

# NEW Spirit!

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## Youth 2007 rocked!

by Lydia E. Muñoz\*

Eighty youth, young adults, and leaders from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference traveled by bus and van to action-packed YOUTH 2007 – SPLAT! for five days in July.

Greensboro, North Carolina became alive with excitement as more than 10,000 United Methodist Youth and their leaders gathered to SEEK, PRAY, LEARN, ACT and TEACH (SPLAT) about God's love through Jesus Christ. Exciting workshops, powerful worship experiences, phenomenal concerts and last but not least, a wonderful carnival, complete with streamers, clowns, jugglers and acrobats made for a fun time for the youth, young adults, and their leaders.

The speaker line-up included Ray Buckley, Minerva Carcano, Scott Jones, Linda Lee, Michael Williams and Kathleen Baskin-Ball.

Baskin-Ball opened with her three-year old son telling a joke. She then notified the group that she was entrusting him into their care to lead him.

Entertainment included bands, magicians, dance instructor and a NBA representative, who talked about the work of Nothing But Nets. Worship,



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## Two Young Missionaries from Eastern Pennsylvania Commissioned

Jennifer Mihok, from North Wales, PA, and Elizabeth Rumbel, from Hatboro, PA, recently became missionaries. Ms. Mihok, a mission intern, will work at Genthin United Methodist Church in Genthin, Germany. Ms. Rumbel, a US-2, will work as a program and development assistant, Warren Village, Inc., Denver, CO.

Mission interns spend three years devoted to international and national work. Half of the time is spent in the international setting, and the other half is spent in a

national organization. US-2s serve for two years in national assignments.

The two were among a class of 17 young adults who were commissioned on July 15, 2007, for United Methodist missions through the General Board of Global Ministries. Eight of the new missionaries will serve as mission interns and nine will serve as US-2s.

"This is not about success," said Bishop Sudarshana

continues on page 11



Beth Rumbel



Jennifer Mihok

## Youth challenge violence with faith



Craig McKim and Alex Lanea Jr. learn about how bed nets are saving lives during a youth seminar at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C.

The morning of Wednesday, July 25th began an adventure for fifteen youth, on their way to our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., accompanied by Rev. Carolene Brubaker, Rev. Hilda Campbell, Pastor Alfredo Molina, Jr. and Peggy Wood.

The purpose of our trip was to gather youth from all races, cultures, educational and economic backgrounds for a seminar entitled Violence: Cultivating Our Voices: Exploring Faith, Culture and Violence. The Church and Society Work Team (CSWT) had long felt a need to explore these issues with our youth. CSWT and a UM Witness in Pennsylvania helped to organize the trip.

The seminar itself was held at the General Board of Church and Society, located in the United Methodist building on Capitol Hill. UM Seminar designers, Laura Bensman and Susan Burton, put together a two-day program to address violence in all its aspects – racial, linguistic, cultural, social, male/female, and economic. Presenters from a variety of cultural backgrounds – Arab-American, African-American, and Caucasian speaking to these issues - encouraged the youth to think, react, find their voice and challenge violence as they see it happening – armed with their hearts, minds and faith.

The group stayed at a hostel at First Trinity Lutheran Church about a mile from the

United Methodist building. The youth thrived on the freedom of the mile-long walk, the beauty of the scenery and the interesting sights on the way.

They also spent an afternoon walking through the Shaw District of Washington—a historically African-American area named after Gen. Robert Shaw who led the first black volunteer regiment in the Federal Army during the Civil War. They learned the history of the area, how it was destroyed in the riots of 1968 after Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, and how it is slowly coming back to life and health. We had dinner at Ben's Chili Bowl, one of the few places left untouched on the "U" Street corridor during the riots and which served as a place for activists and others to gather while defusing the situation.

In a wrap-up session. The youth who represented churches in E. Stroudsburg, Hatboro, Levittown, Chester, Philadelphia, West Chester and West Grove shared and analyzed what they had gained from the experience, what they could take home, what they will share with others and how they can help change perspectives on behavior, finding non-violent solutions in their everyday lives. They have all expressed the desire for this to be the beginning of their work together as youth of faith and hope here in Eastern Pennsylvania.

## Conference Calendar

### STARTING SEPTEMBER 3

**UM Church to advertise on cable TV** - The "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." campaign, now in its seventh year, was designed to raise awareness of The United Methodist Church. The national ad campaign will air commercials from September 3-16 on 18 networks at a cost of \$1.8 million. The commercials will air about 1,200 times, creating more than 276 million impressions, and is expected to reach 65 million adults 25-54 years of age. For more information:

[www.ignitingministry.org](http://www.ignitingministry.org).

### SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

**Understanding Your Teenager: A Seminar for concerned parents, pastors, and youth workers.**

*Speaker: Duffy Robbins. Sponsored by: The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

Training to be held at West Lawn UMC in Reading, PA from 5-8 pm. Cost is \$12, which includes a workbook. For more information: <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1915>. See page 16 for more information.

### SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

**The "Next Level of African American Church Growth Conference"** will focus on strategic ministry planning for African American congregations. The event will be Sept. 13 at the St. Louis Marriott, followed on Sept. 14-15 by the South Central Jurisdiction Urban Network at the same location. UM church leaders will participate in a round table discussion and present seven key areas for strategic planning that lead to healthy church growth. For registration and more information, contact Sherry Daniels, pastor of Norfolk UMC in Virginia, at (757) 628-6543 or [sldaniels@gmail.com](mailto:sldaniels@gmail.com).

### SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

**United Methodist Day at Hershey Park.** Christian Music Day at the Park. More information will be forthcoming. Contact James Wilkin at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225 or [jim.wilkin@epaumc.org](mailto:jim.wilkin@epaumc.org).

### SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

**Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth** - See page 15 for more information.

### SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

**Health & Welfare Sunday**  
See page 14 for more information.

### SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2007

**The General Board of Discipleship and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries of Goodlettsville, Tenn.,** will sponsor "Becoming a People of Prayer," Sept. 21-22, at Brentwood UMC in Tennessee to call the UMC to prayer and to strengthen and empower members to pray as individuals, families, and congregations. Conference participants will be introduced to a variety of new ways to pray as individuals, as families, and as congregations. For more information and to register, contact Becky Caudill at [bcaudill@gbod.org](mailto:bcaudill@gbod.org).

### SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2007

**"Men Reclaiming Their Position" Conference** Annual City-wide Conference weekend to be held at Eastwick at the Meadows Conference Center at 6630 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19142. hosted by Rev. Harry Benson, Jr, Senior Pastor of Eastwick Worship Center, UMC. To inspire and

teach men of all ages and backgrounds how to reclaim their rightful position in their families and community and eliminate destructive behaviors. Please call 215-365-1810 to register. **LIMITED SEATING. Cash/Check/Money Order. \*ALL REGISTRATION FORMS/PAYMENTS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 2. \*NO REGISTRATION WILL BE TAKEN AT THE DOOR\*** (Please Make All Checks/Money Orders Payable To: Eastwick Worship Center)

### SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2007

**Empowering Ministries of Health: Starting, Implementing and Advancing.** Does your congregation have a Health and Welfare Ministry or Parish Nurse Ministry? Does your congregation want to begin one? The third annual "National Congregational Health Ministries Conference," will be held in Wichita, Kansas.

Persons interested in representing this conference at this event should send an email to Lillian Smith immediately, at [lillian.smith@epaumc.org](mailto:lillian.smith@epaumc.org).

**Registration costs:** \$385 per person for tuition, food and lodging; \$285 per person for tuition and food only. This event is recommended for Health and Welfare chairpersons, Clergy, Parish Nurses/Faith Community Nurses, Christian Educators and those with a passion for health ministries. The event is sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, of The United Methodist Church. Please contact Lillian C. Smith, Executive Director, Congregational Transformation/Director, Connectional Ministries, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820; 610-666-9090/800-828-9093; Fax: 610-666-9093

### SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

**First Annual Southwest District Ministry Fair & Evening Worship Service** at First United Methodist Church, Duke & Walnut Streets, Lancaster, PA from 2 PM to 5 PM.

*Please put this date on your church calendar; promote and encourage your folks and friends to attend!* 5 pm Dinner at cost at First Church, 6:30 pm to 8 pm District wide worship: Praise & Worship Singers from First Church; Wesley Church; and Latino Celebration. Speaker for the evening, District Superintendent, Jim Todd.

Contact Tammy Horning at Grandview UM Church for more information and reservation to set up your ministry fair booth. She can be reached at [thehornings@dejazzd.com](mailto:thehornings@dejazzd.com).

### SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2007

**A Possibility of Vocation for the Church.** Dr. Walter Brueggemann, will lead this ecumenical seminar for clergy and laity at Sky Lake. Dr. Brueggemann is perhaps the best known Old Testament scholar in the world, recognized as the preeminent interpreter of the ancient texts in relation to questions posed by a variety of academic disciplines.

Brueggemann has shown the way toward a compelling understanding of the major components of the faith and life of ancient Israel. To learn more, download a registration brochure by going to:

[http://www.wyomingconference.org/form\\_detail.asp?pkvalue=12](http://www.wyomingconference.org/form_detail.asp?pkvalue=12)

### SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2

**The 6th Annual Mission and Evangelism Institute: Revitalizing Small Membership & Rural Churches** - See page 9 for more information.

### OCTOBER 6, 2007

**Men's Event: STAND IN THE GAP 2** - Lenny Cox, Men's Promisekeeper Class Leader at Hope UM Church, Douglassville, Pa. is putting together a busload of men to go to Washington DC October 6th, 2007, for STAND IN THE GAP 2, a time for men to gather to pray for themselves, their families, and their country. If you or your men's ministry is interested in joining this one day pilgrimage simply leave a message for Lenny through the Hope Church office, 610 385 7141.

### OCTOBER 6, 2007

**Cornwall Manor Society to Host Fall Festival & Auction** - Crafts, homemade candy, a live auction, antiques appraisals, and fun for the kids will be featured at the 57th Annual Cornwall Manor Society Fall Festival. Enjoy Apple Dumplings, Watch Apple Butter Being Made, Live Music by Hiram Ring of Willow Street, PA Chapel Tours, Craft Demonstrations, Vendors, Door Prizes and much more... [www.boehmschapel.org](http://www.boehmschapel.org) or phone 717-872-4133 for additional information.

### OCTOBER 6, 2007

**"Henri Nouwen: Spiritual Mentor, Wounded Prophet"** on Saturday, October 6, 2007, 9:30AM to 3:30PM at First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster, PA 17602

The leader for the workshop is: **Kent Ira Groff**, founding mentor of Oasis Ministries, who is a spiritual companion, retreat leader, and writer living in Denver, Colorado. In his new book, *Writing Tides: Finding Grace and Growth through Writing*, Kent follows Nouwen as he invites others to find creative compassion in life's cycles of affirmation, diminishment, and rebirth. Here is a day apart in which participants will follow Henri's rhythms of exhilaration and exhaustion and mine the gifts in each. The leader will draw from Michael Christensen and Rebecca Laird's newly edited book by Henri Nouwen, *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*, and other classics. The workshop cost is \$65-\$95 (the cost is on a sliding scale as participants are able). **Registration deadline is September 14, 2007.**

**For more information or to register, please contact Betsy Keller at**

Oasis Ministries, 717-737-8222 or email: [betsykeller@oasismin.org](mailto:betsykeller@oasismin.org)

### OCTOBER 7, 2007

**World Communion Sunday**  
See page 6 for more information.

### OCTOBER 11, 2007

**Order of St. Luke.** See page 8 for more information.

### OCTOBER 13, 2007

**Making Disciples Training Series - Faith Sharing "Igniting Ministries: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church."** See page 10.

### OCTOBER 14, 2007

**Celebrate the Tercentenary of Charles Wesley's Birth at Historic St. Georges**

ST Kimbrough, acclaimed actor, singer, and President of the Charles Wesley Society, brings his 2007 tour to Philadelphia. Sweet Singer, a musical performance and play, brings Charles Wesley to life and provides a moving experience that will bring a new depth to your spiritual journey. The audience will experience the drama and pertinent message behind one of the most prolific poets and writers of the Christian church. Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, 235 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; 215.925.7788. Program begins at 4:00 pm. For more information: <http://www.historicstgeorges.org>

### OCTOBER 14-21, 2007

**Missionaries to Itinerate the EPA - Evelyn and Terence Erbele** - see page 14 for more information.

### NOVEMBER 3, 2007

**Making Disciples Training Series - Stewards of God's Gifts.** See page 10.

### NOVEMBER 26, 2007

**Bishop's Advent Day Apart** - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. will be the speaker.

### DECEMBER 8, 2007

**Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry.** See page 10.

### JANUARY 15 - 17, 2008

**Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat** - Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Dr. Paul Nixon will be the speaker.

### FEBRUARY 5, 2008

**Bishop's Lenten Day Apart** - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE. Bishop Jeremiah J. Park will be the speaker

### MAY 28-30, 2008

**Annual Conference 2008** will be held May 28-30, 2008. Please reserve the dates now!



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## Bishop Matthews visits The Congo

by Tamara Ward\*

Bishop Matthews and fifteen members of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference flew to Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen the ministry partnership between the Central Congo Conference and the Pen-Del Conference.

Bishop Matthews and his wife, Barbara, led the team that included the co-chairs of the Peter D. Weaver Central Congo Mission Project (CC Mission Project), Revs. Donald Hamilton and Robbie Townsend; Amy Botti (Executive Secretary to the Bishop); Bill Westbrook (Director, Conference Administrative Services); Tamara Ward (Coordinator of Communications); Rev. Elaine Ayres (Director, Strengthening the Black Church); Betty Gooch (Associate Conference Lay Leader); Marie Van Der Wall (Member, PDW Congo Partnership); Mildred Hamilton (Member, PDW Congo Partnership); Rev. David Heistead; David Harper; Diahann Johnson; and Jackie Onwu.

The group left the U. S. on Monday, July 2 for the 10-day trip, and were

greeted after dark on the evening of July 3 by Bishop and Mrs. Yemba. The group spent the next several days visiting Annual Conference Sessions, the Mpsa Nutrition Center and Mama Ekoko Fama Orphanage, and also toured a school where students are taught typing, sewing, and other life skills.

During the Annual Conference, Rev. Rob Townsend and Mrs. Betty Gooch brought the message for Opening Worship. Bishop Matthews preached at the Ordination Service held on the last day.

One purpose of the visit was to solidify a Partnership Agreement; Bishops Matthews and Yemba signed an agreement during the closing ceremony of the Central Congo Annual Conference.

Under this partnership, a medical team is now preparing for a trip to the Central Congo to perform cataract surgeries.

\* Tamara Ward is coordinator of communications for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.



The Bishops congratulate a newly ordained elder from the Central Congo Conference



## The Wesley Heritage Tour to England, August 2007.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien presents the gift of a reproduction John Wesley teapot to Bishop Marcus Matthews on behalf of the four participants. Left to right: Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, and wife, Christy Jacob, Bishop Marcus Matthews, Mrs. Barbara Matthews and Rev. Joseph DiPaolo.

## Bishop Marcus Matthews announces the following appointments:

### FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS

#### East District

Dennis Keen from Black Creek UMC to Scottsville UMC

### PART-TIME APPOINTMENTS

#### East District

Howard Miller to Philadelphia: Bethesda UMC (Certified Lay Minister)

Virginia Miles from Penns Park UMC to retirement and appointment to Penns Park UMC (retired supply) (effective September 1, 2007)

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Emily Elizabeth Myers, who died on June 11, 2007. She was the surviving spouse of The Rev. James Thomas Myers, who died on December 25, 2004. Mrs. Myers was 83 years old.

Rev. Myers served the following appointments beginning in 1947: Alexandria, Barre, Spruce (in the Central Pennsylvania Conference); Mt. Nebo, Bethesda, Rawlinsville; Flint Hill; Kemblesville; New London; Lima; Phila: Clearview; Columbia: First; U.S.A.F. Chaplain; Mt. Nebo. He retired in 1993.

Condolences may be sent to Mr. Davis G. Myers, one of her three sons, at 1524 San Clemente Highway, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

## Welcome



Rebeca Medero

Rebeca Medero has recently been hired as administrative assistant and receptionist for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, she just recently moved to Pennsylvania to seek new vocational opportunities.

At the age of 17 she was the Chaplain's Leader at her school, Academia de Cristo Defensores de la Fe, and part of the praise and worship group in her parents' church. Her father, Damaso Medero, is pastor, and her mother, Gladys, is his partner in ministry in a Defensores de la Fe church in Bayamon.

"The desire of a challenge and change in my life led me to make the big decision to move from Puerto Rico to Pennsylvania. It is a blessing to be reunited with my very best friend from childhood, Ileana G. C. Rivera," Rebeca said. Ileana is Desktop Publisher for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and she referred Rebeca to the opening at the Conference Office.

Rebeca holds a B.A. in Business Management from the Universidad Metropolitana de Bayamon. She is an avid reader, loves to sing, and enjoys writing her own songs.

## In The Nation

# United Methodist Women take the road for justice

by Yvette Moore\*

More than 200 United Methodist Women boarded buses and traveled to communities in the Nashville area to see what it means to be homeless, an immigrant or without health care.

The community visits were part of the organization's 2007 "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down" National Seminar Aug. 11-16 at Scarritt-Bennett Center.

"The whole idea of community visits is to broaden our knowledge, to go beyond ourselves to gain insights and listen to the voices of those on the margins ...," said Elmira Nazombe, executive of the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the administrative arm of UMW. "This will help give us the landscape view we need to look for patterns and discern what the issues are telling us about our faith imperatives."

Nashville community groups served as guides for the women in visits to a mosque, landfill, community clinics, farmers market, community garden, homeless shelters, public high school and Civil War monument.

Each visit included one-on-one conversations and panel discussions and presentations on the related issue. The visits were an extension of workshops held throughout the event focusing on one of seven issues: economic justice, health care, public education, immigration, community food security, environmental justice and militarism, peace and national security.

### Meeting with immigrants, salvaging food

"It rocked my world," said participant Donna Moore from the denomination's Memphis Annual (regional) Conference, after a day of visits with immigrants and refugees. She met at a mosque with Kurdish

women from Turkey who had come to the United States as refugees and also spoke with Hispanic women at a local immigrant advocacy program.

Moore said she had passed immigrant workers in her local community, but didn't know much about them. "The Hispanic women had an awesome fear of being separated from their families," she said. "The thing that struck me was their patience, their stories and how they need advocates."

"The whole idea of community visits is to broaden our knowledge, to go beyond ourselves to gain insights and listen to the voices of those on the margins ..."

—Elmira Nazombe

"The things I take for granted in my life are not afforded to everybody. How could we not know? I didn't know. As a United Methodist and a United Methodist Women member, as a Christian, we need to know. It's our responsibility to know. Maybe it's been out there all along. Maybe this was my time to listen."

Susan Sanders, Kansas West Conference, helped sort and salvage food for low-income families during her visit to the farmers market and Good Food For Good People, a community-based organization committed to decreasing food waste and increasing accessibility to fresh and healthy foods.

"The man for Good Food for Good People just takes the salvaged fruits and vegetables, puts it on his truck and takes it to the low-income housing development," Sanders said. "Then they knock on the doors and say, 'The food's here!' People come out and get the produce. And they don't just take for themselves. They take to give to neighbors, too."

The visit was part of the workshop on community food security, which examines the need for every commu-



Sherry Sink (center) and Jo Halbert sort produce that will help feed low-income families. The field trip was part of a series of community visits by United Methodist Women during the organization's National Seminar Aug. 11-16 in Nashville, Tenn. UMWNS photos by David Rogers, Women's Division.

nity to have access to a safe, affordable nutritious food supply. Many low-income areas do not have large grocery stores that carry fresh fruits and vegetables.

### Exploring war and peace

A visit to Fort Negley, a local Civil War memorial, kicked off a day of exploring reasons for war and the far-reaching impact of war for women taking the militarism, peace and national security workshops.

The group heard presentations from two U.S. Army public affairs specialists about today's all-volunteer soldiers, saw a documentary about the munitions-making military industrial complex and listened to testimonies from a panel representing organizations and ministries working for peace and helping military personnel and families.

The Revs. John and Janie Dandridge of Nashville shared how their soldier son's loss of a leg in Iraq changed their lives.

"It's a traumatic experience to look at all the wounded men and women," Ms. Dandridge said of visiting her son

at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"There's a real war going on, no matter what you think about it," said Mr. Dandridge, a retired military officer. "There are nearly 4,000 U.S. deaths and 60,000 wounded. Many have traumatic brain injuries. Like Vietnam, they're going to be coming home and unable to care for themselves. Peace is necessary."

The couple's work for peace and counsel focuses on military families. "God has given us a whole new ministry," Ms. Dandridge said.

United Methodist Women is an organization of approximately 800,000 members within The United Methodist Church in the United States. Its purpose is to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice. United Methodist Women members give more than \$20 million a year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

\*Moore is on the communications staff of United Methodist Women.

## The Nation in Brief

- More than 250 people of all ages hiked across a new pedestrian bridge over the Arkansas River to show support for Methodist Family Health, a ministry to children and families in Arkansas since 1899. The Aug. 3 Walk for Children brought church youth groups from around the state to the Big Dam Bridge in Little Rock for the first-time event sponsored by Methodist Family Health in partnership with the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Council on Youth Ministries. The event raised more than \$23,000 to help the agency provide behavioral health services to children and families.

- It's an unlikely place for a lesson in peace—the site of the deadliest domestic-terrorism attack on U.S. soil. "Sixteen buildings in the area were destroyed, and between 300 and 350 buildings in about a 20-block radius were damaged," explains Rachel Winters, National Parks Service tour guide at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Listening attentively to details about the

- bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building are fifth- and sixth-graders attending a weeklong Peace Challenge Camp. The program, in its third year, is sponsored by Skyline Urban Ministry, a mission of The United Methodist Church's Oklahoma Annual (regional) Conference.

- At Alpharetta (Ga.) United Methodist Church, 20 senior adults gather around a table with workbooks and pencils for a quick tune-up on life-saving rules of the road that most learned first as teenagers. Participant Sue Cook says she's gotten some "very good information" from the church's AARP Driver Safety Program course. The nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older, the program emphasizes how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. Graduates can earn discounts from auto insurance companies in most states.

- The United Methodist agency that monitors and advocates for racial inclusiveness has elected staff

- executive Erin M. Hawkins as its new chief executive. Hawkins will become general secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race effective Sept. 1, and will officially be installed at the agency's fall board meeting in October. At 31, she is possibly the youngest top executive of a denominational agency, according to the commission. She has served as associate general secretary since 2001.

- Six United Methodists ranging in age from 15 to 28 have been chosen to work together to develop and deliver the first Young People's Address at the 2008 General Conference. The presentation will be the first time that a Young People's Address has been on the agenda of the denomination's top legislative assembly. Chosen are Becca Farnum, 17, of Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Kira Volkova, 24, of Kirov, Russia; the Rev. Anne Rigo, 28, of Grand Junction, Colo.; Andrew Craig, 15, of Denver; Matt Lockett, 20, of Seattle; and Jason Rathod, 23, of Hastings, Neb.

- A gathering of racial-ethnic clergywomen will celebrate the gains they have made in The United Methodist Church and address challenges they still face during a Jan. 3-5 conference in Los Angeles. The consultation, "Rising From Our Common Ground," follows up on the findings of the 2004 study of the status of racial-ethnic clergywomen in the denomination, according to the Rev. HiRho Park, with the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The board sponsored the study.

- United Methodists across Minneapolis are standing in solidarity with victims and families following the Aug. 1 collapse of the 40-year old, eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge which collapsed during the evening rush hour, sending people, vehicles and tons of metal and concrete into the Mississippi River and onto its banks. At least four people were reported dead and more than 60 injured, but rescue workers were still searching the dozens of cars submerged in the river.

## In The World

### European Methodist Festival unites cultures

by Kathleen LaCamera\*

More than a thousand Methodists from across Europe gathered in August in the capital city of Slovakia to celebrate Europe's diverse and vibrant Methodist tradition.

Speaking a wide range of languages and dialects, representatives from 25 countries converged on Bratislava in the heart of Europe for the European Methodist Festival, held once every four years. The Aug. 1-5 event included workshops, worship, Bible study and fellowship.

United Methodist Bishop Patrick Streiff, episcopal leader for Central and Southern Europe, opened worship by telling festival-goers to "make the most" of opportunities to share in fellowship, despite the language difficulties.

Teenagers from the London-based Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship choir, who performed at the festival, expressed surprise at how easily they met people from other countries. "You see that we have the same things in common: worshipping God and celebrating (Methodism founder John) Wesley," said Samuel Kwaku, 17.

Members of the Portuguese Methodist folk band Trevo Alegre serenaded people each day as they waited in line for lunch. The band is led by the Rev. Sifredo Teixeira, who also is bishop of the Portuguese Methodist Church. "We just want to bring a little joy to people," said Teixeira.

"I didn't know what to expect here, but I like it," said Nicole Handschin, a nursing student from Switzerland. During a small group session, Handschin talked with Methodists from Germany, Poland, Northern Ireland, Austria and England about how she rejected the church as a teenager.

Participants explored a wide variety of issues including climate change, immigration, family, mission, other

faiths and spiritual growth. Creative arts Bible study and workshops such as one called "Charles Wesley Goes Country" encouraged people to express their Christian faith in new ways. During one afternoon recreation session, 11-year-old Michael Loughlin from England went head-to-head with Albania's first home-grown pastor, 23-year-old Rigels Kasmollari, in heated rounds of soccer and ultimate Frisbee.

#### 'Worldwide Methodist family'

Originally from the Holston Conference, Rev. Bill Lovelace is now district superintendent for the Ukraine and Moldova Conference. He and his Swedish United Methodist wife, Helen, are both under appointment as missionaries through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. She is developing a specialist children's ministry and found a British Methodist workshop on human trafficking particularly thought-provoking.

"It leaves you wondering what we can do about trafficking in the Ukraine," Lovelace told United Methodist News Service.

"It's important that we see that being Methodist means being part of a worldwide Methodist family," said Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of Germany, who was delighted to see large delegations from places like Poland, Lithuania, Macedonia and other Eastern European countries.

She also was pleased to see some Americans at the festival and hopes more U.S. United Methodists will make the effort to meet their European counterparts.

"Personal relationships are really necessary," said Wenner. "We receive e-mails from Americans saying 'I'm coming over for vacation, where can I find and meet local Methodists?' We welcome this. Come and visit."

The Rev. George Freeman, executive director of the World Methodist Council,



The Portuguese Methodist folk band Trevo Alegre serenades participants at the 2007 European Methodist Festival in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. UMNS photos by Kathleen LaCamera.

described the festival atmosphere as "joyful" and said he was impressed to see people embracing what they have in common as well as their differences.

"For people here, the church is prominent," Freeman said. "Americans need to be aware there are brothers and sisters in Europe who need our prayers, support and encouragement and from whom we can learn a lot about sharing the Gospel."

#### Host for the event

The Slovak United Methodist Church has been preparing for the 2007 festival for more than a year. While the European Methodist Council is officially responsible for these events, the festival is a huge undertaking for the host country's church. With only eight churches, five mission projects and 400 members in the entire country, Slovak United Methodists regularly serve 2,000 people a week through worship, outreach and social services activities.

"Hosting the festival itself is a privilege for us. We were afraid of how we would manage it and almost said 'no,'" confessed the Rev. Robert Zachar, dis-

trict superintendent of the Slovakia District. "People looked for ways to help despite being already stretched."

The German United Methodist Church's tent ministry and volunteers provided crucial equipment and set-up for the huge festival tents. Their EMK events bus also provided a mobile café sanctuary serving coffee and tea.

Bishop Hans Vaxby of Moscow led one of the daily Bible studies at the festival. Wearing a T-shirt that read "I believe God talks to us every day if we listen," Vaxby said he hoped that people, especially in smaller churches, left the festival feeling a very real connection with the European and global church.

"I hope people have a sense that there is a Methodist ethos. Methodists are so cultural different, but there are still areas of common ground," said Vaxby. "There is that basic trust in God. We don't need to be in control of everything because God's grace is working in people whoever they are, wherever they are on the journey. God works overtime. The challenge for us is to respond."

\*LaCamera is a UMNS correspondent based in England.

## The World in Brief

- The United Methodist Committee on Relief is responding to the Aug. 15 earthquake that leveled several cities in Peru and killed more than 400 people - making the quake the deadliest in the South American country since 1970. The relief agency has offered aid to the Methodist Church of Peru and is working to provide a grant to Action by Churches Together, an international relief alliance that has mobilized a response team to Peru. UMCOR also is inviting United Methodists to contribute to its international disaster response fund to help in the recovery efforts. Donors may give to UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response, and designate it for the Peru earthquake. Checks can be placed in church offering plates or mailed to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6174 or by going online to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/>.
- The United Methodist Committee on Relief is responding through its

partner, Muslim Aid, to rain-related damage in Bangladesh. Two-thirds of the country is under water following torrential rains, and some 8 million people have been affected, according to UMCOR. Rains have destroyed a complete crop season in a region where the main livelihood is agriculture. Aid efforts are focusing on rebuilding damaged homes and distributing seed and fertilizer. Donations can be made to UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response. Designate "Bangladesh Floods" on the check.

- Filipinos with United Methodist roots have formed the denomination's only congregation in western Canada. Named Samahan, for a Tagalog word meaning "a grouping of people with one purpose or a common interest," the congregation is located in Surrey, British Columbia. The church is part of the United Methodist Pacific Northwest Annual Conference in the United States. A formal charter will be presented during a "Fiesta

Metodista" celebration Sept. 30. Canada has not had official Methodist congregations since 1925, when the United Church of Canada was formed by Congregationalists, Methodists and about three-fourths of the country's Presbyterians.

- Movies and the media have encouraged the spread of substance and drug abuse in East Africa, says United Methodist Bishop Daniel Wandabula, who serves on a task force on the problem. "The users are portrayed as stars in both social and economic fields and this encourages our youth to desire and be associated with this kind of group. Substance abuse is spreading like bushfire in East Africa." He cites other factors, including regional conflict in which "combatants are encouraged to take drugs as a way of getting courage to fight and carry out atrocities." Wandabula and other members of the African Task Force on Substance Abuse and Related Violence discussed the challenges during a July 10-12

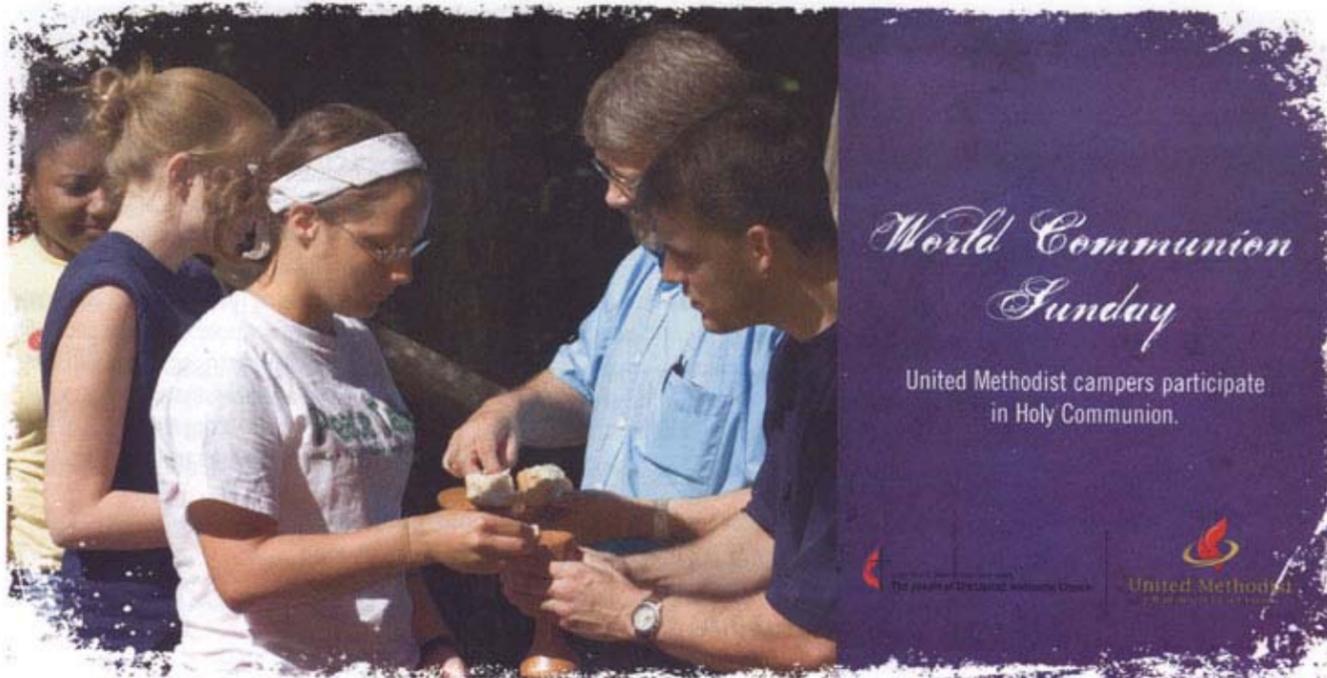
meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The task force is part of The United Methodist Church's Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence.

- United Methodists are offering prayers and expressing concern about the South Korean Christians being held hostage in Afghanistan. The Taliban kidnapped 23 members of a medical volunteer mission trip July 19 in Ghazni province, southwest of the capital city of Kabul. The group's leader, the Rev. Bae Hyung-kyu, was shot to death, and another man, Shim Sung-min, also was executed by the Taliban, which is threatening to kill the remainder of the group unless jailed comrades are released. An Aug. 1 statement from directors and staff of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries offered a "fervent prayer for the safety and quick release" of the hostages.

# World Communion Sunday

October 7, 2007

*“Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 1:13, NRSV*



*World Communion Sunday*

United Methodist campers participate in Holy Communion.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church  
United Methodist World Service Office

**“Development cannot be done for people. It has to be done with them and by them.”**

Crusade Scholar Jean-Michel Basquin, studying at South Dakota State University (SDSU), Brookings, is eager to return home to Haiti. Equipped with a doctorate in rural

sociology. His goal is “to help the Methodist Church of Haiti to shape a better future for the country.

“Lack of rural development,” he explained, “often results in overpopulated cities, higher crime rates and

other social problems. A healthy society depends on the balance between rural and urban development as most natural resources, including land for food production, are in the rural areas.”

Reflecting on the Crusade Scholarship that enabled him to do graduate studies with little financial burden, he said, “I can’t be thankful enough. That scholarship is exactly what the church needs to fulfill its global mission. It empowers people so they can empower others.”

The former campus ministry director at SDSU added, “I grew up in the church. I believe in the role the church plays in improving people’s lives,” in helping people to achieve their potential, he noted. “Scholarships are more than important. My scholarship has sustained me substantially. I could not do without it.”

Because of caring United Methodists, Jean-Michel and other deserving students receive the opportunity for a quality education. The World Communion Sunday offering provides scholarships for U.S. (racial-ethnic-minority) and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Please give generously on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank You!

[www.umcgiving.com](http://www.umcgiving.com)

## Annual Conference DVD Order Form

- 2 Bible Studies - \$ 10.00**  
-with the Rev. Mary Ann Moman - Thursday and Friday, June 14-15, 2007
- 3 Sermons - \$ 10.00**  
-Bishop Marcus Matthews - Opening Worship - Wednesday, June 13, 2007  
-Bishop Gregory V. Palmer - Memorial Service and Service of Ordination and Commissioning - Thursday and Friday, June 14-15, 2007
- Retiree Service - \$ 10.00**  
Thursday, June 14, 2007
- Memorial Service - \$ 10.00**  
Thursday, June 14, 2007
- Service of Ordination and Commissioning - \$ 10.00**  
Friday, June 15, 2007
- Making Disciples Session - “Living as Christian Disciples: The Means of Grace and Ordinances of God” - \$10**  
- with the Rev. Tom Albin - Celebration of Ministries -  
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Plus Shipping \$4.00 Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to: EPAUMC and mail with order form to:  
**Communications, Annual Conference Video Order**  
P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

## Youth 2007 rocked!

*continued from page 1*

Splatsops, and devotime were held daily and separate Jurisdictional meetings were held on Saturday.

At the Northeast Jurisdictional Meeting, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CCYM President, Ann Jacob, stood to praise God for the excitement and energy that we are seeing come to life in our own conference with the arrival of a new conference coordinator and the restructuring of a new CCYM. Out of this experience we will see many other events on the local, conference and jurisdictional level.

Rev. Hilda Campbell and Ms. Lenora Thompson showed their leadership and dedication to our youth as they accompanied youth on the trip. Rev. Campbell said, “Security guards for SPLAT remarked, ‘We’re astonished at how well these young people have conducted themselves all week.’ Some solutions to reducing destructive behaviors and violence in the lives of youth are developing a relationship with Christ, having an encounter with positive music and message, and having an opportunity to experience multi-racial/cultural encounters.”

EPA youth should look for upcoming news about conference, district, and local Youth events and bug your local church leaders and district coordinators to keep you informed, involved, and on fire!

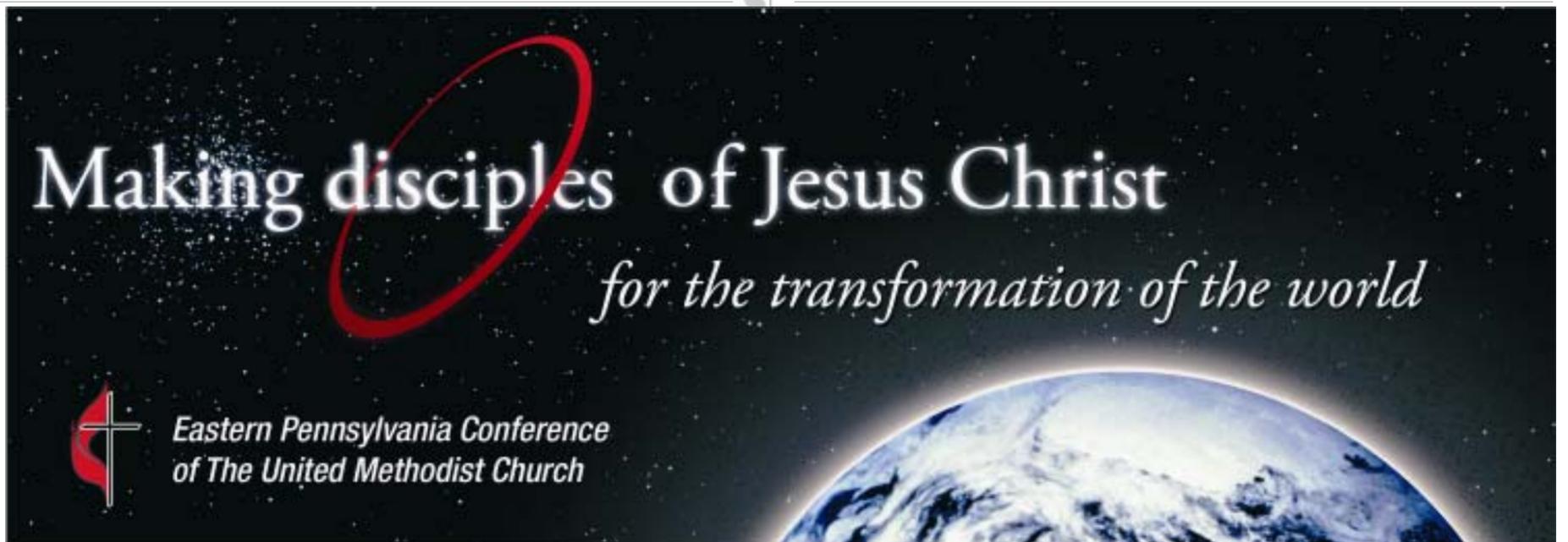
I leave you with this verse: “Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable,



Lydia Muñoz

authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.” Philippians 4:8-9 (The Message)

\* Lydia E. Muñoz is the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Youth Coordinator. She may be contacted at [prgirlsings@aol.com](mailto:prgirlsings@aol.com).



## The United Methodist Church Embarks on Effort to Start Hundreds of New Congregations

By Elliott Wright\*

The United Methodist Church is aiming to move forward to a point in the future where, like a benchmark in its past, it will establish one new congregation every day in the United States. The immediate goals are the training of 1,000 church "planters" and the organization of 650 new congregations between 2009 and 2012. The plan is called "Path 1," and takes its name from a list of "seven pathways" set forth by the denomination's Council of Bishops. Path 1 is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ." While announced earlier, Path 1 had its first public roll-out at the 2007 School of Congregational Development, held August 2-7, at the 14,000-member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. More than 600 people from across the U.S. took part in the school. For decades beginning in the mid-19th century until the late 1960s, the components of what is today The United Methodist Church formed the largest Protestant

block in the U.S. Methodism also exerted major cultural influence with its "free grace" theology and its appeal to people of many racial/ethnic backgrounds.

President Theodore Roosevelt commented early in the 20th century that he never felt so much like he was talking to the Americans "as when I address the Methodists." The denomination today has slightly less than 8 million members in the U.S., down from more than 12 million in the late 1960s. However, it is growing in other countries, and has another 3.5 million members in Africa, the Philippines, and Europe.

The Rev. Tom Butcher, the key staff person on the new church development plan, said that Path 1 is not about numerical growth as such, but aims at introducing to Jesus Christ people who "are looking for meaning, faith, acceptance, and hope. We are talking about a movement that starts new churches to re-evangelize the United States of America." The denomination currently has 34,000 con-



The Rev. Tom Butcher, the executive in charge of the new Path 1 New Church Development Program, leads a workshop at the 2007 School of Congregational Development.

gregations in the U.S., but Rev. Butcher said of the new Path 1 plan that 65 percent are not in the right place to reach out to newer populations. Thousands of the existing congregations have fewer than 51 people in worship on a given Sunday, and a huge percentage of the total membership is composed of senior citizens. Path 1 aims at "more people, younger people, and more diverse people," said Butcher.

Many of the plenary addresses and workshops at the School of Congregational Development focused on the theological strengths and faith resources that The United Methodist Church has for achieving the Path 1 objectives. Others dealt with the challenges likely to be encountered in the effort. New congregational development among racial and ethnic groups is a significant part of Path 1. Bishop Scott Jones of Kansas said that the congregation is the best arena for

*continues on page 11*

## Christian Education and Spiritual Formation

Carol F. Krau will lead this training focusing on the role of teaching and learning in the formation of Christian faith and discipleship, the importance of relationships, and new models for Christian education and formation.

**Location:** Wescosville: Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA 18106

**Cost:** \$10 per person, includes lunch

**Registration:** 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Session:** 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carol F. Krau is a staff member of The General Board of Discipleship, working to develop spiritual leadership for Christian education and formation. She also serves as team leader for the Congregational Leaders Team.

Prior to coming to the board, Carol served as director of Christian education in several local churches and as an editor in Church School Publications. Carol is the author of *Keeping in*

*Touch: Christian Formation and Teaching* and is one of the writers of *A Faithful Future: Teaching and Learning for Discipleship, What Every*

*Teacher Needs to Know About . . .* series, *Making God Real for a New Generation, The Ministry of Christian Education and Formation and Leading with Purpose.*

Carol is a diaconal minister in the Tennessee Conference. She has an M.A. in Christian Education from Scarritt College for Christian Workers and an M.T.S. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She lives with her husband, Steve; they are the parents of three young adult children: Vanessa, 26; Jeremy, 25; and Timothy, 22. Carol is an active participant in Blakemore United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN.

To register go to: [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org).

## Saturday, September 8

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Carol F. Krau

## Gordon Joins GBOD

Melanie C. Gordon of Greenville, SC., recently joined The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship as its new director of Younger Children's Ministries.

She is responsible for resourcing the Church in ministries with children under age six, including weekday ministries, daycare, preschool, and parent's day-out programs; and will be the primary staff person for FOCUS, the quadrennial national event for workers with children.

"Each year we celebrate with great anticipation the coming of Jesus in the form of a tiny baby, and during those days of preparation comes a renewal of hope for the children en-

trusted to us by God," said Gordon, reflecting on what she hopes to bring to the position.

Melanie was formerly a chaplain resident with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Durham, N.C. While a student at Duke Divinity School, Melanie served as an intern with the Methodist Home for Children, developing values-based literacy curriculum for pre-K; and with the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church in New York, where she served as chaplain, leading daily devotions, providing pastoral care to the homeless, redeveloping the feeding program and serving as worship assistant.

She created and produced a documentary film on the Christian Response to Genocide in Rwanda - *The Esther Project*©, and instituted the Divinity School Improvisational Comedy Group - *Axe of the Apostles*.

Prior to attending seminary, Melanie taught in various capacities in the Greenville County South Carolina School District, served as a family literacy specialist with at-risk families and was director of recruitment and admissions for the South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities.

Gordon holds a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Clemson University and a Master of Church Ministries degree with an emphasis on spiritual formation from Duke Divinity School.

She is a certified candidate for Deacon's Orders in The United Methodist Church and a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.



Melanie Gordon

## Greg Engroff to lead spiritual renewal ministries

Greg Engroff has been named the first international lay director for Emmaus and Chrysalis, The General Board of Discipleship's Upper Room Ministries spiritual renewal and leadership development programs.

Engroff will carry a similar portfolio to that of international spiritual director, Rev. Víctor Pérez. Together they will give leadership to the movement of more than 200 Emmaus Walks taking place worldwide and more than 80 Chrysalis Flights (for high school age youth) and Journeys (for college age young people).

Prior to joining GBOD, Engroff was the facilities administrator for the Lancaster Airport Authority for thirteen years.

He brings nearly 20 years of management experience to the agency, having served as district operations manager for All Seasons Services; general manager for Mercury Services, Inc.; and district general manager for the Service America Corporation.

Engroff holds a Bachelor of Science degree in health sciences and physical education from East Stroudsburg University.

Greg brings to this position significant experience as a community lay director, certified trainer and regional representative for the Northeast Conference. He has significant leadership experience in his local United Methodist church and is recognized as a gifted teacher.

"It is thrilling to me that a layperson of the caliber and experience of Greg Engroff is willing to hear God's call to lay down his secular employment and follow Jesus' call to this

new dimension of discipleship and service," said Tom Albin, team leader of Upper Room programs and dean of the Upper Room Chapel.

"Greg brings to this work the passion of a dedicated United Methodist layman with a deep love for God and a clear call to serve—both the UMC and all of the other Christian denominations that participate in the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis.

"We are confident that Greg's love for God, his love for people, and his ability to inspire and motivate others will take this ministry to a new level—the one that God has in mind of it in the 21st century," says Albin.

*GBOD'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, GBOD is located at 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tenn. For more information, call the Media Relations Office toll free at (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7017.*



Greg Engroff

## OPEN HEARTS, MINDS, DOORS . . . AND TABLES

Andy Langford, Editor of the United Methodist Book of Worship, has stated that "One of the major contributions of Wesleyan theology to the world is our practice of open communion. For two hundred years, Methodists in North America have welcomed at the Lord's Table all who come to receive."

**But is an 'open' communion table grounded in scripture? Is an unrestricted communion table consistent with the history of the Church? Should anyone, for any reason, ever be excluded from the Lord's Table?** Find out by attending the October 11, 2007 workshop/retreat of the Order of St. Luke! *The Order of St. Luke is dedicated to sacramental and liturgical scholarship, teaching and practice.*

Therefore, on October 11, 2007, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Order of St. Luke, will hold a workshop/retreat centered around the United Methodist understanding of an open communion table. The resource text for this event is Mark Stamm's new book from Abingdon Press:

*Let Every Soul Be Jesus' Guest  
A Theology of the Open Table*

The event will run from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm, including a break for (brown bag) lunch on your own. The specific outline for the day is:

9:00 - 9:30	Gathering and Introductions
9:30 - 9:45	Morning Prayer
9:45 - 10:45	Session One
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:30	Eucharist
11:30 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 1:15	Session Two
1:15 - 1:30	Mid-Day Prayer and Closing Announcements

The site for this workshop/retreat will be Wesley United Methodist Church, 101 West Windsor Street, Reading, PA 19601. **To register, call Rev. David Knotts at 610-376-3419**

Registration is free, and no one needs to join the Order to attend. To make the most of the day, however, we suggest you buy and read the resource text in advance. (however, even if you don't buy the book, or read it in advance, you will still benefit from attending)

For information about the Order of St. Luke, see our website:  
[www.saint-luke.org](http://www.saint-luke.org)

## "Rekindling the Fire for a New Generation"

### Conference Revival Events

*"An event for spiritual renewal, emotional healing and physical restoration"*

As part of our Making Disciples series, we are coordinating Revival events all over our conference and we need your and your congregation's encouragement, prayer and support.

We are inviting you to join us in this effort as we seek God's almighty presence. We have already programmed the first event in Lancaster and we will soon be scheduling a second event in Lebanon.

Please support this event by attending and inviting your congregation.

**First scheduled event in 2007:**

**Friday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. &  
Sunday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m.**

**El Redentor UMC  
548 South Ann Street, Lancaster, PA**

The tentative calendar is the following:

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2007  
DECEMBER 2007  
JANUARY 2008  
MARCH 2008  
JUNE 2008**

**Lebanon  
Philadelphia & Vicinity  
Chester & Vicinity  
Allentown & Vicinity  
Reading**

We are targeting each community with 10,000 direct mailers for each of the events. If you are interested in participating or need more information, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 218 or drop us an email at [rene.perez@epaumc.org](mailto:rene.perez@epaumc.org).

# The United Methodist Church Embarks on Effort to Start Hundreds of New Congregations

*continued from page 7*

achieving the goal of “making disciples,” and he is convinced The United Methodist Church is uniquely equipped, by its holistic theology, to reach unchurched people.

Methodism teaches the need for “personal and social holiness,” which means that an individual’s faith in

backgrounds and social conditions. “God is trying to give us a future of hope,” he declared.

The bishop said that he believes that Methodism has the doctrine and history to bring about religious renewal in the U.S. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of Northern Illinois in a sermon recalled the effective Methodist mission work of the past and today in many parts of the world. “Our God is a sending

God,” he said, urging United Methodists to follow John Wesley’s example of employing head, heart, and hands in achieving God’s purposes in the world. When it comes to reaching younger people, a university professor gave the United Methodists some clues to dealing with the contemporary young-adult generation.

Dr. Jean M. Twenge, a psychologist at San Diego State University is author of a new book entitled *Generation Me* (Free Press, 2006). The subtitle of the book is, “Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before.” Dr. Twenge used analysis of research data on college students over more than a 50-year

period to pinpoint youth culture trends.

She showed how the “self-esteem” movement that began in the 1960s has exerted both helpful and questionable results. It has led in many cases to acute individualism, narcissism, materialism, and a great disappointment because of a failure to receive the fame and riches to which their “specialness” entitles them. Depression and anxiety develop, but Twenge added that contemporary young adults are also generally more open and tolerant than in the past.

The church today, said the psychologist, has the opportunity to speak to the openness and the sense of emptiness and loneliness of young adults, who, she said, “have deep needs for connection and spirituality.” The

current trends, she said, are likely to continue, and Twenge advised that offering children “unconditional love is fine,” but promoting “unconditional self-esteem is not okay.”

Path 1 is a cooperative effort of many parts of The United Methodist Church, including all of its general agencies, Council of Bishops, other administrative units, regional (annual) conferences, and network of congregational developers. The annual School of Congregational Development is sponsored jointly by the United Methodist General Boards of Discipleship and Global Ministries.

*\*Wright is the information officer of the General Board of Global Ministries.*



Bishop Scott Jones speaking at 2007 School of Congregational Development in Leawood, Kansas.

God is lived out in the community of the church for the sake of transforming the world. The perspective comes from John Wesley, the 18th-century English cleric who founded Methodism. Bishop Jones also said in an address to the school that The United Methodist Church in the U.S. occupies the “extreme center” from which it can reach out to people of all

## The 6th Annual Mission and Evangelism Institute: Revitalizing Small Membership & Rural Churches

September 30 – October 2, 2007

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

This year’s Institute seeks to strengthen small membership and rural congregations that face unique challenges due to population shifts and economic changes. As many of them and their clergy often feel ignored and neglected, transformative leadership and creative and integral approaches to evangelism are urgently needed.

Featured speakers include:

- Ms. Julia Kuhn Wallace, Director of Small-Membership Church and Shared Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church since 1997;

- Dr. Robert Tannehill, Emeritus Academic Dean and Emeritus Professor of the New Testament at Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

The Mission and Evangelism Institute is a shared ministry of the East and West Ohio Conference and Methodist Theological School in Ohio. It is designed to assist both clergy and lay people for an integral and effective practice of evangelism and involvement in mission.

For more information contact Dr. Joon-Sik Park at (740) 362-2367 or [jpark@mtso.edu](mailto:jpark@mtso.edu).

The complete event brochure and registration form can be downloaded [here](#).

We look forward to hosting you at this event.



## Making Disciples DVDs

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part I with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part II with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Acts 29 Prayer Encounter with the Rev. Terry Teykl

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Preparing Your Congregation’s Ministry Action Plan with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Living as Christian Disciples with the Rev. Tom Albin

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Vibrant and Transformative Worship with Eileen Guenther and Dr. Lucy Hogan

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance with the Rev. Rene Perez and the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem

\$10 x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Plus Shipping \$ 4.00 - TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Make checks payable to: EPA Conference, and mail to: Video Order, Communications, P.O. 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820.



## Making Disciples Series Training Schedule

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 -**  
*Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*

**LOCATION:** Wescosville: Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA 18106

**COST:** \$10 per person, includes lunch

**REGISTRATION:** 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**SESSION:** 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM - This session will be led by Carol Krau, Congregational Leaders Team, United Methodist General Board of Discipleship.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 -**  
*Faith Sharing "Igniting Ministries: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church"*

**LOCATION:** West Chester UMC, 129 S High Street, West Chester, PA 19382

**COST:** \$10 per person, includes lunch

**REGISTRATION:** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

**SESSION:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Training will be led by the Rev. Larry Homitsky, Director of Connectional Ministries from the Western Pennsylvania Conference, and Suzy Keenan, Director of Communications for the

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 -**  
*Stewards of God's Gifts*

**LOCATION:** Washington Crossing UMC, 1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977

**COST:** \$5 per person

**REGISTRATION:** 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

**SESSION:** 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM - Training will be led by the Rev. David Bell, Director for the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 -**  
*Accountable Discipleship: The Power of Small Group Ministry*

**LOCATION:** Wescosville: Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA 18106

**COST:** \$10 per person, includes book/resources

**REGISTRATION:** 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

**SESSION:** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Training will be led by Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship, United Methodist General Board of Discipleship.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Suzy Keenan\*

United Methodist Women of West Chester, Pennsylvania, have found a way to deepen their faith with prayer while sharing God's love through a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Jean Jackson and Margie Gettings lead twenty-nine knitters who have lovingly crafted with their prayers and their hands eighty-seven shawls in two years.

Each member reads *Knitting into the Mystery: A Guide to the Shawl-knitting Ministry* by Susan S. Izard and Susan S. Jorgensen. Knitters of all skill levels participate, and learn to knit 3 stitches and purl 3 stitches, as a reminder of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Women in the group find themselves spending time in prayer in new and extraordinary ways, praying intercessory prayer for healing and hope for people they do not yet know.

Fifty shawls, nineteen baby blankets, and eighteen men's lap robes have gone to people who need comfort in the West Chester community and across the country. "We feel a real prayer connection," Jackson said, "praying while we are knitting for the

person we don't yet know, that the person who receives the shawl will be blessed by God."

Jackson took one lap robe to a man who had cancer that had spread fast, and took one to his wife, also. "He was using his lap robe a lot - even after he couldn't talk he would ask her for it, and he took it to his chemotherapy treatments," she said. "Somehow it tangled up in his hospital bed and was a bit chewed up. He wife brought it back to me with tears in her eyes; I knit for five hours and returned it repaired at 10:00 the same night. He died the next noon wrapped in our prayers, with his lap robe over him."

"We say a prayer when the shawl or lap robe is presented - for blessings and strength - and leave the prayer with them," Jackson explained. "One woman wrote a thank you card, saying that she feels enveloped by the presence of the Holy Spirit when she wears her shawl. Another woman whose baby received a blanket said that she hoped to return to church and bring her son to Sunday School." Shawls and the prayers with which



they were knit have gone to Mississippi and to a baby in the state of Washington. Jackson likened the prayer shawl ministry to throwing a pebble in water: "Prayer starts in our center, and moves out in rings to touch others with love and faith."

\* Suzy Keenan is director of communications for The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and a member of United Methodist Women at her home church in West Chester, PA.

## 'Open Hearts' ventures into online advertising

by Diane Denton\*

The United Methodist "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." advertising campaign is entering a new realm through online ads targeting people ages 22 to 44.

From Aug. 20 through mid-October, the ads will appear on Beliefnet, eHarmony, Yahoo, CitySearch, About.com and other sites. More than 21 million people are expected to see them.

"We're seeking to reach people who feel like something is missing from their life and are looking for meaning or purpose," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications, which coordinates the campaign. "Many of those people are searching online. We've chosen sites where they may be looking for something to fill a void in their lives - whether it's travel, relationships or something more spiritual."

The interactive ads will ask users questions about their desires and beliefs and offer a choice of answers.

After they submit a response, they will see a summary of the poll results, along with information and links to explore more about The United Methodist Church. The ads also will feature streaming video of television spots from the campaign and offer a free MP3 download of the theme music. Users can follow the links to [www.UnitedMethodist.org](http://www.UnitedMethodist.org) to learn more about the denomination or find a local church, or they can request a brochure.

The focus of the national campaign, started in 2001 to raise awareness of The United Methodist Church, has primarily been cable television commercials aired each year around Lent, Advent and the back-to-school season. This year's back-to-school campaign runs Sept. 3-16 on 18 networks at a cost of \$1.8 million. The commercial will air about 1,200 times, creating more than 276 million impressions, and is expected to reach 65 million adults.

New strategies are being tested to see which can best complement the TV commercials and reach a wider audi-

"We're seeking to reach people who feel like something is missing from their life and are looking for meaning or purpose. Many of those people are searching online." - The Rev. Larry Hollon

ence. In 2006, a large-scale outdoor advertising strategy placed 450 billboards in 15 media markets to reach commuters and travelers.

### Online growth

Online advertising is a fast-growing medium. A report released Aug. 7 by private equity firm Veronis Suhler Stevenson predicts that Internet advertising will surpass broadcast television and newspapers in the next four years to become the largest advertising medium in the United States.

According to the Pew Internet & American Life Project, Americans' use of the Internet for faith-based reasons is growing. Its "Faith Online" report indicates that 64 percent of Internet

users surveyed in late 2003 use the Web for spiritual and religious activities - compared to only 25 percent of those surveyed in 2001.

Participants in the most recent survey were asked about the types of things they do online in matters related to religion and spirituality. Seventeen percent use the Internet to find information about where to attend religious services, 28 percent said they had used the Internet to seek or exchange information about their own religious faith or tradition, and 26 percent sought or exchanged information about the religious faiths or traditions of others.

\*Denton is director of public relations for The United Methodist Church.

## Two Young Missionaries from Eastern Pennsylvania Commissioned

continued from page 1

Devadhar of the Greater New Jersey Conference, who addressed the new missionaries. "It is about faithfulness. Following Christ means going to places the world doesn't want you to go. Following Jesus means taking risks for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Before being commissioned, the young missionaries spoke in unison the Wesleyan covenant prayer, "I am no longer my own, but thine...Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal."

Bishop Devadhar, along with Rev. Edith L. Gleaves, deputy general secretary of mission personnel of the General Board of Global Ministries; Rev. Steven Goldstein, assistant general secretary of mission personnel; Rev. James F. Karpen of St. Paul and St. Andrew; and Mary Baldrige, director of Global Ministries, performed the laying on of hands to commission each missionary during the Sunday service.

As he laid hands on each of the missionaries, Bishop Devadhar said, "I commission you to take the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world."

The congregation spoke in unison to

the new missionaries: "As members of The United Methodist Church representing the whole church, we send you into service with your special gifts and graces. We have called you; we support you. You are our gift to the world. We will receive you back again on behalf of all God's people."

Rev. Karpen said, "God is moving in their lives. It is a privilege to be a tiny part of that."

"I'm excited for our denomination when I see these bright young faces filled with joy," said Bishop Devadhar.

The other mission interns are:

**Brittany Brooks**, from Gastonia, NC, North Carolina Annual Conference, will work at SHADE, Cape Town, South Africa.

**Elizabeth Hooks**, from Lynn Haven, FL, Alabama/West Florida Annual Conference, will work at the Bethune House, Hong Kong.

**David Hosey**, from Millersville, MD, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, will work at Sabeel, Jerusalem, Israel/Palestine.

**Abigail Huggins**, from Wilkesboro, NC, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, will work at GRENCODA, Grenada, West Indies.

**Lindsey Kerr**, from North Huntingdon, PA, Baltimore-Washington An-

nual Conference, will work at In Peace, Mindanao, Philippines.

**Christine Lafferty**, from Lyndhurst, OH, East Ohio Annual Conference, will work at Christian Medica Acción, Managua, Nicaragua.

**Elizabeth Thiombiano**, from Baltimore, MD, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, will work at Shade and Fresh Water Project, Brazil.

The home conferences and assignments of the new US-2s are:

**Mariellyn Dunlap**, from Carrollton, OH, East Ohio Annual Conference, will be the assistant director at the S.E.R.V.S. and Religious Life, Martin Methodist College-Cal Turner Jr. Center for Church Leadership, Pulaski, TN.

**Lindsey Hall**, from Lincoln, NE, Nebraska Annual Conference, will be a youth worker at the Prevention Services for Youth Program, Susannah Wesley Community Center, Honolulu, HI.

**Michael Jordan**, from Nashville, TN, Tennessee Annual Conference, will work as a teacher and in Children's Ministries Development, Colegio Metodista San Juan Moderno, San Juan, PR.

**Katherine Kinne**, from Alexandria, KY, South Indiana Annual Conference,

will work as a Community Relations Coordinator, Denver Urban Ministries, Denver, CO.

**Christina Kretchik**, from Nashville, TN, Tennessee Annual Conference, assignment pending.

**Jamie Michaels**, from Olathe, KS, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, will work as a seminar program associate, General Board of Church and Society, Seminar Program, Washington, DC.

**Kathryn Wheat**, from Worthington, OH, West Ohio Annual Conference, will work in community outreach development, Urban Ministry, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, DC.

**Rebecca Yount**, from Owasso, OK, Oklahoma Annual Conference, will be an assistant public policy advocate for Church World Service, Washington, DC.

To become a US-2 or mission intern, you must be between the ages of 20 and 30, have a college degree or equivalent experience, and be connected to The United Methodist Church through a local church or campus ministry.

To learn more about the becoming a young adult missionary, link to: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/missionaries/youngadults/>.

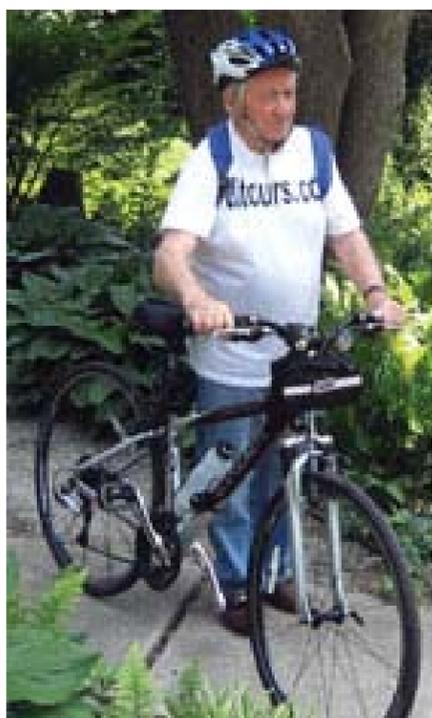
## Businessman Harold Taussig makes millions ... and gives it all away

"I'm ready for the day when the fact that we're all made in the image of God is the norm for all humanity."

One of the primary themes of both the Old and the New Testaments is the need to care for the poor. Most of us seem to take the Bible seriously on this point - to some extent. And then, there's Harold.

"I'm Harold Taussig, and I attend the First United Methodist Church in Media, Pennsylvania."

Harold Taussig is the kind of person who takes personal commitments very seriously. He makes lots of money, but has decided that others need that money a lot more than he does.



"We can lead richer lives without getting more things in our lives."

Harold is committed to finding ways for his money to help other people in their lives. The Rev. Maridel Whitmore is pastor of Harold's church. She says the congregation learns a lot from this businessman.

"Here's a person that's doing what we preach. He made us all straighten up a little bit and take a look at ourselves. This is what Harold's doing; maybe we should be following his example - he's a marvelous example."

Now in their 80's, Harold and his wife, Norma, are the proprietors of a travel company called Untours. The company was an outgrowth of the way Harold and Norma liked to travel - to stay in an apartment or a home in a European village and to get to know the people. For a brief time, Harold was a college professor, and he came up with a way for other academics to take sabbatical time in Europe - not to tour, but to find a nice place to just live there for awhile. The business became popular with people from many careers, not just teachers. Untours started to make good money.

Norma says almost all the profits from the business - more than five million dollars so far - has gone into the Untours Foundation.



"We gave through our church, and then as the years went by, and we went into business, we decided that it was more important to give to the poor than it was to put it into 'things.' And then when we went into the travel business that we're in now, Harold's main interest was in giving to the poor. And that's when the foundation was formed and he began to give all the profits of the business."

Hal's desire is that society finds sustainable ways to help the poor.

"Not by charity or band-aids, not to make people just get out of a temporary situation, but to try to find the solution for poverty, which will be a change in our own culture. And I think it will enrich our lives too, as well as the poor."

The profits from Untours go to organizations that help the poor start their own enterprises, to create their own ways to be successful. In 1999, Untours was named "The Most Generous Business in the U.S." by George Magazine and Newman's Own. Harold was handed his award by John F. Kennedy Jr. and Paul Newman.

Harold's company employs several family members. One of them is

Marilee, one of their daughters. Marilee won't receive the kind of inheritance she would if the money stayed in the company, but she knows she will be left something else very precious.

"If he decided to leave all his money to his children, I wouldn't argue a bit. I'd be happy to have it. I'm not quite the saint, maybe, that my dad is, but he continues to reach out to different kinds of people, and I think that lasts longer than money. And he also taught me to walk the talk, and to make my own way. That's more inheritance than many people get from their dads."

Harold Taussig actually leaves something for all of us. He leaves us an example of someone who really acts much like Jesus suggested - caring for his neighbors, and not worrying about his own needs.

"This is what God wanted me to do, that it seemed so true to me that why would anybody want more than he needed? Why would anybody want any more than I have right now?"

Why, asks Harold, would anyone want more than he or she needs? A question for all of us to consider.

## UMC Librarians participate in 40th Annual Church and Synagogue Library Conference

A number of persons from EPA Conference assisted in the planning and also attended the 40th Annual Conference of the Church and Synagogue Library Association (CSLA), at the Inn at Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA, July 14 through July 17. Marjorie Smink, Berwyn UMC, served as general chair of the committee planning the conference; Verna Colliver, Lansdale UMC, assisted in publicity; Teddi Wright, Mary Barringer, and Diane Neatherly, all of Hopewell UMC, worked with hospitality; Linda Seybold, Grove UMC also attended.

Over 200 conferees, from throughout the United States and Canada, gathered to focus on the theme: "CSLA Libraries: Gems of the Past, Present, and Future." A three-day program designed both to inform and entertain included nationally recognized speakers, 30 varied workshops, local authors with books to sign, book and library information vendors, music and theatrical events, and tours to congregational libraries and historic and cultural sites. The Rev. Joseph DiPaolo, Wayne UMC and President of

the EPA Conference Historical Society, led a workshop giving practical ideas on preserving a congregation's history.

CSLA was founded in Philadelphia, and the Delaware Valley Chapter has hosted the Conference every ten years since 1967. CSLA serves religious libraries through publications and regional chapters and holds the annual conference to provide an opportunity for continuing education in library practices and sharing experiences in the field. The national organization and its local chapter can provide resources to UM churches who want to begin building a church library or media center or who need ideas and assistance in growing and promoting an existing library.

For information about the Delaware Valley Chapter, contact Marjorie Smink [sminkm@comcast.net](mailto:sminkm@comcast.net) or Verna Colliver [vcolliver@comcast.net](mailto:vcolliver@comcast.net). The CSLA website is [www.csainfo.org](http://www.csainfo.org). Plans are presently underway for the 2008 Conference to be held in Greenville, SC.



Marjorie Smink, General Chair of the Conference Planning Committee; Rev. Joseph DiPaolo, Workshop Presenter; Verna Colliver, Publicity Co-chair.

## Interfaith Resource Center helps budgets stretch farther

by Paula Hartzell

As Director of the Interfaith Resource Center (IRC) in Wilmington Delaware, I hear it all the time: high energy, health care and maintenance costs have churches scrambling to balance a budget while continuing to run programs. Too often, education budgets are first to get slashed and leaders are required to cancel programs because they can't afford to purchase educational materials. The Interfaith Resource Center is uniquely positioned to help churches make their education budgets go farther.

Established in 1968, the IRC is an independent non-profit library with financial support from the mainline denominations in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Despite our commitment to our local judicatories, we have served churches beyond our borders for many years. I am inviting you to consider becoming a member.

Yearly membership fees are modest and include unlimited borrowing for all your church members with no additional fees. Our 7000-item collection is entirely online and we ship resources free of charge—your only additional cost is return postage. Orders can be made by email or through our toll-free number, 1-800-336-6152. As an added incentive, we offer a **six-month trial membership free**. Using our audio-visual collection of 2500 items, your adult Sunday School or Women's Circle can offer the newest programs led by the best au-

thors of our era. Names like Tony Campolo, Tom Wright, Andy Stanley, Ray Vander Laan, Stormie Omartian, and Adam Hamilton are well represented on our shelves. We have many of your favorite Abingdon programs as well—the *Disciple* Short Courses, the *Sisters* programs, and the recent *What Does It Mean to Be United Methodist?* For the teens, we have *Revolution* and *Highway Visual Curriculum*, and for children, we maintain a library of approximately 250 videos including the entire *Nest Animated Bible Series*. And that's just our AV collection!

You can learn more by logging onto our website at [www.interfaithresourcecenter.com](http://www.interfaithresourcecenter.com) or contacting me directly at our toll-free number or send me an email at [resource.ctr@dol.net](mailto:resource.ctr@dol.net). I will look forward to hearing from you.



Paula Hartzell

## MEN'S CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, OCT. 19 - 7-9 p.m.  
SATURDAY, OCT. 20 - 8 - 11:30 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

STEVE FARRAR



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# Legs for Liberia: Youth go the extra mile for missions

by James B. Todd

I have been a part of many work camps, and have directed and counseled "fun" camps that involve outdoor recreation of various kinds. The Rev. Randy Brubaker of Philadelphia: Crescentville UMC has put together a summer camp the last several summers that provides both experiences. Randy has long enjoyed biking and has a passion for mission, so bringing the two concepts together was not much of a stretch for him. The concept of a mission bike trip did, however, entail a huge amount of logistics and planning.

I was witness to those logistics and the excitement of this camp recently as I traveled to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia to spend a day on the trail with Randy, and his wife, pastor Cindy, and nine youth from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. I had the added bonus of connecting with another group of cyclists and United Methodist campers from the Baltimore-Washington Conference moving in the opposite direction. At 9 am, I set off with the latter group from Camp Manidokan, a United Methodist camp across the river from Harper's Ferry in Maryland. This smaller group of senior highs was part way on their 325+ mile journey from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA, moving at about 50-60 miles per day. With the completion of the Big Savage tunnel in Somerset County, PA in 2006, it is now possible to travel the entire way from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh on refurbished canal and rail trails, never having to pedal through any car and truck traffic. The day I met up with both bike camps, we were biking on the old Chesapeake and Ohio ("C&O") Canal towpath, which runs 184 miles from Washington, DC to Cumberland, MD, alongside the Potomac River.

At lunchtime, we met up with Randy's group, which had left Cumberland a few days before, traveling toward Washington, DC. The trip leaders had never met before but had spoken several times by phone, and were glad to finally meet one another in person and have their two groups

interact. Camp Manidokan had generously prepared a delicious lunch enjoyed by both groups.

What makes the Eastern PA trip camp different from all the rest is that it is mission-based. With the training rides required of all participants, Randy's group pedaled about 265 miles total. Randy challenged each of his group members to raise \$1 per mile of their journey, with 100% of the donations going to a fund to purchase bicycles for Liberian pastors and missionaries. With poor roads, high gas prices, and limited access to motorized vehicles, many pastors in Liberia and other African nations find that bicycling is the most efficient way to get around to churches and parishioners.



Deep poverty, however, has kept even bicycles out of the reach of many of these pastors. Randy explained that now that a company has started manufacturing "Africa bikes" (single speed, sturdy bicycles that stand up to harsh conditions) there is a way to fund these bikes, more pastors will begin receiving bikes in the future to help in their ministries. Because of the generosity of these youth, their families and fellow church members, several pastors in Liberia will soon be receiving new bicycles. In the future, Randy hopes to acquire an "African

bike" so that each of his campers, for part of one day, can experience riding the very same bike used by many in Africa.

With the *Legs for Liberia* camp, mission does not end with money being raised for bicycles. In order to help with the logistics of the camp, Randy contacted several United Methodist churches close to the C&O canal to find out if they would be willing to host his group for an overnight at the church and some of the meals. The response was encouraging. Four churches gladly opened their "hearts, minds, and doors" and welcomed the young people, with one church contacting the local media to spread the word about the youth's mission

support vehicles to the next rendezvous point further down the canal.

Finally, we were nearing Camp Manidokan, and my 50 year old legs were tired from 32 miles of biking. Randy warned us that the last mile would all be uphill, with the last third being exceptionally steep, and that probably no one would be able to make it without walking their bikes. One of the campers exclaimed, "I'll buy an eggroll in DC for anyone who makes it to the top without walking!" The challenge was on. Darren, who had driven back to camp and now had joined us by bike, took on the challenge. While I walked my bike, Darren and several of the others stood on their pedals and pumped their way to the top, encouraging each other as they went. A cheer went up when about half the bikers made it to the top of the hill without walking their bikes.

What a great way to end my day at camp! To see the looks in the eyes of those campers who had not only conquered a hill but made a serious commitment to African missions was priceless. As I traveled back home, I reflected on how justly proud we can be, and that we can thank God daily for the commitment of those young people, adult volunteers like the Brubakers who each year make sacrifices to make camp special and successful, the four Eastern PA camps and their staffs who work hard to provide a camping experience focused on a relationship with Jesus Christ, and the connectional ministry dollars that help to make it all possible. Each year, we need new volunteers to counsel, direct, and provide support at each of our camps. Perhaps you can't give a whole week to camp, but you can find ways to give a day here or there to volunteer. Pitch in at a camp workday. Financially support the campership program of the Conference to assist poor families to send a child to camp. Be a nurse, driver or day camp assistant. Why not take a spin with Randy and his group next summer in *Legs for Liberia* – if you make it to the top of the hill at Manidokan, I'll buy you an eggroll in DC – I promise!

project. Each of the churches now look forward each year to the return of the camp, and church members enjoy meeting the young people and preparing them meals, and feeling like they, too, are included in this worthwhile mission.

After lunch, it was time for me to bid farewell to my new friends in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and to return to Camp Manidokan with the *Legs for Liberia* Camp from Eastern Pennsylvania. While Randy biked, his wife Cindy and a staff member sent from Gretna Glen, Darren, each drove

## Classifieds

**NORTHWEST DISTRICT RE-SOURCE ASSISTANT** - Duties include correspondence, filing, database entry, event organization, e-mail communications, assisting Superintendent in 87-church district of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. For job description: <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1669>. Resumes to: Gloria Knoeller, 980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403.  
**P/T CHOIR DIRECTOR AND/OR PRAISE BAND LEADER** for Elverson UMC, 10-20 hrs per week. Call 610-286-9460, M-Th 9-3  
**PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY** needed immediately, Messiah UMC, Lafayette Hill, 12 hr per week. Salary negotiable based on skills and experience. Please send resumes to: [Messiahchurch@verizon.net](mailto:Messiahchurch@verizon.net).

## Charge Conferences, Budgets, Year-end Giving

by Stacy Martin

My pastor just circulated the date and agenda for my church's 2007 charge conference to leadership in the church. If your church leaders are ready for their meeting – God bless you. However, if you are like me and my church, the pastor mailed this information early because we need to get into gear and prepare the asset report, Trustee report, figure out how to close the giving-gap by the end of this year **and** prepare the budget for 2008. **The Foundation can help with some of these things this year and get you in better shape for next year. Here's how:**

**Charge Conference:** If the Foundation was your investment manager, all your assets would be in one account (we can also help with your designated funds). The investment account statements total activity year to date for each category. Therefore, income,

fees, gains/losses, and distributions are totaled for easy transfer to the reports. Further, the asset lists are comprehensive and a simple photocopy meets the requirements nicely since all the assets are in one account!

**Giving and Stewardship:** The Foundation can work with your Finance or Stewardship Committee to share materials and ideas to encourage second-mile giving. Our first advice is to start now and not wait until November. This allows your members to process the information, speak to their advisors and ACT before year end! The stock market has had a difficult time lately, but, many of your members have investments they have held for a long time and the capital gain is still large. In addition, the window of time to make a gift directly from an IRA closes December 31, 2007. The Foundation office has the details on these ideas, and others, if you need to learn more about these techniques.

**Budgeting:** There are two types of budgets each church should have. The traditional budget, created with care and precision, is filled with figures and is the management tool necessary to run any size operation. The second is what the Foundation can help with – a narrative budget. This format is prepared using lots of words and few numbers so all the church members learn what ministries are doing and spending each year. The narrative budget can be used to update the church members that do not attend the Charge Conference in an easy to read format. Samples are available at the Foundation office.

Last, our investment returns and spending policy suggestions are worth learning about to help budget earnings for 2008. For additional information and to make an appointment for a meeting, please call me at the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation at 800-828-9093, x247.



## Generations of Caring

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

John Wesley

## Health & Welfare Sunday (formerly Golden Cross Sunday) September 16, 2007



Benefiting the Health and Welfare providers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church which provide benevolent care for all God's people:

Cornwall Manor Retirement Community  
Methodist Home for Children  
Methodist Hospital  
Simpson Senior Services  
Wesley Enhanced Living

## Missionaries to itinerate the EPA

October, 14-21, 2007

Evelyn and Terence Erbele, Ev and Teri, are the Northeast Jurisdiction Mission Interpreters in Residence for 2007-2008. They are both ordained pastors of the Oregon-Idaho Conference and have served as missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries, GBGM, for 18 years and their assignments have included Nigeria Eurasia including 7 years in Lithuania and Latvia.

in the itineration, as these congregations seldom come in contact with a GBGM. The Erbele's will stay with Dick and Judy Howarth, who reside near Royersford, which is on the 422 corridor and central to many churches in the Conference. Dick may be reached at 610-792-4822 or email: [rwhjwh@earthlink.net](mailto:rwhjwh@earthlink.net).

Please note that Dick will schedule the Erbele's up to three times a day on Sundays and weekdays. Smaller gatherings during the week can be very



Evelyn and Terence Erbele

Dick Howarth, EPA Secretary of Global Ministries, will develop their itinerary for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, which will be held October 14-21, 2007. Congregations that are not currently in covenant with a missionary will have priority

rewarding and allow much discussion. Do not hesitate just because your numbers may not be large to sign up during the week.

The Erbele's will also try to make themselves available for conference or district functions as invited.

## Academy for Laity focuses on sharing faith

by Cheryl Faust and Verna Colliver

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy for Laity opened on Friday evening, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA. The Rev. Lillian Smith brought greetings from Bishop Matthews, and Conference Lay Leader Dr. Mary White welcomed the group of over 180 persons to the weekend of training, fellowship and worship.

The Rev. Dr. N. Lynne Westfield was the keynote speaker. A graduate of Saul High School of Agriculture in Philadelphia, Dr. Westfield went on to earn her Ph.D. from the Union Institute, Cincinnati, OH. She is currently Associate Professor of Religious Education at Drew University.

Preaching from John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The Rev. Dr. Westfield encouraged the group to continue studying and living this verse. This verse is not just for people like ourselves, but for the struggling and hurting and wounded (the world). God wants all to believe. God wants to be invited in.

From the parable of the Great Dinner, Luke 14:14-24, she drew the analogy of sharing a good meal, stressing the need to share the Good News—as a meal is food for the body, the good news is food for our soul. The feast will go on – with or without us. If we don't answer his call, his knock, he will

continue to seek out the poor, the marginalized, the shunned. These are the "whoever" that will believe and will answer the call. The great banquet is a supper of grace, food for our soul, nurture for our spirits, satisfaction for our appetites. The party will go on – with or without us. The "whoever" will not be left out. God loves each of us and even the people we don't like.

The weekend continued on the theme "Sharing Our Faith in the local church, in the community, and in the world." Classes included the Basic Course for those beginning the Christ Servant Ministry training and advanced courses open to all lay persons in the Conference. This year's courses covered the three areas of certification in Christ Servant Ministry: communicating, leading, and caring.

On Saturday evening a workshop, "Partners in Ministry," drew a crowd of approximately 60 persons who participated in a dialogue facilitated by the Rev. Alfred Maloney, East District Superintendent. He was assisted by the Rev. Dennis Keen, Scottsville UMC, and Brenda Tildon, Chair of the SE District Committee on Ordained Ministry. The question, "What is God calling us to do in The UMC today?" opened up the dialogue and elicited responses and further questions from the audience on the need for clergy and laity to work together as partners in mission and ministry.



Rev. Dr. N. Lynne Westfield, Speaker. Photo by Paul C. Davis

The closing communion service on Sunday morning was led by the Rev. Chris Brady who centered his sermon on Moses as a leader called out by God to ministry. Although Moses felt unqualified, God promised His spirit and power to Moses just as God promises that same spirit and power to us today. God does not seek qualified people but qualifies those who are called.

Plans are underway for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy for Laity, a celebration of 25 years of training lay persons for ministry and empowering them to be in mission for Christ, making disciples for the transformation of the world. The date and location will be announced in the near future.

## YAs Say They Want a Revolution: Being the seed in the church's dentures

by: Julia Lendzinski

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Chris Brady held a workshop called "Day of Imagination" for the Young Adults of the EPA Conference. During the workshop many topics were discussed such as issues of faith (i.e. what has become of the sacrament of Baptism) to the development of better ministries in the church. I feel the most important topic we touched on was the issue of the Young Adults' place in the church.

As a young adult myself, I thought I was the only one who felt this way, but after attending this workshop I found out I am not the only one who feels lost in the church. We are too old to be in the "youth" category, but do not seem old enough to be in the "adult" category either. Young adults (college age to 30's) are adults, but many of the older adults of the church still think of us as children. They watched us grow up; therefore they cannot take us seriously when we say we want leadership positions in the church. Young adults are very important to the church and therefore should be paid more attention to. People wonder why young adults do not attend

church anymore, and I think one reason is that we feel lost in the church organization.

We also discussed how many churches have lost their flair for ministry. Rev. Brady stressed how important ministry is, and how young adults should be doing more of it. He told us to become "the seed in the church's dentures" until we have established a better ministry program. Our communities can always use help and God's Word, and the local UMC should be there to provide it. As we strengthen our ministry programs, we must be careful that we are not only providing "selfish" ministry. We must first show kindness to others before we try to get them into the church. We need to revolutionize the way things are done. We do not have to change everything and throw away our traditions, but we do need to provide a place for young adults to grow in the church. If we do not, there will not be much of a church left in twenty years. Jaroslav Pelikan said it best when he said, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." Our churches get stuck in fundamentals



The Rev. Chris Brady

and do not improvise. We have lost our imaginations. Every church does not need to have a major revolution, but if every church made room for a little imagination, then a revolution will come about in the Conference and that will make a difference in the future of our church.

## United Methodist Student Day

November 25, 2007

### United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Scholarship recipient and psychology major Kimberly Brook administers a test for a child-development class at North Central College, Naperville, Ill.



## Are You On Track to Retire?

CONSULT WITH "JOSIE" in your district for 30-minute sessions!

Ms. Josie Martinez, Conference Liaison/Education and Plan Sponsor Relations, from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church will visit district areas in 2007 and 2008. This is an opportunity for Josie to discuss in detail your financial status and help you prepare for the future by mapping out your financial goals and objectives. Meetings will take place in a private room in your district office or designated area church.

Appointments requested outside your district area will be placed on a waiting list.

### District Area Visits

**Thursday, September 13, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm**

Central District Office, Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131, District Superintendent's office- 215/878-4607

**Friday, September 14, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm**

Southwest District office, Bird-in-Hand UMC, 2620 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505, District Superintendent's office- 717/569-9673

**Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm**

East District Office, Huntingdon Valley UMC, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, District Superintendent's office- 215/914-2130

**Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm**

Northwest District Office area, Hamburg: Bethany UMC, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Island Streets, Hamburg, PA 19526, Local Church- 610/562-2861

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 8:00 am-5:00 pm**

Northeast District Office area, Bethlehem: Wesley UMC, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017, Local Church- 610/865-5715

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 8:30 am-5:30 pm**

South East District Office area, West Chester UMC, 129 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19382, Local Church- 610/692-5190

*Schedule is subject to change based on volume of appointment requests.*

**Sign up NOW!**

**Limited prime time slots available!!**

Contact Janet A. Mills, Senior Support Associate, Pension and Benefits, Communication and Coordination 1-800-828-9093 or 610-666-9090, ext. 213 or [janet.mills@epaumc.org](mailto:janet.mills@epaumc.org) to schedule an appointment or to answer any questions or concerns. You will receive periodic electronic reminders of your appointment, so sign up NOW!

## 4TH ANNUAL PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH 2007

Saturday, September 15, 2007  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



with Special Guest Speaker  
Bishop Marcus Matthews

### OTHER WORKSHOPS:

- Spiritual Growth
- Evangelism
- Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Missions
- Worship
- Lay Empowerment

To register, go to: [www.hopewellumc.org](http://www.hopewellumc.org)

So many of our churches are struggling these days, and yet the culture is ripe for revival! Come learn and share some "best practices" for effective ministry in a 21st century world as we welcome outstanding servant-leaders from our community and beyond. **"This program is all about Empowering Local Congregations."** If you have been praying for renewed vitality and effectiveness in your church, this event is for you!

- Steven C. Morton,  
Senior pastor, Hopewell UMC



Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Dean & Professor of Theology at Duke University will lead workshop: "Resurrecting the Local Church: Strategies for Excellence."

## “Understanding Your Teenager” A Seminar for concerned parents, pastors, and youth workers

*Sponsored By:*  
*The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
of The United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, September 9th 5-8 p.m.*  
*Cost is \$12, which includes a workbook*



Speaker: Duffy Robbins

### Session One

#### “The Changing World of Today’s Teenager”

During the first hour, we’ll help you understand why teenagers act the way they do; and how you as a parent can respond in positive ways to normal adolescent behavior. Some of the issues that we cover:

How the world has changed and how you can respond to those changes in positive ways.

How youth have changed physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually and what you can do to work with your children’s development rather than against it.

Why conflict is normal with parents and teenagers, how to evaluate and deal with it, and how to respond to rebellion when it occurs.

Why friends are so important to your teenager and how to make sure peer pressure doesn’t have the last word in your family.

How teenagers are forming values and beliefs and how you can influence your kids to make good decisions and develop a strong faith.

### Session Two

#### “Principles for Effective Parenting”

After a break, we’ll give you our “short list” of practical and easy-to-remember principles to help you build positive relationships with your kids and to encourage them towards responsibility and self-reliance. Here are just a few of the topics we’ll discuss:

How to make sure the rules you set for your teenager don’t lead to rebellion.

How to stay close to your kids when they become teens.

How to encourage positive behavior in your teen and build his or her self-image.

How to decide which battles are worth fighting and which are not.

How to talk with your teenager about sex and other tough issues.

How to effectively use natural and logical consequences rather than punishment.

How to avoid “handicapping” your teenager by making life too easy for them.

How to relax and enjoy your kids more while they are teens!

#### Host Church Address:

West Lawn UMC  
15 Woodside Ave.  
Reading, PA 19609  
Phone: 610-678-5611

**Please send \$12  
registration fee, payable  
to “FUMC” to:**  
First United Methodist Church  
Attn: Parent Seminar  
420 Saylor Street  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Please call Rev. Kris Perry at (570)385-3941 for more information about this seminar.

The Face of  
Today’s Missionary

Is it yours?

For more information, visit:  
[www.ummissionaries.org](http://www.ummissionaries.org)

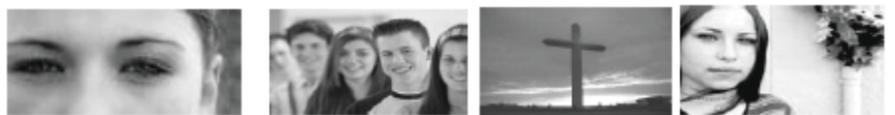
Global Ministries  
The United Methodist Church

## Encounter 2007

One Weekend. One Passion. One Purpose.

“LIVE IT OUT LOUD”

encounter (verb) to come upon face to face



**Friday – Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

A weekend of Impact and Equipping for Students in Grades 7-12

The Bands: Social Hazzard & STEREOs in concert and worship. The Speakers: Kim Checkeye, Kris Perry, Peter Clarke & Ron Schultz. The Fun: hayrides, high & low ropes challenge course, evening campfire, games, great food, and most of all – a weekend of drawing closer to God. Don’t miss out – reserve your spot today by calling or emailing Rev. Kris Perry at (570)385-3941 or [revkrisperry@yahoo.com](mailto:revkrisperry@yahoo.com). Cost is \$65, all meals/lodging are included!

\$25 Deposit due on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Balance of \$40 due on October 20<sup>th</sup>



**Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center**  
87 Old Mine Road Lebanon, PA 17042

Contact: Rev. Kris Perry at (570) 385-3941 or  
[revkrisperry@yahoo.com](mailto:revkrisperry@yahoo.com).