



At the end of the Good Friday service, Pastor David Tatgenhorst and Rev. Mary Laney hold up the 10 point Code of Conduct in front of Colosimo's Gun Center in Philadelphia. An unidentified police officer (right) looks on as these two "Heeding God's Call" leaders present the guidelines which they want Mr. Colosimo to adopt to reduce the selling of guns to straw purchasers.

## Heeding God's call to end violence

BY SUZY KEENAN

**G**ood Friday was filled with mourning and a vigil over senseless death.

That is, Good Friday, April 10, 2009, when 300 persons attended an interdenominational worship and vigil which

took place outside Colosimo's Gun Center at 9th and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia as a witness against the devastation of handgun violence.

The Good Friday event was held as part of a faith-based campaign to prevent gun violence - Heeding God's Call - which is spreading rapidly throughout

the Philadelphia Area. At the close of the worship service, The Rev. David Tatgenhorst of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Bryn Mawr, PA, and Rev. Mary Laney of St. Christopher's Episcopal in Gladwyne, PA, held up a ten-point gun dealer's Code of Conduct. Gun dealers throughout the state are

being asked to sign the Code of Conduct in an effort to reduce irresponsible sale of handguns, illegal trafficking of handguns, and handgun violence.

Heeding God's Call's grassroots campaign to end gun violence grew out of a January Peace Gathering hosted by Mennonites, Church of the Brethren, and Society of Friends - the historic peace churches in Philadelphia. The informal coalition now includes many individuals and faith organizations. Staggering statistics report that in 2006, more than 400 homicides were committed in Philadelphia, most with handguns. In Harrisburg, the per capita rate of gun death exceeded that of Philadelphia.

Heeding God's Call chose Colosimo's Gun Center as the site of the Good Friday service, as Colosimo's is listed as one of the five worst gun shops in the U.S. in terms of guns sold and then recovered from crime, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. From 1989 to 1996, Colosimo's sold 425 guns traced to crime: 10 homicides, 85 assaults, 30 robberies and 300 additional gun crimes.

The Good Friday service at Colosimo's was one of a continuing series of events organized by Heeding God's Call. "The campaign will be carried to other Delaware Valley gun shops and the eventual goal is to have all gun shops in the Commonwealth to adopt the Code of Conduct," said Bryan Miller, a participant, and executive director of Ceasefire NJ. Miller became involved in Heeding God's Call because handgun crime in New Jersey is often committed using guns sold in Pennsylvania to straw buyers. "Heeding God's Call is a non-legislative advocacy campaign that enables churches and individuals to get

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## Funding ministry in challenging times

BY SUZY KEENAN

**I**n these difficult economic times, many churches are struggling to just pay the electric bill. A new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference program will help move churches from just "paying the bills" to funding transformational ministry.

Here is the astounding part. Churches that owe past apportionments have an opportunity to have their entire past-due sum forgiven by participating in the five-step program. 20% will be forgiven for each step completed by the church up to 100% of past apportionment.

The program is not free, but it will not cost churches a penny. Grants from the Eastern Pennsylvania-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation and the Dewees Fund of the Eastern Penn-

sylvania Conference Board of Trustees will fund the program.

"Funding Transformational Ministry" is designed to be a different way of looking at "stewardship," and moves beyond the one-day workshop model of learning. The program is the brainchild of Jack Brooks, executive director of the Foundation.

Brooks said, "Every church is trying to function efficiently in this difficult market environment - for some there are financial challenges, for other churches it means their services and their ministries are being used more. By relying on each other for support and ideas, supporting each others efforts, learning about economics and efficiencies - instead of each individual church starting from scratch - we can

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**23 Asbury Protestant Ministry students journeyed to Memphis for a mission of hands and hearts.**

See story page 9

## May

### MONDAY, MAY 4

**PRO - A Recovery Institute:** Recovery Specialist 7 - Day Training Series. Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

**Order of Elders Retreat:** at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA. (610) 623-5781; pastor.nancy@yahoo.com.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**Northwest District Small Church Initiative (Session II):** Schuylkill Haven: First UMC, 420 Saylor Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, www.havenfirstumc.org. 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. includes light supper. Donation of \$3 covers meal. 570-624-1471 or email northwest4@verizon.net.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**A Clergy Day Apart:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch provided no charge for the day. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA 18326. 570-676-3665, www.poconoplateau.org; email: camp@poconoplateau.org.

### SATURDAY, MAY 9

**Time Traveler Event:** at Historic St. George's UMC, 235 N. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-925-7788 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Reservations required.

### MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, MAY 11-20

**License to Preach School:** May 11 at 5:00 p.m. through Friday May 15 at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday May 17 at 5:00 p.m. through Wednesday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. West River Retreat Center located at: 5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778. http://www.bwcumc.org/content/license-preach-school.

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

**Going Deeper:** Dealing Positively with the Anxieties of Aging; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 14

**Pastoring the Challenging Parishioner Workshop:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$25 for those who pre-register, \$40 for those who register the same day. 610-544-1400 or e-mail at gibustard@verizon.net.

### THURSDAY, MAY 14

**Retirees Luncheon:** 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Iron Lakes Country Club, 3625 Shankweller Road, Allentown, PA 18104.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 15-17

**Mother/Daughter Retreat:** Check-in Friday at 7 p.m. Check-out on Sunday at 2

p.m. Cost is \$170 for mother and daughter (additional daughter - \$75). http://www.poconoplateau.org

### SATURDAY, MAY 16

**Urban Academy:** How Does the Local Church Enhance its Building Space in Order that the Church Becomes a Center of the Community? www.epaumc.org.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 21-23

**United Methodist Student Forum:** The registration fee this year has been reduced to \$75 per person. www.umsm.org/studentforum.

### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, MAY 27-28

**Basic Coach Training:** 2-day Basic Coach Training event for pastors, ministry leaders and laity. www.coaching4clergy.com or val@coaching4clergy.com.

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

**PRO - A Recovery Institute:** Recovery Specialist 7 - Day Training Series. Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Phila., PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

### SATURDAY, MAY 30

**Flea Market:** 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Gladwyne UMC - Fellowship Hall, 316 Righters Mill Road, Gladwyn, PA 19035. Call Joice Carr: (610) 649-1852 to reserve a table.

## June

### MONDAY, JUNE 1

**PRO - A Recovery Institute:** Recovery Specialist 7 - Day Training Series. Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**Farewell Service for Dr. Alfred Maloney, Superintendent of the East District:** 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Huntingdon Valley UMC, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006. All are welcome to attend. stmatthewtre-vose@comcast.net.



### SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13-17

**Living Justice Seminar:** Alma Matthews House in New York City June 13-17, 2009. deaconess@gbgm-umc.org or blouter@gbgm-umc.org or 212-870-3850.

### MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15-24

**Experience Israel and Jordan:** Tour the Holy Lands. Kent Kroehler or Katherine Spear (tour leaders) at 717-394-7231.

### TUESDAY-THURSDAY, JUNE 16-18

**2009 Annual Conference:** Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456. www.epaumc.org.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

**Heart Saver CPR, First Aid & AED Training:** American Heart Association CPR, First Aid & AED certification class for adults and youth age 15 and over. Cost: \$90. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Carson-Simpson Farm 3405 Davisville Rd Hatboro PA 19040 215-659-0232.

### MONDAY, JUNE 22

**PRO - A Recovery Institute:** Recovery Specialist 7 - Day Training Series. Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

### MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 22-26

**Lancaster Theological Summer Academy:** 50% tuition scholarships for pastors for classes and workshops in the Summer Academy. Contact April Anderson at 717-290-8758 or aanderson@lancasterseminary.edu. www.lancasterseminary.edu.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27

**Urban Academy:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Abraham Lincoln - A Wyndham Historic Hotel, 100 North Fifth Street, Reading, PA 19601; (610) 372-3700. (800) 866-6855 or dorothy.watsonatam@epaumc.org

## July

### MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 6-10

**Lancaster Theological Summer Academy:** 50% tuition scholarships for pastors for classes and workshops in the Summer Academy. Contact April Anderson at 717-290-8758 or aanderson@lancasterseminary.edu. www.lancasterseminary.edu.

### MONDAY-THURSDAY, JULY 13-16

**Imagination 2009:** Orlando, Fla. www.fummwaconvo.org or e-mail the national office at FUMMWA@aol.com.

### TUESDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 21-24

**Church Leaders to Focus on Children:** Indianapolis, IN. www.gbod.org or contact Melanie Gordon at mgordon@gbod.org.

### JULY 31-AUGUST 2

**2009 Academy for Laity:** Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in King of Prussia. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at brendatildon@aol.com.

## In Memoriam

### Mr. Frank Edward Brenner

Mr. Frank Edward "Ed" Brenner, husband of the Rev. Jeannine J. Brenner. Rev. Brenner served the following appointments: Conestoga UMC and Milton Grove UMC (as retired supply). A funeral service was held on April 5, 2009, at Conestoga United Methodist Church. Mr. Brenner is survived by his wife, Jeannine, two daughters: Darcy Brenner-Smith, and Amy McChesney, and five grandchildren: Andrew and Keriann Smith and Robert, Joseph, and Erica McChesney. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Jeannine J. Brenner, 428 Rabbit Hill Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Conestoga United Methodist Church Building Fund, 71 Sand Hill Road, Conestoga, PA 17516, or the Milton Grove United Methodist Building and Improvement Fund, 2026 Cloverleaf Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552.

### Rev. Charles Daniel Broadhead

Rev. Charles Daniel Brodhead, Jr., retired elder, on Monday, April 13, 2009. Rev. Brodhead served the following appointments beginning in 1951: Phila.: St. Luke's Snyder Ave.; Scottsville; Tobyhanna; Phila.: Sayers Memorial; Phila.: Cookman; Phila.: University City, Calvary; Downingtown; Former Phila.: Tacony; Pottstown; Salem; Former Drexel Hill: Covenant; Trevorton; and Millers Crossroads. He retired in 1995. Funeral services were held on Friday, April 17 at St. Peter's UMC. He is survived by his brother, Burns Brodhead, a sister, Betsy Toohey, and nieces and nephews. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Burns Brodhead, P.O. Box 8, Orwigsburg, PA 17961-0008. Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 501 E. 8th Street, Ocean City, NJ 08226.

### Rev. Alan S. Brown

Rev. Alan S. Brown, 70, of Lancaster, who died Monday, April 13, at Brethren Village. Rev. Brown served the following appointments beginning in 1964: Lancaster: Otterbein, and Grove. He retired in 2001. A memorial service was held at Grandview United Methodist Church, Saturday, April 18. He is survived by his wife, Connie; two children: the Rev. Andrea Brown of Lancaster and Scott Brown of Herford, AZ; and four grandchildren, Zoe, Thea, Jakob and Carter. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Constance Brown, 2142 Sherwal Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601-3020. In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to Otterbein, Grove or Grandview United Methodist Churches or to the National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 Northwest 9th Ave., Bob Hope Rd., Miami, FL 33136.

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**Making Disciples  
of Jesus Christ for the  
Transformation of the World**

A Word from the Bishop

# Your Gospel Footprint

There is much being said today about carbon foot prints. We need to be aware of how our lifestyle and our use of energy and the earth's resources leads to global warming and the destruction of our planet. Conserving energy, using alternate ways of transportation, growing a vegetable garden, changing our light bulbs to the energy efficient kind are all some of the ways we can have less of a carbon foot print on the earth.

What about your Gospel footprint? How much of God's resources are you using up and depriving a world of the salvation it needs? In this time of financial crisis even more than ever the way we spend our money can be done wisely so we can give more to help the poor and spread the Good News.

John Wesley encouraged his followers to raise as much money as they can to help people. He actually went out in the streets and asked for money when there was a needy person who was being evicted or had run out of food. He wrote many books to raise money. He had a number of rich friends that he would ask to support his ministry.

The Wesley movement also supported education so that people could develop skills that could be used for the work of God. We too can learn to do more things so we can use these skills to help spread the good news. Why not learn how to play an instrument, learn a foreign language, take a CPR class, develop skills for building, cooking, sewing, or computer technology? The more we can do the more we can help.

As United Methodists we are called to conserve. Wesley had very little of the world's earthly possessions. When he died he only left a few books, and one set of bedroom furniture. The chapels Wesley built were simple and multipurpose. Wesley even gave up drinking tea to save money.

We too can find ways to spend less on our clothes and houses and cars and celebrating. We can recycle and use less disposable paper products. We can honor people with gifts to mission instead of buying more things. We can find ways of sharing our buildings with other faith communities and working together so that more ministry can get done.

One of the best examples of keeping a small Gospel footprint is to give to the United Methodist Advance Special Program of the Board of Global Ministries. Because we have apportionment dollars paying the overhead for our administration we can be assured that 100% of our gift to the Advance goes to help the project we are supporting. Your church can be in a Covenant Relationship with a United Methodist Missionary for \$5 per member. Your gifts to "Nothing but Nets" can help prevent malaria.

The more money, talent, service, or energy we make available for God's work in the world, the more spiritual power we unleash to bring people to Christ.

*Peggy A. Johnson*



## In Memoriam

Continued from page 2

### Mrs. Dorothy Weand

Mrs. Dorothy Weand, widow of Rev. A. Richard Weand, who passed away on January 7, 2009. Rev. Weand served the following churches from 1970 - 1984: Former Phila: Mount Pisgah and Lansdale: First. He retired in 1984 and served as a Hospital Chaplain from 1985 - 1999. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of her surviving daughter: Cathy Louise Weand, at 735 Perkiomen Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446.

## 2009 Academy for Laity July 31 – August 2, 2009



For more information including flyer and brochure visit [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org).

## Bishop Johnson announces the following appointments, effective July 1, 2009:

### Misty Fuller to Philadelphia: Haven Peniel UMC

Rev. Misty Fuller received her M.Div. degree in May 2004 and is a candidate for a Doctorate of Ministry in May 2011. She was one of the Associate Ministers at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church from 2001- 2006. There she was responsible for leading worship, teaching, specialized Bible study classes, preaching and providing ministerial support for the congregation and pastor. She was the senior pastor of Clearview UMC in Philadelphia in 2006. She will become a Full Elder in the United Methodist Church at Annual Conference in June 2009. Pastor Fuller brings a number of gifts and graces to Haven Peniel UMC.



Fuller

Haven Peniel UMC is located at 2301 Oxford St., Philadelphia, PA. Haven Peniel has been one of the flagship United Methodist churches in Philadelphia for many years. They have had a decline in membership over the years because of death, members re-locating, etc. However, Haven Peniel is on the rise again spiritually and numerically. There is a senior citizens residence being built right across the street from the church.

Haven Peniel says they feel a resurgence of a passion for ministry for our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a feeling of high hopes for the ministry at Haven Peniel with excitement of a new pastor coming.

### Sharon L. Vandegrift to Extension Ministry: Life Coach to Bridge-the- Gap Life Coaching Services

Rev. Vandegrift received an M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1984. She has now completed life coach training and is a Certified Life Coach through the Institute for Life Coach Training and an Associate Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation. She has also received Ecclesiastical Endorsement as a Life Coach from The United Methodist Endorsing Agency Board of Higher Education and Ministry Division of Ordained Ministry. Rev. Vandegrift is currently serving as senior pastor at Covenant United Methodist Church in Springfield. She has also served in the following appointments during her ministry: Ambler: Calvary; Evansburg; Ext. Min.: Swarthmore College, Protestant Campus Minister; Trainer: Price Street; Ext. Min.: Princeton Seminary; Ext. Min.: Un. Protestant Ministry: Drexel, Pennsylvania University and Wesley Foundation; Former Phila.: Roxborough:First; and Elam.



Vandegrift

Bridge-the Gap Life Coaching Services offers a practical and convenient way for clients to set goals and do the work they really want to do. Rev. Vandegrift works with individuals as well as small groups.

# Hoops turn fears into friendship

BY WOODY WOODRICK

**W**hat started with the simple act of opening a gymnasium door has turned into a ministry that has reconnected Broadmeadow United Methodist Church with its Jackson community.

"The (neighborhood) population changed from older families to younger families in lower-income housing and lots of kids," said Liz Brister, a member at Broadmeadow. "The youth in the neighborhood figured out (we had a) gym, and they came and asked if they could play. We started opening the gym to them."

That was about 10 years ago. "About five years ago we decided we weren't doing enough and needed to help them academically," Brister said. The result was Books and Basketball, a leadership program that assists teenage boys with their schoolwork, but also does much more.

"We started a tutoring program, but it has grown into a comprehensive leadership program," she added. "We help them understand what leadership means and how to solve problems in the community. But we're still very tied to basketball; we'll always have that link. Now we require them to go to tutoring and do community service to play."

Neighborhood teens come to the church on Wednesdays, eat dinner, spend time being tutored and play basketball. They have formed two teams that compete against other United Methodist churches in the area. Both Broadmeadow teams won the league championships this year.

As the program has grown and expanded to include trips to Washington, New York and a post-Hurricane Katrina mission trip to New Orleans, Broadmeadow has also grown.

"They are an essential part of who we are," said the Rev. Rob Hill, Broadmeadow's pastor. "Those who were once basketball boys are now in our youth group. Those guys aren't just part of what we do outside the church; they're participating in the life of church. They are part of the confirmation class, singing in the adult choir and a majority of our UMYF group."

"They are an example of how to reach more people -- younger people and more diverse people."

Getting to that point has taken time, said Brister, who plays a key role in the program. When the boys first began coming to the church, she was reluctant to invite them to attend services. She not only was unsure if the boys were ready, but also wondered about the church members.

"It's taken time on both sides for people to become comfortable. We had to find out what it means to invite people to your church," she said. "Now, we're grooming some young Methodists."

Broadmeadow has benefitted spiritually. "It has

helped us find our mission, what is our purpose, why are we here," she explained. "It is yielding tremendous growth in people from all walks of life, not just basketball. The program helped us evaluate who we are. There are other things that have assisted our growth, but there is no doubt this issue around race and community and the struggle and resolutions that have come from it have given new life to our church."

Brister said the program has sought to show the young men the opportunities available to them with a good education. When they went to New York, they visited the offices of former President Bill Clinton. In Washington, they visited Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran. "We've put these kids in contact with major leaders in business and government," she said.

"We've just provided the kind of access that they weren't getting at home because their parents are struggling to make ends meet by working a couple of jobs."

Some 36 teens are in the program this year. "For the first time, we see an appreciation for the program from the youth," she said. "We see an interest in school like we've never seen before. We see where they think it's cool to do well in school."

Now, in addition to basketball, the program offers theatrical training through New Stage Theater. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson. Tutors for the program come from the community and United Methodist-related Millsaps College. About 15 tutors are part of the Advanced Teaching Writing class in the Millsaps Writing Center. The class requires a service component and last fall a group chose to help with Books and Basketball.

Sophomore Ashley Miller said she enjoys the program and "looks forward to it every week." Miller works mostly with the high school juniors and seniors, all of whom attend Murrah High. Miller attributes the happiness and motivation of the students to want to do homework as the major success of the program.

The program not only benefits the church and the high school students, it has had an effect on the Millsaps tutors as well. Millsaps junior Michael Mohr



Teenagers with the Books and Basketball program at Broadmeadow United Methodist Church in Jackson, Miss., visit the White House in Washington in 2008. UMNS photos by Bill Brister.

recalled an experience that made him feel proud of the tutors' work.

A group of students he was tutoring was reading "Romeo and Juliet" and discussing literary terminology, principally the utilization of puns. "When the group returned the next week, they said that they were the only ones in class that had known what puns were."

Miller is reminded of an event with her group as well. "The students gave) everyone in my group a nickname. Mine is 'Wonderwoman,'" she laughed.

Brister pointed out that 99 percent of the students who become involved in the program graduate from high school and then either attend a junior or senior college or join the military. "They come because they do want something better for their lives. They may have problems, but this is their way of reaching out for help," she added.

Meanwhile, Broadmeadow has gotten to know its neighborhood.

"Many of our parishioners live in the same neighborhood as these kids. The church has become an extended family for these kids, and that's what churches should be; that safe place for people in the community," she said. "These kids are our neighbors. It has transformed our community. It truly has. We've gotten to know the people we used to fear."

WOODRICK IS EDITOR of the Mississippi United Methodist Advocate. David Williams of the "Purple & White," the student newspaper at Millsaps College, contributed to this story.

## The Nation in Brief

### PA UM'S WORK TO BLOCK VIDEO POKER



Pennsylvania United Methodists are taking a leading role in the fight to defeat a proposal that could create up to 14,000

mini-casinos in restaurants and taverns across the state. A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania is a growing coalition of faith, community and other organizations urging Pennsylvanians opposed to this expansion of gambling to contact Gov. Ed Rendell and their legislators. "The United Methodist Church's position is clear: gambling is a poison that hurts families and communities," said Stephen Drachler, director of the coalition. He urged United Methodists to contact the governor and legislators through the coalition's new Web site:

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

### YOUTH FAST TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW

The United Methodist Church, through a program called "B1," is giving hundreds of young people a way to do something about poverty. B1 stands for "one being, being one," suggesting that everyone has the responsibility to live with a sense of connection to others. The campaign organizes a 24-hour fast from food, service to the poor, fundraising for United Methodist Advance projects and education about systems

around the world that keep people impoverished. Teens and tweens from Medford (N.J.) United Methodist Church and Epworth United Methodist Church, Elizabeth, N.J., launched a widespread pilot of the program in February.

### OHIO YOUTH RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Corey Kozak of Boy Scout Troop 636 was looking for an Eagle Scout project, and Jim Szakacs, director of the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, needed help renovating a deteriorating sanctuary. Last September, Kozak introduced

himself and asked if he could lead the renovation effort for his Eagle project. After devoting more than 300 hours to the project, Kozak was awarded the Eagle Scout Merit on March 28, and Szakacs presented him with "The Good Samaritan Award" on behalf of The North Coast District of United Methodist Men and The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland.

For information, contact Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting, General Commission on United Methodist Men, P.O. Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006, or go to [www.gcum.org](http://www.gcum.org).

# Liberian tackles malaria prevention

BY JODY MADALA AND KAREN A. CHENG

As the project manager for the Child Survival Project at Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia, Zomonway is committed to helping improve community health through malaria education and other life-saving programs.

His drive to serve the Ganta community was ignited after he was displaced during Liberia's 14-year civil war. He came of age during those years of struggle, which interrupted his plans for a medical career. He spent months in hiding, at one time taking on an assumed identity to protect himself from soldiers who would have killed him because of his ethnic Mano roots.

## Beginning and ending at Ganta

Zomonway arrived at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital campus in 1986 as a nursing student, and after graduating in 1988 went to work at the Consolata Clinic in Tappita, assessing patients during intake.

When rebels attacked the area on March 29, 1990, Zomonway fled, walking through miles of thick bush for almost a week.

Despite the war, Zomonway returned to Ganta in September 1991 and began serving as assistant supervisor of the primary health care program, which served nearby villages.

As the war escalated and security risks increased, the PHC team could no longer leave the hospital compound to serve the Ganta community. By October 1994, the conflict escalated to such a point that Ganta Hospital had to close its doors.

Zomonway found himself fleeing from violence once again, but he kept his focus on serving people. An opportunity to return home came in 1998, when he received a call from Victor Taryor, a fellow-nursing classmate who needed his assistance in rebuilding the hospital's capacity.

By this time, Ganta Hospital was re-establishing its community-based health program. The same energy that drove him to persevere during the war was now needed to build up Ganta Hospital's community-based health care programs.

## Malaria education and prevention

Part of his vision was Ganta Hospital's Malaria Program, which began in 1999. The community lacked basic information about malaria, and myths surrounding the disease were rampant.

Through the outreach of the immunization program, Zomonway and his team took the opportunity

to teach what they could about malaria prevention to the surrounding communities.

Though mosquito nets were not available, they taught the community how to cut down the thick bush and elevated grass, and burn cano seeds from the local palm tree fruit to create smoke that acts as a natural mosquito repellent. The community learned how to use nyanaleh, a sandpaper-type substance to make swatters and to close windows by 6 p.m. The people were also told to move dumping sites away from their homes and clean out areas of stagnant water.

Preventive care was the key to combating malaria, so every focus group discussion included these techniques. Over time, the effort paid off, according to Zomonway. "People are clearly much more knowledgeable. They can even tell you that it's the female mosquito that causes all the trouble."

## Net value

Today, Ganta Hospital's Malaria Outreach Program also highlights the proper use of mosquito nets. Over time and with repeated discussion, the mosquito net becomes a "must have" item. Now individuals even sew their own nets out of used clothing.

"This is just the beginning," Zomonway said. "We want to continue to build capacity. We started with limited education (about malaria) ourselves, but as we trained and learned, we are now ready to lead others and show them the way. We know our focus and have initiated our own process (here at Ganta Hospital). Prevention first, not just treatment after. We are seeing that process starting to work with more discussions about the facts of malaria, not myths."

Zomonway's team empowers Ganta communities with knowledge and will soon distribute nets to communities that clearly understand the value.

## 'I want to do more'

By 2004, peace finally spread across Liberia. After the long arduous road that Zomonway has traveled, has he changed?

He thought about this for a moment before answering in his rapid-fire, Mano-influenced English. "Before, I worked just to get paid," he said. "Now I have more ownership and feeling in what I do. And I want to do more. We ask ourselves every day, 'Why are we doing these things?'"



After 14 years of civil war, Ganta Hospital is rebuilding into one of Liberia's top teaching and in-patient health facilities.

In these more peaceful times, Zomonway continues to work for the success of Ganta Hospital's community health programs.

Ganta United Methodist Hospital is working to restore its infrastructure and revive its health care facilities following Liberia's civil war. Donations can be made to Hospital Revitalization, UMCOR Advance #982168 and placed in church offering plates or sent to Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. Credit-card donations can be made by calling (888) 252-6174

Donations also can be made in the same way to support Community-Based Malaria Control, UMCOR Advance #982009, which helps fund the malaria program at Ganta Hospital and other programs throughout Africa.

MADALA AND CHENG are UMCOR Health consultants.

## The World in Brief

### EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MOZAMBIQUE

Many women in this remote section of Mozambique seek help, training and education at the place they call "Tinga Tinga." It's the Janene Penel Education Center, a United Methodist outpost that offers hope to women and their children. A four-hour drive from Maputo, the center - built in 2006 with the support of the Virginia Annual Conference - offers classes in cooking and nutrition, domestic economy, family care, sewing, gardening and computer science and other vocational skills.

### LIBERIAN PRESIDENT SAILS THROUGH TV INTERVIEW

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a United Methodist and the first female president of Liberia, was poised, serene and smiling through national appearances on United States television even though her 13-year-old grandson gave her a "heads up" about one of the talk show hosts she was meeting. "He told me, 'You are going to be meeting Jon Stewart. Grandma you have to be prepared,'" she said during her interview with the host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." Stewart, who usually plays for laughs, was nothing but respectful when he interviewed Sirleaf on the April 21 broadcast. Sirleaf is on a book tour promoting her

memoir, "This Child Will Be Great."

### COMMUNITY WORKERS IMPROVE HEALTH IN HAITI

In Haiti, miles of bad roads or treacherous mountain paths often separate residents from clinics and hospitals. The nearest facility can be a 10-hour walk away. But with the help of U.S.-based Global Health Action, in partnership with The United Methodist Church, community workers are being trained to meet the country's urgent health-care needs. "The good news is that properly trained local community health workers can prevent or treat 80 percent of the illnesses or diseases in their own communities without addition-

al medical care," says Robin Davis, executive director of Global Health Action, near Atlanta. More than 1,200 health workers have been trained in Haiti since the program began in 1982. Each provides year-round health care to about 100 families, or between 700 and 800 children and adults. Global Health Action receives support as a United Methodist mission project and from United Methodist Women.

### SOUTH AFRICAN BISHOP FACES DEATH THREATS

He has received several death threats and has been under guard by South African police, but that will not stop Bishop Paul Verryn of Johannesburg's Central Method-

ist Church from sheltering Zimbabwean refugees in the heart of the country's commercial capital. More than 2,600 refugees are awaiting relocation from Verryn's refuge headquarters in the center of Johannesburg, but estimates say the same number live on the streets around the church. Two men were arrested April 7 in a police sting operation when they went to visit Verryn in his office after he had received several death threats. The men claimed they had been paid 30,000 rand (US\$2900) by unnamed shopkeepers to kill Verryn. However, police said the purpose of their visit was to try to get a larger sum from Verryn.

# Planting

## U.S. is world's biggest mission field

**T**he United Methodist Church in the United States loses 1,500 members each week, a decline that steadily adds to the country's designation as "the biggest mission field."

The denominational decline is contributing to the estimated 195 million "unchurched" people in the country, now considered the third-largest mission field in the English-speaking world and the fifth largest globally, according to the United Methodist Board of Discipleship in Nashville.

"Not one county in the United States has a greater church population than it did 10 years ago," said the Rev. Tom Butcher, coordinator of Path 1, the denomination's new church growth emphasis for creating faith communities. "The biggest mission field is in the United States."

The United Methodist Church wants to stop that decrease and reconnect with its past by planting churches that reach more people, younger people and diverse people.

"We want to regain our Methodist DNA of starting a church a day," Butcher said. That daily church planting has not occurred for 40 to 50 years, he added. "John Wesley was a church planter. He followed the people."

Unlike Wesley, the founder of Methodism, the church

seems to follow money and not people, according to the Rev. Vance Ross of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. "Wesley followed people and the money seemed to come with it," he said. "How can we get to where people need the church?"

Butcher pointed out that Path 1 "is not about saving the church but about saving lives" and avoids being a one-size-fits-all solution.

By 2012, the denomination wants to equip 1,000 church planters to start 650 new congregations, which would then commit within their first 10 years to beginning new churches, eventually increasing denominational numbers by millions within 30 years. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries will begin 400 new churches in other countries.

The church's effort to re-evangelize America focuses on building leaders, investing in people and relationships, going where the "unchurched and dechurched" people are and collaborating with healthy existing churches to create new places for new people, according to Path 1.

Congregational growth is one of the denomination's four areas of emphasis — the others are leadership development, global health and ministry with people in poverty — designed to help United Methodists commit their energy in ways in which they can live out their faith.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has a goal of planting twelve new congregations by the year 2012.

Article by Linda Green, UMNS

# the field

## Wanted: Church Planters

Do you have a calling to prepare the field, plant the seed, and harvest the fruit that comes with planting new churches? Across this land there is hunger for connections. Amidst our abundance, technological advancements, and cherished freedom, souls are starving for meaningful relationships. More than 51% of our population has no religious affiliation, and many of them are searching for spirituality, friendship, acceptance, love and care.

The work of planting new faith communities is a sacred vocation involving spreading the contagious joy of salvation: God loves us with extravagant love, God entrusts us with the responsibility of showing extravagant love in our encounters with others.

Church planters are “missional pastors” because they are in a mission field, ripe with enormous opportunities to touch people’s lives with the good news of Jesus Christ through words and concrete actions.

Church planters believe that if the gospel is shared effectively people will grow in faith and service. If invited, people will form a community of worship, study, fellowship and service, where they can be nourished in faith and grow in discipleship.

In the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference we have a goal of planting twelve new congregations by the year 2012. This is an ambitious but not impossible vision. Our mission field is fertile and ready for planting.

So, read the sign that is staked at the edge of the field: WANTED: Church Planters.

Do you feel a calling to step up and say, “Here I am Lord; is it I Lord”? Do you know of anyone in your congregation among your peers who have the necessary gifts, graces, and desire to plant?

If so, please contact the Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto, director of Congregational Development for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, 610-666-9090, Ext. 218 or [irving.cotto@epaumc.org](mailto:irving.cotto@epaumc.org).

## Who are church planters?\*

As Path 1 invites all United Methodists to help find 1,000 potential new church planters to support the annual conferences, the team encourages looking for clergy and laity with some key attributes and a deep sense of calling.

The qualities of a planter, according to the group, center on the three-fold demonstration of “Fire, Faith and Fruit.” Laity and clergy must:

Have a passion for the Gospel and compassion for people; believe in the power of prayer; and be able to gather people to a vision and grow ministries, businesses or programs.

Be action-oriented with a clear sense of God’s call and vision to reach the unchurched;

Be driven toward what is practical and what is next, practice spiritual disciplines and have an affinity for the targeted mission field.

Path 1 adds that, if married, a new church missionary must have a partner who is very supportive and understands the toll that starting a new congregation will take on the family.

Path 1’s discernment process for potential church planters usually spans one year and involves stages where the individual is seeking to answer four key questions:

1. Am I a new church missionary?
2. What is involved in starting a new congregation?
3. What am I called to do? Where am I called to do it?
4. Do I have confirmation?

For those sensing a call to plant a church, Path 1 offers a quick online assessment tool at [www.path1.org/support.php](http://www.path1.org/support.php). Learn more about the Lay Missionary Network by e-mailing [path1@gbod.org](mailto:path1@gbod.org) or calling (877) 899-2780, ext. 7130.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

## You can help plant new congregations!\*

Not everyone can actually plant a new congregation—or even be part of one. But the Path 1 team suggests ways that every United Methodist can be a part of developing “New Places for New People.”

- Pray daily for new church start missionaries, their teams and churches starting churches.
  - Encourage potential new church missionaries to take the first step.
    - Contribute to support New Church Starts.
  - Encourage our own conference’s efforts to start new churches.

Read more about these ideas and other ways to get involved at [www.path1.org](http://www.path1.org).

*\*Reprinted from Interpreter Magazine, March/April, 2009.  
[www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org)*

## End Violence

Continued from page 1

involved in direct action with gun shops in their communities - to save lives from gun violence. On Good Friday we prayed for the families of those who have been killed in senseless and avoidable gun violence. And we prayed for the proprietor of the gun shop, James Colosimo, to sign the Code of Conduct."

The ten-point Code of Conduct is based on a recent partnership agreement between Walmart, the nation's leading retailer of guns, and Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition. The Code of Conduct is intended to diminish straw buying and the illegal trafficking it supports, thereby closing off the flow of weapons into criminals' hands. Straw buyers are persons paid to purchase handguns by persons who cannot legally purchase the guns themselves, and who often buy handguns in bulk for the sake of profit.

Meetings and demonstrations staged by Heeding God's Call through January and February, failed to obtain Mr. Colosimo's signature and adoption of the gun dealers Code of Conduct. During demonstrations during the week of January 12, two United Methodist pastors, Rev. Tatgenhorst and Rev.



McIntire

Jim McIntire, were among twelve persons of faith who were arrested in an attempt to block the doors - and sales - at Colosimo's Gun Center. The twelve will be tried in Philadelphia on May 26. Rev. Tatgenhorst said, "As we are tried for trespassing and for blocking the doors to Colosimo's, we will try to

put Mr. Colosimo on trial for selling guns irresponsibly to straw buyers. The twelve of us who were arrested have elected to defend ourselves in court, so we will talk about why we think Mr. Colosimo should sign the Code of Conduct."

The public trial will be held at the Criminal Justice Center at 13th and Filbert in Philadelphia beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be a vigil outside so the public can be included in the witness against the continuing problem of gun violence.

Among the EPA Conference United Methodist Churches that have taken a leading role in Heeding God's Call as community organizers and hosts are Cookman UMC in North Philadelphia; St. Luke UMC in Bryn Mawr; Drexel Hill UMC; Hope UMC in Havertown; Grace Community UMC in Chester; and Arch Street UMC in Philadelphia.

Bryan Miller spoke of increasing community involvement: "Heeding God's Call is new and growing and long-term committed to change in attitudes and regulations about guns, particularly illegal guns. We hope to take this to other gun shops - working with groups of people on the Main Line, Chester, and Kensington, who will take the Code of Conduct and campaign to local gun shops."

Miller added, "If every gun shop in Pennsylvania adopted the Code, it would severely diminish gun trafficking which would result in far fewer gun deaths. Heeding God's Call welcomes any and all to be a part of the campaign. It will take the involvement of many of the faithful to bring change to Pennsylvania and save hundreds of lives yearly." For more information: call

## Peace with Justice Sunday June 7 furthering God's shalom

Is not this the time to share our bread with the hungry, provide shelter for the poor and set the prisoner free? With proceeds from the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, grants were awarded for the following activities:

Rock the World Advocacy Camp for middle school/Jr. high school youth at Gretna Glen addressed how our United Methodist faith calls us to learn about ways to further the cause of justice for all people (2008).

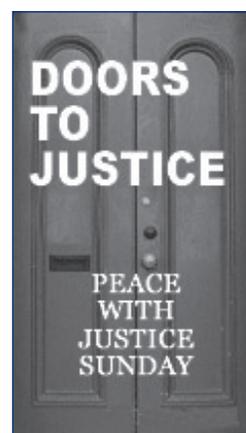
LUMINA in Lancaster provided an educational program designed to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty through nutritional education (2008).

The Ex-Offender Re-entry Program of Monroe County, Inc. supported ex-offenders as they returned to their communities (2009).

The Philadelphia Sabeel Conference provided a way for Christian Palestinians to share their stories and their work for peace and justice in Israel-Palestine (2009).

The Peace with Justice Sunday offering is one of the six Special Sundays in the United Methodist Church. Observed the first Sunday after Pentecost, this year's Peace with Justice Sunday offering will be on June 7. Future dates are May 30, 2010; June 19, 2011 and June 3, 2012.

Fifty percent of the offering is retained in the Annual Conferences and the remainder is forwarded to the General Church. To obtain resources for promoting Peace with Justice Sunday, go to [www.umcgiving.org/PWJS](http://www.umcgiving.org/PWJS) for free worship resources, posters and collection envelopes



(see Support Materials).

The Book of Discipline, 2008 states that "Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit calling for God's shalom. Peace with Justice witnesses

to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world" (paragraph 263. 5). The Peace with Justice Sunday offering gives the people of the United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for peace and justice throughout the world.

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Peace with Justice Grants are awarded to individuals and church/organizational projects

that seek alternatives to violence and its causes; support alternatives to war and militarism; shape economic and social policies that promote economic justice and the self-development of peoples; or promote restorative justice. Volunteer in Mission trips cannot be considered. Individuals participating in educational activities related to peace with justice and advocacy will be considered. All groups or individuals who receive a grant are expected to submit a report about how the grant was used to promote peace activities.

Individual grant applications may be submitted at any time. Group/organizational grant applications are due on October 31 or March 31 of each year. Be sure to check out the new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Church and Society Work Team website (where you can get a Peace with Justice grant application and instructions as well as many other local and national resources related to justice issues) - <http://sites.google.com/site/epacswt/Home>. For further information about grants, to become involved with Peace with Justice activities or to join the Church and Society Work Team, call Reverend Carolene Brubaker (610-692-5190).

For Peace with Justice resources: [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)



Participants at the 2nd Annual Bridge Walk for Peace commemorating the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## 2nd Annual Bridge Walk for Peace

Participants came from far and wide to join the 2nd Annual Bridge Walk for Peace organized by the Cookman Beloved Community Coalition of Cookman United Methodist Church. Dozens of people gathered at 6:00 AM on April 4th to commemorate the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for a four-mile sunrise walk across the Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia.

Following the Bridge Walk, participants walked to the Northern

Liberties area of Philadelphia for an 8:00 AM clean-up project as part of Mayor Nutter's 2nd Philly Spring Clean-Up. The clean-up was organized through Global Citizen's new MLK 365 program, which extends the annual Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service into a year-round civic engagement initiative celebrating Dr. King's legacy.

"In 2008, we were able to gather 400 people - including Mayor Nutter - in the shadow of the Ben Franklin Bridge to acknowledge

the milestone anniversary and re-commit ourselves to achieving the type of peace that Dr. King worked, lived and died for," Rev. David Brown, a member of the ministry staff at Cookman United Methodist Church and one of the Walk organizers, said. "The work to achieve Dr. King's legacy continues in our communities. We hope this early morning walk and service project will inspire others to work toward a new day of peace."

For more information, go to [www.BridgeWalkforPeace.org](http://www.BridgeWalkforPeace.org).

## College students open hearts to service



Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University took 23 students to Memphis at the end of March for its annual Alternative Spring Break trip. Participants stayed at a United Methodist church and community center just outside Memphis, and worked with Habitat for Humanity in Memphis throughout the week.

BY TIM EMMETT-RARDIN

**F**resh off our annual Alternative Spring Break trip—this year to Memphis—I was flat worn out.

Camping out on a gym floor with 23 college students is apparently not a recipe for good sleep. Neither is 36 hours in cramped mini-vans.

Four days of hard work with Habitat for Humanity made use of muscles I forgot I had. My back hurts. And I have a bruise on my thumb where I kept mistaking it for a nail.

I was sore. I'm still tired. And less than two days after arriving back on campus in Philadelphia, Spring Term was off and running. No rest for the weary. Back to work for me, back to classes and co-op for the students.

I say all this not to complain but to reinforce the fact that, in spite of the mental and physical fatigue that generally comes with these trips, they remain one of the absolute highlights of what we do at Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University!

I love getting students far away from campus for a week - away from the busy-ness and stress that seems too often to define their lives at Drexel.

I welcome the opportunity to build relationships—to meet and get to know a diverse group of students. Some are Asbury regulars and/or Alternative Spring Break (ASB) veterans, but most are strangers to me and each other before the trip. And most would not likely have graced Asbury's doors apart from their ASB experience. We have a good time together,

and by the end we are no longer strangers. That is a gift.

I especially love these trips because they give me hope. I am inspired by the willingness of students to give up what would certainly be a more restful, more exciting Spring Break elsewhere in the interest of doing something good for someone else—in this case for several low-income families in Memphis who will move into their new homes in May!

Admittedly, the work we do makes only a slight impact in the face of widespread poverty in Memphis and beyond.

Throughout the trip we reflected on the Civil Rights Movement, what Vincent Harding more aptly describes as “the Black struggle for freedom in America.” We met with a local activist organization. We watched and discussed documentaries about the Poor People's Campaign and the 1968 sanitation workers' strike which brought Dr. King to Memphis. We visited the National Civil Rights Museum, located next to the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was killed.

What the Movement teaches us is that long-term, lasting social and economic change requires ongoing work for justice. It requires all of us to get involved—and stay involved—beyond short-term acts of charity. To address the root causes as well as the effects of injustice.

Still, ASB is a good starting place. It does make a difference to the families awaiting their new homes. And I know it makes a difference in the lives of our students.

I hope with these trips—and through all we do at Asbury—that students begin (or continue) to think more critically about why things are the way they are. And then, seeing beyond what is (as God calls all of us to), imagine how they might be part of making things better for all, especially the so-called “least of these.”

Long after they leave Drexel, I hope these trips push them to consider how they might—in big and small ways—participate in the ongoing struggle for justice and peace, wherever they end up. And whether they are Christian or not, live into God's holy possibility for their lives and for the world.

On the last day of our trip we visited the historic Mason Temple where Dr. King delivered his final speech on the night before he was killed.

His words continue to resonate: “Now let me say...that we've got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point in Memphis. We've got to see it through.”

And then this, now after journeying with Jesus the long road to Jerusalem, on the heels of Easter and the promise of new life: “It's alright to talk about the new Jerusalem, but...(we) must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do.” For more information: [www.asburycrossroads.org](http://www.asburycrossroads.org). PASTOR TIM EMMETT-RARDIN is director of Asbury Protestant Ministry and executive director of the Wesley Foundation of Phila.

## Funding

Continued from page 1

speed the process for transformational giving.”

“In the past, stewardship was run as a one day seminar or component of one day seminar,” explained Brooks. “This program is significantly different. It starts with a two-hour workshop, and continues to unfold over an 18-month period of time. Workshops will be held multiple times within each district.”

The initial workshop will open with a spiritual component. Then, David Napoleon, Manager of Financial Ministries for the EPA Conference, will discuss modern church budgeting, and will give practical examples for church use. The final component by Jack Brooks will deliver stewardship tools that can be used by the many different types of churches we represent.

“We don't have a giving problem as much as we have a gifting problem,” said Brooks. “This is going to concentrate on transformational giving. Historically people have given out of obligation or through a tithe. The younger generations prefer to give out of a desire to transform people.”

He added, “People are generous in America. \$300 billion was given away last year, with \$100 billion of that given to churches and religious organizations. However, 15 years ago, giving to churches and religious organizations represented half of the giving in America. We have to identify and re-ignite the church as a source that people can give through for the transformation of the lives of others.”

Brooks will discuss some of the tools of transformational giving: electronic giving, use of charitable gift annuities, how to discuss the topic of wills and trusts and estates, and marketing opportunities, such as bulletin inserts.

After members of church leadership attend the initial session, the next step is to form a stewardship committee if one does not yet exist. That team will design a formal stewardship plan that identifies the individuals responsible for the program and the tools that will work best with the church and its members.

Steps three through five include six-month, one-year, and 18-month evaluations as a barometer of how the program is working, what is working, and what may need to be changed.

Rev. Mike Netznik, chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, hopes that this will have a huge impact on future opportunities for ministry. He said, “Through this program, we can strengthen our churches financially and be more effective in ministry.”

Rev. John Laughlin spoke on behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees: “We are pleased to award a grant from our Dewees Fund to help launch the program. We believe it will act as seeds planted in fertile soil, producing a great harvest for our God.”

Brooks added, “We are trying to help churches fund congregational growth. It all comes down to stewardship and trying to endow churches for a financial future to better weather difficult financial times in the future. This is give and take. We're looking to develop relationships among our churches so when we hear good ideas or something that is working well, we can respond in a way that benefits everyone.”

## Connect

### Ten Thousand Doors

An innovative Web site inviting a new generation into a life of faith and service. Backed by a national advertising campaign, The United Methodist Church on April 20 launched [www.tenthousanddoors.org](http://www.tenthousanddoors.org). The site is part of the denomination's Rethink Church campaign, which is using nontraditional methods to reach young adults and others in relevant ways.

### [www.RethinkChurch.com](http://www.RethinkChurch.com)

What if "open" were a verb? Rethink "open hearts, open minds, open doors." This welcoming ministry of the UM Church helps churches open to younger and more diverse people. [www.rethinkchurch.org](http://www.rethinkchurch.org)

### [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

See Bishop Peggy Johnson's messages in English and American Sign Language. Watch for more in the near future. [www.youtube.com/PhiladelphiaAreaUMC](http://www.youtube.com/PhiladelphiaAreaUMC)

### [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Did you know that EPA Clergy have a group on Facebook? [EPAUMC Clergy](http://www.facebook.com/EPAUMC)

### Other UM groups:

- Global Praise
- Rethink Church
- United Methodist Church Young Adult Network
- Nothing But Nets
- General Board of Church and Society

### [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com)

Connect with others online and express who you are. Does your youth group have a "myspace"?

### [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Make connections with past and present colleagues.

### [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Forget instant messaging, twitter instead. Connect with family and friends.

# Parish nurses offer leadership in health ministries

BY BARBARA E. DRAKE

**"H**ave you ever been told you had high blood pressure?" asked the parish nurse. "No," replied John, who had just had his blood pressure checked following Sunday worship. "Well, your pressure is a little high today," replied the nurse, who went on to explain that high blood pressure usually has no warning signs but often occurs in people who are overweight, inactive, or having difficulty coping with stressful situations. John admitted he was much less active since retiring from his job, so she encouraged him to find another retired man to join him in a daily activity such as walking.

This scenario is becoming common around the country, as churches recognize that having a parish nurse can help the congregation carry out health ministries. The number of people without health insurance is more than 15% and growing, due in part to the economic downturn and job layoffs. Parish nurses will have a growing role in helping to meet health needs, while promoting health care reform that will enable all people to receive the care they need.

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who serves the congregation and community in a volunteer or paid position. One of the major responsibilities is to be a health educator who focuses on the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational aspects of health. Parish nurses help folks recognize the changes in lifestyle that would help them be healthier persons.

My own work as a parish nurse started with a week-long course in parish nursing. Then I began to volunteer as parish nurse in my home church, after approval of this position by the Administrative Board.

That was in January 1994, and my first activity was an article for the February newsletter in which I explained what I would be doing, shared some thoughts on heart health, wrote about the healthful benefits of loving relationships and healthy eating. Because our United Methodist Men (UMM) had a long tradition of serving family breakfasts with a menu of eggs, bacon, pancakes, and sweet buns, with plenty for seconds, I suggested in the article that perhaps the men could cook just one serving of bacon per person.



**Barbara Drake, RN, MSN, Parish Nurse, takes the blood pressure of Pastor Mary Jane Kirby at Union UMC, Havertown.**

Although the February breakfast had to be cancelled due to snow, one man jokingly tells folks the reason for the cancellation was that the new parish nurse couldn't figure out how to remove the yolks from

the eggs. I still get kidded about my first article, but UMM now offer cereal at their monthly breakfasts for those who want to eat less fat.

Parish nurses assess the needs in the churches they serve, and then try to meet those needs. Some will teach baby care and parenting skills, while others will devote much of their time to visiting homebound folks who are lonely. Health fairs might be used to serve communities lacking in health services. Dealing with community violence and child abuse might be addressed by another parish nurse.

The United Methodist Church has held four national conferences on health ministries and has established global health as one of the four areas of focus for all United Methodists. UMCOR Health now has a National Parish Nurse Consultant, Sharon Hinton. She has established the United Methodist Parish Nursing Network (an email listserv). For more information, go to: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/parishnursing>. The network is a place to ask questions, share ideas, and find fellowship with other parish nurses. Announcements for training, conferences, job listings, and more will also be posted.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will also begin a coordinated health ministry effort. If your church has a parish nurse, please ask them to contact me at [bedrake15@aol.com](mailto:bedrake15@aol.com). If you would like to establish parish nursing in your church, or would like to know more about parish nursing, please call me at 610-446-1394.

Barbara E. Drake serves as Parish Nurse and Lay Leader at Union UMC, Havertown.

## Ministry with the poor continues in difficult times

BY SUZY KEENAN

**F**rankford Group Ministries has been a beacon of hope in an impoverished Philadelphia community for more than 30 years. In these difficult economic times, 90% of its ministry with poor persons is now gone due to city funding cutbacks.

Until last fall, Frankford Group Ministries (FGM) operated Frankford Beacon, an afterschool program at Frankford High School; the Neighborhood Parenting Program, now running under Methodist Services for Children and Families; and Service to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH), run by social workers trying to keep at-risk children in their own homes. Its Northeast Curfew Center, which took children to church instead of precincts at night, helped to make streets safer in one of the highest crime areas of the city.

"Mayor Michael Nutter had to slash many programs trying to balance the city budget, as the city was in huge financial trouble," said Rev. Tom Brooks, pastor of Frankford Memorial United Methodist Church. "We have downsized tremendously - we've gone back to our roots of emergency services to the community."

In the early 1970's, four United Methodist churches of the Frankford area of Philadelphia recognized that Frankford was changing, with many poor people

moving in. The four churches - Frankford Memorial, Central, Rehoboth, and St. Thomas - wanted to help, but couldn't reach too many of the poor operating individually, so they formed a cooperative ministry. Frankford Group Ministries opened in 1973 with a food cupboard and a clothing closet.

"Last year, we provided a total of over 24,000 units of service," said Rev. Carlos Carrero, FGM's director. "If a woman comes into FGM for food for herself and her five children, it is counted as six units of service. Clients may come once a week for clothing; they may come once a month for food, which provides 3 to 7 days of nutritional food."

With the cutbacks in funding and programs, FGM moved from its location in the former Central UMC to the first floor of the church's parsonage. This is because of the high costs of utilities in the large old church building.

"Our stats have increased by as much as 25 percent. Since the economic downturn it's been terrible trying to keep up our supply of food," Rev. Carrero said. "Demand is up, but supply is down."

Rev. Carrero is the only employee for FGM, and he is appointed to this ministry by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. He is assisted by six young women provided by the Transitional Work Corporation. They are part of a program that helps to

move women from public assistance to full employment.

"In a typical day, we see all aspects of our community: Latinos, African Americans, and Caucasians, seniors and single parents," Rev. Carrero explained. "Now couples are coming, too, because of lost jobs. It looks bleak for people who have not prepared themselves for the economy - many are struggling to find employment. We find that we are constantly and generationally providing emergency services. We would love to develop programs to move people from dependence to independence."

"We are grateful for the United Methodist connection. Many people thought we closed, but we are still serving the community! We do need help," Rev. Carrero said. Partner churches that give considerable support include Lehman, Newtown, and Warrington: St. Pauls. United Methodist Women donate new clothing collected through the yearly Ingathering.

"Individuals with a heart for the least, the last, the lost are encouraged to volunteer, as well as confirmation classes, and mission teams," said Rev. Brooks. "If each church gave even a small sum or food donations, it wouldn't take much to keep us in ministry in this needy community." Contact: Rev. Carlos Carrero, Frankford Group Ministry, 1511 Orthodox Street, First Floor, Philadelphia, PA; 215-992-5505.



About 70 participants attended the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* given by Dr. Frank Billman at the Methodist Center in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Volunteers in Mission in Nepal

BY ALDERSGATE RENEWAL MINISTRIES

For many years the Hindu Kingdom of Nepal (located north of India and South of Tibet) was closed to all Westerners. In the 1950's the first Westerners allowed into the country were Methodists, Dr. Bob and Bethel Fleming. The Flemings and a Presbyterian couple formed the United Mission to Nepal, an organization under which different denominations cooperated to do ministry in Nepal.

Within the past 10 years The United Methodist Church has been planted in Nepal. There are now 40 churches and about 4,000 United Methodists in Nepal. The largest of the churches has a membership of 400. Converted from Hinduism, Devi Bhujel is the pastor who started the UMC in Nepal and he is now the District Superintendent for Nepal. Nepal is regarded as a mission district under Bishop Rudy Juan of the Philippines, but financially it is fully supported by the Board of Global Ministries.

District Superintendent Bhujel invited Aldersgate Renewal Ministries [ARM] to send a team to Nepal to lead the *Life in the Spirit* seminar and *Lord Teach Us to Pray* seminar. After much planning and preparation work, on March 8th a team of ten boarded a plane in Los Angeles for a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip to Nepal. Six members of the team are connected with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Rev. Frank Billman is in extension ministry on loan to the Tennessee Conference but retains charge conference membership at Somerton UMC in Philadelphia. His wife, Peggi was on the team. Rich and Sue Fetzer are members of Tabor UMC in Woxall. Ted and Audrey Newton are members at Covenant UMC, Moore Township. Other team members were from North Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Dr. Frank Billman, Director of

Church Relations for ARM and pastor of Forest Grove UMC in Joelton, coordinated the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* at the Methodist Center in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. There were about 70 participants. Additional participants, who intended to come, were prevented from doing so by political unrest in other parts of the country. The presence of the Holy Spirit was quite evident throughout the seminar. After a presentation on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, prayer was offered over the people asking the Spirit to come down upon the participants as at Pentecost. Some of the people began to shake, others began to weep, still others cried out to God. It was very much like early Methodist meetings! When healing prayer was offered most of the group responded. A number of people then testified to being healed. There was a 3-hour worship service with praise and prayer, testimonies, Frank's preaching and Holy Communion.

Peggi Billman coordinated *Lord Teach Us to Pray* at the Tanmunna UMC in Sunsari, Nepal. Due to political unrest, the location of this seminar had to be changed from its original intended location in East Nepal to Tanmunna just two days prior to the seminar. Several people had been killed in the original area.

Tanmunna was the first UMC planted in Nepal by Devi Bhujel. It is located an 11-hour bus ride away from Kathmandu, about 15 minutes from the border with India. There are no paved roads within miles of the church. The town is made up of homes with bamboo walls and thatched roofs. Our minibus filled with white folks was met with stares as we drove

down those dusty dirt roads.

At Tanmunna about 120 participants gathered, even though the location was changed just two days before. This seminar went well, too. Participants experienced forms of prayer they never tried before. At the worship service there were eight visitors who had never been in a Christian worship service before, including the bus driver. A man who had been paralyzed testified that the United Methodists came and prayed for him, he was healed, and he left Hinduism to follow Christ. A former Hindu priest and former idol



Members of the VIM team connected to the EPA Conference. Left to right: The Rev. Frank Billman, Peggi Billman, Sue Fetzer, Rich Fetzer, Audrey Newton and Ted Newton.

carver both testified to coming to Christ. A woman whose daughter suffered from epilepsy said that the United Methodists prayed for her daughter and she was healed so the woman gave her life to Christ. Another woman whose son was mentally ill was prayed for by the United Methodists and healed so she gave her life to Christ as well. A former Buddhist woman gave her life to Christ and is now studying to become a United Methodist evangelist. A study revealed that about 34% of the people in Nepal have come to Christ because of a healing.

Frank has been invited by United Methodist Bishop John Innis to bring these seminars to the theological school in Liberia in 2010. Aldersgate Renewal Ministries has conducted these same seminars in churches across the United States.

## Racism, Justice & Violence Devotion

Seeking submissions from all over the world for a devotional to present a creative and motivational work that encourages people to intentionally think about the issues of racism, violence, and justice, and how they impact each of us, our families, churches, workplaces and society. Please consider submitting a devotion, and encourage your friends, colleagues, co-workers, church members and families to share this information and promote participation in the project. Your submission can be written to address the topics individually or collectively.

*Guidelines:*

- Focus: Issues of "Racism, Justice and Violence"
- Page set-up:
  - Scripture/Story/reflection of issue
  - Identify action (needed or currently engaged in personally or in group)
  - Prayer Focus - Person(s) or issue
  - Short prayer
  - Name, age, State, Country

*Please include your contact information (which will not be included in the book).*

**Deadline: Sept. 7, 2009.**

Send submissions to:

Rev. Hilda M. Campbell  
 Director, Human Relations & Leadership  
 Eastern Pennsylvania Conference UMC  
 P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482  
 hilda.campbell@epaumc.org  
 610-666-9090 x224

*"Transformation is needed, not a debate, not a promise, action!" - Micah 6:8*

## Free Trip to Nashville, TN

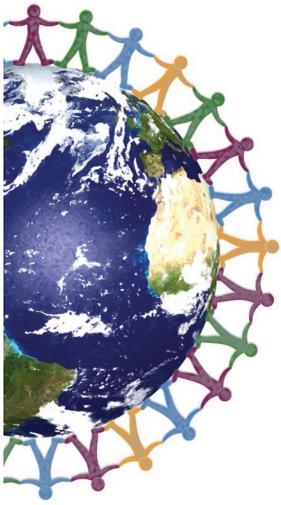
The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Men is offering ten full scholarships to the "10th National Gathering of United Methodist Men" in Nashville Tenn., July 10-12, 2009. This includes free round trip airfare from Philadelphia to Nashville, lodging and registration. These scholarships are available to United Methodist men of the EPC who are between the ages of 19 and 30 years old, with a maximum of two scholarships per church. This "UMM National Gathering" runs every four years and attracts over 5,000 United Methodist Men from across the United States. For more information: [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org),

We ask that all Pastors and men of the EPC consider attending this great gathering of Christian men. Think about having one of your young men and your pastor go together, along with other men of your congregation. Pastors will receive "continuing education credits" for attending.

This would be a great way to kick off a new men's ministry in your church.

For further information go to the brochure or call Ross Brightwell, Pres. of the UMM of the EPC, 215/643-1269 or [rossbrightwell@verizon.net](mailto:rossbrightwell@verizon.net).

**UNITED METHODIST  
 MEN**



# Sharing the Connection

2009 Annual Conference June 16-18, 2009

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks  
100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456



## Annual Conference Speakers



### Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

*Bishop of The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church* - Bishop Johnson is the pastoral leader for nearly 1,000 churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences. She was elected Bishop in July of 2008 by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference after having served as pastor of Christ Church for the Deaf in Baltimore for more than 20 years. Bishop Johnson will preach for the Service of Ordination.



### The Rev. Harold J. Recinos

*Professor of Church and Society, Southern Methodist University - Perkins School of Theology* - Harold J. Recinos received his B.A. from the College of Wooster in 1978 followed by his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 1982. In 1986 he graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a D.Min. and in 1993 received his Ph.D. from

American University. He has written and published many things including Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), "Evangelization and Church Growth: A Lesson from the Barrios" in W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson, eds., Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005).



### The Rev. Vance P. Ross

*Associate General Secretary of the Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee* - Vance P. Ross is a proud native of Bluefield, WV. He was educated in Bluefield Public Schools and earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Government/Youth Services from West Virginia Wesleyan College. In June of

1985 he entered the Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC) where he graduated with honors. Rev. Ross currently serves as the Associate General Secretary of the Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee. He provides leadership to the Family Lifespan/Hispanic Latino Ministries Team, the Congregational Leaders Team and the Conference Leaders Team. In addition, he supervises the Office of Operations and Fund Development. From July 1998 to January 2004, Rev. Ross served as the Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, Maryland.

## Schedule Overview

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

- 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Annual Conference Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Session  
Laity Session
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Annual Conference Registration/Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Opening Devotions  
"Sharing the Connection: New Places for New People & Renewing Existing Congregations"  
Holy Conferencing
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner  
Extension Ministry Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Worship (Communion and Offering) - The Rev. Vance P. Ross preaching

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study - The Rev. Dr. Harold J. Recinos  
"Sharing the Connection: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor" and Stamping Out Killer Diseases by Improving Health Globally"  
Holy Conferencing
- 10:45 a.m. Retiree Recognition
- Noon Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner  
Memorial Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Memorial Service -The Rev. Vance P. Ross preaching  
"Sharing the Connection: Stamping Out Killer Diseases by Improving Health Globally"

Thursday, June 18, 2009

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study - The Rev. Dr. Harold J. Recinos  
"Sharing the Connection: Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and World"  
Holy Conferencing
- Noon Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Ordination Service (Offering) - Bishop Peggy A. Johnson preaching  
"Sharing the Connection: Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and World"

## 2009 Annual Conference Mission Project

Donate items for Methodist Services for Children and Families (Methodist Home for Children)

This year, congregations are again asked to support ministry with needy children and families by donating these items:

- Gift cards from Walmart, JC Penney, Sears, Target, etc.
- Hygiene kits, packed in baggies, which should include toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, shampoo, and conditioner.

These items will be used as part of the school based programs in eight schools and for the foster care and residential living programs, which serves 600-800 children daily.

Ask your congregation, Sunday School, youth group, etc. to support this mission project. Then please bring the items to Annual Conference and deposit them in the designated receptacle in the Expo Center.

For more information on Methodist Services: [www.methodistservices.org](http://www.methodistservices.org).

## Offerings at Annual Conference

Please encourage your entire congregation to support these ministries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and then bring your offering to Annual Conference

- **Opening Worship: Hope for the Children**, supporting children's ministries in Pennsylvania and Africa
- **Service of Ordination: Scholarships for Seminary and Undergraduate Students** of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
- **Nothing But Nets: A roving offering** - Watch for Mozzzy the Mosquito, who will "bug" you until you hand over \$10. \$10 buys a bed net to protect a family from malaria. Send a net. Save a life!

## Annual Conference Resources Online

Visit [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) to download a copy of the 2009 Annual Conference Resolutions, 2009 General Conference Amendments or the 2010 Budget.