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## Partnership provides affordable housing for seniors

By Allison Boyle\*

More than 40 older adults will have beautiful and new affordable housing in North Philadelphia thanks to a partnership between a United Methodist Church, Simpson Senior Services and government agencies.

In a dedication service on October 10, 100 people joined together in celebration of Simpson Mid-Town. The senior living residence is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, Mid-Town Parish United Methodist Church and Simpson Senior Services. Neighbors, parishioners, future residents, elected officials and members of the clergy were present for the dedication. Simpson Mid-Town is an affordable independent living apartment residence. The 40-unit community provides much-needed, affordable housing for older

*continues on page 8*



The Bishop is joined by members of the Simpson Mid-Town Board and other friends (l. to r.): Ron Barth, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Non Profit Homes and Services for the Aging (PANPHA), Russell Alexander, Kim Williams, Rev. David Powell, Flossie Allen, chair of the Simpson Mid-Town Board, Josie Kingsley, chair of the Simpson Senior Services Board, Caren Bowden, Bishop Marcus Matthews, Rev. Reginald Monte, Rev. Gil Hatcher, Janis Campbell, Marcus Mitchell, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Office of Senator Rick Santorum and Rev. Donna Jones.

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## EPA volunteers respond to disaster

By Suzy Keenan

For about three weeks after Hurricane Katrina, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Coordinator, Ben Botti, was working eight to ten hours a day to keep up with the emails and phone calls he was receiving. Churches, clusters, and individuals from across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference were contacting Botti in response to the devastation of the hurricane and need for mission teams to help with disaster clean up and repair.

"We've had tremendous interest," exclaimed Botti. "At last count, 61 teams will go, each with from 6 to 25 persons per team. I also received calls from an additional 85 individual volunteers who want to be placed on existing teams."

The first team to go to the Gulf area will be an Early Response Team (ERT), trained for the special needs of being in mission soon after a disaster. That team is from Hope United Methodist Church in Douglassville. They are leaving on November 25 and will be staying for about 10 days, and will be taking a 24-foot mobile home donated by community residents Dave and Shirley

Holeman for use by mission workers or evacuees. Going to Ocean Springs, MS in the Biloxi area, they will not know what work they will be doing until about a week before they get there.

Prior to Katrina there were only two trained ERT's in the thirteen annual conferences of the entire Northeastern Jurisdiction. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference now has its own.

At least one person from each team, the team leader, is required to participate in VIM training. "We had about 100 persons go through the training on September 27 and October 1," said Botti. "The training that we have done so far is a condensed version that covers ERT and VIM team leader training. They learn team building skills, what to do and what not to do." Botti added, "The project is not about the work - it's about the people." He cites the importance of flexibility, "because one thing you can count on is that there will be changes in the work because a project might be behind schedule or it may be completed and you might be

*continues on page 8*

## Yvette Diaz, Deaconess and Peace Advocate

By Suzy Keenan

Even before she recognized it, Deaconess Yvette Diaz felt called to missions. As far back as she can look, her passion has always been to help - through music, friendships, and service.

Diaz, whose grandparents migrated from Puerto Rico to the United States in 1941, grew up in the East New York section of Brooklyn, which stands on the bones of the Dutch settlement of

New Lots. It was a predominantly African-American neighborhood rich in culture. It was there that she experienced first hand the "brutal pangs" of poverty. Church involvement was the joy of her life. She played her guitar and sang in St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church.

When she was fourteen, her mother became a homeowner and moved the family to Queens; after that, she no longer went to

*continues on page 9*



(l. to r.) Amandalis Santiago, Cassandra Morales, Stephanie Morales, and Yvette Diaz practice for their singing group at St. Paul's in Lancaster, PA. Photo by Tequila Minsky.

## Conference Calendar

### Change in Conference Office hours

Due to the rising cost of gas, beginning October 1, 2005 and continuing to the end of the year, the Conference Office will be open four days per week: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### November 12

**Digital Storytellers' Seminar**  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 S. 22nd St., Camp Hill, PA. Phone: 717-737-5631; email: chumc@camphillumc.org.

Cost: \$89 per person, \$69 per person (groups of 3+). Registration forms available at [www.cpcumc.org](http://www.cpcumc.org) - look under Conference Events or call 800-874-8474. Send registration and payment to: CPCUMC - Communications, PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2053. For more information, please call Sandi Peiffer at 800-874-8474, e-mail [speiffer@cpcumc.org](mailto:speiffer@cpcumc.org). For more information on Digital Storytellers, visit [www.midnightoilproductions.net/ds/tour/index.html](http://www.midnightoilproductions.net/ds/tour/index.html).

### November 13

**Annual Men's Day Service at Grace Community UMC**, everyone welcome to join celebration Service on Sunday, November 13, 2005. The Morning Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the Rev. Ralph E. Blanks, District Superintendent of the Central District, as the guest preacher; Renowned Saxophonist, William Douglas will render musical selections during the morning service. The Afternoon Service will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Professor of African American Studies at Lutheran Seminary, as the guest preacher. Dinner will be served between the services. Women, you are indeed welcome to attend. For more information, contact The Rev. Andrew L. Foster, III, Grace Community UMC, 1213 Central Avenue, Chester PA; 610-876-6347.

### November 14-16

**2005 State Pastors' Conference**  
The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is now accepting registrations for the 2005 State Pastors' Conference. Scheduled at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill, this year's conference will focus on the "emerging church." Its theme is "We've Never Done It Like This Before: Lessons from the 'Emergent Church'." Visit [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org) for more details, including a registration brochure you can download, a news release that tells more about the conference, and a link to a secure site to register for the conference and pay with a MasterCard or Visa credit card. Or, call 717-545-4761.

### November 18

**Grant Writing Review Workshop**  
Friday, November 18th from 7 p.m. - 9p.m.: A follow-up grant writing review workshop for those churches which participated in the workshop in April. There is no fee. Site: Homewood Suites by Hilton, 681 Shannondell Blvd., Audubon, PA. 19403, 610-539-7300 (near the Conference Office). The group will meet in the Valley Forge Conference Room. Please call the Office of Urban and Global Ministries in order to register for this event (215-878-8054). All registrations must be in by Thursday, November 3rd.

### November 19

**Grant Writing Workshop**  
Saturday, November 19th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. This is a workshop for those persons/churches that wish to learn grant writing basics and resources. The fee is \$25 per person (The fee is

modest because the Office of Urban and Global Ministries subsidizes this event through Connectional Ministry Funds). All churches are welcome to attend. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Site: Homewood Suites by Hilton, 681 Shannondell Blvd., Audubon, PA 19403, 610 539 7300 (near the Conference Office). Please call the Office of Urban and Global Ministries in order to register for this event. All registrations must be in by Thursday, November 3rd.

## United Methodist Student Day

November 27, 2005

*Make a difference in the life of a student*

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

### December 10 Christmas Peace Pilgrimage— Walk the Road of Peace

Come, walk with your family and friends, and make new friends who seek a more peaceful world. More than a Walk - even if you cannot walk a portion of the pilgrimage, please consider participating in our related events. Following the singing, we will walk to the United Church of Christ at Market and Center Streets for a simple supper and to hear our guest speaker. This year our speaker is Sr. Patricia Keefe, Outreach Coordinator for the Nonviolent Peace Force, USA, who will speak on "Incarnational Peacemaking." Schedule: Participants will meet in the parking lot of 520 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem (corner of Broad and Elm) before 11 a.m. Buses will transport pilgrims to Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square at 10:45 a.m., buses begin leaving 520 E. Broad Street (Bechtel Building); 11:00 a.m. last buses leave Bethlehem for Nazareth. For more information, call Fran Dreisbach at 610-258-7313, or the Bethlehem Council of Churches at 610-867-8671, P.O. Box 1245, Bethlehem, PA 18016 or visit their website: [www.peacewalk.org](http://www.peacewalk.org).

### January 15, 2006

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY - 2006**  
**SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY**  
Human Relations Day was created by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1972 to provide ongoing resources for programs developed under the previous quadrennium's Fund for Reconciliation. In 1988, the General Conference decided that Human Relations Day be on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Lives have been turned around, communities revitalized, and the gospel proclaimed. This has been the legacy of Human Relations Day. For stories, photos, and resources to promote Human Relations Day in your congregation, go to: <http://www.umcgiving.org>  
**January 17-19, 2006**  
**Worship Conference with the Large Church Initiative**, sponsored by Cokesbury's Worship Connection at First United Methodist Church in

Grapevine, Texas. This worship conference is open to: clergy, musicians, band members, lay speakers, worship committees/altar guilds...*anyone* interested in planning worship! For complete details visit your local Cokesbury Christian Bookstore, call 1-800-672-1789 or go to: <http://worshipconnection.cokesbury.com/content.aspx?dyn=433> If you have questions please call or email us, Ellie Trimble, Events Coordinator 615-749-6193; Betsy Hall, Worship Connection Team, 615-749-6507, [worshipconnection@cokesbury.com](mailto:worshipconnection@cokesbury.com)

### March 26, 2006

**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
Each year, join United Methodists worldwide on the fourth Sunday of Lent (this year on March 26) in observing the One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering is vital to underwriting the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and its humanitarian ministries. For more information, go to [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

### April 30, 2006

**Native American Ministries**  
Native American Awareness Sunday, April 30, 2006, recognizes and supports the contributions of American Indians to the church and society. The observance, approved by the 1988 General Conference, is one of six special churchwide Sunday offerings to be celebrated in each of the 35,986 United Methodist churches in the United States. The funds collected will allow The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries and create programs on behalf of American Indians. Money collected also supports seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans. For more information, go to: [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

### June 11, 2006

**Peace with justice Sunday**  
Six times throughout the year, United Methodist congregations celebrate churchwide Special Sundays with offerings. Your support is critical to the survival of these important ministries and for sharing God's gifts around the world.

### October 13-16, 2006

**"The Great Event"**  
Sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship at Valley Forge Radisson, Valley Forge, PA.

### Announcement

*The Rev. Charles E. Weigel, Jr. is the new Conference Secretary for The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Weigel is pastor of Downingtown United Methodist Church in Downingtown, PA. He succeeds Mrs. Elizabeth (Lisi) Fisher in this position.*

**For Philadelphia Area clergy**  
*- please place these important dates with Bishop Marcus Matthews on your calendar:*

### November 28, 2005

**"The 2005 Bishop's Advent Day Apart"** 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Aldersgate UMC, 2313 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, Delaware 19803.

- 8:30-9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time with Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-10:15 a.m. "Waiting and Working Toward a Wider Vision" - presentation by Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey, Professor of Worship and Liturgics, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Marcus Matthews, message, worship and Holy Communion
- 12:00 noon Departure time.

All are encouraged to carpool, if possible, to support the conservation of energy and because parking is limited. There is no registration fee for this special Day Apart; however, a Love Offering is taken to help defray breakfast costs.

### January 17-19, 2006

**"The 2006 Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat"**  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Maxine Clarke Beach, Dean of the Theological School, Drew University The Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Information on hotel and registration will be forthcoming.

### February 28, 2006

**"The 2006 Bishop's Lenten Day Apart"**  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803; Phone: (302) 478-2575. Information on how to RSVP will be forthcoming.



Published 10 times per year by  
**The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of  
The United Methodist Church**

Valley Forge Corporate Center  
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

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Director of Communications  
Graphic Design and Layout

Annual subscription \$12

Please submit articles for publication by the 10th of the month to:  
**The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church,**  
P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820  
or via e-mail to [communications@epaumc.org](mailto:communications@epaumc.org)

Periodical postage paid at Norristown, PA 19403, USPS #0019604  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
**NEWSpirit at EPA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820**

# When is the pastor's Sabbath? Statement from Bishop Marcus Matthews

by the Rev. Cecile J. Grantham\*

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves." Mark 6:30-32 (NRSV)

When I was in High School, we hosted a foreign exchange student from Brazil. My Dad would get frustrated with Eloisa because she was often late. Finally one day she said to my Dad "The object of a clock is to tell time, not to dictate it."

In our modern Western culture, we often let the clock dictate to us. We fight time. Twenty four hours just doesn't seem like enough time to get everything done that day. Eric Fromm says "Time is the idol that rules our life." Because we allow time to rule us, we feel frustrated at having too much to do, guilty for not giving enough time to our family, and anxious that we might not be successful at fulfilling our goals. A different way of thinking about time is that it is a wonderful gift from God. We are given a balance between activity and nightly rest. God's time is sufficient for what God has planned.

This time of year, pastors are often more stressed. We are pulled in many directions: charge conferences, the community Thanksgiving service, Advent planning, extra Christmas activities, pastoral care duties, stewardship needs for the church, let alone the added pressure of family holiday activities. No wonder pastors work long hours, often neglecting their time off. It is a race to Christmas and then the pastor collapses. It is no surprise that pastors often get sick right after Christmas.

Jesus knew the value of rest. He often would go off by himself to pray and rest. He encouraged his disciples to rest. Do we know the value of rest? God even rested on the seventh day. For most people, Sunday is to be a day devoted to worshiping God and resting. But for a pastor, Sunday is a work day, not a day of rest. As pastors, we have to schedule a different day of rest for ourselves. Our Sabbath day should be a day when we are free from our usual responsibilities. It should be a whole day devoted to our family and to our own prayer and devotion life. The pastor must set clear boundaries with their church to help them understand the importance of the pastor's day off and that he/she is not to be disturbed on that day unless it is a major emergency.

So here is your challenge. Take out your schedule book and cross off one day a week for your day off. Use this day to re-energize yourself. Spend time with your spouse and your family. Take time for your own spiritual development. Take a nap if you are physically exhausted. Make an appointment with a counselor or spiritual director. (Subsidy help is available for counseling and spiritual direction. Contact [cgrantham@verizon.net](mailto:cgrantham@verizon.net).)

"Come away to a deserted place all by yourself and rest a while." (Mark 6:31)

\*Rev. Cecile J. Grantham is Chair Pastoral Care Committee

## The Judicial Council decision in the case of Irene Elizabeth Stroud

Today, the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church announced its decision in the case of Irene Elizabeth (Beth) Stroud to reverse the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals decision, and to reinstate both the guilty verdict of the trial court of thirteen of Stroud's peers, and the penalty that revoked Stroud's clergy credentials.

In a church trial in December of 2004, Stroud was found guilty of violating a United Methodist Church law that was in effect in April 2003 when she declared that she was in a covenanted, homosexual relationship. That law states that self-avowed, practicing homosexuals are not to be ordained or appointed.

Stroud appealed the verdict and penalty, and on April 29, 2005, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals overturned the trial court's verdict and penalty, citing legal error, and restored Stroud's clergy standing.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference then filed an appeal with The United Methodist Church's top court, the Judicial Council.

In an open hearing on October 27, representatives of Stroud and The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference were each allowed 30 minutes to present their arguments. Deliberations

of the Judicial Council followed the hearing.

The Judicial Council specified in its decision that Stroud was "accorded all fair and due process rights enumerated in the Discipline and in Judicial Council decisions." The council additionally decided that the Committee on Appeals was without jurisdiction to declare that para. 304.3 of the Discipline established a new standard of doctrine contrary to established doctrine. That law declares, "Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church." Further, the council decided that legal error did not occur in respect to the law as it was stated or deliberated by the trial court.

There is no further appeals process in this case. Church law is made or changed by a vote of the General Conference of The United Methodist



Bishop Marcus Matthews, Philadelphia Area

Church, when clergy and lay representatives of the worldwide denomination gather every four years. The next General Conference will be held in the spring of 2008.

Please continue to keep The United Methodist Church, in particular its bishops, pastors, and other leaders, in your prayers.

October 31, 2005

## New Director for Asbury Protestant Ministry

The Rev. Tim Rardin is the new director of The Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University, a ministry of The Wesley Foundation of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Rardin began in this position on October 3rd.

In addition to his responsibilities at Asbury, he is also serving as part-time pastoral associate at Calvary UMC in West Philadelphia, where

he is also a member. He is also a candidate for elders orders with the Eastern PA Conference.

Asbury Protestant Ministry evolved out of Asbury UMC, which was across the street from Drexel until it burned down in 1996. The church had been very active in ministry with the university, and so set up an endowment to establish a student ministry at Drexel, with a responsibility to reach out to Protestant students. Efforts are now also being made to expand ministry to Temple University with the support of the Wesley Foundation.

Rardin reflects on the ministry's purpose: "The board has made a commitment to ministry by now having a full-time pastor. I see my role to be in ministry with campus as a whole - students, faculty and staff." Counseling, pastoral care,



The Rev. Tim Rardin, Director of The Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University

worship, fellowship will all be included. "I want to offer a Christian perspective on a variety of issues and questions that come up on an urban campus in the heart of the city," he said.

"We certainly hope to grow and hope to provide a lot of options for people to participate, including alternative worship at times amenable to a student's life, worship, Bible study, community and social action, alternative spirit breaks." Rardin noted that Drexel students' cop schedule (six months in school, then six months in a work environment) will offer challenges to keep them

engaged.

Formerly, Rardin served on the Wesley Foundation board before he went to seminary. He graduated in 2004 with an M. Div. From Drew Theological School. He also holds a double B.A. in English and Communication from the University of Michigan (1994).

Before coming to Asbury, he held a variety of church and non-profit/social service positions in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Newark, NJ. His work included being Adult Basic Education/GED Instructor at Community Women's Education Project/

Community College of Philadelphia, ministry intern at Protestant Community Centers Inc. of Newark, NJ, and youth director at both Fox Chase UMC in Philadelphia and UMC of Green Village in New Jersey.

Rardin is originally from central Ohio, where he was active at First United Methodist Church in Marysville, Ohio. "I am excited to journey with students in the process of self-discovery and in making sense of their spirituality in the context of all the questions. As they explore what they want to do with their lives, we offer spiritual grounding." You can reach him at [tsrardin@yahoo.com](mailto:tsrardin@yahoo.com).

## In Memoriam

The Rev. Robert D. Newhart, retired elder on October 3, 2005 at the age of 81.

Rev. Newhart served the following appointments: Swiftwater; Bushkill; Chapman Quarries; Joliett-First; Former Tremont First; Tremont; St. John's; Oak Grove; Elysburg; Bethel; Tobyhanna; Hazleton; Diamond; Hiberia. He retired in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Lucille S. Newhart, RR4 4575 Pumphouse Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436-8840. Also surviving is his son, Timothy, who resides in Montana.

## In The Nation

# Church marks 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women

A UMNS Feature  
By Vicki Brown\*

On May 4, 1956, in Minneapolis, the General Conference of the Methodist Church approved full clergy rights for women. Half a century later, the fruits of that action are the nearly 12,000 United Methodist clergywomen who serve the church at every level, from bishops to local pastors.



The Rev. Jane Ann Stoneburner

A year long celebration of the 50th anniversary includes worship services, books celebrating the lives of pioneering clergywomen and writings of other clergywomen, special observances at annual conferences, and a banquet and concert on Aug. 15 during the International United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation in Chicago, Aug. 13-17.

"The decision forever changed the face of ordained clergy. Because of the General Conference action, bishops were required to appoint every pastor in good standing within the conference. The effect was that any woman in full connection and in good standing would receive

an appointment," said the Rev. Mary Ann Moman, associate general secretary of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

"That was the first step in a long journey of acceptance for many clergywomen. The church's celebration of this anniversary is a reminder to all of us of both the joys and heartaches clergywomen experienced in the journey toward full acceptance in the church," Moman said.

Bishop Susan Morrison of the Albany (N.Y.) Area, episcopal liaison to the task force planning the celebrations, says that while the conference action opened an official door that was embarrassing to have closed, change was slow. And the anniversary is a reminder of that, as well as a celebration of the leadership and gifts of women clergy.

"In one way it reminds us that throughout history the church has not always been open to diversity and inclusiveness," Morrison said.

The Revs. Grace Eloise Huck and Marion Kline, two of the first 27 women accepted on probationary status in 1956, plan to be at the August clergywomen's gathering. Both women were received into full connection in 1958.

Both recalled simply following God's call.

"I didn't know I was a foremother. I never dreamed I'd see women like this in the ministry. I only thought I was doing what God wanted me to do with my life," said Kline, who is 94.

Kline, Huck, the Rev. Grace Weaver, and the Rev. Jane Ann Stoneburner Moore - the only surviving women of those first 27 - all faced discrimination and resistance in varying degrees.

"At one of my early churches, when the district superintendent told them he was appointing a woman pastor, one of the men pounded the pew and shouted, 'There will be no skirts in this pulpit while I'm alive!'" Huck recalled. She added that the man became one of her staunchest supporters.

Huck, 89, said the first clergywomen were women ministers, instead of minis-

ters who happened to be women. "You go in just as a person now. It's not so unusual," she said.

Weaver, 96, did not consider where the church stood when she answered her call. "I felt eventually the church will grow up. I just thought a woman had a perfect right to be there," she said.

The Rev. Patricia Thompson, author of *Courageous Past - Bold Future*, noted the path of clergywomen has been complex.

"Although women in the United Methodist tradition have been called to preach since the early days of Methodism in England, and both the Methodist Protestants and the United Brethren in Christ began ordaining women as elders and granting them full clergy rights at the end of the 19th century, full clergy rights for women in the Methodist Church did not come without a bitter struggle and often tremendous personal sacrifice on the part of both women and men," Thompson said.

The struggle did not end in 1956, she said. "Many churches were still not open to women, and women of color have had an even more difficult time." Her book, published by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry and available next May, recounts the stories of the women who were the first to receive full clergy rights.

Still, clergywomen today serve at all levels, from pastors of churches of all sizes to district superintendents to the episcopacy. Currently, 16 bishops are women.

"Women had to fight so hard to be accepted as clergy, and there are still places where they are not accepted," said the Rev. Susan Ruach, co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Task Force that is coordinating celebrations. "We hope to celebrate the gains of clergywomen and recognize the contribution they've made, while hopefully encouraging women to see ministry as a possibility for themselves."

Many annual conferences have plans well under way. The Minnesota Conference is working out details for a worship service on the actual anniversary of the vote. The Detroit Conference Committee on the Status and Role of Women interviewed women about the joys and challenges of

their ministry, then produced a DVD titled, "Celebrating 50 Years of Women Ordained in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church." The Southwest Texas Conference plans include a worship service at annual conference, a video depicting the journey of women's ordination, and a book about the history of women's ordination in the conference.

Ruach said worship services written by clergywomen around the United States for local churches and conferences to use will be posted at [www.gbod.org/worship/50thanniversary](http://www.gbod.org/worship/50thanniversary) and at [www.ghbem.org/clergywomen](http://www.ghbem.org/clergywomen). In addition to Thompson's book, the Upper Room is publishing a collection of writings of United Methodist clergywomen, *Courageous Spirit: Voices from Women in Ministry*, available Dec. 1. And Huck has published her autobiography, *God's Amazing Grace*, by Sand Creek Printers in Spearfish, S.D.

The United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Board of Higher Education and Ministry are working together to produce a poster detailing 50 ways to observe the anniversary. It will be mailed to all local churches.

Moore, 74, who had just finished seminary when the conference voted, decided to apply for full clergy rights immediately.

"When I went to annual conference, I was sitting there with my colleagues, and they could all vote, and I couldn't. I thought, I want to be a full participant," Moore said.

Now a United Church of Christ minister,

Moore believes women must still enlarge their understanding of power and expand their vision with the confidence that they can take on more.

"Not to take away from others," she said, "but to make the church truer to the gospel."

\*Brown is an associate editor and writer in the Office of Interpretation, United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.



The Rev. Grace Huck

## The Nation in Brief

- **HURRICANE WILMA**  
Hurricane Wilma roared across South Florida Monday, leaving a swath of destruction in its wake. UMCOR continues to monitor the storm as it moves north towards a potential second landfall in New England. Homes, businesses, and churches sustained damage by this fast moving hurricane. UMCOR has been actively working in long term recovery in the affected areas since the 2004 hurricane season which pummeled Florida with repeated storms. Repair and recovery from the additional damaged caused by Hurricane Wilma will be part of the continuing work of the Florida Annual Conference's Storm Center. You can help in the recovery process by giving to UMCOR Advance #982523 Hurricanes 2005.
- Four UM-related colleges-Hendrix in Conway, Ark.; Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion; Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.; and Williamette University, Salem, Ore.-are among 37 academic institutions to receive \$17.8 million in grants from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment to boost programs advocating student exploration of ministry as a career.
- **NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)**  
The United Methodist Board of Higher

Education and Ministry is planning a series of churchwide discussions over the next six to nine months on the types of pastoral ministry offered in the denomination. The conversations will be held in regional focus groups and are intended to help clarify the forms of ministry for lay, licensed and ordained ministry — including the episcopacy — in The United Methodist Church. The 2004 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, resolved that the Board of Higher Education and Ministry consult with the Council of Bishops and the Board of Discipleship to form a commission to study the "ordering of ministry for the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ." In addition to study groups, the commission launched an online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=586421395595](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=586421395595) to broaden the scope of the conversation. Findings from the conversations and survey will be included in a report to the 2008 General Conference and possibly lead to the creation of new legislation.

- **WASHINGTON (UMNS)**  
On a day when officials at the State Department were monitoring the results of a constitutional referendum in Iraq, the

United Methodist Board of Church and Society passed a resolution calling on the United States to withdraw its troops from the country. "As people of faith, we raise our voice in protest against the tragedy of the unjust war in Iraq," the resolution stated. "We urge the United States government to develop and implement a plan for the withdrawal of its troops. The U.S. invasion has set in motion a sequence of events which may plunge Iraq into civil war." Criticizing a war "waged on false premises," the resolution went on to state, "Thousands of lives have been lost and hundreds of billions of dollars wasted in a war the United States initiated and should never have fought. ...We grieve for all those whose lives have been lost or destroyed in this needless and avoidable tragedy. Military families have suffered undue hardship from prolonged troop rotations in Iraq and loss of loved ones. It is time to bring them home."

- **NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)**  
The United Methodist Church is urging local people to have a voice in the planning and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast in a paid commentary published Oct. 21 in *The Washington Post* and several newspapers in Louisiana and Mississippi. The commentary stated that a "renewed sense

of community" came out of the crisis caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when people came together in concern, compassion and generosity. A second commentary is planned for the week of Oct. 24. The commentaries urge commitment to a fair and inclusive process that creates better places for people to live. United Methodist Communications developed the commentaries, in consultation with bishops of the affected regions, the officers of the Council of Bishops, agency heads, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

- **NEW YORK (UMNS)**  
United Methodists contributed \$17.4 million, as of Oct. 14, to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for its response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That figure includes \$2.76 million given online, according to Roland Fernandes, treasurer, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Students and staff of Robinson School in San Juan, Puerto Rico, have sent \$3,283.40 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for Hurricane Katrina relief. The money came from students and the school's PTA, according to a letter from Robert E. Graves, headmaster. Robinson School is a

## Around the World

# Concern rises over lack of tents for Asia quake survivors

UMNS Report  
By Linda Bloom\*

Relief workers trying to assist survivors of the South Asia earthquake are racing against time and the approach of a harsh winter.

New estimates by regional officials of the death toll from the Oct. 8 earthquake had jumped to at least 79,000 by Oct. 19, according to the Associated Press. But the real concern is for the survivors, according to Marvin Parvez, director of Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan.

"With the 2 to 3 million affected and homeless, the government and U.N. estimates that the affected families need over 600,000 shelter kits or tents," he told United Methodist News Service. "Currently, we have a little over 100,000 available in the supply chain, so you can see we have a huge

gap between demand and supply here."

In an Oct. 18 New York Times article, Andrew Macleod, the United Nations' operations chief in Pakistan, said the problem was not the response from aid organizations but the size of the task. He added that "we need more winterized tents than exist in the world today."

Parvez pointed out that in many of the regions affected by the earthquake, there was a window of only 15 to 20 days from Oct. 19 before winter sets in, "and this will increase the vulnerability of the children and the elderly."

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working with CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan and the International Blue Crescent to respond to the earthquake.

UMCOR's parent agency, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, also is part of the Church of Pakistan's Mission Partners Forum. The Church of Pakistan - the largest Protestant Church in Pakistan - is a union of the Methodist, Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian (Scottish) churches.

The earthquake was centered about 60 miles north of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, and its impact was felt as far east as New Delhi, India, and as far west as Kabul, Afghanistan. Devastation occurred in northern Pakistan and in both the Pakistani-controlled and Indian-controlled sections of Kashmir.



Waiting for food: Two Pakistani boys in Balakot are eager to see what they will receive today. A UMNS photo by Marianne Preus Jacobsen.

CWS relief efforts are being organized through its Pakistan offices in Karachi, Islamabad, Mansehra and Murree. The agency also is part of the Pak-Humanitarian Forum, a collaboration of international humanitarian and emergency response agencies in Pakistan. Members of the forum are going out in teams to assess needs.

On Oct. 13, CWS air-dropped shelter kits from army helicopters to some of the most affected but hard-to-reach areas in Battagram, including 365 kits in Allai. But such deliveries were stalled Oct. 14-15 because of security concerns and poor weather.

CWS also has provided emergency food to families and will provide medical assistance to 100,000 people impacted by the quake - half in Azad Kashmir and half in the Northwest Frontier Province - through two health centers. According to Parvez, the health centers will provide immunization and first aid. The aid will focus on women, children and vulnerable families without food and shelter.

Church World Service's office and health clinic in Mansehra were damaged by the quake but the clinic is now cleared, open and serving survivors needing medical care. While truckloads of supplies continue to arrive in the town of 35,000 - where nearly all the houses were destroyed -

the effort "is just a drop in ocean," Parvez said.

He is concerned about reaching the more remote locations. The United Nations has estimated that only 30 to 40 percent of some 350 to 900 villages damaged by the earthquake have been inspected.

"All of us have to move very fast to make sure that we don't have more casualties," he explained. "Besides this, if we can't get aid out to the mountain villages, we will also see large numbers of

people moving to displaced camps and public buildings down in the plains."

Complicating efforts are the more than 500 aftershocks that have occurred since the earthquake, along with rain, hail and even snow in some areas, he noted.

Parvez, who is of Methodist background, conveyed his "sincere thanks to fellow Methodists for all the support and cooperation."

Kristin Sachen, UMCOR's international disaster coordinator, reported that funds in the agency's international disaster account are low and inadequate to respond to the crucial needs in Pakistan. "We're really hoping that people will remember it in their Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings," she added.

Donations to the United Methodist relief effort can be marked for "UMCOR Advance #232000, Pakistan Earthquake," and placed in church offering plates or sent to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, N.Y. 10087-9068. Contributions also can be made by phone at (800) 554-8583. If funds are intended for recovery in a specific region, that should be noted. More information is available at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/emergency/earthquake/index.stm>.

\*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.



A woman waits while her husband tries to get transportation out of Balakot, a Pakistani village devastated by the quake. (The Oct. 8 earthquake was centered in the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir, and it caused death and destruction in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.) A UMNS photo by Marianne Preus Jacobsen.

## The World in Brief

### CENTRAL AMERICA: HURRICANE STAN RESPONSE

UMCOR is assisting thousands who were affected by Hurricane Stan's unrelenting rains in early October through partner organizations that are already at work in the region. Through Ecological Indigenous Federation of Chiapas, UMCOR is helping indigenous coffee farmers meet basic needs after the hurricane destroyed crops and washed away precious land. Action by Churches Together partners are working in El Salvador to assist people affected by Hurricane Stan and a volcanic eruption that happened during the same week. More than 3,000 vulnerable families are receiving immediate assistance as well as help for future recovery through community organization and health care. Give to UMCOR Advance #501300, Central American Emergency, to help survivors of this tragedy restore their lives.

### MALAWI: FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

UMCOR has received an urgent appeal from the Malawi United Methodist Church requesting assistance in the face of a severe famine in the country. Each of the 95 United Methodist churches is working to provide immediate assistance to the neediest families in their communities. They are also implementing programs to prevent food shortages in the future through better irrigation technology as well as seeds and other supplies. Your generous gifts to

UMCOR Advance #101250, All Africa Drought and Famine Relief, will help hungry people in Malawi and in other African countries facing drought and famine conditions.

• UM Committee on Relief aid is reaching 97,100 people in Niger villages where starvation and malnourishment are epidemic. Drought and locusts have created an acute crisis, according to officials at UMCOR, which is partnering with Swiss Interchurch Aid. Known as HEKS, which has long-term commitments in Niger, the alliance is providing seeds, cattle fodder, and staple foods such as milk powder in the southern region of Niger, an arid country north of Nigeria and west of Chad. Food aid and sustainable agriculture are examples of approaches to combating famine in vulnerable parts of the African continent

### BERLIN (UMNS)

White City is a place where a legacy of conflict dating back to the 1930s still intrudes into every day life. This area of Oranienburg, a suburb of Berlin, was also home to Soviet soldiers during the Cold War when Oranienburg was part of what was then East Germany. When communist rule ended, Russian soldiers left the area in ruins. It is here that the Rev. Heinrich Meinhardt, a United Methodist pastor, and his congregation have created a church that literally fits into a large container. The physical space inside The Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche im Container (which translates "Church in

the Container") includes one central meeting/activity area, a closet-size office, a storage area and a bathroom. While admitting the space is cozy, Meinhardt pointed out that the container project's support from the United States and Canada, as well as Germany, makes The United Methodist Church in the Container a real "global piece of our church."

### NEW YORK (UMNS)

UNICEF needs to work in partnership with United Methodists and others to end the threats to children in today's world. That was the message delivered by Rima Salah, UNICEF's deputy executive director, to directors and staff of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries during a forum at the Church Center for the United Nations. Salah said she has witnessed "many examples of the threats children face every day." Those threats include being abducted into armies or militias, being trafficked to other countries for cheap labor or prostitution purposes, and being subjected to rape as a weapon of war. "Even in times of peace, the lives of children are under threat," she noted, as she told the board members that UNICEF or any other organization alone cannot solve all the problems that children experience. "Together, let us join hands and create a world in which children can live in safety and with dignity."

### MONROVIA, Liberia (UMNS)

As their country emerges from years of

civil war, Liberians are pinning their hopes for the future on the outcome of a run-off election set for Nov. 8, between soccer star George Weah and former Liberian finance official Ellen Johnson Sirleaf — both United Methodists. Neither of them drew the more than 50 percent of the votes needed to win. On Oct. 11, more than 1 million people — 74 percent of registered voters — went to the polls to participate in Liberia's first democratic elections following 14 years of civil war. While there has been no major fighting since the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2003, the Liberian capital city of Monrovia remains without electricity or running water and more than 120,000 people are languishing in refugee and internally displaced camps throughout the region.

### ZIMBABWE (UMNS)

A caravan of United Methodist deacons, searching for a site for an AIDS treatment project, personally confronted the needs of those suffering from the disease on a Sept. 16-Oct. 1 visit to Zimbabwe. The six deacons delivered more than 400 pounds of medicine, medical supplies and clothes to clinics and hospitals in the Mutare area and worked on a partnership with Africa University to provide treatment and rehabilitation, as well as respite care with home-based care for follow-up, counseling and spiritual support for people living with AIDS.

## Native American Ministries

\*by Hilda Campbell

The Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries Task Force (NEJ CoNAM) met October 14 to 16 at Arch St. United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, where The Rev. Robin Hynicka, senior pastor, and members of the church welcomed the group. The event culminated with a Native American service, an annual event of Arch St. UMC, usually held in November. Chief Buffy Red Feather (seen at right) preached the message, "One Spirit, Many Nations", after which participants danced with the Cherokee Sister's Drum Group, and then enjoyed lunch together. The service included "Amazing Grace" sung in Cherokee by Jusalene April Rain Clark and Charmaine Sunflower Lark.



Cyndi Kent, chairperson of NEJ CoNAM, led the three-day meeting, where attendees met, worshipped, and shared stories. Rev. Mattie Alethia Williams, Executive Director of the Mult-Ethnic Center for Ministry of the NEJ, met with the group on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The task force discussed many issues and developed an "action plan" to assist each Conference in the Jurisdictional area. One goal is to have every conference in the jurisdiction represented; currently, three are not.

This means there must be an active effort to locate and support Native Americans Ministries within and outside of the local church to encourage awareness and growth of Christian Native Americans. It is important for each team to have a written report for the Annual Meeting.

A web page has been designed and is ready to be put on the site. Conferences are being asked to become aware of Native Americans within congregations and to encourage active participation in the worship services. There are limited funds available for programs and outside sources should be sought.

Stix Chics and Flying Eagles were two very successful youth programs that were shared with the group by the Pen-Del Conference. The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference invites a Chief, Tribal leader or spiritual leader for each fifth Sunday to share issues and concerns within the tribe, knowing that their brothers and sisters needs must be known in order to be of help to them.

Thanks goes to both Eastern PA Conference, as host, which will cover the cost of the meeting space while Greater New Jersey took care of the food and preparation. West Virginia CoNAM is working on Repatriation and increased use of available storytellers. The Washington, DC CoNAM runs a Peace camp and the "Wins Program" in which 82 students meet for breakfast, prayer and worship every Friday. During the summer many decided to give community service, not for dollars, but just their desire to give back without being asked.

There are over 554 federally recognized Native tribes, nations and vil-

lages in the United States. This doesn't include state recognized or those in the process of seeking recognition. Proceeds from the Native American Ministries Sunday Special Offering (to be held April 30 in 2006) support Native American Ministry in each conference, provide educational assistance and the establishment of urban Native ministries. Native American representation will be at the World Conference in Korea. We thank Dulgald Wolfson for her coordination efforts and Donald Robinson for being the tour guide around the city. We stopped at Tindley Temple, Old St. George's and the St. Peter's Episcopal church, where we viewed the burial site of eight Chiefs.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**  
"Pow Wow." November 4 & 5, 2005. Univ. of Maryland College Park Campus & American Indian Heritage and Education Assoc. For more information, contact

Greg Hamilton 240-683-6443 or Dotie Bass 301-405-5618.

Evening concert of Native American Flute. November 12, 2005. The 1902 Stone Chapel of the Mays Chapel UMC in Maryland. For more information, call 410-560-3173.

Native American Group. Meets monthly at Arch St. United Methodist Church on the second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. View their website, [www.ArchStreetUMC.org](http://www.ArchStreetUMC.org) for further info. Those interested in other sources can access Indian Life Newspaper on the Internet at [www.indianlife.org](http://www.indianlife.org) and [www.theredroad.org](http://www.theredroad.org)

\*The Rev. Hilda Campbell is the Director of Human Relations and Leadership of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference



Mattie Little Flower Sullivan, seen here, was presented a gift in honor of her being the eldest of the tribe. Sullivan is a resident of Simpson House.



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## Youth group "builds an ark" to fight world hunger

By Susan DeSandre

Goats, sheep, cows - an ark of animals has risen on the mountain in Pocono Lake! The youth of Pocono Lake United Methodist Church raised over \$5,000 for an ark of animals for Heifer International.

Heifer International is an organization whose mission is ending hunger and caring for the earth. The gift of an ark helps families worldwide who are poor and hungry to become self-supporting. The livestock that the families receive are not only a source of food, but also provide a dependable income. Heifer International has been around for about 60 years. During that time, millions of families in over 128 countries have been given an opportunity for self-reliance for a better tomorrow. In addition, families and individuals who receive animals become donors themselves. People share the offspring from their animals to others in their community, thus passing on the gift of hope and self-reliance.

The youth came up with a variety of creative fundraising projects that would involve the congregation and the community at large. They held a spaghetti dinner, a jellybean sale, a t-shirt sale, and

a community movie night. They held a cookie walk before Christmas, where customers bought an empty coffee can, and walked around tables filling their can from plates of homemade cookies. In the spring, members were given a daily reading and asked to place a coin in an ark bank after completing the reading every day for 28 days. And in the summer the youth held a 24-hour famine, for which people pledged an amount of money to support the 24-hour famine cause. The youth also gained an understanding of what it is like to go without food, as many children do everyday around the world.

What a fantastic year the youth had working together. They made new friends and built their dream, a dream that they all can be proud of. In Micah, chapter 6, verse 8, the Bible states, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Certainly the youth have embraced this passage.

\*Susan DeSandre is a publicity communications chair and a member of Pocono Lake UMC.



# Methodist Home for Children Founders Day Dinner

By Theresa F. Haenn\*

Methodist Home for Children celebrated 126 years of continuous outreach to children, individuals and families during its Founder's Day dinner on September 29 with Bishop Marcus Matthews as the Keynote Speaker. Angele Marie Parker, Ph.D., President and CEO in her welcoming comments talked about the work of Methodist Home for Children through the commitment of the volunteers who provided leadership, vision, a helping hand and a loving heart throughout the agency's history.

Dr. Parker spoke of the outreach to children and their families in Kensington, highlighting the work of the Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas, Jr. with boys whose fathers are absent and what it has meant for those young men to have a positive male role model; of a mother with six children who moved to a new apartment community at the Methodist Home for Children, Monument Village, who in conjunction with the staff was able to find a computer and office training program that led to a full-time job that paid her enough so she and her children could move to their own apartment in Southwest Philadelphia. "Methodist Home for Children is about breaking the cycle

and helping people make changes for the better!"

Congregations around the Conference have generously given to Methodist Home for Children in a tremendous outpouring of love and support for the children. Personal care items and toiletry kits were a gift at Easter along with baskets of candy; unwrapped toys and gifts are brought to the campus by the thousands in December to be given to every single child in our programs, and for many that is the only gift at Christmas that they will receive. One church gave winter clothing as a result of their Epiphany Tree giving which meant that children in Kensington who were going to school without winter coats, hats, boots and gloves, could finally be warm.

Bishop Marcus Matthews in his keynote presentation said that "the time is now for the church to become the voice of the voiceless - the children." The Bishop went on to say that we must look ahead 50-100 years and ask ourselves, what will we look like then? The legacy of this great institution is to say to the world - how can we keep the legacy and vision of Mrs. Simpson going so that every child can grow to be a fine productive citizen? According to John Wesley we need to provide holistically for their needs so that all children know that



Angele Marie Parker, Ph.D., President and CEO of Methodist Home for Children (left), Robert Niles, Chairman of the Board (second from left) and Bishop Marcus Matthews (right) recognize volunteer leaders for extraordinary commitment, expertise and generosity. Mrs. Alene (Sue) Haines, (center), member of the Methodist Families of Philadelphia and Methodist Services for Children and Families received the award for Excellence in Volunteerism, and Richard Hevner, (second from right), Chair of the Methodist Home for Children Foundation, received the George Bonadio Excellence in Leadership Award at the Founder's Day Dinner on September 29, 2005.

they were made in the image of God and welcomed by Jesus. Working together in concert with the churches and the Conference we can say that we have seen their misery, heard their cry and have seen their suffering and together we have come to deliver them.

Bishop Matthews' eloquent presentation was a wonderful lead in to the

award presentations of the evening. Three awards were presented for Service Excellence, Volunteerism and the George Bonadio Leadership Award.

\*Theresa F. Haenn is director of development for the Methodist Home for Children

## Cornwall Manor celebrates Founders Day

by Kelly Saylor\*

On Wednesday, October 19, Cornwall Manor Retirement Community celebrated its beginnings and honored those who have supported its mission of caring over the past, 56 years at its annual Founders Day dinner and program.

The event featured an awards presentation to those who have demonstrated the highest levels of philanthropic support for Cornwall Manor. The honored guest and keynote speaker was Bishop Marcus Matthews.

Presiding Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Awards presented included the annual Founder's Day Award. This year's recipient was Patricia C. Ewald, Cornwall Manor resident. This prestigious award is given to those who exhibit commitment to Cornwall Manor on a variety of levels. Through her actions, Mrs. Ewald has helped Cornwall Manor carry on a tradition of caring.

Mrs. Ewald and her late husband George moved to Cornwall Manor in July of 1990. One word that is used to describe Mrs. Ewald is "involved."

In addition to her numerous community and church (Good Shepherd UMC in Lebanon) volunteer activities, she has been a tireless volunteer for the Cornwall Manor community. She and her husband shared their time, talents and treasures for the betterment of Cornwall Manor from almost the first day they moved to our community. Others were honored at the Founders Day program as they were inducted into the Buckingham Society. The Buckingham Society was named for Mrs. Margaret Coleman Buckingham, considered Cornwall Manor's first philanthropist.

Members of the Buckingham Society are recognized for their philanthropic support of Cornwall Manor. This year's



From left to right - Cornwall Manor Retirement Community President, Steven D. Hassinger, 2005 Founder's Day Award Winner, Patricia C. Ewald, Cornwall Manor Board of Trustees Chairperson, Diana L. Reilly, Bishop Marcus Matthews.

inductees were Cornwall Manor resident Jean Lytle and the Cornwall Manor Woodshop Volunteers. Thelma Charnock, Gilbert O. Driesbach and Robert W. Robbins were inducted posthumously.

Faithful Friends were also recognized for their consistent contributions to support our mission for 20 years or more. Those honored included Chalfont United Methodist Women, Charmaine Foltz, First United Methodist Women of Media, Clinton and Dorothy Hughes, Vernon and Jessie Neff, and Ruth Page. Cornwall Manor is a 500-resident, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community that offers diversified and high quality housing, health care and related services for individuals to achieve a retirement and aging lifestyle they find fulfilling in a secure, caring, and Christian environment.

\*Kelly Saylor is Public Relations & Development Coordinator for Cornwall Manor.

Methodist Home for Children is the Child Welfare Agency of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

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

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) 1-800-732-6999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## Volunteers

*continued from pg 1*

assigned to another project." He also noted that the recent trainings excluded cultural awareness and other aspects that would be stressed for international VIM teams.

The training on September 27 was led by Greg Forrester, the Northeastern Jurisdictional VIM coordinator. Training on October 1 was led by Russell Atkinson and Ben Botti, both experienced team leaders, who served together on a VIM team to Grenada 10 years ago.

Botti stressed that clean up and rebuilding is going to be a seven to ten year process, and that there will be an ongoing need for VIM teams during that time. "After media attention dies off, it is out of people's consciousness, and people forget about the need. We need to keep it at the forefront so people do not forget

about those who need our help," he said.

The VIM teams will mainly be repairing homes: replacing dry wall and insulation, treating for mold, electrical and plumbing repair, and roofing. Each team is assembling a skills inventory, which Botti will then communicate to his contacts in three conferences in the storm area: Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama/West Florida.

One VIM team expressed interest in working on a church, which Botti will help to accommodate. As UMCOR money is used only to repair homes - not churches - funding for rebuilding churches will have to come from other sources. If your church would be interested in partnering with a church in the storm area, VIM coordinator for the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Greg Forrester, has created a link on [www.umvimnej.org](http://www.umvimnej.org) that will help you to identify UMC churches in the storm area. Forrester spoke about the storm-affected churches:

## St. Paul's UMC Pre-school staff honored

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Preschool Center in Warrington is proud to announce that two of their staff members, Mary Cavallero and Terri Mohapp, were presented with 2005 Bucks County Association for the Education of Young Children Outstanding Educators Awards. Additional staff members, Anne Reinheimer, Pat Suchanec and Jacki Van Houten, were 2005 Outstanding Educator Award nominees.

The preschool, an outreach of St. Paul's United Methodist Church serving the community since 1967, ministers to over 300 children on a weekly basis.



2005 Bucks County Association for the Education of Young Children Outstanding Educators: Mary Cavallero and Terri Mohapp

## Partnership

*continued from pg 1*

adults in the city.

Mid-Town Parish United Methodist Church and Simpson Senior Services were inspired by their ministries to join in a collaboration to build and sustain a vital community for seniors. The church made the land available on which Simpson Mid-Town is built and Simpson Senior Services provides more than 140 years of experience in the provision of quality care to older adults. Rev. Gil Hatcher, former pastor of Mid-Town Parish United Methodist Church was a driving force behind the project. "This is a blessed day. We have seen this project fulfilled, not in our time, but in God's time," said Rev. Hatcher.

Speakers at the groundbreaking included Marcus Mitchell, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Office of Senator Rick Santorum and Rev. Reginald Monte, pastor of the Mid-Town Parish United Methodist Church. The keynote speaker was Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Matthews message to the audience was one of renewal. "Everything old is new again," said the Bishop, referring to the fact that Simpson Mid-Town is built on the grounds of the former Green Street Methodist Church. "As God's people, we are called to be advocates for older adults. And God calls us to this work on holy ground." Bringing the face of Methodism back to Philadelphia is part of the Bishop's vision for the City.

According to Linda T., moving to Simpson Mid-Town is like coming home. "I noticed the building while visiting relatives in North Philadelphia. I made the necessary phone calls, filled out the application and now I'm moving in!" Linda, a native of Philadelphia, rented an apartment in another section of the city but it never felt like the old neighborhood. After recovering from serious health concerns, Linda wanted a new beginning. "I'm a new person," says Linda. "It's so good to be back near family and friends. At Simpson Mid-Town, I have my own beautiful apartment where I can live independently, and I can live it up, enjoy my space, do my own thing. My apartment has bright walls and is filled with sun. After all, the sun is a sign of life. That's what I have at Simpson Mid-Town; my own life."

To apply for occupancy or for more information about Simpson Mid-Town, please contact: James Williams, Property Manager, 610-626-6303, [jwilliams@simpsonsenior.org](mailto:jwilliams@simpsonsenior.org)

Simpson House, America's oldest continuing care senior living community, historically affiliated with The United Methodist Church, is named after Matthew Simpson, Bishop of The United Methodist Church, friend of Abraham Lincoln, pastor, preacher, author, and advocate. Simpson Senior Services is dedicated to providing a variety of housing and health care options for older adults in a spiritual, caring environment and is renowned in the community for providing high quality and compassionate care for seniors in Pennsylvania.

"Though many were not severely damaged - over 170 were severely damaged. All the churches need spiritual, emotional, and financial assistance to respond to the needs of those around them. Please reach out with Christian love!"

Churches, clusters, districts, individuals are still encouraged to form teams to go. A full 6-hour VIM team leader training is being planned for a Saturday early next spring. A VIM training event is also scheduled for Monday, Nov. 14 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at Cornerstone UMC, Bear, DE on Route 896, a few miles south of Interstate 95. The training will be led by Don Hamilton, Peninsula Delaware Conference VIM Coordinator, and Ben Botti.

For more information, please contact Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960; Phone 215-723-8367; Fax 215-723-2945; e-mail [bbotti@entermail.net](mailto:bbotti@entermail.net).

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## Asbury UMC Celebrates 85

On Sunday, November 13, at 10:15 am, Asbury United Methodist Church of Norristown will celebrate its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special worship service and reception. Bishop Susan Wolfe Hassinger, retired bishop of the Boston Area, will be the guest preacher.

The theme for the Anniversary Celebration is "Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future." This theme grows out of the church's present experience of revitalization as Asbury engages in a redevelopment process through Project 6:15. Bishop Hassinger was elected to the episcopacy in 1996. Prior to that, she served as director of The Office of Resourcing for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. She also served as district superintendent of the former Allentown District. Currently, Bishop Hassinger is bishop-in-residence at the Boston University School of Theology.

The church is located at the corner of Pine and Freedley Streets in Norristown. For more information, call 610-272-1233.



Bishop Susan Hassinger

## Caring for Our Community is in Our Spirit



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Methodist Hospital Foundation supports the development of health care services in South Philadelphia. It is the fundraising arm of Methodist Hospital, helping offset costs for medical care of uninsured and underinsured patients in the community.

To contribute to the Methodist Hospital Foundation, please call 215-952-9006.

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# Diakonia World Assembly meets in Durham, England

\*by The Rev. David Brown

They came from around the globe: Egypt, Australia, Germany, the United States, Korea, Fiji, Africa, Scotland, and more. They represented a broad array of service ministries from providing the basics of food and water to a remote village devastated by war to helping heal cancer patients. Approximately 400 deacons, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses representing more than a dozen countries and various denominations gathered in Durham, England for the DIAKONIA 19th World Assembly from July 20 - 27, 2005. For United Methodists, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry staff members Sharon Rubey and Anita Wood joined nearly 20 current and retired deacons and diaconal ministers who made the trip "across the pond" to gather in the spirit of diakonia. (See picture above. Front row from left: Sharon Rubey, Kathy Mitchum, Cathy McGovern, Diane Eberhart, GBHEM board member, Rosemary Ward, Dot McMahan. Second row from left: David Brown, Margaret Ann Crain, Ken Boyd, Rick Buckingham, Teresa Park, Anita Wood, Rhoda Markus, Barbara Schreier, Marie King, Beverly Abbott) "Diakonia" is defined by many expressions. As an organization, Diakonia comprises the World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Communities of which the United Methodist Church is a member. In ministry, "diakonia" is described as "Christian service to which all the baptized are called and which is part of the mission of Christ's church in the world." The diaconate that makes up this body includes those persons

"called, identified, prepared, set apart and/or commissioned or ordained for public ministry of diakonia" in Christian service.

Definitions aside, the unifying characteristic that typified this gathering is the unflinching dedication each individual shares emulating Jesus Christ's mandate "not to be served... but to serve."

This spirit was captured in the opening worship held in the historic Durham Cathedral - one of the greatest churches ever built with many of the features from the original structure erected in 1093 still intact. The worship service included an address by the Right Reverend Tom Wright, who said, "The purpose of diakonia is never 'What's in it for me.' You are called to fill the need whatever that need is. Instead of 'What's in it for me,' diakonia calls us to connect to the world allowing those we touch to discover 'What Christ can do through me.'"

Within the context of this spiritual direction, the World Assembly also represents a time to conduct the business of the organization. The Assembly convenes just once every four years. The Executive Council that guides the Assembly meets annually as a group, conducting a significant amount of business remotely among council members via phone and e-mail.

The World Assembly of DIAKONIA is made up of three regions: the Diakonia Region Africa Europe (DRAE), Diakonia Asia-Pacific (DAP) and Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC) of which The United Methodist Church in the



United States is a part. Each member organization picks one or more people (depending on size) to serve as a delegate to the quadrennial event.

Looking forward, the assembly has set forth an ambitious agenda that includes strengthening its funding position - particularly as it pertains to disparities between countries within the same region; a greater involvement of young people in the assembly as it seeks to have them "catch the spirit of diakonia"; preserving and archiving the history of the World Assembly; and involving the grassroots communities touched by the work of assembly members in maintaining the momentum between assemblies.

As the members departed to all corners of the globe, it was announced that the DOTAC (of which

the United States is a part) would host the 20th World Assembly of DIAKONIA in 2009. More in the near term, the members of DOTAC will be meeting from July 2 - 6, 2006, in Trinidad to continue its preparation as host for the World Assembly in 2009 and other issues. For more information on the World Assembly of DIAKONIA, visit their website at [www.diakonia-world.org](http://www.diakonia-world.org)

\*By the Rev. David W. Brown  
Probationary Deacon Candidate  
Commissioned Toward Ordination in Full Connection  
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Reprinted from the September 2005 online edition of *Across the Boards* ([www.gbhem.org/acrosstheboards](http://www.gbhem.org/acrosstheboards)). Used by permission

## Yvette Diaz

continued from pg 1

church. That began "the ten hardest years of my life," during which she graduated from the La Guardia High School of Music and Art, had two children, and studied liberal arts at the City College of New York.

Although raised in the Roman Catholic Church as a child, her "real faith journey" was sparked in 1994 in marriage classes that she and her husband, Leo, attended at a United Methodist church in Lancaster, PA. As this was a second church marriage for each of them, something not permitted in the Roman Catholic Church; they sought and were welcomed to attend marriage classes at El Redentor United Methodist Church in preparation for their wedding. Her experience led to an Eastern morning awakening, and she discovered a burning passion for The Word.

As a public servant in the Department of Public Welfare, Diaz is in ministry with those in poverty as a Case Work Supervisor, supervising six caseworkers who work directly with consumers in food stamps, medical assistance programs and former cash assistance recipients. She instills her work with encouragement for her caseworkers and understanding for the consumers: "You try to make the world brighter wherever you are, and you've made a positive change." She sees that she "was born at the right time, in the right place" to prepare her for her work in the inner city today.

Recognizing her passion for ministry and service, her former pastor, the Rev. Dr.

Irving Cotto, recommended the Deaconess Program to Diaz. She first became involved in the Shalom Zone Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries, which works to bring peace and wholeness to impoverished communities. That led her to attend the Shalom Zone Summit in Chicago in 2000. "With only 93 active deaconesses in the U.S.," Diaz said. "It was by God's hand, not by chance, that I met Deaconess Peggy Wantauk, who shared her experience as a deaconess with me, on the train during an excursion at the summit."

Diaz followed up with a call to ask for materials on the Deaconess Program. "When I saw the brochure, I was stunned. All of the scriptures that I marked down in my Bible as meaningful to me were the ones in the brochure," she said.

After completing the six required courses for the Deaconess Program in two and a half years, studying part-time, Diaz was commissioned a deaconess in 2004, along with twenty-six other women throughout the United States.

"Being part of the deaconess movement means working in cutting-edge ministry," Diaz said. "I feel I understand what the home situations are for many of the kids." Besides her ministry at work, Diaz characterizes her hobby as the ministry in her church, St. Paul's UMC in Lancaster, PA. There she serves in the Latino outreach ministry with girls ages' eight to twelve. "For a twelve year old living in poverty in the inner city, one parent may be in jail, sometimes the utilities get turned off,

girls do get pregnant at a younger age... the scenarios are still the same...poverty has no face nor mercy. I want to give back what by grace was given to me as long as I can. If just one teenage girl doesn't end up pregnant or on the streets, that's what ministry is all about. And inner city ministry is where I feel called to be."

As president of the board of the Shalom Zone in Lancaster (PA), Diaz hopes to be a part of restoring relationships between churches - Latino, Anglo, African-American - encouraging them to work together for the community. The partnership holds a yearly multi-cultural worship and runs tutoring and summer programs for children in the inner-city area.

Diaz's participation in the Deaconess Program included attending Diaconia: The World's Federation of Servant Ministries in Durham, England, July 20-27. She is also the lyrical voice singing "Here I am Lord" in the background of the Deaconess Program DVD.

She says that being a deaconess is the "best-kept Methodist secret." She loved having her birthday included on the United Methodist Prayer calendar, and receiving 135 birthday wishes from UMW groups all over the world.

Reprinted from *Response Magazine*, September 2005, a publication of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

If you are a lay person (man or woman) who feels called to a full-time vocation in service to those who are marginalized and in need in the world today, there is an opportunity to be a part of a supportive community in connection with the United Methodist Church as a deaconess or home missionary. For more information, contact Becky Dodson Louter, Deaconess Program Office, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 320, New York, NY 10115; 212-870-3850; [deaconess@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:deaconess@gbgm-umc.org). For more information, go to: [http://gbgm-umc.org/who\\_we\\_are/mp/d\\_news.cfm#newcommission](http://gbgm-umc.org/who_we_are/mp/d_news.cfm#newcommission)



# Board of Pension and Health Benefits

## Insurance Information for Clergy and Lay of the EPA Conference:



### It's Annual Enrollment Time

Annual enrollment for the 2006 benefit plan year will be conducted during early November.

If you currently participate in a Conference-sponsored health plan, a letter containing your benefit plan highlights was mailed to your home in mid-October. You may even have been invited to an informational meeting (available in some locations).

### Active Participants: What You Need To Do

Annual enrollment for active participants in the Conference-sponsored health plans is **November 1 – 15, 2005, for the 2006 benefit plan year.**

If you are a participant in a Conference-sponsored health plan	and you wish to stay in that plan . . .	Do nothing. You will continue to be enrolled in the plan, with the changes outlined in the newsletter mailed to your home.
	and you wish to discontinue your Conference-provided health coverage . . .	Contact Trish DePetris at 800-828-9093, ext. 213, or Eleanor Weiser, Support Associate-Benefits at 800-828-9093, ext. 220 for the proper forms.

### 2006 Plan Highlights

The chart on this page provides highlights of the 2006 benefit plans for active participants. If you did not receive a letter from the Conference, or if you were unable to attend a meeting that was offered in your area, you may access more detailed benefit summaries by logging on to <http://www.epaumc.org/bfpensionhealthbenefits.asp>.

	Keystone Flex POS		Capital Blue Cross POS		BCNEPA POS	
	In-network	Self-referred/Out-of-network	In-network	Self-referred/Out-of-network	In-network	Self-referred/Out-of-network
<b>Annual deductible</b>	None	\$500/\$1,500	None	\$500/\$1,500	None	\$500/\$1,500
<b>Out of pocket maximum</b>	N/A	\$3,000/\$9,000	None	\$3,000/\$9,000	None	\$3,000/\$9,000
<b>Maximum benefits</b>	Unlimited	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	Unlimited	\$1 million
<b>Inpatient hospital</b>	100%	70% after deductible	100%	70% after deductible	100% after \$100 copay	80% after deductible
<b>Doctor visits</b>						
<b>Primary</b>	\$10	70% after deductible	\$15	70% after deductible	\$15	80% after deductible
<b>Specialist</b>	\$20	70% after deductible	\$30	70% after deductible	\$25	80% after deductible
<b>X-ray &amp; lab tests</b>	\$20 copay (routine) \$40 copay (MRI/MRA/CT/PET)	70% after deductible	100%	70% after deductible	100%	80% after deductible
<b>Emergency</b>	\$100 copay (NOT waived if admitted)	\$100 copay (NOT waived if admitted)	\$100 copay (waived if admitted)	\$100 copay (waived if admitted)	\$50 copay (waived if admitted)	\$50 copay (waived if admitted)
<b>Prescription drug</b>	\$10 copay/generic \$20 copay/brand \$35 copay/brand non-formulary 90-day mail order @ 2 times copay		\$10 copay/generic \$20 copay/brand \$35 copay/brand non-formulary 90-day mail order @ 2 times copay	Subject to deductible/coinsurance		\$10 copay/generic \$20 copay/brand \$35 copay/brand non-formulary 90-day mail order @ 2 copays for generic/preferred brand 3 copays for non-formulary

### Retired Participants: What You Need To Do

Annual enrollment for retired participants in the Conference-sponsored health plans is **November 15 – 30, 2005, for the 2006 benefit plan year.**

If you are a retiree in the Conference Medicare Supplement Plan OR the Keystone 65 Plan	and you wish to stay in that plan:	Do nothing. You will continue to be enrolled in the plan, with the changes outlined in this newsletter.
	and you wish to discontinue your Conference-provided health coverage:	Contact Trish DePetris at 800-828-9093, ext. 213, or Eleanor Weiser, Support Associate-Benefits at 800-828-9093, ext. 220 for the proper forms.
If you reside in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery or Philadelphia County	and you wish to change enrollment from Keystone 65 to the Conference Medicare Supplement Plan (or vice versa):	

### The Conference's Approach to Medicare Part D Coverage for 2006

After reviewing the new Medicare Part D coverage, and the available options, the Conference has decided to continue to provide prescription drug coverage to eligible retirees in 2006, with the changes outlined in this newsletter. There are advantages to receiving prescription drug coverage through a Conference plan instead of electing Medicare Part D through a private insurance provider. If you have not received a letter containing your benefit plan highlights which was mailed to your home in mid-October, please contact Trish DePetris at 800-828-9093, ext. 213, or Eleanor Weiser, Support Associate-Benefits at 800-828-9093, ext. 220.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If you decide to enroll in Medicare Part D through a private insurance provider, your medical and prescription drug coverage under the Conference Group Health Insurance Program will terminate December 31, 2005.**

# EPA conference offers funding for ministry

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference offers funding, grants, loans, or scholarships, made possible through the conference Connectional Ministries Fund. Here are some of the monies available, some with approaching application deadlines. Look for additional information on available funding in the December issue of NEWSpirit.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

### November 15 deadline

#### •Conference Resourcing and Connectional Ministries (formerly Congregational Transformation)

Grants are given to provide seed money for new ministries in local churches. Deadline for application for 2005 funds is November 15. Applications are received on an ongoing basis.

For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall, executive director of Conference Resourcing and Connectional Ministries, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 230;

[sherrin.marshall@epaumc.org](mailto:sherrin.marshall@epaumc.org)

### November 15 deadline

#### •Urban and Global Ministries

Seed grants are offered for local churches to engage in ministry with the communities in which they exist. There are two grant deadlines each year: November 15 and May 15. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Urban and Global Ministries at 215-878-8054.

For further information contact The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem, director of Urban and Global Ministries, 1-800-866-6855;

[dorothy.tatem@epaumc.org](mailto:dorothy.tatem@epaumc.org)

### December 1 deadline

#### •Communications

Igniting Ministry Matching Grants are given for churches to advertise on cable TV and in other media. Grant applications are accepted twice yearly: November 1 to December 1 and May 1 to June 1. For more information, go to: [www.ignitingministry.org](http://www.ignitingministry.org).

For more information, contact Ms. Suzy Keenan, director of Communications, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 227;

[communications@epaumc.org](mailto:communications@epaumc.org)

### ONGOING DEADLINES

#### •Conference Education Society

Loans are provided to students pursuing higher education who are members of churches of the EPA Conference. The maximum yearly amount loaned to any borrower shall not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000 in any one year, and the total amount loaned to such persons shall not exceed \$8,000 total. The present rate of interest is 3%. Request for applications must be made by May 15 each year.

For further information, contact the Rev. Felicia Kumar, Conference Education Society, 980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403;

[feli0222@juno.com](mailto:feli0222@juno.com); 610-650-0534.

#### •Calling Disciples Resource Team

Funding is available for New Church Starts and training for a period of 3 to 5 years depending of the viability of the new church start project and the constituency being reached. The amounts vary between \$15,000 and \$25,000 per year.

Funding is given for new ministry initiatives of existing congregations in areas of worship, evangelism, community outreach, multiplication of their existing church, and other ministries that seek to make disciples for Christ. The amounts vary between \$1,000 and \$10,000 and are one-time grants.

For further information, contact the Rev. Rene Perez, director of Outreach and Church Multiplication Ministries, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 218;

[rene.perez@epaumc.org](mailto:rene.perez@epaumc.org).

#### •Human Relations and Leadership

Partial scholarships are offered for clergy and lay persons to attend the Healing the Wounds of Racism training, which is mandatory training for all conference leadership. Scholarship requests must be in submitted in writing.

For further information, contact The Rev. Hilda Campbell, director of Human Relations and Leadership, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 224;

[hilda.Campbell@epaumc.org](mailto:hilda.Campbell@epaumc.org)

#### •Loan Fund

Loans are made to local churches for acquisition, repair and construction of real property. These loans are not for program ministries.

For further information, contact Moses Kumar, treasurer/executive

director of Administrative Ministries, 1-800-828-9093, Ext. 209;

[moses.kumar@epaumc.org](mailto:moses.kumar@epaumc.org).

#### •Latino Plan and Ministries

Funding is available for existing Latino congregations that seek to revitalize their ministry through new and emerging strategies. This can be a one-time grant or a maximum grant of three consecutive years. The grant amounts vary between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per year.

Grants are available to start new Latino congregations, new communities of faith, or community ministries with Latinos/as either in partner with the Conference Office of Latino Ministries or with an existing Latino congregation in your community. We require demographic data in order to consider this request. This can be a one-time grant or a maximum grant of five consecutive years. The grant amounts vary between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Matching funds are required.

For further information, contact the Rev. Rene Perez, director of Outreach and Church Multiplication es, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 218;

[rene.perez@epaumc.org](mailto:rene.perez@epaumc.org).

Your church makes this ministry possible through its faithful commitment to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Connectional Ministries Fund.

## Classifieds

#### • CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM LEADER

Hope UMC leadership in Christian Education for infants through grade 5. Average 10 hours per week. Duties include coordinating and overseeing Children's Church for the 10:30 service, child care for special services, Vacation Bible Adventure, and other children's ministry events within the church. A criminal background check is required. Contact the office at Hope Church 610-385-7141 or contact Pastor Ken DeWalt directly at 610 223 8630.

#### • OFFSET PRINTING PRESS FOR SALE

It is in good running condition. Call Covenant UMC in Lancaster at 717-393-1561 for details. Taking sealed bids.

#### • PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Possibility of the position going full time in one year. Contact Rev. Larry D. Leister, Covenant United Methodist Church, 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA 17543, [covumc.larry@verizon.net](mailto:covumc.larry@verizon.net) or 717-393-1561.

#### • ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Answers the switchboard, provides information to callers. Handles correspondence and otherwise relieves officials of clerical work and administrative and business detail by performing assigned duties. Persons fluent in both English and Spanish are encouraged to apply.

For more information or to apply for the position, please e-mail Moses Kumar at [moses.kumar@epaumc.org](mailto:moses.kumar@epaumc.org).

## The impact of "SRI" on performance and fiduciary responsibility



By Stacy Martin\*

Last month I presented information regarding SRI ("Socially Responsible Investing"). This month I would like to discuss two questions that quickly come onto the table when implementing a socially responsible investment policy:

1) Is there a negative impact to investment performance?

2) How does the Church's investment committee choose between performance and SRI?

The short answers are "no" and "you don't need to choose - you can have both."

With regard to performance measurement, it should be noted that socially responsible investing has not been a common investment concept for much longer than the last ten years or so. Individuals began directing their investments to affirm their values. During this same time period, mutual fund investing exploded. The result is that there are relatively few socially responsible mutual funds that have a ten-year performance record - a common investment tool to use when evaluating a fund. Further, there

are varied social issues that a fund may seek to support or avoid. I recommend the following websites for you to use in learning more about this type of investing: [www.socialfunds.com](http://www.socialfunds.com), [www.socialinvest.org](http://www.socialinvest.org), and [www.domini.com](http://www.domini.com).

Let's address the first question: do socially responsible investments under-perform their non-screened counterparts? The answer is they should not, and, a SR investor should not expect underperformance. A socially screened portfolio will still participate in market growth if it is well diversified. Certainly, sectors of the market may enjoy growth (beer and cigarette sales expand during tough economic times) but this out performance is temporary and can be overcome with a well-managed, diversified portfolio. This is particularly true for our United Methodist churches and agencies as they are long-term investors, committed to the future.

The second question is not a matter of asset selection but rather a matter of investment policy. The primary duty of a fiduciary is to manage a prudent investment process. This can only be done with a stated, well considered investment policy. A written policy should address the committee's need for performance as well as socially responsible investments. By having both in the policy, the committee is taking steps to manage their fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of the fund for which they are responsible. A written policy will do the following:

• State the goals of the fund thereby reducing conflicts and differences of opinion by the committee members

• State the guidelines for investing (diversification, asset allocation, spending policy) to reduce any erroneous decisions

• State the measures to be used to see that that the investments are in compliance with the guidelines and the reasons for each measurement (benchmarks, reporting frequency, etc.)

• Establish and state the reasonable and clear expectations for the beneficiaries of the fund

Again, fiduciary responsibility is not a function of the asset chosen as there can be an argument made against every individual investment as being risky for one reason or another: Rather, investment committees are at risk when they do not have, or do not comply with, a sound investment policy. Therefore, a sound investment policy may include social screens. This is particularly true for institutions for which no one would be surprised to learn there were matters of social concern - like churches and religious organizations.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about the services and investment solutions offered by the Foundation.

Telephone: 800-828-9093 x247

Email: [stacy.martin@epaumc.org](mailto:stacy.martin@epaumc.org)

\* Stacy Martin is executive director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Pennsylvania United Methodist Foundation

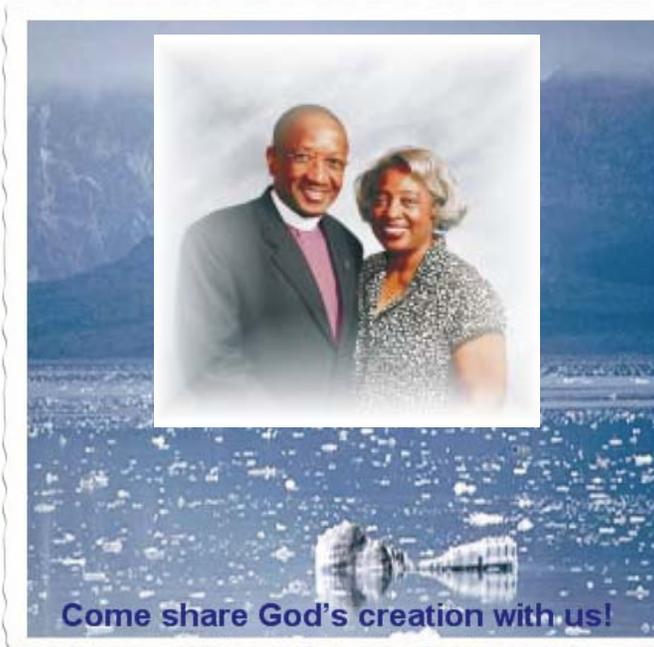
# Alaskan Explorer Cruise with Bishop and Mrs. Matthews



*Greetings from Glacier Bay*



*See the sights at Ketchikan!*



**Come share God's creation with us!**



*There is a place in the wilds of Alaska where wonders prevail, both on board and off.*



*God saw that it was good! Genesis 1:25*

An extraordinary opportunity open to members of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, their families and friends: 7-day Alaska Scenic Cruise aboard Holland America's ms Oosterdam departing Seattle, WA on May 20, 2006. Cost per person ranges from \$1408 for an inside cabin to \$2738 for a luxury suite; plus \$220 in port taxes and \$45 in government taxes. Early registration is advised - space is limited. For a brochure, call the EPA Conference Office at 1-800-828-9093.

## Hopewell to Mississippi



By Lauren Berdich\*

In an effort to provide hope to the children affected by Hurricane Katrina, Hopewell United Methodist Church has opened their arms and hearts. They have partnered with the neighboring community (stores, clubs, schools, and churches) and Jevic Transportation Inc. to collect and transport new items to early childhood centers in southern Mississippi. "The re-building process will take awhile so we cannot let

these children give up hope," stated one Hopewell member, "...this is our calling." Hopewell UMC contacted friends at the East & West Jackson Districts of the Mississippi Conference of The UMC to receive a list of new items the children need. The truck left for Mississippi on October 29th. Hopewell & the Community thank all who have donated to this great cause.

\*Lauren Berdich is a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church.

**Innabah Christmas Open House**

**Saturday, December 3, 2005, 2:00 - 5:00pm**  
(Snow Date - December 10<sup>th</sup>)

**Tree Trimming \*\*Caroling \*\* Candy Cane Hunt \*\* Appetizers \*\* Cookie Decorating \*\* Crafts \*\* Gingerbread Houses \*\* Door Prizes \*\* and More!**

**Holiday fun for the whole family, friends, or church group!**

**\$3.00 a person. (R.S.V.P. helpful, but not required.)**  
Overnight lodging available for the weekend. \$100.00 per family for 2 nights lodging, 3 meals, and admission to open house. Call today to reserve your space!

**Innabah, 712 Pughtown Road,  
Spring City, PA 19475, 610.469.6111**  
[www.innabah.org](http://www.innabah.org), [camp@innabah.org](mailto:camp@innabah.org)

Volunteers are needed to help supervise activities & crafts.  
Please call if you are interested.