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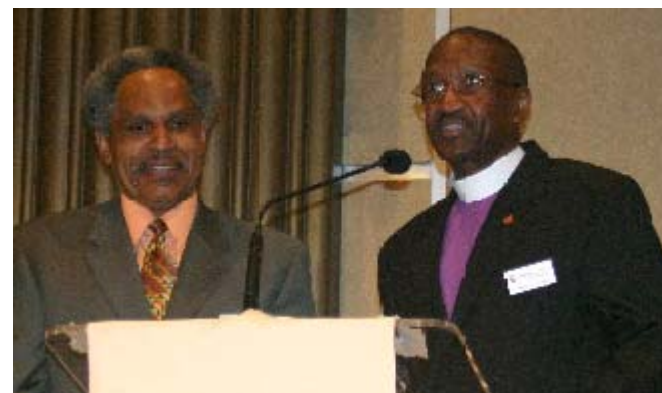
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Renewing the covenant at Conference and beyond

By Suzy Keenan

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference met June 15-17, returning to Philadelphia, PA for the first time in 35 years. The theme was "Renewing the Covenant." In his sermon during Opening Worship, Bishop Marcus Matthews said, "At the core of our covenant is making disciples for Jesus Christ and then sending them out into the world to minister. How are we living out this covenant?"

Matthews urged delegates to be prayer warriors for Jesus, boldly going forward rather than waiting for permission. The Matthews were warmly welcomed to their first conference in Eastern Pennsylvania. The conference celebrated ministry Wednesday evening with musical performances of the Tsunami Prayer Chorale by Dr. Ken Morrison and The Festival of Hymns Choir of Janes Memorial UMC. Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, general secretary of the General Board of Discipleship, led Bible study on the



Bishop Marcus Matthews welcomes Mayor John Street who remarked on the importance of churches providing social services in our communities. Photo by Paul C. Davis.



Bishop Marcus Matthews welcomes Eastern Pennsylvania delegates to the 2005 Annual Conference and challenges them to live out their covenant. Photo by Paul C. Davis.

Four Greats: Great Commandment, the Great Requirement, the Great Commitment, and the Great Commission.

Both Governor Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania and Mayor John Street of Philadelphia greeted the 1200 clergy, laity, and guests, affirming the vital importance of churches in providing much needed social services. A visit by the Phillies Phanatic highlighted UM Night at the Phillies on August 20, 2005. Members of the conference participated in one of four missional opportunities: helping prepare meals and serve clients in the soup kitchen at Tindley Temple UMC alongside Bishop Matthews, taking sacrificed and donated meals to home-

less persons after dedicating them in a prayer service at Arch Street UMC, assembling UMCOR health kits, and taking faith and prayer to people in the streets in the Faith in Motion walk. The conference remembered forty-one clergy and clergy spouses in a memorial service, where Rev. Greenwaldt spoke of being part of a covenant community bound together in love, assuring that God travels with us on this desolate journey during the darkest hours. The Denman Evangelism Award was given to the Rev. Albert Mosley of Schuylkill Haven: First UMC and to Ms. Laura Sambrick, lay person from Living Waters UMC.

See RENEWING P6

Church raises the dead and finds new life



Civil War re-enactors form a salute to veterans and non-veterans alike at the re-dedication and consecration of Montgomery Square UMC's cemetery after being moved to a new location in New Britain.

By Suzy Keenan

"Here comes Menno. He raises the dead!" joked friends of Rev. Menno E. Good at Annual Conference this year.

Good officially retired in 2000. In reality, Good longed to continue his ministry, and asked to be appointed. He was sent to minister to Montgomery Square United Methodist Church in Montgomery Township, PA, where the congregation saw that they must move or write their own epitaph. The last twenty years in Montgomeryville have been marked by traffic congestion, exploding commercial development, and the

limitations of burials in the graveyard right up to the foundation walls of the church building.

The congregation, founded in 1842, voted unanimously to sell the site and relocate the church, and voted 70 to 2 to relocate the cemetery.

With a mortgage from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Loan Fund, the church hired the archaeology firm Kise Straw & Kolder of Philadelphia to excavate the cemetery and move the 250 graves and markers.

According to Good, the 250 graves turned out to be 420, including a pauper's section that never had any markers.

See CHURCH P10

Conference Calendar

July 16
EPA Conference Church Softball Tournament
 The EPA Conference UMC Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2005. To register or receive further information, please contact Ross Brightwell, tournament coordinator, day or evening, at 215-643-1269, or at rossbrightwell@worldnet.att.net.

July 16
4th Forum on Social Principles: Health Care for all
 9:30 to 11:00 am.
 The speaker will be Marilyn Clement, National Coordinator of the Campaign for a National Health Program (NOW), formerly the Executive Secretary for Economic Justice of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. She wrote regularly on justice issues for "Response" magazine. The forum will be held at Tindley Temple UMC, 750 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA. Everyone concerned about health care is invited to come and learn what individuals can do to help create a single payor health program that will provide health care for everyone. Sponsored by Eastern PA Conference Church and Society Work Team. Contact person: Barbara Drake, Chairperson, Church and Society Work Team
Bedrake15@aol.com or 610-446-1394.

July 19
Senior Days at Gretna Glen - Summer Sensation
 Come enjoy a fun-filled day planned just for Senior Adults. The day includes music, lots of entertainment, a delicious hot noon meal, and of course plenty of time to sing and socialize with friends. Cost is \$20 per person. Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call the camp at 717-273-6525 for any questions or to register yourself or a group. All are welcome!

July 19
West Chester Area Interfaith Summit on "The State of HIV/AIDS in Chester County"
 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 The Church of the Open Door is co-sponsoring this event. It will be held at the West Chester University Graduate Business Center, 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester, PA (Room 126). There is no fee for the program and breakfast and lunch will be served. Please e-mail hub@umcod.org for reservations by July 11, 2005. Later Interfaith Summits are planned for the Coatesville, Kennett and Phoenixville areas.

July 22-24
Christian School of Mission
 Please register early for the School of Christian Mission, which will be held at De Sales University in Center Valley, PA, located near Quakertown. De Sales is a beautiful campus of modern buildings with state of the art learning facilities and amenable accommodations. For additional

information on the Eastern Pennsylvania School of Christian Mission contact: Mary Ann Repsher, Dean, 164 South Ninth Street, Bangor, PA 18013; 610-588-1084; email: merlinr@enter.net.

August 3-5
Youth Alpha Camp
 Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center is hosting Youth Alpha Camp. It is a fun way to learn about basic Christianity. The program consists of: youth speakers, day and night games, video clips, music and family discussion groups. It also includes the regular camp activities: waterfront, boating, campfires and low ropes. The special cost of this 3-day overnight camp is \$95 per person and includes all meals and activities. Hurry! Space is limited! Contact Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center at 570-676-3665 or visit our website: <http://www.poconoplateau.org>.

August 5-7
Laity Academy and Christ Servant Ministries Courses
 Laity Academy - Sheraton Hotel, Reading. Registration begins Friday, August 5 at 5:30 pm. For information contact Dr. Mary White, (610) 519-9812. For more information about the Christ Servant Ministries courses, contact George Hollich at 717-838-2812 or email: hollich@comcast.net Find more information on the new Christ Servant Ministries website: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/csm>.

August 20
United Methodist Night at the Phillies
 (See ad p3.)

September 24
5th Social Principles Forum: A United Methodist Witness
 The fifth Social Principles Forum will be on Saturday at a location to be announced. The speaker will be Penny Staver, Executive Director of A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania. She will explain the work of UM Witness and discuss how people can impact the legislative process. For info on any of the forums contact Bill Seybold at 610-696-3699.

September 24
3rd Annual Alcohol & Drug Recovery Expo
 "Learn More - Suffer Less" hosted by United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 181 Sharp Lane, Exton, PA 19341. "In celebration of the 16th Annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, the Church will host Recovery Expo 2005 on Saturday in partnership with Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services. We believe that the more people learn about addiction and the process of Recovery - the less they and their families will have to suffer. For additional information, please contact Wendy Beck @ (610) 363-6164, email her at WBeck@Coadgroup.com.

September 30-August 1
Marriage Enrichment Workshop
 Host: Bethany United Methodist Church, in Allentown, PA. Program starts on Friday evening and ends Saturday night. Marriage Enrichment is an affiliated program of the United Methodist Church, and serves to "make good marriages better. For more information, contact Charlie or Alenda Gardner at 610-395-3258, charles.e.gardner@verizon.net. Visit the Marriage Enrichment website at www.marriageenrichment.org.

October 16-18
"In Essentials, Unity" Conference
 A Gathering For Eastern Pennsylvania, Sunday evening through Tuesday mid-day. .75 ceu's will be awarded to attendees. Location: Plateau Camp and Retreat Center. This conference is designed to connect people around the core convictions of our faith. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chuck Yrigoyen "United Methodism's Doctrinal Standards: Who Cares?" Three workshops will be offered on a rotating basis so all three can be attended: Dr. Rod Shearer (Ph.D., Drew) will lead "The Old Testament Not Contrary to the New;" Dr. Yrigoyen's will be "The Groundwork of United Methodist Doctrine" and Dr. Chris Fisher (Ph.D. Edinburgh) will lead our discussion on "The Faith-Science Dialogue." For more information contact: Rev. Joe DiPaolo at wayneumc.pastor@verizon.net, or John Longmire at memorialumc@cnonline.net.

October 21-22
EPA Older Adult Conference
 Sponsored by the Nurturing Disciples Resource Team Older Adult Task Force, this conference will feature Bishop Marcus Matthews and Dr. Richard Gentzler, Director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministry of the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville. It will be held at the Days Inn Conference Center, 1151 Bulldog Drive, Routes 22 & 309 in Allentown. For further information or to receive "The Elder Sage" Newsletter contact: Dorothea Burnett, Older Adult Coordinator, 116 South 53rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139; 215-476-5504 or othea9@netzero.com.

October 21-22
"Exploring our Faith Journey" Retreat for Women
 Maria Wald Retreat Center in Reading, PA. Seeking and Celebrating Together.

Enter this weekend experience with an attitude of reflection, exploration and sharing. Enjoy a presentation by Kelli Martini who serves on the General Board of Global Ministries of the U.M. Church as Communications Director of the Women's Division. There will be time to examine our personal journeys through prayer forms, music and the arts. Opportunities to use a labyrinth and to gather in small groups to focus on the themes of whole person wellness, achieving balance in your days, meditation and social justice issues. Taize Prayer service Saturday afternoon in conclusion of the retreat experience. Arrival-Friday 4pm - Departure- Saturday 5pm. Cost: Single \$70.00, Double \$60.00, Triple \$55.00. Fee includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Deposit required- \$20.00 by August 15th (limited accommodations). Checks to: Elam U.M. Church, 1073 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342, Attn: Randy C. Schaffer.


October 29
The Gala - Delaware Conference Remembrance...40 years
 Wyndham Hotel, 8th & King Streets, Wilmington, DE 19801. Honorary Chairpersons: Bishop Marcus Matthews and Bishop Melvin G. Talbert. Reception: 4:00 PM, Dinner/Program: 7:00 PM; Keynote Speaker: Bishop Violet Fisher; Extended reception 10:00 PM; Black Tie event. Tickets: \$50.00 per person, table of 10: \$500.00. Commemorative booklet and hotel information available. For more information, contact Rev. Hebert Coe at 610-876-8152; Ms. Betty Henderson at 215-226-5268; Rev. Herbert Palmer at 215-236-6223; or Ms. Anne Williams at 215-223-1391.

May 2006
Cruise to Alaska
 (For more information, see p12).

NEWSpirit submission requirements

Submit an article or photographs to the NEWSpirit using e-mail or U.S. Mail in only the following formats: Microsoft Word document (.doc), Rich Text format (.rtf), or Simple text file (.txt). We prefer photos sent as actual photographic prints or, electronically, as .tif or .jpg. We cannot use pictures less than 800 pixels wide. Please send logos or other graphic art in either .wmf or .eps format.

Email your items to communications@epaumc.org.



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Ancient practice provides compass for those seeking God

By Susan Cole

Spiritual direction is an ancient practice that is becoming important to many United Methodists today. In the early church, people sought out the "desert fathers and mothers" for spiritual counsel. The monastic movement of the middle ages made the practice a discipline. In the past thirty years, spiritual direction has moved into the Protestant world, and now has reached Judaism. Here are answers to frequently asked questions about spiritual direction.

What is spiritual direction, anyway? Essentially, it is an on-going relationship between one person seeking a deeper relationship with God (the "directee") and another (the "director") who offers prayerful attention to the Spirit's presence in seeker's life experiences. Director and directee meet for an hour regularly (about once a month). The focus is on God's presence in the directee's life.

What brings a person to spiritual direction? Here are some reasons why people might seek spiritual direction: a hunger for meaning or purpose, a yearning for something that is missing, the need to discern how God is leading, or what God is calling the person to be or do. Other reasons might be a quest for discovering who God is, or a desire to personally answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" Some people come

to a spiritual director while longing for a more intentional spiritual life or a deeper understanding of significant spiritual experiences that are difficult to speak of in ordinary life settings.

Who comes for spiritual direction? Religious professionals (pastors, rabbis, monks, nuns, Christian educators, youth directors) seek out spiritual direction for accountability and support in their spiritual lives. Lay people from a variety of religious backgrounds and occupations seek out spiritual direction as well. They seek help around vocational discernment. Some come in midlife, in the midst of an outwardly successful life, seeking deeper meaning for their lives. Some have experienced alienation from their religious community, and seek guidance in negotiating a new spiritual path.

What does the spiritual director do? He or she companions a seeker on a journey of discovery and deepening relationship with God. A spiritual director does not really tell a person what to do; God is the real "Director." A spiritual director is always listening for "the stream beneath the stream of a person's life," for moments of encounter with the Holy. The director asks questions about and focuses attention on these moments, which can occur anywhere in life - in prayer or any life experience. A classic spiritual direction question is: "Where is God in the midst of this experience?"

Who are spiritual directors? Spiritual directors are laypeople,

clergy, or members of religious orders. What they have in common is a gift of spiritual companionship recognized by others who have sought them out. They have received additional training to sharpen their skills for this specialized ministry. All spiritual directors are expected to have a spiritual director themselves and to receive supervision for their direction ministry on a regular basis.

What is the difference between spiritual direction and therapy? Therapy is goal-oriented; a person enters therapy to resolve personal issues. Spiritual direction is an ongoing relationship during fruitful times and difficult times. One's relationship with God is primary, not problem-solving. People meet with spiritual directors less frequently because it is not crisis-driven and because they have a regular spiritual practice. The questions are different. Therapists inquire why a person might feel or act in a certain way. Spiritual directors inquire where and in what circumstances a person has experienced God (or freedom, joy, peace, love).

How do I find a spiritual director? Begin by asking yourself some questions: Would I feel most comfortable with someone of my religious background or a different background? Someone in this Annual Conference, or outside it? Who is the same gender, or the opposite? Then begin your search, planning to interview at least two directors to find a good match. Ask friends and colleagues for suggestions. Consult Spiritual Direc-

tors International, at www.sdiworld.org. Ask United Methodist directors for their thoughts. Here are some nearby UM directors (not a complete list): Beth Abbott, Doylestown; Rev. Susan Cole, Philadelphia; Maria Gullo, Mt. Laurel, NJ; Randy Schaeffer, Glen Mills; Rev. Karen Covey Moore, Wilmington, DE; Rev. Sara Davis Shappell, Southeast; Rev. Scott Widmer, Honey Brook; Carol McGinley, West Chester.



The Rev. Susan Cole is an elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. After serving in several Philadelphia churches for the past 25 years, most recently as Senior Pastor of Arch Street UMC, Rev. Cole is now devoting herself to the ministry of Spiritual Direction in the Chestnut Hill section of the city. She may be reached at 8008 Winston Road, Philadelphia, PA, 19118. Telephone: 215-242-0611, voicemail#2. email: susancole7@verizon.net.

In Memorium

Dr. Nancy Jean Seiders, wife of retired elder, the Rev. Marlin D. Seiders. She was 78 years old. She died on Monday, May 30, 2005. Rev. and Mrs. Seiders resided at Cornwall Manor. Rev. Seiders had been a Navy chaplain, and served Lebanon: Covenant UMC from 1984-1991. He retired in 1991. She also is survived by a son, Marlin D. Seiders, Jr. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Seiders at: Cornwall Manor, Gateway 4B, P. O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016.

Mary Beamesderfer, widow of the Rev. Harold E. Beamesderfer (who died March 8, 2003). She was 87 years old. She died on May 30, 2005 at the home of her daughter, Cheryl Lohman, of Robesonia. Rev. Beamesderfer served Mt. Aetna; Palmyra: First; Grantville-Manada Hill; Berne; Shoemakersville; Steelton: Centenary; Lebanon: Trinity; Phila.: Juniata Park; and Jonestown and retired in 1980. Besides Cheryl, Mrs. Beamesderfer is survived by sons Edward (106 N. Sheridan Road, Newmanstown PA 17073) and Thomas.

Isabel Zehner, widow of The Rev. Dr. Henry Zehner, on the evening of June 6. Mrs. Zehner was 91 years old. Her husband passed away earlier this year, on March 17. Rev. Zehner served the following appointments: Phila.: Juniata Park; Brooklyn: St. John's; superintendent in the (old) East Dis-

trict from 1960-1969; superintendent of the (old) Northeast District from 1969-1972. He retired in 1972. From 1972 until 1974, he served Washington Crossing UMC in retirement. She is survived by her three children, Gayl Koster, Marta Zehner, and Mark Zehner, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Gayl Koster, 327 W. Durham St., Phila. PA 19119.

Evelyn Boohar, widow of The Rev. Kenneth R. Boohar on June 12, 2005. Evelyn was 95 years old. She is survived by a daughter, Jean Freeze, at 8133 Birch Drive North, Newburgh IN 47630. Also surviving is daughter, Anne Lovegrove, and a brother, Richard Boohar.

The Rev. Rollin T. Reiner, retired elder, on June 26, 2005. He was 85 years old. Rev. Reiner served West Lawn UMC from 1942 until 1982, when he retired. He was a former member of the Eastern Conference (Evangelical United Brethren) Pension Board and a long-time member of the Albright College Board of Trustees, including many years as secretary of that Board of Trustees. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betty), who lives at 2416 Lexington Drive, Wyomissing PA 19610. He also is survived by three daughters: Rebecca A. Harris, Rachel M. Auman, and Stephanie E. Mays.

Mrs. Anne D. Nicholson, the wife of the Rev. Blake E. Nicholson, Jr., retired elder, on Saturday afternoon, July 2, 2005. Anne was an active leader in our conference for many years. She was elected delegate to General Conference six times, from 1976 through 1996, and served on the General Council on Ministries. She served as a Equalizing Lay Member to Annual Conference from the Southwest District for many years; had been active in local, district, and conference United Methodist Women, including serving as Conference UMW president; chaired the Conference Nominating Committee and Conference Council on Ministries, and was secretary to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Most recently, she was editor of the Conference's Retiree Newsletter. Anne was active in ministry with her husband, Blake, who served Marshallton; Memorial UMC in Quarryville; Glenside; Friendship; Gladwyne; Wesley UMC in Strasburg; Emmanuel in Allentown; Bensalem; and Milton Grove UMC. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Blake E. Nicholson, Jr., 108 Washington Street, Strasburg, PA 17579-1304. She is survived by husband Blake, children Blake E. III and Gary L., and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to The Mission Society (for United Methodists), P O Box 922637, Norcross, GA 30092.

18th Annual
United Methodist
Church Day
with the



Saturday, August 20, 2005
7:05 pm
Phillies vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

Sponsored by the Eastern PA
Conference, Peninsula-Delaware
Conference and Greater
New Jersey Annual Conference.

Up to \$5.00 for each ticket
sold will benefit conference
youth programs.

Contact Ross A. Brightwell,
215-643-1269;
rossbrightwell@worldnet.att.net
for details.

In The Nation

Whatever it is, the 'emerging church' is turning heads

By Amy Green

Ask anyone to define the "emerging church," and they'll likely hesitate.

"Good luck," jokes the Rev. Jay Voorhees of Antioch United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN, who describes his congregation as an "emerging church."

A grassroots initiative that is not associated with any particular church denomination, the emerging church is a concept that's hard to define and full of paradox.

For example, it is rooted in evangelism but - in a rare crossing of today's cultural divide - is steeped in social justice values often associated with liberalism. It welcomes innovation in worship but also holds to traditional Christian beliefs. To a growing number of young Christians, this ambiguity is the allure to what some call a movement but others call a "conversation." Either way, the emerging church has set out to transform churchgoing from the inside out by questioning some of its most basic traditions.

Leaders say the emerging church - so named because it is still emerging and evolving - is the beginning of a transition to a new era of churchgoing. They say churches have not kept up with the evolution of art and culture from a modern era of empirical analysis to a postmodern era of questioning and searching. The reason? They blame, in part, the church's reluctance to question the sacred. The emerging church, they say, welcomes questions. It seeks to make church more relevant in today's

culture and ultimately help Christians live and worship authentically.

Whatever the emerging church is, it's grabbing attention. In only a few years, the dialogue has spread across the Web through chat rooms and "blogs," spawned a variety of books and resources and pushed congregations and denominations to rethink their traditions and curricula. The United Methodist Publishing House in March authorized spending \$62,000 to research the emerging church as the publisher searches for new markets. An "emerging church" conference in May drew 650 religious leaders, pastors and Christians to Nashville for four days of discussion and worship.

The emerging church is gaining ground because Christians have a deep desire for a stripped-down, more authentic time of worship, says Brian McLaren, leader of the loose network known as the Emergent Village. A theologian and author of the 2001 book *A New Kind of Christian*, McLaren was named in February by Time magazine as one of the nation's 25 most influential evangelicals.

"It feels like the church community in our society today is about a lot of things, but it feels like we're too often far away from the essential message of Jesus, of compassion for yourself and your fellow neighbor," McLaren said in an interview with UMC.org.

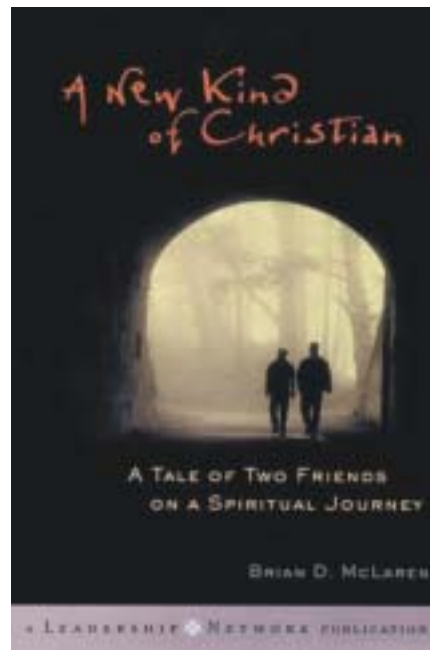
The emerging church is led especially by young adults who relish its non-institutional nature and innovative worship but hold to traditional Christian beliefs. At the conference in Nashville, the dress was casual,

worship services included harps and a masseuse worked the hallway with other vendors. The discussion included "Preaching Without Sounding Preachy" and "The Sacred Way: Ancient Spirituality for Life, Ministry and the Church."

These emerging church evangelists are serious about winning new followers by adapting church for a new era. Innovative worship such as



Brian McLaren is considered a founding leader of the 'emerging church.'



This stirring fable captures a new spirit of Christianity—where personal, daily interaction with God is more important than institutional church structures, where faith is more about a way of life than a system of belief, where being authentically good is more important than being doctrinally "right," and where one's direction is more important than one's present location. Brian McLaren's delightful account offers a wise and wondrous approach for revitalizing Christian spiritual life and Christian congregations.

praise services alone won't do, they say. Christians are searching for real change, something deeper, something more contemplative.

"I see it as ... a thirst for a genuine relationship with God," says Lillian Smith of the United Methodist Division on Ministries with Young

People. "Young people want to be in a community where they can ask questions, ... where they can wrestle with the angel themselves."

Browsing the conference bookstore, 23-year-old Matt Wilson, a youth and associate pastor of the 200-member Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, DE, talked of how "emergent" ideas have changed his view of evangelism. It's no longer about just saving people, he says, but about getting to know them, listening to them and learning from their divergent views. His church is considering an "emergent" service that would be more casual and contemplative.

Is the emerging church merely a fad? McLaren describes it as a "conversation"; he says it's too early to call it movement. But Voorhees sees something more.

"I think those of us who are deeply involved in this conversation really understand this is how we are authentically following Christ ... and then really deconstructing how much of that really came out of Scripture and how much was really based on the assumptions of modern society," he says. "We would understand the story of faith is an ongoing story."

Amy Green is a freelance journalist in Nashville, Tenn.

The Nation in Brief

• YOUTH SURVEY

In a new report by the National Study of Youth and Religion, researchers find that UM teens ages 13-17 are less likely to say that "faith is very or extremely important in shaping daily life" than all teens surveyed together. The new report, "Portraits of Protestant Teens," identifies 45% of UM teens as saying faith is very or extremely important, while 61% of teens in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America would identify similarly. Even when looking at regular church attendees, only 63% of UM teens cite the importance of faith in their lives, compared with 71% of ELCA teens.

• HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches USA, will join former president Jimmy Carter and volunteers from 50 churches June 19-24 to build 40 homes during Habitat for Humanity's 2005 Jimmy Carter Work Project in Michigan. Volunteers will complete more

than 230 homes throughout Michigan and in Windsor, Canada. A special addition to this year's work project will be the presence of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians. Karekin will preside over an announcement of the Armenian Church's partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build in Armenia, the United States, and other countries.

• ECUMENICAL GROUP

The launch of a new ecumenical group, Christian Churches Together, was postponed during the June 1-3 meeting of 67 Christian leaders in Palo Alto, Calif., which was to be the inauguration of the group. So far, 31 churches and national Christian organizations have formally decided to join, and 20 additional church leaders from denominations considering membership attended the meeting as observers. Larry Pickens, general secretary of the UM General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, said the decision to

delay was reached after participants addressed the fact that no African American churches "are presently represented at the table as participants."

• BODY, MIND, SPIRIT FOCUS

Recognizing the importance of health—in body, mind and spirit—will be a focus of several United Methodist agencies during the next few years. United Methodist Communications will help coordinate that focus by providing a communications strategy, which will include the creation of a Web site and finding ways to link people with volunteer opportunities and models of health-related programs, according to the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive. Denominational representatives met in early May in Washington to start shaping this focus on health and wholeness. The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits adopted "health as wholeness in mission" when it realized that clergy were making a higher than usual number of

health and disability-related insurance claims, according to Barbara Boige grain, the agency's chief executive.

• JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church will hear oral arguments in the case of Irene Elizabeth (Beth) Stroud Oct. 27 in Houston. The Oct. 27 hearing, open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. at the Stansbury Building on the Westchase Campus of First United Methodist Church, at 10570 Westpark Dr. in Houston. Representatives of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Stroud will be allowed 30 minutes each to present their arguments.

• ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Rev. Robert J. Williams has been elected top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History. He will replace the Rev. Charles Yrigoyen Jr. on Jan. 1, 2006. Yrigoyen will retire on Dec. 31, after heading the agency for 24 years.

Around the World

Short mission trips will allow women to build friendships

By Kelly Martini

The Women's Division and Mission Volunteers office of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries are forming a partnership that will enable U.S. women to build friendships on short mission trips in Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Cambodia, Sierra Leone and Cote D'Ivoire.

The goal of the program, called "Ubuntu eXplorers," is to enable U.S. women to understand and share together the daily life, struggles, culture, challenges and opportunities of women from one of the countries. During the one- to two-week trips, members of United Methodist Women also will get a firsthand look at the programs and projects supported by their annual giving of about \$20 million.

The program will begin in 2006 with an April visit to Zimbabwe. Trips to Uruguay in August and Cambodia in September will follow. In 2007, the Women's Division and Mission Volunteers will host trips to Sierra Leone and Cote D'Ivoire.

"Ubuntu" is an African word and proverb meaning, "I am human because you are human." According to Ubuntu psychology, "Sharing ourselves and our gifts with others optimizes our collective and individual humanity. Even in the sharing and the giving, the individual or 'other' group receives the gifts and the glories of humanity."

Jeanie Blankenbaker, staff executive for Mission Volunteers, said the idea of "Ubuntu eXplorers" came as

an answer to a prayer from Grace Musuka, coordinator of women's work for the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

"A couple of years ago, Grace asked me if it would be possible sometime for just women to come to Zimbabwe to worship with her women, to share in laughter and cry in sadness, to enjoy each others' company in Christian love, as sisters of faith, letting the women in Zimbabwe know they were not alone," she explained. "When we called Grace to ask if she'd still like us to come, she immediately said, 'Can you come yesterday?'"

Karen Prudente, staff executive for international opportunities with the Women's Division, said grass-roots women's organizations, supported by United Methodist Women, will host the visitors.

"Participants will learn about the cultures of the area, travel, pray, sing, cry, teach, work, listen and tell stories, and engage as Christian sisters," she added. "They will visit and have a mission experience at institutions such as schools, clinics, women's training centers, hospitals, nurseries."

The experiences will differ depending on the trip chosen. "Ubuntu eXplorers volunteers might teach at a workshop where local women exchange tips on Bible study and devo-



Zimbabwean women work in the gardens at Isheanesu, the Shalom Zone project at Hilltop United Methodist Church in a high-density suburb of Mutare, Zimbabwe. The gardens feed church members and children in an after-school program. The Women's Division and Mission Volunteers office of the denomination's Board of Global Ministries are forming a partnership that will enable U.S. women to build friendships with women in countries such as Zimbabwe. A UMNS file photo by Dean Snyder

tions, basic health and nutrition, artisan crafts, singing and liturgical dance," Prudente said. Participants will share their experiences upon their return home.

Team leaders for the first three pilot programs have been selected, and team members of 10 to 12 women—with at least one member being a young adult—will be recruited. Costs will be under \$2,500, and team members will be asked to provide one suitcase of resource materials suggested by the host organization.

For more information and registration forms, go to <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/> or <http://gbgm-umc.org/vim/ubuntu.htm>. Interested

women may also call Mission Volunteers at (212) 870-3825 or the Women's Division at (212) 870-3911.

Kelly Martini is the information officer for the Women's Division.

Join us on an Ubuntu Journey!

Visit
Pray
Laugh
Teach
Cry
Sing
Love



The World in Brief

• BISHOP MEETS WITH POPE

Meeting June 16 at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI, Samuel Kobia, a Kenyan Methodist and general secretary of the World Council of Churches, proposed collaboration by the WCC and Roman Catholic Church on issues of understanding of the church, spirituality, and ecumenical formation. Kobia also invited the pope to visit WCC headquarters in Geneva as another "step in our long journey towards visible unity." The pope assured Kobia that Catholics are eager to continue cooperation with the council and said "the commitment of the Catholic Church to the search for Christian unity is irreversible." The United Methodist Church is a major supporter of the WCC.

• INSTRUCTOR DEPORTED

A former volunteer instructor at Africa University has been deported for violating Zimbabwe's censorship and immigration laws. Howard S. Gilman, 68, who was arrested May 27, was a volunteer geography instructor at the

UM-related school in Mutare, Zimbabwe, until 2004, when his three-year teaching tenure expired. He remained in the country to work with orphans and the community and is reported to have been paying school fees for 73 children. Gilman, a member of Covenant UMC in Montgomery, Md., was arrested for filming police demolishing the shacks of urban poor and charged with breaking media laws. He spent ten days in jail. More than 200,000 people have been reported to be homeless due to government cleanup of shacks and trading stalls. Taking photographs of police discharging their duties is illegal. A court on June 6 did not convict him under Zimbabwe's media laws, which impose a two-year jail term for practicing journalism without government permission, according to international media reports. He was charged with violating censorship laws and immigration laws for overstaying his visa. Gilman was deported June 6. Published reports quoting Gilman's attorney, Innocent Gonese, say Gilman was fined a total of US\$33 on alternative

charges of breaking the country's censorship and immigration laws.

• ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

An ecumenical delegation from the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia will visit the Philippines July 15-21 to collect facts about political repression and offer pastoral support to affected churches and families. United Methodist Bishop Solito Toquero of Manila and Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz-Duremdes, chief executive of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, urged the visit. "Now more than ever, we are seeing the church under siege only because she has decided to take up her cross and follow Jesus through his Via Dolorosa," they wrote in a May 16 invitation. "Church people who have walked alongside our struggling people have joined the myriads of peace advocates and human rights defenders whose lives have been snuffed out." The council hopes to set up meetings with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, military authori-

ties in Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas, and representatives of the Department of National Defense and the Senate Committee on Human Rights, as well as church leaders and members of nongovernmental organizations.

• AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Tears flowed freely on the Africa University campus as an over-capacity crowd witnessed the university's 11th graduation ceremony. The hundreds of people who turned out for the May 28 ceremony filled every inch of the open air venue. They came to celebrate the achievements of the largest graduating class in the institution's history. The years of sacrifice, hope and hard work have paid off for the 391 young people in the graduating class of 2005. There are students from 14 African countries represented—Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Renewing (cont'd pg1)

The conference affirmed its support of ministry with children in poverty in both eastern Pennsylvania and Nigeria. Six churches received Hope for the Children Awards for ministry



The Praise Team from New Life UMC dance at Opening Worship.

with children in poverty in Eastern Pennsylvania, including the top Bishop's Award of \$10,000 going to Salem UMC in rural Manheim, PA. Other awards

went to Mt. Zion UMC in north Philadelphia, Cristo Rey in Landenberg, Covenant UMC in Lancaster, Covenant UMC in Lebanon, and Hancock St. John's in Philadelphia. The conference affirmed continued partnership with Nigeria and support of its Rural Health Initiative.

In business, the conference:

- Approved a Structure Review and recommendations submitted by a conference task force

- Approved a budget of \$3,717,342 for Eastern Pennsylvania ministries and \$2,642,161 for the General Church and World Service, totaling \$6,359,503

- Approved twenty-seven resolutions including one creating a Racial-Ethnic Ministries taskforce under the umbrella of the Calling Disciples Resource Team. Congregations considering opening their doors to Racial-Ethnic constituencies or congregations will be required to have the task force consult and advise on matters of cultural sensitivity

- Approved several resolutions submitted by A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania opposing the death penalty and alcohol sales

- Approved a resolution affirming Christ Servant Ministry (CSM) opportunities for all laity who seek to be servants of Christ, and to take advantage of training opportunities provided by CSM

- Approved a resolution designating forty programs and ministries of the Annual Conference as Advance Specials, for designated giving purposes, for the year 2006

- Passed a resolution which designates Simpson House as a Historic Site within United Methodism

The Rev. Hilda Campbell, director of human relations and leadership, honored Ms. Winnie Kensill for her work in the Healing the Wounds of Racism program. The conference received three offerings: scholarships for students in Eastern Pennsylvania, \$5,001;

Hope for the Children Initiative for children in poverty, \$6,096; and Africa University Scholarships, \$3,951. Conference lay leader, Lenora Thompson emphasized leadership development and the Christ Servant Ministry program for laity.

The laity and clergy in full connection approved eight Constitutional Amendments to the Discipline of The United Methodist Church from General Conference. Bishop Matthews presented the Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, Dean of the Cabinet,

plined of The United Methodist Church from General Conference. Bishop Matthews presented the Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, Dean of the Cabinet,



Eleanor Weiser (left), Support Associate for the EPA Conference, joins delegates as they assemble UMCOR kits.

with an engraved gavel celebrating her service, and named the Rev. Ralph Blanks as Dean of the Cabinet beginning July 1. Eight-two new appoint-

sure that aroma is pleasing to God." He urged all to "Let nothing come between me and my Savior, so that His blessed face can be seen."

Membership in 2004 was 128,496, a decrease of 2247 over 2003's number of 130,743. Worship attendance in 2004 was 52,485, a decrease of 1968 over 2003's figure of 54,453.

Clergy Session was held prior to the conference on Monday, June 13 at Hempfield United Methodist Church. Bishop Marcus Matthews hosted a luncheon for 52 clergy on extension ministry beyond the local church, during which the Rev. Robert Kohler spoke on the importance and tradition of ministry beyond the parish beginning with John Wesley.

Laity Session was held on the morning of June 15 at the Loews Hotel. Ms. Fran Sokso celebrated the United Methodist worldwide connection, offered tips and resources for new lay members of annual conference, and introduced conference lay leader, Lenora Thompson. The Rev. Dr.



A Wing and a Prayer is the sound, lights, and video media team, made up of young adults and youth from across the conference ranging in age from 15-24. Team WP dedicated their work this year to the memory of Greg Kane, former Team WP member, who died so suddenly this year.

ments were celebrated including three to extension ministry.

In a Service of Ordination at Tindley Temple UMC, one person was ordained deacon, five were ordained elder, seven were commissioned toward elders orders, and one ordained deacon in transition. Bishop Matthews preached on being "the aroma of Christ in the world, making

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. spoke on the origin of small groups, an important and early part of life in Methodism; Paul C. Davis shared current small group ministries; and the Rev. Helen Fleming encouraged churches to seek information that enables them to reach out and serve their communities.

Suzy Keenan is director of communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania



The Philly Phanatic joins Ross Brightwell and Samuel Ramnit to encourage participation at UMC Night at the Phillies, August 20th at 7:05 p.m.



The remarkable 90-member "Festival of Hymns" Choir of Janes Memorial United Methodist Church, under the direction of Harrilese DuRant Miles, graced our conference with their voices lifted in song on Wednesday evening. Photos by Paul C. Davis.

Laity focus on leadership development

By Vicki Baker

In the final morning of Annual Conference, Lenora Thompson, Conference Lay Leader, gave the Laity Address. Our Lay Leader since July 1998, Ms. Thompson relayed to the gathering her continued love for her role and her enthusiasm for sharing her faith, connecting with others, continuing to develop her skills and celebrating the joy of our joint faith walk. Under Ms. Thompson's leader-

ship the Board of Lay Ministry has lived out its mission within the Conference by focusing on leadership development, celebrating the Board's ministries and improving communication with laity across the conference. She indicated that the Board's tireless work is closely linked to the Conference's calling persons to Christ, nurturing disciples and addressing community needs.

The ministries of the Board provide opportunities for individuals to grow

in Christ. The Annual Academy for Laity provides training and support for new disciples and the Christ Servant Ministries program trains and supports laity who lead, speak and care for others in their communities and congregations. Through this program 700 Christ Servant Ministers have been commissioned. On a personal note, Ms. Thompson also expressed her gratitude to Simpson House's "benevolent care" program. This outreach, caring ministry provided free, expert care for her mother, Alma Thompson, during her last few weeks of life. This touched her family and friends so much that gifts made in Alma Thompson's memory continue at a rate and amount never experienced before by Simpson House.

Ms. Thompson introduced George Hollich, Director of the Christ Servant Ministry program to lead a presentation describing the transformation of Lay Speaking program to our current Christ Servant Ministry program and presenting resolution 2005-017, which affirms the work of the laity and encouraging laity to become Christ Servant Ministers. The resolution passed. The presentation continued with Anne Taylor describing who the "ordinary people" are that become Christ Servant Ministers. Verna Collier described the multiple, upcoming training opportunities for persons to begin the journey to be-

coming Christ Servant Ministers. The Basic Course and Advanced Course are being offered in each District at least once during the year. Persons were encouraged to seek out information on District sponsored courses and to also avail themselves to Lay Speaking Ministries courses offered and approved by the General Board of Discipleship and Conference Board of Ordained ministry.

There are several other training components and ministries available to the laity. Randy Schaffer described courses in Caring Ministries, Bill Matthews on training in Leadership and Mary Louise Hutchinson on speaking ministries. Alicia Julia-Stanley described opportunities for local ministry speaking when pastors are not available, serving congregational needs such as visitation and committing to ministry to others.

The work of Christ Servant Ministers is significant in all churches and was described as an important component for growth in small member churches. Resolution 2005-018 was presented by Dr. Alfred Maloney, Northwest District Superintendent. It emphasized the importance of small member churches to membership growth and their vital part of the mix of churches making up the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. The resolution passed. This portion of the morning ended with a Service of Covenant led by Bishop Marcus Matthews. Christ Servant Ministers renewed their commitment and the congregation affirmed their support of their ministry.



Conference Lay Leader Lenora Thompson addresses Laity Session attendees. Photo by Bill Thompson.

Annual Conference business report

Resolution #2005-001 Relating to Discontinuance of Olivet-Bethany United Methodist Church/Southeast District: **passed with amendment** (see below *)

Resolution #2005-002 Relating to Death Penalty: A Moratorium and Its Elimination: **passed w/friendly amendment**: "within the therefore be it resolved add lines 37-38 from resolution 2005-012: "...that we instruct the Conference Secretary to forward to the appropriate elected officials at both the federal and state levels this action taken today." and add: "and ask the Conference Secretary to include a letter to government stating what we would like studied and how many people this resolution represents."

Resolution #2005-003 Relating to Alcohol: **Oppose the Proliferation of Alcohol Sales: passed**

Resolution #2005-004 Relating to Housing Allowance for Retired Clergy: **passed**

Resolution #2005-005 Relating to Health Insurance Contribution Schedule: **passed**

Resolution #2005-006 Adoption Agreement to the MPP and CPP and Pre-82 Funding Plan for Year 2006: **passed**

Resolution #2005-007 Relating to Participant Medical Insurance Contribution: **passed**

Resolution #2005-008 Relating to Sale of District Parsonages as needed: **passed**

Resolution #2005-009 Relating to Relationship with Chester Heights Camp Meeting Association: **passed**

Resolution # 2005-010 Relating to Encouraging the State of Pennsylvania to Act on Global Warming: **passed with the following amendments**: Line 15 "whereas, a contributing cause of global warming is the burning of

fossil fuels—coal,"

In line 41, please add "and will do so by sending a letter from the 2005 EPA conference stating our support for said bill."

Friendly amendment: send letters supporting HB 500 to all members of the PA Assembly and senate as well as the governor

Resolution# 2005-011 Relating to Encouraging Individuals and Churches to Slow Down Global Warming: **passed with the following amendment**:

Amend line 16 to "... a contributing cause...." Instead of "the primary cause."

Resolution #2005-012 Increase the Minimum Wage: **passed**

Resolution # 2005-013 Amend Conference Rules for Elected Membership: **defeated**

Resolution #2005-014S Relating to Child Abuse Credentialing of all workers with children and youth in local churches: **passed with friendly amendment line # 30 change from September 1 to December 31**

Resolution #2005-015 Relating to Racial Ethnic Ministries Task Force Seeking Official Status: **passed with emphasis on the work team caring for its language** omit "Korean and Indian Asian" as these fall under Asian

Resolution #2005-16A Resolution Designating Simpson House as a United Methodist Historic Site: **passed**

Resolution #2005-017 Relating to Recognition of Christ Servant Ministry Opportunities: **passed**

Resolution #2005-018 Relating to Small Membership Churches: **passed**

Resolution #2005-019: **withdrawn**

Resolution #2005-020S Relating to Salary/Benefits Recommendations (Equitable Compensation): **passed**

Resolution #2005-021 Relating to inequity of mandated costs by the conference between small country churches with limited membership and larger churches with hundreds of members: **passed with friendly amendment** "that this be referred to the New Task Force created by the Bishop to study conference funding."

Resolution #2005-022 Relating to Conference Advance Specials for Year 2006: **passed**

Resolution #2005-23A Relating to Disaster Response Offering: **passed with the following amendment** "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2nd Sunday of Advent, or such other Sunday which the local church determine, be designated Disaster Response Sunday and that a special offering be received for disaster response."

Resolution #2005-24A Relating to Discontinuance of Falls United Methodist Church/East District: **passed with amendment** (see below *)

Resolution #2005-25A Relating to Discontinuance of Frankford Central United Methodist Church/East District: **passed with amendment** (see below *)

Resolution #2005-26A Relating to Merger of La Resurreccion-Lindley United Methodist Church & Juniata Park United Methodist Church/East District: **passed**

Resolution #2005-28A Relating to Discontinuance of Tabernacle Memorial United Methodist Church/ East District: **passed with amendment** (see below *)

Resolution #2005-29A Relating to Discontinuance of Rehoboth United Methodist Church/East District: **passed**

Resolution by Ruth Dougherty (last minute entry) "I move that 1/2 the money given to Eastern Pennsylvania Conference by the United Methodist Board of

Publications be given to the Central Conference Pension Fund for the urgent need of our United Methodist clergy and their families in Africa." **Passed with amendment** "change 1/2 to ALL the money given...." (Please note that the amount given totaled \$12,073.)

Structure Review Report: Submitted by the Structure Review Task Force and presented by Brenda Tilden was **passed with the following amendment**: "line 77... Our vision is in and remains in the will and Holy Word of God." (On page 2 line 77)

Budget Report with recommendation # 5 on page 38 amended: After "be in consultation with Conference Council on Finance and administration, **ADD** "and Human Resource Committee." - **passed**

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Amendment I. Yes 550 votes, NO-16 votes, Blank-1

Amendment II. Yes 560, NO-6, Blank-1

Amendment III. Yes 557, NO-8, Blank-2

Amendment IV. Yes 552, NO- 14, Blank 1

Amendment V. Yes 562, NO-4, Blank 1

Amendment VI. Yes 552, NO-14, Blank 1

Amendment VII. Yes 552, NO-15, Blank 0

Amendment VIII. Yes 364, NO 197, Blank 6

Total Ballots: 567 Tallied by Bev. Connor and Mercedes Case

** For resolutions # 001,24A, 25A, and 28A replace the last resolved of each "forwarded to the archives at St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia" with "deposited for permanent safe keeping with the commission on Archives and History of the Conference."*

Faith in Motion Stories

Walking in Faith

By Hilda M. Campbell

During the Faith in Motion Walk, we greeted strangers on the streets of Philadelphia by asking them to pray for the children of this community, this country and the world.

Many wanted us to pray with them right then, others just wrote down a prayer request. There were two persons who stood out in the crowd. The first was a young man who said he was a failure as a father and wanted to do better so he could have a relationship with his children. I told him the first step was to stop claiming failure as the final destination and be committed to making a change in his actions.

The other was a young man who was covered with tattoos. When I

asked if we could pray with him, he said sure. He said his mother always told him he was not worthy of salvation. After I prayed for him, he asked if he could pray for me. He thanked me for stopping to talk with him and for not being turned off by the tattoos. He then gave me a card and invited me to come to his art show. Our not-so-chance meeting led me to see his amazing work on exhibit July 1-31 at Highwire Gallery in Philadelphia.

If you leave yourself open to new acquaintances you may encounter a blessing also - they don't have to look like you to be good.

Hilda Campbell is the director of human relations and leadership development for the Eastern PA Conference.



Conference delegates and volunteers gathered to serve dinner at the Tindley Temple UMC soup kitchen during the witnessing event. Photo by Jose Urdaneta.

Restoration and hope on the streets of Philadelphia

By Laurabeth Shearer Krpata

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31

As we prepared for our Faith in Motion walk, while God sprinkled us with refreshing raindrops, our District Superintendent leaders called us to pray. As we circled up and bowed our heads, I glanced up and noticed two men looking at us from their basket perch near the top of City Hall. It was a fleeting observation, but I wondered what it might be like to work on restoring an old building from a such heights.

With great enthusiasm, we followed Rev. Al Maloney and began our witnessing experience. My husband, Christopher, and I paired up and eagerly approached many individuals. We had the privilege of meeting many of God's people: in the dry protection of the bus stop, near a splashing fountain, waiting for a taxi, resting on a bench, using cell phones, and attempting to rush home from work. Many of these people voiced deep prayer concerns: for their children, for work, for

a new home, for a sister going through drug rehab, for protection for our country, and more. One gentleman asked us to pray that he would get home because many of the trains were not working! We knew right then that stalled trains were a true "God-incidence" because that meant more people would be walking on the streets for our Faith in Motion team members to meet! I felt the strength of our connected ministry when I saw several people carrying and enjoying the box lunches that had been distributed by fellow United Methodists just a few blocks away. My husband asked one young woman whether we could pray with her right there, standing on the sidewalk and she said "yes!" I found myself wondering what might be holding all of us back from this type of boldness and ministry in our home communities?

As we looped back around to our starting point, we were determined to hand out all our prayer cards. I had two left in my pocket and saw two men approaching. We began to talk and I learned that they were visiting from Poland. They pointed upward to the top of City Hall and told us they have been working to restore the eagles

Four avenues for putting my faith in motion

By Stacy Martin

This is my first Conference, both as a United Methodist and as Foundation Director for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. I had a difficult time deciding which of the four ministry opportunities for faith sharing I wanted to join. So, I signed up to bring supplies for five UMCOR kits and also to participate in the Faith in Motion (FIM) walk in one of the specially designed (FIM) t-shirts.

On the first day of conference, I placed the health kit supplies I purchased in the appropriate room, and figured all I had left to do was participate in a walk with friends from my district going west down Market Street.

I joined my district's group at City Hall, we received prayer cards that we could share with people on the streets, instructions, a prayer from the District Superintendent, and final instructions from Dorothy Watson Tatem: "It's cancelled if it rains, just head back to the hotel." Of course, it started to pour! We quickly figured out we had two choices for the next hour. We could brave the rain and get our new shirts and comfy shoes wet, or, head for the concourse level of the city transportation system just before rush hour. My partners and I chose the concourse.

This was my first experience with this kind of faith sharing ministry. I was nervous because I spent many years as a commuter and I know all the moves to avoid someone approaching me. We each struck out into the crowd, keeping a team eye on each other. Some folks shared prayers or their faith easily, others passed - stating their life was good. Others

declined, affirming their own church connection. I felt good about pushing myself in sharing my faith, and better about writing down prayer concerns people in the concourse had shared with me. When we ran out of prayer cards, we headed back to the hotel.

There we found two fellow United Methodists waiting for the rain to end so they could deliver the last load of boxed dinners (meals that conference attendees sacrifice to donate to the homeless) to Arch Street UMC to be dedicated in prayer before being taken to the homeless shelters. We confirmed these were indeed the last meals, and helped the pair with their delivery - back I went onto the streets! Upon our return to the hotel, I delivered the prayer concerns to the waiting hands of the UM's in the ballroom. Now I have covered three of the four missions!

Upon returning to the hotel, I found conference delegates assembling UMCOR health kits, trying to wrap up before the rest of the delegates arrived for dinner. I was thrilled to be able to help! We categorized the last kits, identified the missing items, and moved the boxes and supplies to one end of the dining room. Four missions in two hours - talk about good stewardship of time! I found my experience to be wonderful, motivating, and inspiring.

Stacy J. Martin is executive director, Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

UMCOR kits

As part of the witness of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference on the afternoon of June 16, around three hundred delegates to Annual Conference assembled Health Kits from items brought from churches conference-wide. In addition a number of churches sent containers full of completed kits. Altogether they filled Pastor Carol Campbell's SUV, and a ten foot truck loaded to the ceiling. Pastor Campbell drove her SUV directly to Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, on Saturday, June 18, while Pastor Lester Groves and Conference Mission Secretary Dick Howarth took the rest for storage at Tindley Temple. They were aided by Tindley Temple's delegate John Crapper and others. The kits were taken from storage via a ten foot truck to Mission Central on Tuesday, June 21. A cross section of the entire conference was involved in this effort and in providing kits throughout the year.

Although Dick Howarth has entered retired ministerial status, he will continue to serve as Conference Secretary of Global Ministries. Currently, he is seeking churches throughout the conference to serve as collection points. He will continue to secure transportation of kits to Mission Central. The new collection points will be announced as soon as they are established. Churches interested in serving in this way should contact Dick at 610-792-4822 or e-mail him at rwjhwh@earthlink.net. Dick reminds churches seeking directions on the contents of UMCOR relief kits that they may find them in the UMCOR Website at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor> or, you may contact Dick directly if you do not have internet access.

Child abuse clearances required for all workers with children and youth

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church passed Resolution 2005-14S at Annual Conference which requires that "all workers with children and youth" shall have on file current appropriate Child Abuse clearances in order to continue such work. This requirement shall go into effect December 31, 2005. For the full text of this resolution, go to: <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=951>

Note: "all workers with children and youth" shall be interpreted to mean all persons who work with children ages birth through 12 and youth ages 12 through 18 in any regular capacity such as Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, choir director, regular van or other drivers, regular food servers, and general helpers on a regular basis. "A regular capacity" shall mean anyone working on a schedule that repeats such as weekly, monthly, quarterly. In addition to the "regular worker" anyone participating on-site or in transporting children or youth for an overnight or longer program, even if only a one-time volunteer, will be required to file clearances.

It is suggested that prospective staff will pay for their clearances as a part of their qualification for work. For volunteers, it is suggested this cost be borne by the local church, unless the volunteer wishes to pay it as a contribution to the work of the church. It is recommended that the Staff-Parish Committee Chairperson, along with the Pastor, will be responsible to check

for such clearances and shall maintain them in locked files along with other personnel records.

If churches batch their clearances, they can pay with an official church check. The State Police forms are the first "wave" to be completed, with the Child Abuse clearances to go in accompanied by the State Police results. It is much quicker to file the State Police forms online. When the site is available (it's been down a lot due to high volume), the turn-around time is about 24 hours. Also, it is important to know that persons who have not lived in PA for two years or longer - or who currently live out of state, i.e. in New Jersey - will need to get FBI clearance. It's more complicated, but is most easily accessed through the local police departments.

To obtain Child Abuse Clearance forms, go to: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/child/childabuseneglect/003671038.htm>

Safe Sanctuaries resources available

For information on how to order Safe Sanctuaries materials, go to www.discipleshipresources.org

Safe Sanctuaries Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church

By Joy Thornburg Melton

Safe Sanctuaries contains suggestions, sample forms, and more to help your congregation develop and implement a substantive plan of child abuse prevention. Unique features

include: 1. A step-by-step plan for developing policies and procedures to prevent child abuse; 2. Forms for screening workers, checking references, and reporting suspected abuse; 3. Suggested training session for all persons who work with children or youth; 4. Sample worship service celebrating the adoption of policies/procedures. 8.5" x 11" (1998)

Children and Youth Video and DVD Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church

By Joy Thornburg Melton

Following up on her two bestselling Safe Sanctuaries manuals (Children and Youth), Joy Thornburg Melton now brings you a video to use in training and in raising awareness in your local congregation. The three key segments address the 'Why' and 'How' of developing and implementing a policy to reduce the risk of abuse in your church, and provide necessary forms to use in the process. VHS, 1:10. (The DVD also includes an interview with Joy and real-life stories from diverse congregations.) (2004)

Safe Sanctuaries for Youth Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries

By Joy Thornburg Melton

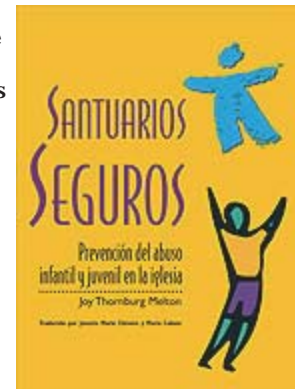
Attorney Joy T. Melton has taken the initiative to develop a resource designed to help churches assess risk and implement processes to help congregations take steps to reduce the likelihood of abuse or allegations of abuse in their youth ministry.

Safe Sanctuaries resources are also available in Spanish at www.discipleshipresources.org.

Santuarios Seguros Prevención del abuso infantil y juvenil en la iglesia

Traducido por Janette Marie Chévere y María Colone
Por Joy Thornburg Melton

Este libro es una guía para las congregaciones que están comprometidas a ofrecer ministerios enriquecedores para los niños/as y jóvenes. La autora, Joy Thornburg Melton describe, paso a paso, el proceso de desarrollo de políticas y procedimientos para reconocer y reducir el riesgo de abuso infantil y juvenil en la iglesia.



Santuarios seguros contiene además:

- Formularios para examinar y seleccionar a las personas a trabajar con niños/as y jóvenes, revisar referencias, y cómo reportar sospecha de abuso
 - Sugerencia de una sesión de adiestramiento para todas aquellas personas que trabajan con niños/as o jóvenes
 - Sugerencia de un servicio de adoración para celebrar la adopción de las políticas y procedimientos
- Esta traducción es una combinación de los libros *Safe Sanctuaries* y *Safe Sanctuaries for Youth*.

Growing up with Team WP (Wing and a Prayer)

By Rebecca Parsons

Who is the team responsible for projecting the Bishop and others up on the screen at annual conference?

Team WP is the sound, lights, and video media team, and made up of young adults and youth from across the conference ranging in age from 15-24. This year's participants included Robert Jones, Mark Jones, Sylvester Warren, Aaron Wells, Brandon Young, Natasha Warren, Faith McCloud, Alan Morgan, Jordan Heath, Joseph Drayton, Shantaye Connor, and Dante Milligan from Cookman UMC; Jon Ryan, from Quakertown; and Jenny Parsons and Rebecca Parsons from Wooddale UMC. Of the fifteen team members, four are equalizing lay delegates with full voting rights.

Members of Team WP also served as the praise dance team who raised our spirits on Wednesday Night of Annual Conference: Aaron, Brandon, Robert and Mark.

Over the last five years Team WP has served faithfully to make sure the production of Annual Conference proceeds as smoothly as possible. For the three days of Annual Conference, we arrive early and stay late into the night to ensure the conference is seen and heard successfully.

As a member of this team and thus as part of the only consistent youth and young adult representation for

the last half a decade, I am offer this conference a challenge: create an arena where youth and young adults have the ability to participate in annual conference. Show the young people of this conference that you are interested and we will come to join in the ministry of the United Methodist Church. You might say, "Great challenge, but how does she expect us to do that?" It is easy: start by nominating young adults as equalizing delegates of your districts and nominate them as lay delegates from the local churches. Elect youth and young adults to Conference Committees so that we may share the table with our presence and our gifts.

The United Methodist Student Movement (UMSM) is very active nationally, and offers the young people of this conference another chance to participate in the life of the church. Therefore, make it a point for a delegation from this conference to attend the annual MSM Forum. These are just a few ways to get youth and young adults involved in this conference. The possibilities are endless if you give us a chance. Team WP will be at Annual conference next year, so consider yourselves challenged!

Please note that Team WP dedicated their work this year to the memory of Greg Kane, former Team WP member, who died so suddenly this year.

Methodist Home for Children is the Child Welfare Agency of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
Celebrating 126 years of outreach to children, individuals and families throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Join us for Founders Day Dinner and Silent Auction Thursday, September 29, 2005 5:30 p.m. at Drexelbrook

Bishop Marcus Matthews is the Honored Guest and Keynote Speaker

Call 215-877-1926 x109 today for your reservation or reserve online at www.methodistservices.org



4300 Monument Road Philadelphia, PA 19131-1616

The official registration and financial information for Methodist Home for Children may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free (within Pennsylvania) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Church (cont'd pg1)

They found people buried right up to the walls, including under the air conditioner. Good said he was surprised at the number of children in the cemetery, many of whom died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

"We've made enormous strides in the last 100 years in health care and water purification. We take these things for granted."

Good added, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust - it's absolutely true. Of the 420 graves, 100 of them had no human remains left." Archaeologists were able to find these graves only because the wood of the coffins left a black outline marking the burial. Soil samples from the center of the outlines of those 100 graves, tested to see if there were any remains, revealed only minerals. In the graves where only dirt was found, the "remains" were treated as cremations, and a handful of dirt was placed in a sealed plastic bag. Some family members wanted the remains back to keep or scatter, but most will go to a columbarium. The high water table at the site contributed to decay of remains and coffins.

Records for the cemetery were kept by volunteers over 150 years, but were destroyed when the shed in which they were kept was struck by lightning and burned to the ground around 1950. Fortunately, researchers found maps and records of the cemetery, which the church had sent to a library in the late 1940's.

Many of the lots had been sold for \$10 - including perpetual care. It cost about \$700,000 to move the cemetery to its new site: Beulah Cemetery on Route 202 in New Britain, Bucks County. A Memorial Day Service of re-dedication and consecration attended by 150 people brought to closure the difficult and emotional task.

Next in store for the church is moving to temporary quarters while they begin the planning and building process at a new ten-acre site three miles away on the corner of County Line Road and Limekiln Pike in Montgomery Township. A preliminary drawing begins the master plan for the ten acres, which includes an octagonal church building.

The new land cost \$500,000, of which \$490,000 has been paid so far, and the remaining \$10,000 is expected to be paid off this year.

The congregation has an agreement of sale with Commerce Bank for \$2.5 million, and hopes to go to settlement by next spring. At that time, the \$700,000 mortgage from the Loan Fund for moving the cemetery will be paid off.

"We're very much alive and still going," said Good, who anticipates growth in ministries and membership as the formerly small country church builds its new building and builds God's kingdom on earth.



A testimony to Healing the Wounds of Racism and the legacy of Wanda Lofton

By Jennie Parsons, youngest member of the CORE Team

I was 11 when I met Wanda at a Healing the Wounds of Racism workshop. She wasn't certain an 11 yr. old could grasp the concept of racism, but was open to learn that all ages could benefit from training regarding the inherent evil racism causes. Wanda left a legacy of values to participants of all ages.

Wanda Lofton's leadership and guidance was transformational for Winnie Kensill, recipient of a new award in memory of Wanda Lofton. This year, during Annual Conference, the CORE Team presented the award to Ms. Kensill, who has contributed to the monumental task of "Dismantling Racism." She has worked diligently in this Healing Ministry several years. Ms. Kensill was devastated when coming to an understanding of racism at her first training in 1998. She felt the need to attend three more sessions on her own, because she realized there was too much for her to grasp in the first couple of sessions. She also attended the Level Two workshop twice.

Wanda Lofton impacted many lives within and outside of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Many responded because she met them where they were, and they were moved to action. Others answered the challenge because they saw the need for a change and were prepared to be the catalyst. She often talked about a poster on her door that read, "All are welcome here as long as I don't have to change to accommodate you."

I realized one thing Wanda did was validate many of my experiences and feelings. There is a book, "Care Enough to Confront" which shares that some things need to be said even though we may not be comfortable saying them. Many Christians believe that if you are doing the right thing, everything should be viewed through rose-colored glasses. This was not Christ's mode of operation, not Wanda's perspective, nor that of many other Christ-centered leaders I've encountered. She always delivered the punch of truth with grace and mercy.

Malvern makes disciples in all generations

Malvern United Methodist Church celebrated disciple-making in an extraordinary way on Sunday, June 19, 2005. Malvern's pastor, the Rev. David Myers, baptized five persons in one family, from three different generations. Rev. Myers baptized Jane Morgan, her two adult daughters, Alice DiGiavanni and Cathy Littlefield, and Cathy's two children, Morgan Hanson Littlefield, 3 1/2 years; and Cooper Thomas Littlefield, 6 months.

"I never heard of anyone baptizing three generations at once," said Rev. Myers. "It was fun and deeply moving. The family wanted to get involved in a local church. It was exciting for the congregation, too, to feel a part of this special occasion."

Rev. Myers characterized Malvern as a small membership church from the beginning. Although he sensed that the church may have been suspicious that he was sent to

When Wanda became ill with cancer, it didn't stop her work. She became more determined. There evidently were many things she felt she needed to accomplish. I see this now, but had no idea she was as ill as we would discover. When we returned from Nigeria after the first exchange, Wanda got up from her sick bed to facilitate an all day retreat at Camp Innabah to deal with and discuss issues that would impact this ongoing relationship. One of the major concerns when doing missionary exchanges is the giver/recipient mentality. This work must be done so that everyone benefits.

I can remember her saying very early in our relationship that I needed to be doing this work full-time. As I kept saying no, she just kept pouring in, more time, more information, more patience, more understanding and topped it off by highlighting the need for more tolerance. Tolerance was not my most prominent characteristic.

Tolerance is something that can be learned when the student is interested and determined to take on the challenge. In doing this work you meet and make friends from all aspects of life. Everyone is on a journey, not all pursuing the same destination, or even having the same goals. Wanda's view was to meet individuals where they were and then work on getting to where we should be to resemble the worker Christ would have us to become.

This work is not to make individuals feel beat up - just enlightened. Join us to discuss the very important topic of "We Are One," so says Christ.

"Wanda trusted in the love and goodness of God. As an accomplished musician, she used her special, internal melody and rhythm while touching the hearts of all people. She was devoted to her race but wanted justice for all. She spoke and taught with profound wisdom while doing this legendary work."

The Core Team

Malvern to close the church seven years ago, he saw the older persons in "this amazing little church" stay and work with newcomers. Although the church has no children's Sunday School, they will need one soon. After baptizing nine babies in the last four years, they now have a nursery.



Healing the Wounds of Racism

By Hilda Campbell

The celebration highlighted by the Office of Human Relations at the Annual Conference focused on activities within the healer community. My own testimony related calling the office of a pastor where the voice mail cheerfully opened with "Welcome to the Little White Church on the Hill." I'm sure they were referencing the color of the building, but I responded by saying that this message probably would not be received in the same light by a new person in the community. Our conversation later led to greater understanding, transformed thinking, and a new message.

As part of our presentation, we heard from Jennie Parsons. She will take a leave of absence from participating in the CORE Team to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. The CORE Team gave her, our youngest member, a blanket to keep warm while away. At 11 years of age, Wanda realized that Jennie could grasp the concept of "racism" and opened registration to the Healing the Wounds of Racism (HWOR) Workshop to her (see story at left).

Ted Newton next told his transformation story and acknowledged the need to change our designations of black and white as statistical categories. Being a math person, he shared how God had taught him "new math." There are three kinds of people: those with more than enough, those with less than enough, and those with just the right amount. After attending the HWOR training he said, "If those with more than enough would share with those with less than enough, we would all have the right amount." He was so impacted by the training, that he started a fund with his own donation for those who need to attend HWOR, but have financial difficulties.

We presented an award to Winifred Kensill in honor of our past Human Relations Director, Wanda Lofton. She received a handcrafted butterfly to represent transformation. Winnie has worked with the CORE Team since its inception. She is currently one of the trainers, and remains committed to the ongoing work of fighting racism and its effects on the church, people and community.

Hilda Campbell is the director of human relations and leadership at the Eastern PA Conference.





Offerings for the students at Annual Conference 2005 and on Student Day, November 27, 2005

By Stacy Martin

At Annual Conference this year, the history and purpose of the Scholarship Team was presented. In 2001 the Foundation joined the Office of Office of Urban and Global Ministries to create a Conference Scholarship Team to care for the scholarships to be awarded students in Eastern Pennsylvania. As a result, all conference scholarships have now been moved under the Scholarship Team in order to bring equality to the evaluation process and prompt award of all funds. The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem and I are co-conveners of the team, which includes Lenora Thompson, the Rev. Timothy Thomson-Hohl, and the Rev. Felicia Kumar.

Candidates for scholarships include undergraduate students and seminary students. Other graduate school pursuits will be considered as well. All candidates must be active members of a Conference United Methodist Church for two years prior to application and the application deadlines are November 1 for the Spring Semester and March 1 for the Fall semester.

Applications, as well as lists of scholarships and awards, are available via the Eastern Pennsylvania website www.epaumc.org or by calling the Foundation office 800-828-9093 or the

Office of Urban and Global Ministries office 800-866-6855. It is important for the application to be completed thoroughly and for the income and living expense information to be clearly stated. Due to the high price of education and all the attendant costs, students are encouraged to seek other sources through their local church and by researching opportunities online, at their local library, or at their school.

Now let's review a few of the awards available. We have taken an offering at the first service of Annual Conference for the past three years. The purpose is to divide the funds among qualified students who have applied for scholarships but for whom we have no funds as they are not attending a United Methodist school or there is some other obstacle. The goal of the Team is to award at least \$500 to each qualified applicant.

We are pleased to share with you that the offering received at this year's conference totaled **\$5,101.54!** This is more than two times last year's amount! The largest gift this year was made by Pocono Lake UMC. Not only did they demonstrate their commitment to the ministries honored at the three offerings during this Conference, but the members of Pocono Lake planned in advance and prepared one

check for all three! Their commitment and stewardship is a model for stewardship and giving.

Another opportunity to provide for students is the **Conference Merit Award**. It is awarded to a student attending a United Methodist school. This award is funded by a rebate of **10%** of our Conference's Student Day Offering. This entire ministry is in the business of transforming lives. This is a very tangible way to help students both nationally and locally through this rebate program! **What other investment can you name that pays a 10% annual return?!** This year's Student Day offering will be taken on November 27th - the Sunday of Thanksgiving and Homecoming Weekend. Please help us invest in our collective future by donating generously!

The Scholarship Team would like to thank Bishop Matthews and the Delegates to this year's Annual Conference for their generous offering this year. With your offering on Student Day on November 27th, the students of the Conference will know that we are with them as they pursue their studies.

Please contact Stacy Martin, Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula Delaware U.M. Foundation with any questions 800-828-9093 x247 or email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org.

WELCOME

Paula M. Sharp

The Central District welcomes Paula M. Sharp as the new District Resource Assistant (DRA). Paula has been an active member of Janes Memorial in Philadelphia since 1993. Formerly Paula worked for Janes Memorial United Methodist Church as the church administrator from 1998 until June of 2005, and for Prudential Insurance Company in the AARP Department as a Claims Supervisor, where she was employed 10 years. She is the mother of two boys, Taylor (12) and Jared (7).

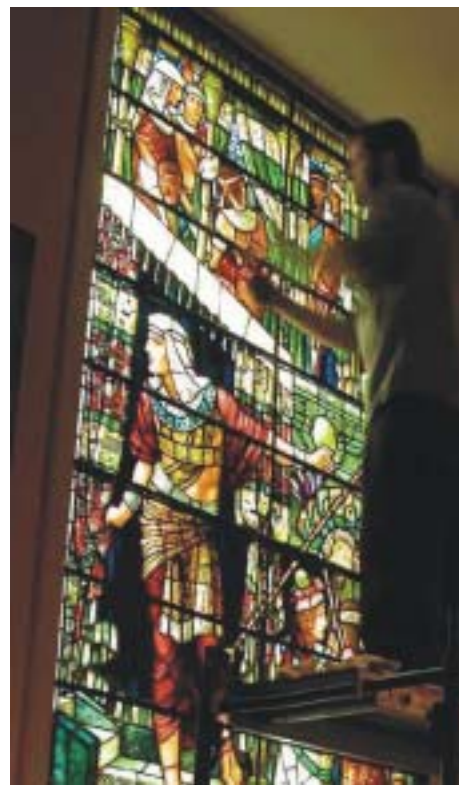
Sheila M. Hyun

The Northeast District welcomes Sheila M. Hyun as the new District Resource Assistant (DRA). Mrs. Hyun is an active member of Wescosville: Bethany UMC where she serves as a music minister and as a worship leader for Sunday school children (K-2). She is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. in Communications and minors in Spanish, music, and theater. Her work experience includes being a computer operator with IBM, public relations associate with Schering-Plough International (Kenilworth, NJ), news assistant with WOWK-TV13 (Huntington, WV), marketing coordinator for

Clinical Regional Advisory Board (Victoria, VA), and co-owner & operator of Tech-Wise (Farmville, VA). Mrs. Hyun has served as a music director for an Emmaus Movement Women's Walk and as a music minister for Marriage Enrichment. Sheila and her husband, Michael, are the parents of Daniel (8). She is returning to the out-of-home workplace after a period as a stay-at-home mom.

Montene M. Wagner

The Northwest District welcomes Montene M. Wagner as their new District Resource Assistant (DRA). Ms. Wagner has been a member of the First United Methodist Church in Schuylkill Haven for 14 years. Montene graduated from Pottsville Area High School and has a technical degree in Microsoft Windows and Excel. Her work experience includes being a shipping clerk, teacher's aide, administrative assistant and a payroll administrator. In addition to working as a DRA, she is a Mary Kay Consultant and waitress at a local restaurant. She is the mother of two children, Shain (10) and Gwendolyn (8). In her spare time, she is an assistant cub scout den leader and a cheerleading squad coach.



Stained Glass Restoration Course

Learn the art of repair and restoration with renowned stained glass artist Michael Mezalick at Frankford Group Ministry, 4620 Griscom St., Philadelphia, PA 19124. Ten week course to be held Wednesday evenings beginning September 14. Fee \$300 plus cost of tools. Call 215 744-2990, ext. 250 for more information.



Congratulations to Berwyn UMC!

Berwyn United Methodist Church has been recognized by United Methodist Communications as an official "Welcoming Congregation."

"Welcoming Congregations are a select group of United Methodist congregations nationwide that meet certain criteria including embracing newcomers and providing opportunities in discipleship. The recognition program is part of the Igniting Ministry campaign.

The Rev. Dr. Richard J. Rimert Jr., the congregation's pastor, stated that the certification comes as the result of a focused and intentional effort to increase the congregation's efforts to welcome guests to visit the church. We have benefited significantly from the training provided by the Igniting Ministry program as well as observing what other churches are doing in this area. We are also deeply indebted to the ministry of the late Kay Bailey, a staff member of Hempfield United Methodist Church, who conducted several excellent hospitality workshops attended by several of our members.

"Open hearts, open minds, open doors" is the theme of the denominational effort, which includes a series of national cable TV ads, supplemented by regional and local church participation. The overall aim of the effort is to invite people, particularly those between 25 and 54 years old, to enter into connection with the Christian community as they seek meaning and purpose in their lives.

Churches who have earned this certification receive a plaque for display at their church, as well as a special seal identifying the church as a certified "Welcoming Congregation" on the denomination's web site.

Berwyn joins Bethel Park UMC as the only two congregations in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference to earn this recognition. According to the Igniting Ministry website, a total of 197 U.S. congregations have obtained this certification. To learn more about how your church can earn this certification contact the Igniting ministry office at (877) 281-6535 or by visiting the Igniting Ministry website: www.IgnitingMinistry.org.

Beyond 30 seconds - Developing a Welcoming Congregation

\$49.95

This group resource is designed for any congregation wanting to sharpen its welcoming skills.



Classifieds

DIRECTOR OF CAMPING AND NURTURE MINISTRIES

Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries - The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. The position reports directly to the Conference Executive Director of Conference Resourcing/Director of Connectional Ministries, and operates out of the conference office in Valley Forge. Primary responsibilities include overseeing at \$2.7 million dollar Conference-wide Christian camping and retreat program. There are additional responsibilities in the guidance and consultation of age-level ministries. A full ministry description can be obtained by calling the Conference Office at 1-800-828-9093. Minimum requirements for this position are a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a four year college or graduate school with experience and/or training in camp and retreat ministries. Equivalent experience in an administrative/managerial field for a minimum of five years will be considered. Extensive travel throughout the Conference is required. Salary will be determined based upon experience and educational background. Applications will be

accepted until the position is filled. Anticipated start date is October 1, 2005. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, resume and salary history to the Office of the Executive Director of Conference Resourcing/Director of Connectional Ministries, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

CAMPUS MINISTER

The Wesley Foundation of Philadelphia is looking for a United Methodist to fill the full-time position of campus minister for Drexel University's Asbury Protestant Ministry. Located at Drexel's main campus, The Asbury Ministry is poised for incredible growth seeking to integrate faith, spirituality and values with student experiences on or around campus. The chosen candidate will work closely with the non-profit corporation known as the Asbury Protestant Ministries of the Wesley Foundation of Philadelphia. The campus minister will communicate regularly with the board members and work closely with its various committees as the Board directs, will actively facilitate the Board's direction, vision, mission, recruitment, and funding, and will coordinate meetings. We are looking for a United Methodist with ministerial experience in working with young

adults, a passion for impacting lives through worship and teaching, and a vision for Drexel's campus. The campus minister would provide pastoral care, ministerial presence, programs and services to students & faculty at Drexel University. He/She would be responsible for mobilizing students to participate, get connected, and practice spiritual disciplines. If you are a self-starter with a heart for challenging and inspiring student ministry and meet the qualifications, then please submit your resume to Moses Kumar, Treasurer/Executive Director Administrative Ministries, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820; moses.kumar@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 209.

YOUTH MINISTER (PT)

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Youth Minister to lead youth in grades 7 - 12. The program is aimed at meeting the spiritual, social and emotional needs of youth in the church and community. Full position description can be acquired by calling Stroudsburg United Methodist Church at 570-421-6020 or contacting the church at sumc@stroudsburgumc.com. Interested candidates should send resumes to Stroudsburg United Methodist Church.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (PT)

St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, located in Wayne, PA, seeks a part-time Director of Music to lead a Chancel Choir, a Children's Choir, and a Bell Choir. The Chancel Choir performs every Sunday; the Children's Choir performs once a month; and the

Bell Choir performs every 4-6 weeks from September through May. The Director of Music is also responsible for arranging special music for worship in the summer months. A more detailed job description is available. Resumes may be sent to St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, 600 Walker Road in Wayne, PA 19087 or emailed to pastor@stmatthewsvf.org.

ORGANIST

St. Andrew United Methodist Church, New Berlinville, PA is searching for an organist for a traditional service. This person would accompany the choir also. This is a part-time position, available immediately. Contact the church at 610-367-7043.

MUSIC COORDINATOR

The Stroudsburg United Methodist Church is seeking a Music Coordinator. In addition to directing the choir, the Music Coordinator will help plan, organize and execute the total music program for the church year. Full position description can be acquired by calling the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church at 570-421-6020 or contacting the church at sumc@stroudsburgumc.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Position available in the Germantown Area! Church Administrative Assistant, full-time, with basic understanding of Windows XP, Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, Access, and Word Perfect. Must have excellent telephone communications and interpersonal skills. Starting salary \$24,000 with benefits. Mail resumes to Janes Memorial UMC, PO Box 44017, Philadelphia, PA or fax to 215-843-5355.

Welcome Aboard!

Join Bishop Marcus and Mrs. Barbara Matthews in an extraordinary travel opportunity open to members of The Philadelphia Area, their families, and friends.

In cooperation with Educational Opportunities, we are offering a 7-day Alaska Scenic Cruise aboard Holland America's Oosterdam cruise ship departing Seattle, Washington, May 20, 2006.

During the cruise you will develop a profound understanding of the beauty of God's creation through the awesome Alaskan scenery. Our theme will be "God's Glory in Creation." Scripture will come alive in special devotions, which will help prepare us spiritually for seeing the sites on the itinerary.

You will also enjoy the following benefits:

- * Share in scriptural growth as we worship, sing, pray, and commune together
- * Discover your natural leadership potential as a servant of Christ
- * Develop a new awareness of stewardship of God's Creation
- * Create new and lasting friendships among laity and pastors

The District Superintendents from both Annual Conferences will serve as our spiritual leaders and guides for this cruise program. The Deans of the Conference Cabinets will serve as Coordinator and Program Director.

Experience the beauty of God's creation on this memorable Alaskan cruise. Contact Educational Opportunities at 863-648-0383, ext 407 for more details or call the Conference Office at 800-828-9093 for a brochure.



Pampered guests will enjoy unsurpassed, stylish comfort on the ms Oosterdam with internet/email data ports in every stateroom, expanded spa facilities and three sparkling pools.

Latino camp week - it's the bomb!

By Rene A. Perez

Every year during the 4th of July week, The Latino Ministries of our Conference hold their Latino Camp week at Gretna Glen camp. This year more than 100 children and youth celebrated on their last day their annual talent show and showed off their talents by worshipping God.

Although the camp is heavily attended by the children and youth of the Latino churches, some of the campers are also from the different communities of Philadelphia, Allentown, Lancaster, Columbia, Lebanon and Reading. For some of the Latino congregations, camp has become a useful tool to reach children and youth of their communities. Laity and pastors worked together to make sure that this was a place of fun for the campers and a place where God was central to their experience.



Under the leadership of Pastor Jose (Ricky) Ayala of Columbia United Methodist Church, the Latino camp has taken new life and has become a new adventure for the Latino congregations of our Conference. Thanks to all the laity and pastors who served during this week, and to the staff at Gretna Glen.

The Rev. René A. Pérez is the EPA director of Outreach and Church Multiplication and Latino Ministries.