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Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

by Suzy Keenan

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will meet July 16-18 in Harrisburg, Pa., with a primary focus of electing one new bishop.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church covers the 10 episcopal areas (13 annual conferences) located from Maine south to West Virginia. Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction include Baltimore-Washington, Central Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania, Greater New Jersey, New England, New York, North Central New York, Peninsula-Delaware, Troy, West Virginia, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, and Wyoming (the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania and New York). The Northeastern Jurisdiction is one of five U.S. jurisdictions. In addition, there are seven Central Conferences that serve United Methodists outside of the U.S.



Delegates to jurisdictional conference

Twice as many delegates will participate in jurisdictional conference as in General Conference, with equal representation of lay and clergy members. Out of a total of 232 delegates from the thirteen Annual Conferences in the

jurisdiction, The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will be represented by twelve clergy and twelve lay members.

Lay delegates: Mary White, Lenora Thompson, George J. Hollich, Thomas

continues on page 6

New Journey/Nueva Jornada - a new path in ministry

by Suzy Keenan

It has been a long hard journey for this church. There were forks in the road - discord, unfairness, division - and then the forks merged back together to pave a strong path to ministry in the heart of this church and in the heart of the city of Reading.

New Journey/Nueva Jornada United Methodist Church is the name of this new church, created out of the merger of Central Park United Methodist Church, an Anglo congregation, and Emanuel-Olivet United Methodist Church, a Latino church.

In the early 1980's, Central UMC had birthed a new ministry to Spanish-speaking persons in the Reading community at the urging of Dr. David Fife, then district superintendent, who hired Dr. Irving Cotto to lead the new ministry. When Bishop Herbert Skeete re-appointed Dr. Cotto to a church in Lancaster, he brought Rev. Nicolas Camacho from Puerto Rico to pastor the Latino ministry, which became Emanuel UMC.



Photo by Paul C. Davis

At the Central District meeting on April 12, district clergy and laity witness the merger. Rev. Nicolas Camacho, District Lay Leader Beverly Connor (also a member of Central Park), and John Kramer, co-chair of the church's executive board, light a candle symbolizing the merger of Emanuel and Central Park United Methodist Churches, forming the New Journey/Nueva Jornada United Methodist Church.

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Calendar

- **JULY 14 - 18** - Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. See front page article.
- **JULY 26** - Weaving a Web of Connections. See page 8 for more information.
- **JULY 26** - UM Night at the Phillis. See page 12 for more information.
- **AUGUST 8 - 10**, 25th Annual Academy for Laity. Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. "Growing, Sharing and Living Our Faith" Basic CSM Course For Young Adults (18-27) Basic CSM Course, Advanced Courses - Open to All Laity, Compassionate Caring, Creating Healthy Congregations, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, Expanding the Kingdom, Spiritual Leadership in the 21st Century, Anniversary Celebration. Friday Evening: Charles Yrigoyen. Saturday Evening Banquet: Bishop F. Herbert Skeete. Great Music, Fellowship and Learning together. More at www.gbmg-umc.org/csm. Questions? Contact Verna Coliver at 215 855 0797 or vcolliver@verizon.net
- **AUGUST 9** - Academy for Laity Celebration Banquet, August 9, 2008, 5:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Guest Speaker: Former EPA Bishop F. Herbert Skeete. For information contact Brenda Tildon at 302 836 8553 or Verna Coliver at 215 855 0797. Reservations are required in advance - \$40.00 per person. Clergy and laity are invited. Go to www.epaumc.org/news stories for ticket order form.
- **SEPTEMBER 1** - Begings Open House Month. See page 7 for more information.
- **SEPTEMBER 21 - 24** - "Empowering Ministries of Health: Connecting Around the World" will be the focus of the fourth annual National Congregational Health Ministries Conference Sept. 21-24 at Lake Junaluska, N.C. The conference is designed for health and welfare chairpersons, clergy, parish/faith community nurses and others with a passion for health ministries. Sponsors are the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Two scholarships for tuition, lodging and meals will be offered to designated representatives from each annual conference. For more details and registration, see www.gbophb.org and click on events and education, or contact Anne Green at AGreen@gbophb.org or (847) 866-4560. For questions about scholarships, contact Patricia Magyar at pmagyar@gbmg-umc.org or (212) 870-3683.
- **SEPTEMBER 27** - A service Celebrating the Appointment of Rev. Bronwyn Yocum. Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Asbury UMC, 1533 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104. Come celebrate the appointment for the incoming Northeast District Superintendent.
- **OCTOBER 4** - Cornwall Manor Society to Host Fall Festival & Auction. Crafts, homemade candy, a live auction and silent auction, antiques appraisals, and fun for the kids will be featured at the 58th annual Cornwall Manor Society Fall Festival on Saturday, The Fall Festival will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. There is no admission fee and plenty of parking will be provided at Cornwall United Methodist Church with van transportation to the nearby festival. A breakfast of creamed chipped beef and cheese strata will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. A pork and sauerkraut dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and other food such as apple dumplings, strawberry shortcake, pies and more will be featured throughout the day. Features include a silent auction from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., live auction of antiques and crafts at 10:30 a.m. and an antiques appraisal at 1:30 p.m. Bring your hand-carried treasure and have it appraised for a \$10 fee. Crafts, candy, baked goods, flowering plants, stained glass, quilts and much more will be available for sale. Cornwall Manor staff will be on hand to provide tours of the retirement community, including our newest neighborhood, AThe Woods at Cornwall Manor. For information or directions call 717-273-2647 or visit www.cornwallmanor.org.
- **OCTOBER 5** - World Communion Sunday. For more information and resources for your church go to www.umcgiving.org.
- **OCTOBER 7 - 10** - Autumn Retreat for Senior Adults at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center. (ages 55 & up) Cost: \$120/person. This includes 3 nights lodging, nine hot meals, snacks, & activities. Call the Camp Office for more information at 570-676-3665. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center is located at RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA 18326 website: www.poconoplateau.org
- **OCTOBER 27-29** - Spiritual and Pastoral Formation Event - The Body of Christ Alive in Prayer at Camp Hebron: 975 Camp Hebron Rd Halifax PA, 17032. For more information see page 10.
- **NOVEMBER 7 - 9** Fall Confirmation Retreat at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center (for Youth Confirmands & Adult Leaders). Friday-November 7, 2008, 7pm - Sunday-November 9, 2008, 2pm. Watch for more details. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA 18326, 570-676-3665, www.poconoplateau.org
- **NOVEMBER 14 - 16** - Fall Men's Retreat at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, directed by Rob Loughery from Doylestown UMC. Friday-November 14, 2008, 7pm - Sunday-November 16, 2008, 2pm. Watch for more details. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA 18326, 570-676-3665, www.poconoplateau.org
- **NOVEMBER 30** - United Methodist Student Sunday. For more information and resources your church go to www.umcgiving.org.

Save these dates!

BISHOP'S ADVENT DAY APART FOR CLERGY

November 24, 2008
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE
Guest Speaker and Preacher:
Bishop Violet Fisher

**BISHOP'S MIDWINTER
RETREAT
FOR CLERGY AND SPOUSES**
January 13 - 15, 2009
Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, MD

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF RACISM WORKSHOP Introductory Level Year 2008 Schedule

August 11-13 - Doylesford Abbey

September 19-21 - Gretna Glen

October 10-21 - Teen ARK

October 17-19 - Pocono Plateau

For more information, brochure and registration contact Evangeline Johnson at 1.800.828.9093 ext. 215 or evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org or Hilda Campbell at 1.800.828.9093 ext. 224 or hilda.campbell@epaumc.org.



Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World

The Eastern Pennsylvania
Conference of The United
Methodist Church
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Philadelphia Area Bishop

Suzy Keenan
Director of Communications

Ileana Rivera
Graphic Design and Layout

One year subscription only \$12!

Deaconess shares gifts of ministry

by Andrea Brown*

She has taught 1st and 2nd grade—and music K-8. She plays the piano and organ. She has helped Croatians and Cambodians learn to read English, and she has ministered tenderly to the ill and aging in hospitals and nursing homes.

Margie Greene has a heart for God's people, and that, along with her many gifts and her warm personality, makes her fit for a special role in the church.

Not long ago, Margie and her husband, the Rev. Garfield Greene, moved to the Willow Valley Retirement Community near Lancaster. And, thus, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference now has a second deaconess. (The other is Yvette Diaz.)

The little-known office of Deaconess, begun in 1888, calls lay women to full-time service "to express . . . the love and concern of the believing community for the needs in the world, and enable, through education and involvement, the full ministry and mission of the people of God," according to the Discipline.

"Deaconesses function through diverse forms of service" following Jesus' call to his disciples to "alleviate suffering, eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth, facilitate the development of full human potential, and share in the building of global community through the Church Universal."

Men can serve in a parallel office,

called Home Missioner. Both are organized, supported, trained, and commissioned by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. The General Board of Global Ministries does not provide employment for deaconesses or home missioners; they are encouraged to find their own positions.

The story of Mrs. Greene's ministry illustrates the important role deaconesses and home missioners can play.

Having retired from teaching in New Jersey public schools, Mrs. Greene sought the special training and authorization of the office of deaconess as her ministry through her home church and in the wider church expanded.

With her husband, she visited in nursing homes and led worship there: "He preached; I played and sang." She also assisted with hospital visits.

She also planned and led retreats, workshops, and other spiritual-growth events for the Northern Shores District Office in Greater New Jersey Conference.

Seeing a growing number of Mexican and Latin American immigrants in their community, Mrs. Greene decided to begin a literacy program in their church. The deaconess program provided the training that equipped her to be a literacy volunteer. Before long, the program was serving Chinese, Ukrainian, Thai, Turkish, Croatian and Bosnian

immigrants, as well, and it also helped non-literate English speakers to learn to read and write.

"Having come here, I have been in prayer about what the Lord wants me to do," Mrs. Greene says. She finds herself serving in two churches in the areas of hospitality and outreach.

At Lampeter United Methodist, her new home congregation, she works with the Lamplighters group, sending cards and offering support and prayer to those in need. She also teaches in the release-time program affiliated with the Lampeter-Strasburg School District.

The Rev. David Nissley says Mrs. Greene's relationship to the church is "kind of informal at this point" but that whenever someone is in need, the Greens are "usually about the first ones to respond with a load of groceries or whatever."

Additionally, in the Central Pennsylvania Conference, at Stevens Emmanuel Church in the Allison Hill section of Harrisburg, Mrs. Greene is helping a primarily Spanish-language congregation to achieve its goal of becoming fully bilingual. Her husband serves the church part-time.

In the meantime, she is waiting to see what else God would ask of her and is drawn to the National Church Adopt-a-School Initiative promoted by Dr. Tony Evans, an evangelist and senior pastor of a 7,000-member church in

Dallas, Texas. "I'm looking to see how that's going to develop," she says.

For more information on the Deaconess and Home Missioner Program of The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, go to www.gb-gm-umc.org or contact Becky Dodson Louter, Deaconess Program Office, 475 Riverside Drive #320, New York, New York 10115; 212-870-3850 or deaconess@gb-gm-umc.org.

*The Rev. Andrea Brown is associate pastor of Grandview UMC in Lancaster.



Margie Greene

Classifieds

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

Responsibilities include weekly programming, empowering and leading adult volunteers to be in ministry with children, youth, and young adults, and connecting them with the rest of the church, and facilitating programs pertaining to children, youth and young adults. To receive a copy of the complete job description, please contact the church office at willowgr@verizon.net. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to the pastor, Felicia Kumar at felio222@juno.com with a copy to Sue Mathers, SPRC Chairperson at smathers1021@yahoo.com or Willow Grove United Methodist Church, 34 N York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090. Deadline for applications is July 31, 2008.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR WANTED

- United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Exton, PA is seeking self-motivated, Spirit-filled, energetic part-time Coordinator of Children's

Ministry. Under the direction of the Senior Pastor, the Coordinator will help to build a comprehensive program that promotes the love of God and spiritual growth in our children. Background checks are required. Interested candidates contact Pastor Joan Trout at 610-363-0103 or joan.trout@umcr.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR WANTED - United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Exton, PA is seeking self-motivated, Spirit-filled, energetic part-time Youth Ministry Coordinator. Under the direction of the Senior Pastor, the Coordinator will help to build a comprehensive program that promotes the love of God and spiritual growth in our youth. Background checks are required. Interested candidates contact Pastor Joan Trout at 610-363-0103 or joan.trout@umcr.org.

PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR at Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by email to asbury@drexel.edu.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Jeffrie Melnese Gibson, widow of The Rev. Dr. Elmer P. Gibson, who passed away on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Simpson House. She was 96 years old. Rev. Gibson died in 1994. Rev. Gibson served the following appointments beginning in 1926: Chester C. T., Camphor Memorial, Peninsula-Delaware Conference (1933-1957); Chaplain U.S. Army (1941-1957), sabbatical (1957-58) serving in four Annual Conferences, In School (Historica), Morristown College (TN) President (1960-69). He retired in 1969. The Memorial Service was held Saturday, June 28, 2008, at 10:00 am at Simpson House. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of her daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Gibson Coverdale, 6204 Carpenter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

The Rev. Thomas F. Caddy, retired local pastor, who passed away on June 14, 2008. Rev. Caddy served the following appointments: Cressona, Cumbola, Coaldale, Tamaqua; Salem, Former Middleport, Lehighon; Ebenezer and Weissport; Ebenezer. He retired in 1986. The services were held on June 19 at Frackville

Funeral Home. Rev. Caddy, was predeceased by his wife, Mary J., and his son, James. He has three surviving daughters: Carol Palmer, Susan Williams and Catherine Dietrich. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Catherine Deitrich, 17 Newkirk Avenue, Shillington, PA 19607. Memorial Contributions can be sent to Coaldale United Methodist Church, attention: Treasurer at 260 Skyland Drive, Lehighon, PA 18235.

Mrs. Louise Atwell, widow of The Rev. Wayde V. Atwell. She died on June 8, 2008. The Rev. Wayne V. Atwell was an Elder who served Bellegrave, Highville, Allentown; Salem, West Willow and Green Hill between 1957 and 2000. He died in 2003. A memorial service will be held on June 12 at Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church, 1165 Lector Road, Conestoga, PA. The viewing will be at 9:00 a.m. and the service at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Atwell is survived by a son, Ronald, and a daughter, Linda Bleacher. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Linda Bleacher, 2794 Safe Harbor Road, Millersville, PA 17551.

Church agencies voice dismay at ruling on gun control



The U.S. Supreme Court on June 26 overruled the District of Columbia's ban on handguns.

Two United Methodist agencies, disappointed with a U.S. Supreme Court decision on handgun ownership, are urging church members to advocate for legislation that would tighten federal laws on gun control.

In a joint statement July 1, the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and the Commission on Religion and Race said they were "deeply disappointed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to strip local municipalities of the right to enact sensible and necessary gun restriction laws." A week earlier, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 that a Washington, D.C., ban on handgun ownership was unconstitutional.

"The Supreme Court's decision stands in direct contrast to the stance of our denomination," the church agencies said.

The denomination's top legislative assembly, the General Conference, condemned gun violence in a resolution at its April 23-May 2 gathering in Fort Worth, Texas.

"No appeals to individual autonomy are sufficient to justify our church's ignorance of this threat," the General Conference stated. "The need to prevent the incidence of firearm-related injury and death is an issue of increasing concern and a priority public health issue. The United Methodist Church is among those religious communities



Jim Winkler

calling for social policies and personal lifestyles that bring an end to senseless gun violence."

In keeping with the resolution, the agencies "urge all United Methodists to continue to advocate for federal legislation in the U.S. Congress to regulate the importation, manufacturing, sale and possession of guns and ammunition by the general public." The resolution also calls upon all governments in countries with a United Methodist presence "to establish national bans on ownership by the general public of handguns, assault weapons, automatic weapon conversion kits and weapons that cannot be detected by traditionally used metal-detection devices."

The agencies noted that, following the



Erin Hawkins

ruling, the National Rifle Association filed lawsuits in Chicago and San Francisco to overturn other municipal laws on gun ownership.

The statement was signed by Jim Winkler, top staff executive of the Board of Church and Society, and Erin Hawkins, top staff executive of the Commission on Religion and Race. Both agencies are based in Washington. The board focuses on advocacy on social issues and international affairs, and the commission works to ensure racial inclusiveness.

The full text of the statement can be found at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=1wL4KnN1LtH&b=2429867&ct=5647513>.

The Nation in Brief

In Iowa, United Methodists are among a statewide interfaith consortium and action teams from local churches that are reaching out to the estimated 38,000 people left homeless, farmers who have lost a projected 10 percent of the 2008 corn crop and countless churches and parsonages that have been inundated from the ravages floods from of nine rivers. "The outpouring of tangible compassion from the church along with the resolve of local people to reclaim their lives is signaling hope, hope, hope," said Bishop Gregory Palmer, of the church's Iowa Area. Representatives from the United Methodist Committee on Relief are expected to tour Iowa by the first of next week to assess damage and formulate a response plan. To donate to UMCOR relief efforts in the Midwest, drop checks in church offering plates or mail directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box

9068, New York, NY 10087. Write Advance #901670 on the memo line of the check. Credit card donations can be made by calling (800) 554-8583 or online at www.givetomission.org.

With just a few modifications, a simple red wagon is transformed into "Lizzie's Limo," enabling 4-year-old leukemia patient Elizabeth Long to navigate her hospital with the help of her family. She received one of the first wagons produced by the Wheels of Love ministry launched in 2007 at First United Methodist Church in Conroe, Texas, near Houston. The wagons are customized with IV poles, holders for oxygen bottles, car seats and a trailer. Retired millwright Richard Stanton started the ministry last year to help seriously ill children and their parents move more easily through hospitals, their homes and their communities. "Life is already turned upside down as

it is," says Renee Moore, Elizabeth's mother. "Just the fact that somebody cared enough to take the time to use their workmanship and their talents to make something that we can use and benefit from and make our life a little bit easier-it just really means a lot."

Migrant farm workers lured to the United States with promises of jobs and a better life sometimes end up enslaved, living in locked U-Haul trailers or other substandard housing and forced to work under abusive conditions. Such scenarios were explored when 40 young adults representing many faith groups attended the 2008 Young Adult Ecumenical Forum focusing on slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century. The June 12-15 event was held at Wesley Theological Seminary, a United Methodist-related school in Washington. "Slavery doesn't just happen over there. We are all con-

nected to it. We all gain some privilege from this system of slavery," said the Rev. Neal Christie, an executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. "Every time I go to the supermarket, I am potentially fueling this boom of trafficking."

Grants and awards encouraging writing and research on topics related to the history of Methodism have been announced for 2008 by the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History. The annual grants allow the commission "to support scholarly research and help to ensure that neglected areas of study will receive the attention they deserve," said the Rev. Robert J. Williams, the commission's chief executive. More information about the awards is available at <http://www.geah.org/site/c.ghKJI0PHI0E/b.3526373/>.

Agency awards \$51,000 in Peace with Justice grants



Akim Werkpewolo (center) enjoys playing games at a center for former child soldiers in Virginia, Liberia.

by Kathy L. Gilbert*

United Methodist churches around the globe will use grants from the denomination's social action agency to promote peace, restore communities and work for economic justice.

Eleven projects from Los Angeles to Liberia will receive Peace with Justice grants totaling \$51,000 from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

Funding for the grants comes from a churchwide offering taken by local churches on Peace with Justice Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It is one of six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Annual (regional) conferences keep 50 percent of the offerings and the remaining funds are

used for Peace with Justice grants administered by the agency.

In 2007, \$301,357 was given to the Peace with Justice Sunday offering. The year before, the offering drew \$306,905, an increase from \$247,173 in 2005.

Projects for peace

Children once used "as channels for carrying out hatred across Liberia" gain a new perspective on life at the Brighter Future Children Rescue Center, operated by The United Methodist Church in Liberia. The project will receive a \$5,000 grant to build its programs for former child soldiers ages 14-16. The children were "fed drugs and taught to murder," said Frido N. Kinkolenge, director of the Department

of Children's Ministries, Liberia Annual Conference.

Youth exposed to violence in their communities and schools will get a chance to experience peace and learn leadership skills at the Youth Leadership Academy in Peacemaking in Los Angeles. The program is a ministry of United University Church in the California-Pacific Annual (regional) Conference. The \$2,500 grant will be used for after-school and two-week summer peacemaking programs.

Other grants for 2008 include: Memphis Workers Center, a project of the Mid-South Interfaith Network for Economic Justice, Memphis, Tenn., \$5,000. The center educates immigrants and native-born low-wage workers about workplace rights.

Deep Roots, New Branches Initiative, Minneapolis, \$5,000. Minnehaha United Methodist Church has developed an ecumenical affordable housing project for seniors and families in South Minneapolis.

Haiti Solar Oven Project, Brookings, S.D., \$5,000. The project focuses on placing solar ovens in the hands of the poorest women in the Western Hemisphere.

National United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines, Out-of-School-Youth Program, \$5,000. This program will provide alternative education to millions of Filipino youths ages 7-24 who are not in school and help reintegrate them into the formal school system.

Strengthening Capacity Building for Peace and Justice, Riruta-Nairobi, Kenya, \$5,000. This program provides

health, psychosocial and legal assistance for women, girls and children who are victims of sexual and other forms of violence in the slums of Nairobi.

Your Faith Matters, Wesley Foundation at University of California-Berkeley, \$3,500. This project is intended to reconnect faith and social justice by inviting students to participate in monthly group discussions, listen to guest lecturers from the community and serve in one to two volunteer projects in the course of the academic year.

Healing the Harm with Restorative Justice, Sedalia, Mo., \$5,000. The Sedalia Community Mediation Center was organized by the Wesley United Methodist Church to educate, promote and provide restorative justice services to Sedalia/Pettis County community.

Give Peace a Chance in Israel-Palestine/Sharing Jerusalem USA, Lanham, Md., \$5,000. The project engages local congregations in education and advocacy work for peace with justice in Israel and Palestine.

Faith and Globalization of the Economy, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, \$5,000. The funds will be used to develop a nationwide conference that addresses the intersection of the globalization of the economy and its impact on marginalized communities throughout the world.

*Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.

The World in Brief

Although Dietrich Bonhoeffer has been dead for more than 60 years, the well-known German theologian has been a role model of faith for many Christians, including the Rev. Charles Sigman, 42, the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Newport, Ark. Sigman has helped make the Lutheran pastor the first martyr officially recognized by The United Methodist Church. The 2008 United Methodist General Conference approved a resolution submitted by Sigman that says: "In keeping in line with the Church of England and the Church of Wales, we, as United Methodists, should also recognize Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a modern day martyr for the cause of Christ."

An agreement fostering collaboration between an Illinois community college and the United Methodist University in Monrovia, Liberia, was consummated June 9 in a signing cere-

mony. The partnership between Illinois Central College and United Methodist University formally "opens the door for student and faculty exchange for collaboration," said John Erwin, president of Illinois Central College. Bishop John G. Innis of Liberia, president of the university's board of trustees, said "education is redemption for life. It is the key to meeting world challenges."

A prominent Christian leader in Iraq laments that few Americans are aware of the Christian presence in Iraq. "It is important for the Christian world to take this factor into account," said Archbishop Avak Asadourian, primate of the Armenian Church of Iraq, during a June 12 meeting with ecumenical leaders in New York. The meeting was hosted by Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, president of the National Council of Churches, and by the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, its chief executive. "Christianity is indigenous to the land since

apostolic times," the archbishop said. "Current trends, however, show that thousands of Christians are emigrating to Jordan, Syria and elsewhere, as are many other Iraqis."

The enormous impact of the recent earthquake in China makes the involvement of nongovernmental organizations there more important than ever, according to the staff of a Chinese Christian organization. She Hongyu, assistant director of research and development for the Amity Foundation and its overseas liaison, believes it is impossible even for China's government to take care of everyone in a situation "where nearly 70,000 people have been killed and nearly 17,000 are still missing," with millions relocated. The official death toll from the quake climbed June 8 to 69,136, with 17,686 people missing, according to The Associated Press. The May 12 massive earthquake and its aftershocks caused extensive

damage in China's Sichuan Province. Amity and the United Methodist Committee on Relief are both part of Action by Churches Together International and UMCOR has sent \$50,000 to Amity through that partnership for its relief work. UMCOR Advance No. 982450

Africa University presented degree certificates to 354 students from 16 African countries on June 7 at the United Methodist-related school's 14th graduation ceremony in Mutare, Zimbabwe. All seven of the university's academic units presented candidates for graduation. This year's graduating class increased the number of Africa University alumni to more than 2,600. Founded by The United Methodist Church in 1992, Africa University was the first private university to open in Zimbabwe. It has an annual full-time student population of 1,300.



Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

continued from page 1

D. Gibson, Ruth Daugherty, Judith Ehninger, Candace Carter, Robert Ladd, Verna Colliver, Marcus Simmons, Rebecca Parsons, Elizabeth Fisher, Mary Ann Repsher (Alt.), Debbie Wilcock Kenworthy (Alt.), Brenda Tildon (Alt.).

Clergy delegates: Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., Dorothy Watson Tatem, Alfred Maloney, Larry D. Leister, Michele Wright Bartlow, Rene Perez Avalos, Melinda McKonly, William Gary George, Rodney Shearer, James Todd, Joseph DiPaolo, Christopher Kurien, Robin Hynicka (Alt.), Susan May (Alt.), Alfred T. Day III (Alt.).

Two youth delegates with voice, but no vote, will represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Gabriel Bedell and Ann Jacob.

Election of bishop

The Northeastern Jurisdiction will elect one bishop. Since General Conference extended the retirement age from 66 to 68, at least one of the three bishops now eligible to retire, Jane Middleton of Central Pennsylvania, has indicated a desire to continue in office. Bishops Violet Fisher and Susan Hassinger will retire. Hassinger has served as interim bishop to fulfill the unexpired term of Bishop Susan Mor-

ison, who retired in 2006 for health reasons. (See adjacent article by Ruth Daugherty.)

Merger to be decided

When the Northeastern Jurisdiction meets, delegates will decide to whether or not to merge the episcopal areas of New York West and Albany, comprised of the Western New York, North Central New York, Wyoming, and Troy Annual Conferences. If the merger is approved, the effective date would be in 2010. The action would reduce the number of bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction from ten to nine. Pennsylvania churches in the Wyoming Annual Conference would merge with the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Vermont churches in the Troy Annual Conference would merge with New England.

Assignment of bishops

The jurisdiction's Committee on Episcopacy consists of one clergy and one lay person from each annual conference, and is responsible for assigning the bishops to their areas. The jurisdictional conference has the authority to affirm or reject the assignments. If the conference were to reject the assignments, the committee would be required to make

new assignments. The assignment for bishops will become effective Sept. 1, 2008.

Episcopal candidates

Three candidates for the office of bishop were endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference at its annual meeting May 29 and 30 in Philadelphia. The three candidates are Michele Wright Bartlow, Melinda L. McKonly, and Dorothy Watson Tatem.

Delegates to the conference will spend Tuesday, July 15 interviewing the thirteen episcopal candidates who have been endorsed by annual conferences and official caucuses of The United Methodist Church.

Conference events

The meeting will be held in Harrisburg, PA hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Conference at the Hilton Harrisburg Hotel and the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts (attached to the Hilton). Bishop Jane Middleton of the Central Pennsylvania Conference will give the Episcopal Address. The Rev. Sophia Fosua, director of Invitational Preaching for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, will lead a Bible

Study, and will guide delegates in their discernment of episcopal candidates.

The plenary will begin on the morning of Wednesday, July 16. The assignment of bishops will be announced on the morning of Friday, July 18, and will be followed at 11:00 am by the Consecration Service of Bishops which will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg.



Jurisdictional Conferences to elect bishops



by Ruth Daugherty*

The Northeastern Jurisdiction is one of five jurisdictions in the United States in which a jurisdictional conference is held every four years. All five of the jurisdictions meet at the same time determined by the Council of Bishops. This year the conferences will be held July 16-18. The Jurisdictional conferences are composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences based upon a formula established by the General Conference. In addition to the elected delegates, the Northeastern Jurisdiction has provided for twenty-nine youth representatives

with voice, but no vote.

One of the major functions of the Jurisdictional Conference is to elect bishops. The candidates are nominated by their annual conferences or by nationally recognized caucuses of The United Methodist Church. Candidates are to submit to the secretary of the Jurisdiction, information, including a photograph, with pertinent and helpful information, standard as to style and length that has

been established by the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. The information for each candidate is sent to each of the delegates and reserve delegates at least two weeks in advance of the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference. No other promotional or informational material is to be exhibited or distributed.

Delegates are requested to arrive on Monday evening, July 14, for Bible Study and involvement in a process of discernment. On Tuesday, July 15, delegates are assigned to groups to interview each candidate.

During the official session of the

conference on Wednesday, the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy indicates the number of bishops to be elected. It is likely that one bishop will be elected during this conference. To be elected at the Jurisdictional Conference, a candidate must receive 60% of the votes. Voting is by ballots.

Following are the candidates for bishop, listed in alphabetical order, for the 2008 Northeastern Jurisdiction:

Larry R. Baird
Western New York Conference

Michele Wright Bartlow
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Vicki M. Brendler
Greater New Jersey Conference

Linda Campbell-Marshall
New England Conference

Galen L. Goodwin
Greater new Jersey Conference

Patricia B. Harris
Black Methodist for Church Renewal

Aida Irizarry-Fernandez

New England Conference

Peggy A. Johnson
Baltimore-Washington Conference &
Association for Physically Challenged
Ministers

Bo-Joong Kim
National Federation of Asian
American United Methodist
(home conference is Greater New
Jersey Conference)

Melinda L. McKonly
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Constance Youngmi Pak
National Federation of Asia American
United Methodist
(home conference is New York

Eric S. Park
Western Pennsylvania Conference

Dorothy Watson Tatem
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

*Ruth A. Daugherty is a lay member of
The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and
Secretary of the Northeastern Jurisdiction
of The United Methodist Church.

Lazy days of summer?

by Lillian Smith

Summer is a time when visions of the Jersey shore, Dutch country, Poconos and summer camp rule. Summer's slower pace also provides time for preparation September. As you are enjoying the hazy and lazy days of summer, I invite you to prepare now for September's opportunity for ministry.

September, declared by our bishops as United Methodist Open House, provides each congregation with opportunities to intentionally invite members of the community to visit the church or its ministries. The Igniting Ministries website has a wealth of resources for Open House Month. Some of those resources include a friendliness audit and walk-through assessment and template for door hangers. Additional ideas include: Front-porch Hospitality, a New Bread Ministry, Chili Reception, Serve the Community Servants, and more. Each idea is designed to help United Methodist congregations be more welcoming so that they can reach more people for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

For more ideas, go to: http://www.ignitingministry.org/pdfs/open_house_ideas.pdf. Or go to: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/welcoming/openhouse.aspx> and see the wealth of available resources.

A number of congregations are using, "Just Walk Across the Room," by Bill Hybels and Ashley Wiersma, as a tool to equip persons for personal evangelism. This text encourages readers to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, leave their comfort zones, and talk to people who are not yet in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lovett Weems continues to remind us of our challenge - to reach more people, younger people and more diverse people for Jesus Christ. Bishop Marcus Matthews has challenged each congregation in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to grow by 10% in worship attendance, by January 2009. The resources from Igniting Ministry and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries can help in this effort.

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, an affiliate ministry of the General Board of Discipleship has a number of prayer guides that can be used by all of the members of our congregations. Some prayer guide topics include: "Prayer for Revival through the Power of the Holy Spirit," "Prayer for Listening to the Holy Spirit," and "Prayer for Pastors and Spiritual Leaders." These resources are available at: <http://www.aldersgaterenewal.org/resources/prayer/index.html#anchor>

Something happens when people pray. Amazing things happen when people pray in one accord. The prayer guides can be used daily as part of the spiritual disciplines of Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodists.

Recently, I visited Windsor Village United Methodist Church, in Houston, TX, to learn more that congregation's ministries and about boldly dreaming God's dreams. The largest congregation in the denomination provides innovative and life-changing ministry, built one of the first of its kind housing developments in that neighborhood, serves as a catalyst to attract businesses to that part of town, and is working to bring a health center to the area that will treat all children, regardless of their parents' ability to pay for their care. Prayer guides are created and distributed for use by children, youth and adults.

Kirbyjon Caldwell, the Senior Pastor, encouraged me, and others, to "not be afraid to dream and call God's visions forth." He also reminded us that God's dreams and visions require a whole lot of effort. "Your dream and vision should not be any bigger than your willingness to accomplish it."

Lyrics of a song declare, "You have to work and pray to be a Christian today." But, its summer, so enjoy a break and prepare for even more ministry possibilities in September.

**September is
Open House Month!**

ahh!!



BACKGROUND DATA FOR MISSION

Providing Data for Planning and Ministry

Growing Congregations Reach Outside Themselves And Prosper

Dr. Lovett Weems, Wesley Theological Seminary, states it simply: We need more people. Growth should be the natural outcome of doing and being what the church is supposed to do and be.

United Methodist congregations have a basic mission: making disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world. If churches do that, they will grow. Making disciples includes evangelism. Natural church development is based on this.

General Conference established four denominational focus areas, including congregational development and new church starts. This represents one of the most important initiatives for United Methodism's future. The term congregational development encompasses many areas such as bringing new vitality to existing churches and church growth.

The Hartford Institute for Religious Research, which surveys U.S. congregations periodically, recently released FACTS on Growth. This research found that congregations with the following characteristics were likely to report growth:

- Initiated a change in worship formats or style. More than half of the churches experiencing growth had made significant changes in worship formats in the past five years, primarily switching to or adding contemporary services.

- Are located in new suburbs or downtown metro areas.

- Avoided major internal conflict.

- Started or maintained a Web site in the past year. This indicates the church looks outward and is willing to change using nontraditional means.

- Are multiracial.

- Have clarity about mission and purpose. They know why they exist and are clear about what they do.

- Involve children actively in worship. This helps the church to attract young adults and families.

- Are intentional about growth. Congregations that developed plans to recruit members in the past year were more likely to grow than congregations that had not. Particularly helpful in achieving growth are sponsorship of a program or event to attract non-members or the existence of support groups.

These findings show how growth is correlated to these factors, but correlation does not equate to causality. Just because some growing churches do

certain things, it does not follow that others who do the same thing will have the same results. Many factors influence the outcome.

Leadership, leadership, leadership

The factor most recognized to result in growth is leadership. Some equate leadership to the real-estate truism location, location, location. With congregational development, its leadership, leadership, leadership. Interestingly, leadership also is one of the four areas of focus emphasized at General Conference. Ideally, leadership development brings life, vitality and growth to the local church.

The lifeblood of vital, growing churches is the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit to be activated, the congregation must elevate its faith dimension, especially among leaders. This can take many forms, including the development of Disciple Bible Study groups. It is a critical component, not a quick fix.

Increasing the congregation's spiritual dimension also can involve a meaningful prayer ministry, such as a prayer meeting that focuses on a ministry, mission, evangelism or the congregation's spiritual vitality. Congregations that engage intentionally in prayer often are surprised at how God works in their midst and throughout their ministries.

Congregational spiritual development also comes when a local church becomes more missional. An elusive term, this means the church cares deeply for those outside of the congregation, rather than focusing on internal church life. God does not call us to develop a country-club mentality where the mission is all about us. When congregations develop a missional outlook, they own and appropriate a sense of mission and vision. This leads to reaching others and making disciples of those not in their midst.

--This article is a summary from the May 2008 Background Data for Mission newsletter, published by the Office of Research, General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), and written by the Rev. John H. Southwick, director of research, GBGM. We thank GBGM and Dr. Southwick for allowing us to include this information. The Background Data for Mission newsletter is available as a downloadable Adobe Acrobat PDF at: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/about/us/ecg/research/backgrounddataformission/>



Weaving a Web of Connections

USING INTERNET TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

July 26, 2008

West Chester United Methodist Church

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Do you want to develop or expand a Web presence for your local church, district or conference organization? Then join local church, district, and conference volunteers, staff, webmasters/servants, communicators, editors and pastors for this exciting training event co-sponsored by United Methodist Communications and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office of Communications. Through interactive presentations, hands-on workshops and informative displays, you will be able to explore a variety of options for Weaving a Web of Connections by using Internet technology for effective ministry.

Training Session Topics include:

- Making Connections: What Is Web Ministry?
- User-Centered Design for Effective Web Ministry
- Welcoming the Seeker through Web Ministry
- Staying Connected: Maintaining a Dynamic Web Ministry

Training Leadership includes:

- Susan Crawford, director of Igniting Youth, UMCCom
- Cheryl A. Hemmerle, technical training specialist, UMCCom staff
- Mary Lynn Holly, coordinator of conference relations, UMCCom staff

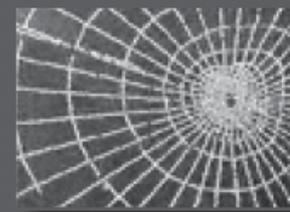
The training fee is \$75 and includes all meals, breaks, sessions and materials. The registration deadline is July 18, 2008. To register for the training, visit training.umcom.org and select **Weaving a Web of Connections**. To register by telephone, call toll-free (888) 278-4862. Space is limited to 100 people. There is no refund for cancellation; however, registration is transferable. CEU credit (0.6) is available for full participation.

Overnight accommodations can be arranged with Holiday Inn West Chester by calling (610) 692-1900. The hotel is less than 1 mile to the church. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and lodging arrangements and payments. For more information, visit training.umcom.org or send an email to training@umcom.org.



United Methodist
communications

inform · inspire · engage



Schedule

SATURDAY, JULY 26

8:00 a.m.
Registration and
Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.
Making Connections:
What Is Web Ministry?
with Cheryl A. Hemmerle

10:00 a.m.
User-Centered Design

12:00 p.m.
Lunch

1:00 p.m.
Welcoming the Seeker
with Susan Crawford

3:00 p.m.
Staying Connected:
Maintaining a Dynamic
Web Ministry
with Cheryl A. Hemmerle

5:00 p.m.
End of Training

Cornwall Manor Society to Host Fall Festival & Auction

Crafts, homemade candy, a live auction and silent auction, antiques appraisals, and fun for the kids will be featured at the 58th annual Cornwall Manor Society Fall Festival on Saturday, October 4. The Fall Festival will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. There is no admission fee and plenty of parking will be provided at Cornwall United Methodist Church with van transportation to the nearby festival.

Starting from a few card tables on the porch of the historic Buckingham Mansion in 1950, the annual Fall Festival now includes much of Cornwall Manor's 190-acre campus. Some 450 volunteers, many from UMC churches in the Eastern PA Conference, are recruited by the Cornwall Manor Society from on and off campus, and have put many hours of enthusiastic effort into this year's event. Proceeds from the event will support programs and projects for the Health Center and assisted living residents.

A breakfast of creamed chipped beef and cheese strata will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. A pork and sauerkraut dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and other food such as apple dumplings, strawberry shortcake, pies and more will be featured through-

out the day.

Features include a silent auction from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., live auction of antiques and crafts at 10:30 a.m. and an antiques appraisal at 1:30 p.m. Bring your hand-carried treasure and have it appraised for a \$10 fee. Crafts, candy, baked goods, flowering plants, stained glass, quilts and much more will be available for sale. Cornwall Manor staff will be on hand to provide tours of the retirement community, including our newest neighborhood, The Woods at Cornwall Manor. For information or directions call 717-273-2647 or visit www.cornwallmanor.org.

Cornwall Manor is a 525-resident, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community that offers diversified and high quality housing, health care and related services for individuals to achieve a retirement and aging lifestyle they find fulfilling in a secure, caring, and Christian environment.



Methodist Home
for Children

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Founder's Day 2008
Dinner & Auction

Wednesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m.

Merion Tribute House, Merion Station, PA



All proceeds benefit the programs & services of Methodist Home for Children; supporting children & families in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

For additional information please call Molly Clark Davis at 215-877-1925 ext. 310
4300 Monument Road, Philadelphia, PA 19131 www.methodistservices.org

A Special Call From God

by *The Rev. Sandy Nash*

Two years ago, while attending Wesley Theological Center's Course of Study program in Washington, D.C. I felt called by God to work with the Muslim community to help foster better understanding and respect in our local communities. While in Washington, we visited a mosque and I was able to ask our guide about their participation in a D.C. area Interfaith group. A few months later, I attended an Interfaith Remembrance of 9/11 at Wesley UMC in Bethlehem, and talked to several of the participants afterward only to find out that there was no Interfaith group in the Lehigh Valley. Then I got a very clear message from God . . . "Wait on the Lord." So I waited.

About six months later, a letter came to my parsonage from the Lehigh Dialogue Center (LDC), a group of primarily Turkish Muslims, inviting me to a FREE Turkish dinner, and an opportunity to hear some local leaders speak on the importance of dialogue.

The event was magical. I was greeted at the door and shown to a table where a half dozen Turkish men joined me for dinner. There were about 200 people there, and even a few that I knew.

The Turkish food was delicious, the speeches were excellent, but the magic started after all that, when we all had some time to talk to those sitting at our tables. It was a time to learn a little about each other. I was so excited about the evening, that I could hardly sleep that night. The next day, I wrote a letter of thanks to Abdullah Bozkurt, the LDC President, and I told him I would like to work with him in promoting better Interfaith dialogue in the Lehigh Valley. We set up a meeting to discuss the possibilities. I spoke to their group at one of their Saturday Night events. Abdullah shared the Pillars of Islam with my Bible Study group and he gave copies of the Koran to those who were interested in having

one as a reference. I invited Abdullah to speak with the Pastors of our Hellertown Area Ministerium (HAM) to see if we could plan one of those dinners in Hellertown. We did have the event and it was a tremendous success with about 100 people in attendance. As I looked around the room, I could see hearts changing. People from widely differing backgrounds were laughing and talking together.

I just returned from Turkey a week ago. I had invited my dear friend, Rev. Mary Elum, pastor of St. Thomas in Frankford to join me on the trip. There were so many exciting things to see and do in Turkey. I was impressed with the beauty of the Blue Mosque, the simplicity of the Virgin Mary's last home near Ephesus, the wonderful educational system, the unusual landscape around Cappadocia, lunch at the foot of a waterfall, the view of the Mediterranean Sea from my hotel room, the winning Turkish Football Team, and the healthy Turkish cuisine.

But what impressed me the most, was the Turkish people. They are among the most hospitable people in the world. They not only invite you into their homes for an elaborate dinner, they treat you like royalty, and present you with a lovely gift. They are caring and concerned about our welfare, comfort, and happiness. They are proud of their country and want to share it's rich heritage with us. They want to know the truth about us, not just what they hear and see in the newspapers, on TV, or in the movies. They are deeply committed to dialogue with other nations, cultures, and religions. They worked hard to raise money to provide us with first class accommodations and amenities while in Turkey. To me, all of these events I just described were orchestrated gifts from God, like stepping stones on the path he wants me to follow. My friends, when you are obedient to God, and follow where he leads you, you are in for some unbelievable blessings.



Mary's last home in Ephesus.

Urgent need for flood buckets

UMCOR has just put out an urgent plea for flood buckets. Mission Central, our warehouse in Mechanicsburg, has 1800 on hand that they will be shipping to the Midwest as soon as they get instructions on where to ship them. These will need to be replaced so they have inventory for the coming hurricane season.

Two locations in our conference have volunteered to be collection centers and they will transport the buckets to Mission Central. Please have all your buckets to them by September 1. It would be a good idea to call the locations before dropping off the buckets. The two locations are:

West Lawn UMC
15 Woodside Avenue
Reading, PA 19609
610-678-5611

Innabah Program Center
712 Pughtown Road
Spring City, PA 19475
610-469-6111

Flood Bucket Kit Items
Value: \$45 per bucket.

Give now to help purchase supplies.

Note: if the requested item size is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, "This bucket contains no _____"

- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle. Do not include bleach if you are shipping the bucket through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 Sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. bottle
- Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottle
- 50 clothes pins
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves
- 1 pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 Insect repellent spray, 6-14 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)
- 1 Air freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be NEW items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Special Shipping Requirements
Cleaning Agents. All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic bottles. No powders. Pack them inside a bucket or strong outer box.
Aerosols or Flammables. If including these types of supplies, ship kits by UPS Ground, Fed Ex Ground, or by truck. Do NOT ship by US Mail or DHL/Airborne freight.

Thank you for your donation! It helps sustain lives!

Fall 2008 Spiritual & Pastoral Formation Event

The Body of Christ: Alive In Prayer!

Where: Camp Hebron: 975 Camp Hebron Rd Halifax PA, 17032
Contact: (717)-896-3441 or (800)-864-7747, or - camphebron.org/home

When: October 27 - 29, 2008

Why: To Deepen and Strengthen our prayer life

Guest Speaker: Laura Beach Local Pastor Q&A - Rev
Patricia Woolever

Registration: 3:00pm to 5:00pm on the 27th, and departure will be at 1:00pm on the 29th. Please bring your Bible, notepad, pen or pencil. You will need your own personal items but all linens are supplied, this is a hotel setting with rooms and private baths.

Price - \$120.00 for Registration before Sept. 15 \$ 130.00 after Sept. 15th
Commuter Fee \$75.00
Single rooms available upon request please check for pricing

During the afternoon on the 27th there will be the opportunity for Horseback trail rides for an additional fee of \$10.00. If you would like to bring your bike, there are also trails and roads to ride.



Academy for Laity

25th Anniversary Celebration Banquet
Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA
August 9, 2008 - 5:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Former EPA Bishop F. Herbert Skeete

I would like to purchase ___ ticket(s) for the Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, August 9, 2008, at \$40.00 each. (only those not registered for classes need to purchase tickets)

_____ Tickets \$_____ enclosed (Seating limited - money must accompany the form)

Name _____

Address _____

Church Name _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Direct questions to Brenda Tildon (302 836 8553) or brendatildon@aol.com or or Verna Colliver (215 855 0797)

NOTE: Tickets must be purchased in advance.
Checks payable to EPA Conference - Mail with this form by July 28 to:

Eastern PA Conference
Attention: Brenda Tildon
PO Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

New Journey/Nueva Jornada

continued from page 1

Emanuel, using the chapel in Central UMC for its ministry, grew and needed more space. In 1987, Central UMC and Park UMC, seeing decline in their Reading churches decided to merge. Initially Emanuel was told that there were no buildings available to grow into; news of the merger was not openly shared. Rev. Camacho said, "Then the decision was made to sell Park UM bldg for \$150,000. To make even worse, in the previous year, in 1986 at General Conference a resolution was adopted in regard to selling church buildings for \$1. The Trustees in conference knew it. Instead of holding to the sale of \$1, we bought it for \$150,000." In addition, "There were problems with Park structure and we were not told about it. Many things were unfair. Because we were new, we took the terms offered."

"For many reasons we could have left denomination," said Rev. Camacho, "but Emanuel church decided to remain United Methodist for the rest of its life." Emanuel paid rent monthly to Central Park UMC for the former Park building – even though most of the adults in the congregation were not employed. At one point, Emanuel even received an eviction notice from Central Park UM for failure to pay rent. Superintendent Claude Edmonds came forward and provided money from the Ethnic Minority Concerns Committee, and an anonymous person committed \$50,000 toward the purchase of building. They then tried to raise the additional purchase price, but that was difficult in a transitional community that was growing but not stable.

Remarkably, five years ago, in 2003, Rev. Camacho received a call from Central Park UMC to become pastor for them, to serve half-time for Central Park and half-time for Emanuel. "Now, 20 years after leaving by the back door, the daughter made the decision to come back to the building that gave her birth," said Rev. Camacho about the churches' decision to merge.

Years of dialogue, years of healing

"God wants to make a church that has decided to really be one and work together and do things together," said Rev. Comach. He paraphrased from John 17, "I pray for them... that all of them may be one." That is our prayer that the whole community. We have two different services - one in English and one in Spanish - but we are one in unity. The decision to merge did not come easily – there were years of dialogue and years of healing. Now there is one church that is witnessing

God's kingdom in this community, and for first time in more than twenty years, that church is getting life once again."

Since the Central District meeting on April 12, the church has been known as New Journey/Nueva Jornada United Methodist Church. And the new path for the church includes being proactive in taking care of things in its Reading community, one of the highest areas for prostitution and drug traffic in the city. The church is taking action, including allowing police to use the church for surveillance, helping police, and helping the community in the midst of crime. "We tell people, 'if you see something happening, come to us,'" said Rev. Camacho. "The chief of police knows that this church is the one that is the main instrument for changes in the community! Now senior citizens in the neighboring housing authority building are able to go out without being afraid. 'It is because of that church,' they say. It is risky, but we need to be willing to take risks. If there is a price to be paid, God will be with us. If you want to bring God's justice and righteousness into the world, there is a price and we cannot be afraid."

Within the church, Pastor Camacho is also seeing changes – of individuals of different ethnicities crossing boundaries and frontiers in language and ways of feeling. He contends that in the merger of ethnicity, language, and theology the church has learned to be one.

The path to leadership development

The merger has led to unforeseen twists and turns in the path to ministry, as New Journey/Nueva Jornada will birth a Spanish-language seminary adjacent to the church in partnership with Asbury Seminary of Florida beginning in September.

A year ago, at the invitation of Bishop Marcus Matthews, Rev. Camacho, Rene Perez, Christopher Fisher, and Robert Wilt joined Bishop Matthews in a meeting with Asbury. The group was impressed with the success of Asbury's Spanish-language theological program for Latino lay persons in Florida, which boasts that people are traveling two to three hours to attend classes, and has moved to using a church in order to accommodate the more than 50 students.

Bishop Matthews gave the assignment to Rev. Rene Perez, former director of Latino Ministries, to have that same training in partnership with Asbury in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

"There are very few places to go for Spanish speaking theological training in the U.S.," said Rev. Camacho. "Our goal is to open the academy on September 1, 2008 in New Journey. Who

would think we will have this academy here with Asbury? This is a dream coming true. This is for God's glory: He can do what we cannot do, and He calls us to do what He wants to do."

Escuela Teologica Evangelica Latina (Hispanic/Latina Evangelical School of Theology) will offer training in Spanish for lay persons, and will offer courses in Christian education, theology and mission, preaching and evangelism, starting new churches, pastoral counseling, and Biblical studies.

Rev. Rene Perez said, "This program flows out of a vision to provide training in Spanish for laity and clergy in the area of theology and ministry. This is the result of a visionary partnership between the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Asbury Theological Seminary."

The school is open to persons of all Christian denominations. It will offer certification on Advanced Theological Studies, a bachelors degree, and a Masters in Divinity.

For more information, call the Eastern Pennsylvania Confer-

ence, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 218 or write Escuela Teologica Evangelica Latina, 138 South Sixth Street, Reading, PA 19602 USA.

Zylkia Rivera dances to "He lifts me up" at New Journey/Nueva Jornada's opening worship service on June 26. Her husband Michael Rivera is co-chair of the church's Executive Board. Photo by Paul C. Davis.



Gearing up churches for the November Elections

by Anne Ewing

Congregations are about to be bombarded with issues, speeches and opinions; flyers, invitations and TV ads from now until November 4th, when the 2008 General Election takes place. It is not something we can ignore, and definitely something for which churches should be prepared.

Voter Registration is the first issue to address. Our United Methodist Church urges and expects all members to participate wisely and carefully in all the elections to choose our delegates to Congress, state legislatures, city, town and borough offices and to the office of President of the United States. So, to make sure all your members are registered to vote and up-to-date, it will be good to offer voter registration services right in the church, at coffee hour, or at major meetings.

The forms are simple and easy to fill out. Use the same form for new registrations, change of address, change of party. To vote in a primary in Pennsylvania you must be registered in that party; people registered non-partisan or independent do not get to vote in the primaries.

The deadline for voter registration in Pennsylvania: Your registration forms must be received IN your County Election office BY October 6th, 2008

You must be a citizen of the US for 30

days before the election on Nov 4, and you must have been a resident in your election district for 30 days also. You must be 18 on or before the election date.

To obtain Voter registration forms: If your local elected officials and libraries do not have them, you should contact your County Board of Elections well in advance of the October Deadline.

Note: IF your county is not here, go to <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/>

Berks County: (610) 478-6490

Bucks County: (215) 348-6170

Chester County: (610) 344-6410

Delaware County: (610) 891-4659

headley@co.delaware.pa.us

Lancaster County: (717) 295-3558

Lebanon County: (717) 274-2801

ext. 4428

Lehigh County: (610) 782-3198

stacysterner@lehighcounty.org

Montgomery: (610) 278-3280

Philadelphia County: (215) 686-1500

or 1505

Please resist anyone saying that elections are not the business of the church. As citizens of God's creation, we have been given the care of this vineyard, and it's important that we think and act with care in all things that affect our world, and our lives together.

In the next NewSpirit, we'll address how churches, as non-profit organizations, can deal with issues in an election.

5TH ANNUAL **PLANTING SEEDS**
for Ministry Growth
A learning and sharing event, designed to empower local congregations



SAVE THE DATE!
9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2008
HOPEWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
DOWNINGTOWN, PA

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
Bishop Marcus Matthews, M.Div., D.Min.

- PLANTING SEEDS WORKSHOPS**
Anticipate the following workshops designed for your church leaders:
- 1 **Building A Culture of Caring**
Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Kurien, District Superintendent, Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
Will discuss the importance of strong caring ministries within congregations as the main ingredient to community building and church growth.
 - 2 **Going Viral for Jesus: How Youth Ministry Can Make Us a More Missional Church**
Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Princeton Theological Seminary
We'll take a look at some of the most recent research on teenagers and religion, and what it means for the American church-and for our own ministries. How can youth ministry change your church into a more missional community?
 - 3 **Changed Forever – Forced to Serve or a Serving Force**
Rev. David Cumbest, Heritage UMC, D'Iberville, MS
Many disciples have experienced transformation through their serving efforts in the Gulf Coast since hurricane Katrina devastated that area almost three years ago. Rev. Cumbest will share how his congregation was forced to serve nearly 1,500 people daily within just hours of Katrina and how they have been transformed from that experience.
 - 4 **Small Does Not Mean Struggling**
Rev. David B. Smith, Creek Road Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH
Is the smaller congregation less of a church because of its size? It may not have the large budget and huge programs of a mega congregation but it has everything it needs to impact its community for the kingdom.
 - 5 **Keeping Children Focused on the Reason for the Seasons**
Hopewell UMC, Mrs. Donna Hepner, Director of Children's Preschool; Patty Wiehler, Director of Children's Ministries
Sharing program ideas that center our children on Christ during Holiday Seasons in a culture that immerses them in materialism & commercialism.

Please visit our website for more information www.hopewellumc.org or call 610-269-1545. This Event is sponsored, in part, by Connectional Ministries Fund dollars provided by the Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

Phillies™ VS **Braves**

3:55 p.m.

JULY 26, 2008

For more information contact Ross Brightwell at rossbrightwell@verizon.net

Summer Camp 2008

Listen!
God Is Calling

[God] saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to [God's] own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. 2 Timothy 1:9

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- Great Activities
- Fellowship and Fun

Growing, Sharing and Living Our Faith

Bishop F. Herbert Skeete (top) and Rev. Charles Yrigoyen (right)

For more information go to: www.epaumc.org