lay leadership development.

A Certified Lay Minister is typically assigned by a district superintendent to serve a small church under the supervision of a clergyperson. He or she also may serve as part of a pastoral team in the church where he or she regularly worships.

"These training modules ensure that people seeking to become Certified Lay Ministers receive the training, support, supervision and accountability to enable them to provide excellent leadership in churches where traditional clergy appointments are not viable," Zeigler,

GBOD staffer who was instrumental in their development, said.

Each module covers a different aspect of training, and is recommended for study with church leaders as part of a mutual ministry team.

"Module One: Call and Covenant for Ministry" examines United Methodist theology and ordering of ministry, along with the role of the Certified Lay Minister and other leadership concerns.

"Module Two: The Practice of Ministry" explores basic skills needed by the Certified Lay Minister, including leading worship, preaching and sharing faith, forming discipleship ministries, and providing congregational care.

"Module Three: Organization for Ministry" covers basics of leadership, administration, and congregational development, and how to maximize leadership, organization, and resources in various kinds of congregations.

"Module Four: Connection for Ministry" reviews United Methodist history, doctrine and polity, and the connection between various levels of the denomination. It also includes proposed plans for ongoing education and a commit-

ment service.

The modules are downloadable as Adobe Acrobat® PDF documents from The Upper Room online bookstore of the General Board of Discipleship Web site www.GBOD.org. Each module is priced at \$25.

The Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, top executive of the Board of Discipleship, said, "Discipleship Resources is pleased to offer these resources in a readily accessible and affordable form. We believe that they are an exciting new step toward fully developing a new form of leadership in the United Methodist Church."

Further information on the Certified Lay Ministers program is available from the General Board of Discipleship Web site at www.GBOD.org.

(Editor's Note: The General Board of Discipleship's mission is to support annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of The United Methodist Church, The General Board of Discipleship is located at 1908 Grand Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee.)

Cokesbury Connection

At the Easton *Bishop's Day on the District*, Bishop Marcus Matthews shared that on his trip to the World Methodist Conference in Korea he was able to see first hand what prayer and a welcoming spirit can do to win souls to Christ. The host church there started out small and now has a membership of 150,000! Bishop Matthews challenged us to ponder what an effective church would look like where we are. Cokesbury can help.

Cokesbury by way of Abingdon Press and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor) have partnered to produce books, leadership tools and study resources to help churches transform lives and renew the mainline church.

One of the newest is *Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic Leadership Kit*. It is a book/video tool for training your Evangelism Team, bringing home the basic principles of attracting the unchurched to the Christian message.

Adam Hamilton has a Korea-like success story of his own at his UM Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Also starting out small (5 people) he now has 9 services on a weekend and thousands in worship. His success is in part based on a welcoming spirit and cultivating and supporting a vibrant lay leadership. He says mainline churches matter now more than ever...but must change in some ways if they are going to reach the next generation. He says



Madeline Beall

we can learn much from the "emerging church."

And what is an "emerging church?" I recommend the book *Inside the Organic Church, Learning from 12 Emerging Congregations* by Bob Whitesel to help explain this new phenomenon. You will be fascinated to read about the Scum of the Earth Church in Denver, Colorado. "The name resulted from the people we were reaching," explains the pastor. Look to Paul's description of the life of an apostle in 1 Cor. 4: 11-13...*up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.*" This particular church reached out to the unchurched in ways in which they could identify.

What will be your way to reach the unchurched? Whatever it is you can count on Cokesbury to help.

Let's have only good news about the *GOOD NEWS!*

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

Peninsula-Delaware "Partner Churches" Are Feeding The Hungry

In the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, two UM church congregations partnered with the Society of St. Andrew to feed the hungry during the first half of 2006. Their donations were combined with those of 203 other UM "Partner Churches" across the connection for a total of \$224,178. This amount provided nearly four million pounds of fresh, nutritious food that would have gone to waste but were, instead, salvaged from growers then donated to food banks and service agencies throughout the nation. This is about 30% of the food SoSA has saved and distributed to the hungry this year from January through June.

The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is an Advance Special of the United Methodist Church (#801600) and a national non-profit hunger-relief ministry. It's major programs for gleaning

America's fields and feeding America's hungry are the *Gleaning Network*, the *Potato Project*, *Harvest of Hope*, and the *Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative*. With the help of as many as 40,000 volunteers each year, SoSA is able to glean 30-40 million pounds of fresh produce that otherwise would have rotted in fields or landfills. All the food is donated but SoSA must pay for bagging and transportation to get it to agencies that feed the hungry.

Partner Churches support SoSA's ministry by providing the financial means to help glean even more food to feed the poor, educate people about the causes and effects of hunger in the nation and world, and enable SoSA to reach out in loving kindness to a world that is hungry for food and for the gospel. Churches

See "Partner Churches page 8"

Why Small Groups?

By Linda Pevey,
Gethsemane UM Church

"I believe that the smaller group within the whole ... is a crucial but underdeveloped resource in most churches. It is, I contend, the most strategically significant foundation for spiritual formation and assimilation, for evangelism and leadership development, for the most essential functions that God has called for in the church." Carl George, *Prepare Your Church for the Future*.

Small groups ministries are sweeping across the country, in churches large and small. With the Acts 2 church as its inspiration, these groups of 4-12 people meet regularly for prayer, fellowship, study and discipleship. This decentralized system of small groups equips and releases the laity to offer quality ministry to each other. Because it is not relying on paid church staff or church meeting space, the potential growth of the small group model is virtually unlimited. As small groups become the vehicle through which ministry is accomplished, the quality and quantity of care is increased, group members disciple each other, and a structure that can support church growth is established. In these churches, small groups are not a department or a program within the church. They are the church. Consider these benefits for your church:



Community

In our highly mobile society, 17% of the population moves every year. We no longer live down the street from our families and childhood friends. People are longing for a place to belong, and the church has a unique opportunity through small groups to provide community to a world that has lost it. In small groups, people develop a sense of belonging, where they are loved, supported, and needed, and have a true sense of being part of a church family.

Spiritual Transformation

Bill Hybels says, "Life change happens best in small groups." Small groups are the best way to build intimate and accountable relationships, which can ultimately lead members into deeper maturity in their relationship with Jesus Christ. With the support and accountability of these relationships, group

members come face-to-face with the truth of God's Word in their lives, and they are transformed. When the groups move out of the church and into homes, these important relationships develop more quickly.

Care

As churches grow, clergy alone cannot provide the level of care their congregations require. As a church grows larger, it needs to simultaneously "grow smaller." In small groups, an environment of mutual ministry develops between group members who know each others' needs and provide care and support for each other.

Growth and Member Retention

Many unchurched people are reluctant to go to church, but when invited to attend a small group at a friend's home, 50% indicate they would go. Through their experience in the small group, previously reluctant people now enter the church through the "back door." Their small group. Since they come to the church through the group, they are already assimilated into the Body. Rick Warren says, "We never worry about losing people who are connected to a small group. We know that those people have been effectively assimilated." Because the groups can meet in homes, the growth of the small group ministry is not limited by the amount of meeting space available at the church.

Leadership Development

In the safety of a small group, members have the opportunity to develop and try out their leadership skills, as they share in the responsibilities of the group.

Discovery and Development of Spiritual Gifts

Group members see and identify gifts in each other, and through the relationships formed in the group, encourage each other to step out and use their gifts in service.

Are you interested in knowing more about how small groups can benefit your church, or how to get small groups started in your church? The Small Groups Ministry Team is here to help. You can contact us at 302.934.7969 (ask for Dona Rayne), or go to the Conference website and click on "Small Groups."

Mission in a Day



Our next Annual Conference Day at Mission Central, an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) distribution center located in the Central Pennsylvania Conference, will be Saturday, October 21st.

What a great way to send your Mission/Outreach on an educational, hands-on, no sweat, no mosquito, low-cost Mission Trip!!! It will be one of the best experiences of your life. There is work available for all types of levels – do you need to sit down? Can you stack boxes? Can you fill bags? Can you sweep? The story of this 'warehouse of love' is amazing.

Please don't miss this opportunity to be a part of a worthwhile cause. Contact Rev. Karin Tunnell for more information by e-mail (PastorT@stpaulsodessa.org) or by phone (302.378.2420).



"Partner Churches"

Continued from page 5

are recognized as "Partners" for donations of \$500 and more to the hunger-relief ministry of Society of St. Andrew. Partner Church categories and their levels of giving include: St. Andrew Partner (\$500), One Mile Partner (\$850), Change the World Partner (\$1,000), and Extra Mile Partner (\$1,700).

The Society of St. Andrew has issued certificates of recognition and gratitude to the following churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for their Partner Church level support during

the first half of 2006:

St. Andrew Partners
Hockessin UMC, Hockessin DE
Wesley UMC, Seaford DE

Churches throughout the connection are encouraged to participate with the Society of St. Andrew in feeding the hungry. For more information about SoSA and its Partner Churches program, contact the national office at 1.800.333.4597, email at church@endhunger.org, online at www.endhunger.org, or by mail at 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, VA 24526.

La Esquina (The Corner)

By Kathy Dreasen and Elizabeth Marrero

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference for Hispanic/Latino Ministries would like to update you regularly on issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino corner of your neighborhood. We plan to bring you issues that are prominent in this community and suggestions where you may be able to assist. The first issue and the most prominent of the year is the status of immigration reform. We all know that no comprehensive immigration reform will be enacted prior to the November election, however that does not mean that nothing is occurring.

The House and Senate have been holding a series of hearings throughout the country to form a well-balanced opinion of the issue. However, the majority of those providing witness at the hearings are of the opinion that immigration reform should consist primarily of enforcement legislation. This testimony has served to concrete the opinions of those who favor enforcement. The thoughts and opinions of Americans, especially those among faith-based groups, have not figured prominently during this testimony. Therefore, it is still vitally important that we urge Congress to get to work and pass comprehensive immigration reform that is workable and moral. (1)

E-mail your US senators and Representative and urge them to pass comprehensive immigration reform which ensures all undocumented immigrants an earned pathway to citizenship, the protection of rights of workers, and the reunification of families.

Sign the **Pledge** to respond with Faith to immigration. If you have not already signed up, please log on to www.umc-gbcs.org for access to the **Pledge**.

(Reference {1} Bill Mefford message 8/21/06)

Conference Calendar of Events

October 2006

- 13-15 **NEJ Greater Leadership Table**, Valley Forge, PA.: Radisson
- 14 **Dover District United Methodist Women Fall Meeting**, St. Matthew's by the Sea UMC, Fenwick Island, DE, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 17 **Council on Finance & Administration Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Investment Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Board of Pension Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
Interfaith Lay Academy, Wilmington: St. Paul's UMC, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 **Staff Day Apart**, BFEM Resource Center Closed
Health & Welfare Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 **Conference United Methodist Women Fall Meeting**, Salisbury: Trinity UMC, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Launch of New Historical Society by Commission on Archives & History, Kent Island UMC, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 23 **Bishop's Day On The District: Dover**,

Lewes: Bethel UMC

Meeting with Clergy: 12:00-2:30 p.m.
Meeting with Laity: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

23-25 **Nurturing Wholeness In Community-Level 2**, Rehoboth Beach, DE: Atlantic Sands Hotel

24 **Interfaith Lay Academy**, Wilmington: St. Paul's UMC, 7:00 p.m.

26 **Committee On Native American Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.

Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Embracing the Black Church Task Force, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30

8 **"Just Do It" Seminar**, Seaford: Gethsemane UMC, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

31 **CARE Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.

November 2006

2 **Resource Development & Management Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.

4 **Small Membership Church Task Force Seminar**, Salisbury, MD: Wesley Temple, 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.