LUMINA shines hope for the city of Lancaster

By Suzy Keenan

“We believe God calls us to let our light shine in the darkest places of our communities and the darkest places of people’s lives, places such as poverty and despair.”

Hungry children cannot learn. Ninety-seven percent of the students at Carter and MacRae Elementary School on S. Prince Street in Lancaster are eligible for the federal free lunch program. Many children were showing up hungry at school on Monday mornings.

That led to a new ministry called “the Power Packs Project,” coordinated by LUMINA in Lancaster, a partnership of United Methodist Churches working cooperatively in the city and beyond. With a grant from the Lancaster Rotary Club and with educational support from the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, this project provides packs of nutritional food to supplement the weekend meals of the neediest children at the school, as well as nutrition education.

“The Power Packs Project is the newest of LUMINA’s many cooperative ministries, which aim at creating just and healthy communities,” said LUMINA’s executive director, the Rev. Sally Wisner Ott.

LUMINA, the Latin word for light, is a ministry that began in 1993 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church with a food bank, and expanded into a food and clothing bank supported by

See LUMINA P8

Bicycles go ‘round the world to change lives

By Joe DiPaolo* and Suzy Keenan

Abdul Manan, age 30, had a dream of collecting bicycles to take back to his ancestral village of Yendi in Ghana, on the west coast of Africa, to enable children to attend school. Yendi lacked money to rebuild its school, which had burned down several years ago during ethnic violence. Most families lacked the resources to acquire bicycles to make the trip to the nearest functioning school, located 8 to 15 miles away, depending on the location of the children’s homes or farms. Children, many of whom were shoe-less and shirt-less, had to walk bare-foot as far as 15 miles to school.

Students in the village of Yendi wear new school uniforms and will use bikes to travel to school, sometimes as much as 15 miles from home.

Why do we need background checks on child/youth workers?

By TheRev. Beverly Andrews*

For many of you this is a real and urgent question as you face the requirements of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Resolution requiring the State Police Criminal Record Check and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance for all workers with children and youth in our churches. You know the people who work in your church and you have never had any reason to suspect anything but loving care of the young people in their charge. Why must we put people through this expense, hassle, and feeling of suspicion when there is no need for it? As the author of the resolution, I want to respond honestly and directly to your concerns.

Most of you who are asking these questions are persons for whom experiences in your church have always been those of safety, kindness, and the loving grace of God. You may have had disagreements with people about the details of what to do, but you have never felt physically or emotionally threatened by anyone in your church – especially not as a child. I praise God for your experiences! I, too, had a wonderfully warm and loving experience of most of the adults in my home church as I grew up. For me, church was a safe place in the tumultuous world of the late 1950’s and 1960’s. Unfortunately our experiences have not been shared by all children and youth in churches, even United Methodist Churches.

“i have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; there fore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.”
Deuteronomy 30: 19, RSV

For over eight years I served as a counselor at a secular center for persons dealing with a history of
SEPTEMBER 4
Methodist Russian Mission 4th Anniversary
3:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 7707 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA. The Methodist Russian Mission of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will host an anniversary celebration at the church. For more information, contact Rev. Olga Koval at olga.koval@epaumc.org.

September 10
Denny Oertli Concert
7:00 p.m. at Hopewell UMC in the beauty of an 100-seat outdoor amphitheater. Denny Oertli has recorded 5 independent records. He combines soothing vocals and intelligent, searching lyrics with beautifully arranged folk-rock songs. Danny's passion is Christian teens. For more information on Denny Oertli, visit http://www.dennyoertli.com. Tickets $12 in advance or $15 at door.

September 11
Installation Service for Rev. Ralph E. Blanks, Central District Superintendent
4:00 p.m. at Arch Street UMC, Broad & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA. 215-588-6250. For more information, contact: Dr. Mary White - 215-236-0304 or Central District Office - 215-878-4607.

September 11
Burning Bush Cafe Concert
7:00 p.m. Flicker Records Rock Band Subseven along with Chasing Victory (www.purevolume.com/subseven, www.purevolume.com/chasingvictory) will perform at the Burning Bush Cafe at Tabor UMC. Since this show is on a Sunday, this would be a great youth group outing. For group discount information, please email Ta- bor UMC Youth Pastor, Nic Billman. Visit www.burningbushcafe.org for all the details on this and other upcoming shows or contact Youth Pastor, Nic Billman at pastoralnc@tabor-umc.org.

September 15-17
Worship Connection Conference for Smaller Worship Settings
The Lake J unalaska Conference Retreat Center. For complete details click the direct link to the General Information page: http://www.worshipconnection.cokesbury.com/indexhtml.aspx?mid=421. If you have questions or wish to register, you may call 1-800-672-1789 for Cokesbury Customer Service or visit your local Cokesbury Christian Bookstore.

September 18
Main Line Children's Festival
12 noon to 4 p.m. on the grounds of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Mont- gomery Avenue & Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr, PA. 610-525-2396. Featuring nationally known Billy Jonas, Women's Sekere Ensemble, Day of Art, Give And Take Jugglers, Elmo, face and food painting, art activities by Main Line Art Center. Sponsored by St. Luke United Methodist Church, Our Mother of Good Counse, Bryn Maw Presbyterian Church, Saints Memorial Baptist Church, Lower Merion Baptist Church, Church of The Redemer, State Senator Connie Williams, Main Line Montessori School. Proceeds Benefit Methodist Home for Children & Cookman Youth Ministries.

October 4-6
18th annual Digital Storytellers’ Retreat
4:30 p.m.-6:00 a.m. at Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 S. 22nd St., Camp Hill, PA. Phone: 717-737-5631, email: chumc@camphillumc.org. Cost: $99 per person ($89 per group of 3+). Registration forms available at www.cppumc.org - look under Conference Events or call 800-874-9474. Registration deadline: November 1. Send registration and payment to: CPCUMC - Communications, PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2053. For more information, call Sandii Peiffer at 800-874-9474, e-mail speiffer@cppumc.org. More information on Digital Storytellers, visit www.digitalstorytellers.com/edufund/ds/tour/index.html.

October 16-18
“Essentials, Unity” Conference: A Gathering For Eastern Pennsylvania, Sunday evening through Tuesday mid-day. 75 CEUs will be awarded to attendees. Co-sponsored by St. Luke Plateau Camp and Retreat Center. This conference is designed to connect people around the core convictions of our faith. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Churly Yrigoyen “Uniting Methodism’s Doctrinal Standards: Who Cares?” Three workshops will be offered on a rotating basis so all three can be attended. Dr. Rod Shearer (Ph.D., Drew) will lead “The Old Testament Not Contrary to the New.” Dr. Yrigoyen’s will be “The Good Boundaries Make Good Minis- try” and Dr. Chris Fisher (Ph.D., Edinburgh) will lead our discussion on “The Faith-Science Dialogue.” For more information contact: Rev. Joe Di Paolo at wayneumc.pastor@verizon.net, or John Longmire at memorialumc@comcast.net.

October 16-18
Blessing of the Animals
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. A Rural Celebration of God’s Creatures, Romansville United Methodist Church, 1899 W. Strasburg Road, Coatesville, PA (between Leids Road and Hunt Drive). All who love and appreciate animals and pets are welcome to attend. Each animal will receive a blessing. Groups are welcome (horse clubs, dog clubs, etc.) All animals must be on leads, leashes or otherwise restrained by owners. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Mission Project - We are collecting clean, used blankets, flannel sheets and towels for the Chester County SPCA. Please bring mission items with you. For more info: Call 610-486-0189 or 610-738-3228 or email revannevers@juno.com or lingegeirever@gmail.com.

October 22
Older Adult Ministry Conference (see p11 for details.)

October 27
Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop “Good Boundaries Make Good Ministry” 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Presented by Bev Andrews; Location: Camp Innabah; Cost: $25; to register email Cecile Grantham at cgrantham@verizon.net or send money to C.Grantham, 2285 Heather Lane, Pottstown, PA 19464. Other advanced workshops will be offered in the Spring of 2006 plus the Basic Sexual Ethics workshop. Info will be coming out later about them.

November 12
Digital Storytellers’ Seminar
Bam - 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: $99 per person ($89 per group of 3+). Registration forms available at www.cppumc.org - look under Conference Events or call 800-874-9474. Registration deadline: November 1. Send registration and payment to: CPCUMC - Communications, PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2053. For more information, call Sandii Peiffer at 800-874-9474, e-mail speiffer@cppumc.org. More information on Digital Storytellers, visit www.digitalstorytellers.com/edufund/ds/tour/index.html.

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.” Visit 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 and pay by credit card or with a MasterCard or Visa credit card. Or, call 717-545-4761.

November 28
Advent Day Apart for Clergy
8:30 a.m., Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE. More information will be forthcoming.

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

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Book Review - A Month of Sundays

By Rev. DeeDeeAzhikakath

Tired of reading how most mainline religions are on the decline? How children brought up in the church do not attend as adults? Julie Mars, a lapsed Catholic, was the quintessential poster child for such sentiments. That is, until one life-changing event well, changed her life and brought her back to church.

Mars, a teacher in Albuquerque, N.M., and author of the novel The Secret Keepers, learned of her oldest sister’s diagnosis of cancer. In a decision teetering between an altruistic compassion for her sister and Mars’ own selfish needs, she went to upstate New York to care for Shirley until her death. But the seven months of care added unexpected layers of intimacy and struggle. Ironically, only when Shirley’s life ended did Mars begin her own quest for life through her grief and questions.

A Month of Sundays is an honest and open-hearted look into Mars’ struggle with death, life and spirituality. Upon the death of her sister, Mars is overwhelmed with two desires: to see people dance and to get to church every Sunday for 31 weeks. It is through these 31 snapshots a chapter per worship visit - Mars reveals a flashback of raw emotions and events surrounding the death of her sister, and the lessons she learns from each worship experience. Sundays grapples with the “big questions” we all have, or will at some point encounter, but may not have the courage to ask out loud.

It seems odd initially to be taken to church on a spiritual journey by someone who declares on page two that the “church is for believers, not for people like me who are so consumed with doubt.” Then again, John Wesley once said, “Preach the gospel until you have it, and then preach it all the more.” So, where else do you find faith if not a church?

Shirley, a devout Catholic, seems content with her fatal diagnosis until death grows imminently close and she becomes terrified of going to hell. On sleeping medication, she continually asks for two things: water and God. Despite Mars giving up her “life” to care for Shirley and longing to be wanted during this time, to which Shirley cries out and desires most in her last moments of life. God is the only one who could bring her peace. And this is the same peace for which Mars searches in her grief.

Off to a rocky start with her first church closed, Mars methodically attends church each week, saying that she is seeking her sister. Yet in her quest, her desires are revealed to go much deeper. After attending a Greek Orthodox Church and being challenged to introspection during the season Lent, Mars recalls a depth of guilt she is carrying. “I don’t know how or who to ask for forgiveness,” she says.

For those with faith, the passage into death can be a time of comfort. Reminiscent of the words of John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” On the other hand, for those without faith like Mars, death can be downright frightening and strewn with questions, uncertainties and guilt. Luckily for Mars, “with Christ all things are possible.” That includes even finding faith when there is none.

At first glance, Sundays appears solely about death and grief. However, as the intensity of emotions is revealed, Sundays is equally about living. It depicts faith as not just to prepare people for death, but to portray how to live. As Mars observes, “Dying and living. Living and dying. Learning that when you are dying, you are living right up to the moment you are not.”

Sundays reminds us of how simple life can be if we so choose. It reminds us how at the most important times of our life, it is not the world that comforts us; it is God, people and our faith in both. While Mars went searching for her sister, it is grace and peace that found her.

A Month of Sundays Group Study Questions

According to Clifford Geertz, “Religion is a system of beliefs that imbues everyday events with mystical overtones and creates this treated world as if it is really real.” Later on, Mars says, “there are only two reasons for religion. One: we invent religion to express what’s really, really there.”

- Do you agree with either assessment?
- How would you define religion?
- Mars remembers a government pamphlet that said, “Americans ignore the sad fact that they are going to die and that the world is going to end.” On the other hand, for those with faith, the passage in Matthew 24:29-30, “You will know that I am in the world by my works.” How would you define faith? Do you believe Laurie’s and her father’s dreams were a spiritual form of Shirley?
- Have you experienced a spiritual form of someone who has died?
- At the United Methodist Church Mars visited, they sang “I’ll Fly Away” (although not actually listed in the United Methodist Hymnal). Do you agree with the imagery of your spirit flying away at death? If not, what imagery would you use to describe the passage to the afterlife?
- We often describe someone who has died as someone we’ve “lost.” Mars observes that “when you lose someone they are gone forever.” Is using the word “lost” a good description of someone who has died?
- What other words or phrases do people use to describe the dead? Are they all accurate in expressing the death of a loved one?
- Since Shirley was a devout Christian, Mars felt she could get closer to her sister by attending church. Some might say it was her way of processing her grief.
- How have you mourned someone close to you?
- Did you have a project of your own?
- Leroy’s dark prison was alcohol. Mars’ was the pain brought on by her feeling she was unloved and therefore unwanted. What dark prison have you been trapped by, and how have you come to know the grace to set you free?
- Mars “mentally accuses a wrathful Catholic God.” Does God have different personalities depending on denomination?
- Do we look for a God who we agree with or one that challenges us?

In Memoriam

Mrs. Eleanor M. Anderman, widow of the Rev. Carl A. Anderman

Sunday, August 21, at the age of 80.
She is survived by 3 children, Rev. Timothy C. Anderman, pastor of Mont Clare UMC, Deborah J. Manuel of Mountville and Nancy A. Guenther of West Chester, as well as 5 grand-children and 2 sisters, Katherine Shannan and Martha Wagner.

In 1947 she met and married Carl A. Anderman at Mountainhome Methodist Church, his first full-time pastoral appointment. Together they served Port Carbon, Millersburg, Bristol First, Simpson Memorial in Philadelphia, Columbia - Salome, and Royersford churches until their retirement in 1987. During their retirement they resided in Mountville, PA. After Carl’s death she lived at Cornwall Manor and later at Simpson Meadows in Downingtown.

Condolences may be sent to the Rev. Timothy C. Anderman, 201 Walnut St., Mont Clare, PA 19453.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be sent to: Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center; RR2, Box 2747; Cresco, PA 18326.
Tree of Life connects mission volunteers with Native Americans

By Sandra Brands*

When Jessica Ostrawski had her first mission experience at Tree of Life Ministry on Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, she became a convert to the outreach program.

She was one of three people from Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood, Minn., responding to an invitation to join a group mission the larger Minnetonka (Minn.) United Methodist Church.

“Within probably two days of being there (at Rosebud), I fell in love,” Ostrawski said. “I knew I wanted to make arrangements for people at Cascade to go on a Tree of Life mission trip.”

She organized a mission trip with Tree of Life for 33 mission volunteers to go to Rosebud in the summer of 2004. They came from small United Methodist churches throughout Minnesota. The success of that trip led her to organize two more, for July and August this year, and again the rosters quickly filled up.

“It seems like people are even more excited about this year’s trip than last year’s,” Ostrawski said.

Tree of Life is a ministry of the United Methodist Church’s Dakotas Annual (regional) Conference to the people of four Dakota reservations. It began in 1990 on Rosebud Reservation. The ministry now hosts volunteers from many denominations and regions from throughout the United States.

Over the years, it has grown to serve Crow Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in South Dakota, and Spirit Creek and Lower Brule reservations in.
Church schools confront challenges in post-war Liberia

By Dean Snyder and Jene Malone

"Give me pen, not guns" reads a handwritten poster on the cafeteria wall of J.F. Yancy School at Camphor Mission near Buchanan.

This slogan is not hyperbole. Beginning in the early 1990s, boys as young as 12 and 13 years old were recruited or forcibly drafted into rebel armies, given guns, and deployed to fight and kill other Liberians for more than a decade.

Since 2003, when former president Charles Taylor finally stepped aside and the United Nations deployed peacekeeper troops, Liberia's deadly 14-year civil war was over. Yet, the system of education, government, and economy that served the school's students has not yet been able to rehabilitate and order has been restored to much of the nation.

Yet the chaotic war took countless lives and has left the nation's buildings, roads, schools, businesses and government in disarray. Liberia has no centralized systems for providing electricity, sanitary water, safe disposal or trash collection. Unemployment is estimated at 95 percent.

In an election scheduled for Oct. 11, Liberia will select its new president, and many people hope the nation once considered the "jewel of West Africa" will be able to rebuild.

In the meantime, Liberian United Methodists are eager to get the nation's children back into the classroom.

As the 2004-05 school year drew to a close in July, Richard Clarke, director of the Department of General Education and Ministries for the denomination's Liberia Annual Conference, reported that its 120 schools are at least partially back in operation, although some are meeting in church buildings because classrooms vandalized during the war are unusable.

To recover the essential vitality of education that characterized its pre-war school programs, the conference must overcome overwhelming challenges, including a lack of sufficient funds to pay teachers, untrained new teachers, shortages in basic school supplies and school furniture; and inadequate resources to cover costs for families who cannot afford the modest tuition (the equivalent of U.S.$12 to $67 per year, depending on the school's location).

Circumstances at J. F. Yancy School and two other United Methodist schools in the Buchanan vicinity in southeast Liberia illustrate the desperate lack of resources in the nation's United Methodist schools.

Yancy School is a boarding and day school on the grounds of Campoh Mission, a few miles outside Buchanan. Its faculty and students fled Campoh when rebels took over the campus. Since the war's end, the school has reopened and serves 184 elementary and junior high students, a fraction of its former enrollment. Only a few students live at the school; most walk to class from villages as far away as two or three miles.

Other programs at Campoh Mission that serve the school's students and families as well as the larger community include a health clinic, a church with a congregation of 300, and a fledgling agricultural project that includes the making of soap, growing of vegetables, and the raising of pigs and chickens.

Arthur J. Jimmy, director of Campoh Mission, is eager to repair the mission's schools and other buildings so its educational and other programs can become fully functional again. The last time many visitors from the United States around the grounds in July, he talked about the need for books, salaries for teachers, and repairs to the buildings.

"We have another obstacle, a big one," he added. The mission's only source of water is an untreated shallow stream.

As Jimmy led his visitors down a narrow muddy trail through the bush to the stream, he explained that the mission desperately needed a source of clean potable water for the health of the school's students, but also for the thousands of nearby residents who depend on the Campoh clinic for health care and midwifery.

Without a well or reservoir, students and mission personnel must carry water from the stream 100 yards up a steep hill to the dorms and cafeteria. The stream is so shallow that a bucket can be filled only half full at a time. Because the water is untreated, students and faculty often suffer from gastrointestinal illnesses and even cholera.

The cost of building a reservoir where water can be collected and purified - about U.S.$60,000, Jimmy said - is almost inconceivable in an economy where families can afford only small tuition payments on their meager incomes.

Five miles away is the Brighter Future Children Rescue Center, a United Methodist school system that serves more than 500 students from first through twelfth grades. Built with funding from Operation Classroom, a United Methodist humanitarian program, the WPL Brumskine High School is already overcrowded.

The campus includes a large metal frame structure that was once covered with a tent, until refugees tore it apart to make makeshift shelters. The large tent had provided space for three elementary classes. If Adams could erect a new tent on the old frame, he could move elementary classes into the tent and expand the high school classrooms. To do so would cost about $2,000, he said. Barely able to pay teachers' salaries, he has no idea where he will be able to find the money to rebuild the tent by September.

Another school, the J.C. Early United Methodist School, is inside the city limits of Buchanan. It is a fledgling school with a staff of four, the number of its foundation grant allocation.

Only a few students live at the school; most walk to class from villages as far away as two or three miles.

Other programs at Campoh Mission that serve the school's students and families as well as the larger community include a health clinic, a Faculty and parents built a make-believe "tent facility out of dried reeds and bamboo in this urban community. By the end of July, the first and second floors of the building, which included the cafeteria, had largely been completed, report was not completed. Third-floor bathroom have tile and plumbing installed and he hopes that Volunteer-in-Mission teams will be able to finish work on the living space. The Rev. Toby Di Dze, the seminary's dean and project manager, said the building already is in use. Fundraising continues for the estimated $94,000 that is still needed for remaining construction. Donations can be made through either local United Methodist church or sent directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10007-9068. For seminary building construction, indicate "Building, Advance 12173N." For seminary operations, indicate "Seminary Program, Advance 12174A."

**ZIMBABWE**

Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa wants Christians to "climb out of their Comfort zones" and bring people to Christ. His message was loud and clear on July 30. It is a day that brought together people from all over Africa and the world to celebrate his 60 years of ministry.

**MOSCOW**

The dedication of a United Methodist theological seminary building in Moscow was set for Sept. 18. Originally planned for May, the dedication had been postponed last winter because of a lack of funds. But with new donations and loans, the project has progressed, according to the Rev. Sam Dixon, an executive with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. By the end of July, the first and second floors of the building, which includes the cafeteria, had largely been completed, report was not completed. Third-floor bathroom have tile and plumbing installed and he hopes that Volunteer-in-Mission teams will be able to finish work on the living space. The Rev. Toby Di Dze, the seminary's dean and project manager, said the building already is in use. Fundraising continues for the estimated $94,000 that is still needed for remaining construction. Donations can be made through either local United Methodist church or sent directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10007-9068. For seminary building construction, indicate "Building, Advance 12173N." For seminary operations, indicate "Seminary Program, Advance 12174A."

**ENGLAND**

Some 400 deacons, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses from 31 countries struggled with language barriers and financial differences but still managed to find a common thread in their work of servant ministry during the 35th World Assembly of DIAKONIA World Federation in July 2007.

The theme of the meeting, “Diakonia at the Margins - Challenge and Hope,” spoke to challenges of the meeting itself as well as the terrorist bombings that took place in London and Egypt in July.

"Diacural ministry is about the church itself being on the margins, looking at what it might mean to be a marginalized church, instead of seeking out people to work on the margins on behalf of the church," said the Rev. Sharon Rubey, a staff executive of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
Summer Camp 2005 - Pray!

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

PRAY! was the theme for the summer camp programs this year at our four conference camps: Gretna Glen, Innabah, Pocono Plateau, and Carson Simpson Farm. The summer was filled with prayers: prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayers for safety and protection, prayers for staff, volunteers and campers, prayers for families and friends, joyful prayers and tearful prayers. More than 4,000 campers in day camps, overnight camps and trip camps learned about the Lord’s Prayer and how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Many facets of prayer were taught to the campers. Campers learned: prayers should be filled with thanksgiving and praise, through prayer we can ask God for our needs and the needs of others, God forgives us as we forgive our friends, God wants us to be persistent and humble in our prayers, and we need to listen, because God speaks to us in prayer. Small group and large group worship throughout the week emphasized prayer.

Prayer was not the only thing that filled the summer at the four conference camps. The hot, humid 2005 camp summer days were filled with hiking, fishing, nature activities, archery, outdoor cooking, orienteering, games, challenge course, campfires, and of course swimming, boating, and water carnivals. Campers age 4 through adult enjoyed God’s creation while making new friends. Memories of summer camp 2005 will be told for years to come.

Camp Innabah Highlights

By Christy Heflin

God has blessed the ministries at Innabah in many ways this summer. We have had over one thousand guests visit our camp this summer. God has touched many lives through our unique camps and dedicated leadership. Several of our events were overflowing with campers, while others had smaller, more intimate groups.

During week one of camp this summer, we had for the second time a week-long event called God’s Construction. Leading this spectacular event were Bonnie and Tom Cassey and several adults from First United Methodist Church, Lancaster. The purpose of this experience was not only to build a 20X20 log cabin on Sky Hill, but also experience God by performing an incredible mission project. As one of their tithe projects, First UMC gave the money for this cabin, $15,000, to Camp Innabah from their Building Project Campaign. Their donations covered the majority of costs for this amazing log cabin structure. During the course of the week, over 30 individuals helped to complete the cabin and build bunk beds. This cabin became our 4th new log cabin at Innabah. Our goal is to build six more in the next few years. If your church is interested in raising the funds for a cabin now, approximately $18,000, please contact Christy Heflin at Innabah. 610-469-6111.

In addition to the excitement of our new cabin, we were able to dive into nature at Camp Innabah this summer. Did you know that more than 70% of the Earth’s service is covered in water? Did you know that to stay healthy humans need about 1 liter (about 1 quart) of water a day? All of these questions as well as many others became the central focus of Innabah’s New Nature Center as campers examined the topic of water. Thanks to two very generous gifts, Innabah’s Nature Center was up and running this summer providing campers and guests with a new way to explore camp and its surroundings. Through hands on activities such as stream studies, creek walks, water demonstrations and activities, campers learned all about God’s precious gift of water. From Day Campers and Youth to Challenge Campers and Grandparents and Me, the Nature Center and water activities were welcome additions to Innabah’s summer program making it one very educational and, at times, wet camp experience.

Where at summer camp can you find the most smiles? If you talked to the lifeguards, they would tell you it is at the pool on a hot summer’s day as the campers splash around. If you talk to the staff in the store, they would tell you it is when a camper receives a big scoop of their favorite ice cream. If you ask the kitchen staff, they would say it is most definitely on grilled cheese day. If you asked the maintenance crew, they would say it is when they drive hayrides full of singing campers under star filled skies. If you asked the counselors, they would reply it is when campers play their favorite games or learn the value of a new friend. But if you ask some of us, we would say that the most smiles could be found on the faces of Innabah’s Challenge Campers each and every day.

For the past 40 years, smiles abound as numerous campers with special needs call Innabah home for a week of camp each summer. Ranging in age from 12 to 70 and from all levels of disabilities, these one hundred or so campers have one feature in common and that is the ability to smile. Smiles can be discovered at meal times, during arts and crafts, at the pool, at a local 4th of July parade, on rides at amusement parks, getting strikes at the bowling alley, when the jumping waves at the ocean, at campfires filled with songs and s’mores and just when someone says hello. Smiles can also be found between old challenge friends and new ones, from counselor to challenge camper and among staff, campers, parents, and friends who experience a challenge week at Innabah. As they say, “The world always looks brighter from behind a smile.” Thus for Innabah’s challenge campers, each day of camp brings the biggest smiles and the brightest days of them all.

When summer comes to an end, our staff often has many vivid memories of their time at camp.

Christy Heflin is the director of the Innabah Program Center. Contact information: 712 Pughtown Road, Spring City, PA 19475-3311; H: (610) 469-6111; O: (610) 469-6111; Email: CampInnabah@aol.com.

www.epaumc.org
What I did at summer camp

By Campers at Innabah, Pocono Plateau, Gretna Glen, and Carson-Simpson Farm

“I was a blessing to share God’s love and the gift of song with the campers.”

“Working with junior high campers taught me to have patience with them, but also I was amazed to see the potential God has given each of them.”

“It was neat to learn we can pray to God any time, not just at meal time.”

“Working with the campers and other counselors in a Christian camping environment is always a blessing. It’s a time when I see people’s love for God demonstrated through the way they work with each other.”

“We had an awesome week. You couldn’t help but feel God’s presence being out in this beautiful setting.”

“It was neat to learn we can pray to God any time, not just at meal time.”

“Sitting on a rock surrounded by everybody watching a sunset makes you realize that there is one true artist and He is amazing!”

“Working with the campers and other counselors in a Christian camping environment is always a blessing. It’s a time when I see people’s love for God demonstrated through the way they work with each other.”

“Here are Kerrin Moyer’s reflections on her first summer on staff at Innabah:

“How many times in your life have you been given the chance to shoot an arrow? Or have you been able to look up at a sky full of stars and one not polluted with light? Truth be told, many kids never get to experience these kinds of things. At Camp Innabah, I haven’t noticed that the simplest of outdoor activities seem to brighten up a child’s day, whether they be in Day Camp, Archery Camp, Wilderness Encounter, or so many more. Even as a summer staff member I have experienced more than I have in a lifetime; I even went on my first real hayride.

With eight weeks of camp and a staff ready to go, what more can you ask for than a friendly smile and a helping hand? Never in my life have I seen people so willing to go the extra mile to help any person, or to accomplish some arduous task that most people would normally shun.

The campers are the light of this camp, while the staff is the backbone through servanthood. Here at Innabah, we work together to give the campers the best possible experience we can give them each day. Friendships are made here, stories are told, songs are sung, God’s presence is felt, and lives are changed. At the beginning of camp weeks some kids are homesick and ready to go home. However, most of them by the end of the week want nothing more than to stay longer, just like me!”

By Campers at Innabah, Pocono Plateau, Gretna Glen, and Carson-Simpson Farm

“We learned to pray and listen for God’s voice, that God is really powerful, that you can pray and praise in many different ways.”

“The camping ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church is made possible when your church pays its Connectional Ministry Fund commitment.

www.epaumc.org
Manan’s dream inspired Wayne UMC, along with Christ UMC of Lansdowne, Synagogue Mishkan Shalom, community groups like the King of Prussia Rotary and the Upper Merion Girl Scout Troop #1326, to join with a host of local residents to embrace the project.

Working with Manan to spearhead the project was David Broida, who works as Upper Merion’s Parks and Recreation Director - where Manan has also worked. Stan Petty led the effort from Wayne UMC. By June, nearly 500 bicycles were collected (most were used, but a number of new ones were donated by businesses), as well as nearly $9,000 to cover costs of shipping, ground transportation, insurance, storage and distribution.

 Petty organized a team of folks last May to help load 400 bikes onto a container truck. Additional bikes were broken down into parts, so more could be loaded into the container.

“With only about 30 bikes to a bicycle repair program in downtown Philadelphia for children who are deprived,” said Manan. “They learn bike repair, and get these lessons for free. When they graduate, they get a bike (or parts),” he said.

The container was loaded onto a ship in New York, which left for Ghana on June 10, arriving June 30 in the Southwest District of Ghana.

“Of course, we'd like to see children with school uniforms and shoes,” explained Manan, who sold about 60 of the bikes to purchase and shoes,” explained Manan, who

In celebration of the 16th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, the Church will host Recovery Expo 2005 on Saturday, September 24, in partnership with Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services, the Coad Group, Eagleville Hospital & Rehab After Work. This Expo has been created to educate and assist those people and their families who wish to learn more about alcohol and other drug use disorders in a non-threatening atmosphere. A number of organizational and support groups will attend to assist individuals and families in their search for information and assistance. Our theme is “Learn More-Suffer Less”. We believe that the more people learn about addiction and the process of Recovery, the less they and their families will have to suffer.

For additional information, please contact Wendy Beck (610)363-6164, email her at WendyBeck@aol.com or visit: http://www.ucmr.org
Why (cont’d pg1)

sexual assault in their lives. Most of my clients were adults abused as children or teens. Their experiences haunt me, and are the reason that I am active in prevention with our Annual Conference. Let me share with you some of their experiences of church as young people. (Please note: these stories are shared with the informed consent of real persons. No direct description of any one person is being given here.)

One woman shared that she could not attend church any longer. In fact, when she hears the organ play she remembers that sound from the sanctuary around her as she sat in a Sunday School room. She wept as she asked me to help her find a safe way to be among God’s people. Did I know of a church that only used a piano and had no basement?

Another person sees no reason to ever trust the church as a place of safety or even real concern. As a pre-teen she sat on her church’s steps slicing her wrists because of the abuse she suffered at home. The Pastor saw her there and did not know what to do with her but he scolded her for telling “lies”, and nothing ever happened to deal with or even acknowledge the abuse.

A young man came for counseling because he and his wife wanted to be parents, and he feared that he might be unable to stop himself from abusing his own child the way his father, a “pillar of the church and community” had abused him. He had become a school bully as a way of dealing with his pain and loneliness.

The truth of these experiences is just as real as the truth of those happy experiences made us love to recall. If you have trouble believing these different realities, let me share some statistics related to sexual abuse as accurate by law enforcement and academic circles, as well as those who work with survivors of abuse across this nation.

One in three girls will experience some form of sexual abuse by the time they reach 18 years of age (Rusell, 1985). Note this is far more than the statistic seem “old”, however, the numbers have changed very little and these are still the statistics recognized today.

In seven states, we have heard of some form of sexual abuse by the time they reach 18 years of age (Finkehr, 1985). The vast majority of these victims know their abusers. (FaithTrust Institute, 1992)

- The FaithTrust Institute reports that “counseling programs in religious communities confirm that cases of child abuse among their clients conform closely to the numbers reported in national statistics.” That means the number of cases where the victim knows the offender.” (Spring, 2004 issue: Working Together)

- Over the last 10 years an average of 70 allegations of sexual abuse of children have been made against a church per year. The number of allegations is only a slight downward trend since 1997, probably due to increased policy development and implementation by denominations. (Church Ministry Resources national surveys)

- From another source there is a much larger report for the more recent years.

J James Cobble, Executive Director of Christian Ministry Resources, publisher of the Church Law and Tax Report, reports that in the year approximately 3500 churches respond to allegations of sexual misconduct in church programs involving children and youth.

- “...most American churches being hit with child sexual abuse allegations are small and most allegations are not clergy or staff, but church volunteers.” (Mark Clayton writing in the Christian Science Monitor: April 5, 2002)

The FaithTrust Institute defines child sexual abuse as “sexual contact between a child or teenager and an adult, 16 years of age or older, who is not a blood relation, step-parent, or legal guardian.” In addition to sexual contact, abuse can include: inappropriate verbal stimulation of a child or teenager – taking photos showing sexually explicit photographs of or to a child or teenager – exposing a child or teenager to pornography or adult sexual activity.

If we divide the number of persons in our sanctuaries on Sunday mornings by the number in these statistics, it is clear that taking these steps of providing some assurance of safety for our children and youth is not just important to those church leaders and policy makers, it is also a way of saying to the wounded children and youth that we are here for them, we will not be silent, we will be among them now, and we will work to hold their abusers accountable. In viewing the video that Thornburg Melton lectured on for our church and perhaps to send them a “thank you” for your contribution to the life of the congregation.

Judy Rhoads*<br>By Judy Rhoads*<br>When Pastor David Eckert contacted me about several other lay persons at Conshohocken UMC on a “Safe Sanctuaries” team, I was a little hesitant. I thought, “Oh no, another meeting to attend.” After hearing more about the program, I believed it would be very beneficial for our church and for me.

I have 3 grown children and 2 very young grandchildren and have always enjoyed the presence of children in my home – the place where all our kids come to meet. Loving my children as I do, it’s so hard for me to imagine that harm could ever come to precious children at the hands of predators.

I felt that our church’s participation in the “Safe Sanctuaries” program could help to assure a safe place for our children, and youth, and give peace of mind to the parents of those children. In viewing the video that we used for our training, I was prived to hear the statistics on child abuse. This information made me all the more determined to follow through with our “Safe Sanctuaries” project.

We began with training a core group of about 5 people who would act as training facilitators. Then we offered several options for training times for all of our staff and volunteers. All people who work with children at our church have now signed covenants against child abuse. We are working on obtaining back copies of the Child Abuse History Record Check and the Child Abuse History Clearance. Those two forms must be completed to be in compliance. If you choose to complete the forms online, there could be a dedication service for workers that includes placing their clearances on the altar as an offering.

“Safe Sanctuaries” is not just about the 2 forms we provide this church and perhaps to send them a “thank you” for your contribution to the life of the congregation.

The Rev. Beverly T. Andrews is pastor of Bridesburg and Westwick United Methodist Church and Chairperson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CareTeam.

My resolution against child abuse

By Judy Rhoads*

When Pastor David Eckert contacted me about several other lay persons at Conshohocken UMC on a “Safe Sanctuaries” team, I was a little hesitant. I thought, “Oh no, another meeting to attend.” After hearing more about the program, I believed it would be very beneficial for our church and for me.

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This video, narrated by Bill Kennedy, a practicing attorney who is a member of Paoli UMC, gives clear rationale for compliance as well as very practical guidance in some simple methods to provide greater safety for both children and those who work with them in our church programs.

How can we get all these forms completed? An easy possibility would be to have forms available for completion at a late Summer or Fall training session for some of those new workers. Especially if you are welcoming new workers or changing your format for training, it could be a simple idea of taking the children and youth who are attending the training into the Fall, most of our congregations hold some type of Rally Day or Dedication of Teachers and Workers for the next Sunday School season. Such a time is a natural for encouraging folks to complete their forms onsite during the Coffee Hour following the special service. Another idea would be to have a “Form Filling Session” before the service and collect the completed forms as a part of the dedication of workers. If you plan to do either of these, be sure to send out, at least twice in advance, postcards to your workers indicating the information they will need for their forms. For some people, listing all addresses since 1975 is very simple. For others, it is a formidable task. We could take some time to go back through address records. If your workers prefer to complete their forms online, there could be a dedication service for workers that includes placing their clearances on the altar as an offering.

The Rev. Beverly T. Andrews is pastor of Bridesburg and Westwick United Methodist Church and Chairperson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CareTeam.
September 1 Market Conditions

By Stacy Martin

So how is the market doing?

If your church is already a client of the Foundation, the committee members receive periodic market and performance reviews on the account. I thought I would share some recent (at least at the time of preparing this article) views on the economy and the markets with the New Spirit readership.

The economy continues to be strong with first quarter GDP at Domestic Product ("GDP") up 3.8% and second quarter up 3.4% (may be revised). GDP is the broadest measure of economic activity, reflecting the growth rate of total economic output. You may have heard that the current economy is consumer driven, affirming that consumption is the GDP’s largest component at about 66%.

Tax receipts are often a good indicator of the overall health of an economy and federal receipts grew 14% - the fastest rate in 10 years. The higher tax receipts have helped reduce the federal deficit to $333 billion down from the record $422 billion last year. A lower deficit means more US dollars staying in this country’s economy. Another indicator of the economy is our wallet. Gas prices are at current highs but have not yet reached the record highs in the 1970's (near $3/gallon). Consumer incomes are also rising, generating enough cash inflow to offset the rising costs of gasoline.

The Federal Reserve raised the Fed Funds Rate to 3.5% in August. One year earlier, the rate was 1.5%. This is the rate at which banks and institutions lend money to each other on a short-term basis, usually overnight. The Federal Reserve uses this rate to control the amount of funds available for lending, which impacts inflation and other interest rates. Increases in the rate make it more expensive to borrow money; lowering the rate makes it cheaper. Lower costs to borrow money leaves more dollars for consumers and corporations to save, investments or apply to capital expenditures. The Federal Reserve may be approaching the end of its tightening operation, therefore, short-term and intermediate-term interest rates are unlikely to move much higher.

Let’s move to the stock market. For the first six months of the year, the S&P 500 figure at June 30 was negative 0.02%, that is, the stock market was down almost 1% since the beginning of the year. After the end of the second quarter 2005, some 70% of the S&P 500 companies reported second quarter profits up 11% versus year ago levels. This corporate growth was finally reflected in the S&P 500 performance in July with the index showing growth from January through July at 2.87%. I am pleased to report that the performance of the equity funds at the Foundation is better than the S&P, and their other benchmarks, for the same period.

Some churches can take stock market risk, some cannot, and for many, an equal blend of stocks and bonds is the right place to be. The Foundation works with clients to determine what the right blend of stocks and bonds is for an investment portfolio then we invest the assets, using a series of pooled funds. A pooled fund is a version of a mutual fund. It looks and feels just like a mutual fund but is only offered to clients of the Foundation - churches and agencies within the Conference. If your church has questions about the services of the Foundation, please call or email me so we can discuss the available options.

Stacy Martin is the Executive Director of Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation, Tel.: 800-628-9993 x247, or email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org.

Marriage Enrichment Workshop

A Marriage Enrichment Workshop will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church in Allentown, PA on Sept 30 – Oct 1st. The program starts on Friday evening and ends Saturday night. Marriage Enrichment is an affiliated program of The United Methodist Church, and serves to “make good marriages better.” For more information, contact Charlie or Alenda Gardner at 610-395-3258, charles.e.gardner@verizon.net. Visit the Marriage Enrichment website at www.marriageenrichment.org.

Marriage Enrichment Becomes Re-Affiliated With The United Methodist Church

On March 15th, 2005, Marriage Enrichment Inc was granted affiliation with the Global Board of Discipleship for the 2005-2008 quadrennium. Dr. Carl Clarke created this Marriage Enrichment program in 1969, expressly for The United Methodist Church. In 1982, Marriage Enrichment became an independent organization, and has now become officially re-affiliated.

Marriage Enrichment is a program designed to “make good marriages better.” It is conducted as a workshop in which couples actively participate. Communication skills are emphasized, along with recognizing the positive qualities that exist in each marriage. Couples leave the workshop better able to understand each other, and more aware of the love that exists between them. Most couples report feeling renewed and uplifted at the end of the program. Marriage Enrichment is conducted in a Christian atmosphere, with prayer and worship a key part of the workshop.

You can learn more about Marriage Enrichment by visiting their website at www.marriageenrichment.org or by calling 1-800-726-7424.

Relationship Checklist:

• Do you have conflicts that go unresolved?
• Do you wish your spouse would express his/her feelings more often?
• Is it difficult for you to give and/or receive positive feedback?
• Do you feel misunderstood by your spouse?
• Are there some things you can’t talk about?
• Is life so busy you have trouble scheduling things together?
• Would you like to have a richer, stronger marriage?

If you or your partner can answer “yes” to any one or more of the questions above, a Marriage Enrichment Workshop can help enrich your marriage. It is for couples desiring to improve a good marriage and for couples who recognize some things aren’t working.

Marriage Encounter Weekend in Royal Oak, MD

Nov 11-13, 2005
Osprey Point Inn - Royal Oak, MD - If squeezing the toothpaste from the middle has doused the romance in your marriage, a United Methodist Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend may just be the spark needed to rekindle the fire of your wedding day. Here’s a 44-hour marital makeover away from job, kids, chores and phones. You will focus only on each other. If you’re hankering for greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, contact Rudy and Jim Lannacone at (609) 259-2527 for details. Or visit the website at: WWW.ENCOUNTER.ORG. Royal Oak is located on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

United Methodist Women of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

32ND ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 22, 2005
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: First United Methodist Church of Phoenixville
865 South Main Street, Phoenixville, PA
(610) 933-5936

Theme: Embracing the World Praying for Justice and Peace

Guest Speaker and Author: Jane E. Vennard
(Ms. Venard will be available to autograph your copy of Embracing the World at a special book signing. Be sure to bring it with you!! See Reading Program. You may order it from the Service Center at the e-store: gbgm-umc.org/e-store/readingprogram.

Registration Fee: $8.00 (includes boxed lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.)

All Registrations Due by October 7, 2005.

Mail (with check payable to EPA Conference United Methodist Women) to:
Dot Wood, 95 Second Avenue, Phoenixville, PA 19460; phone: (610) 933-4391

Childcare available for children through 6 years of age by PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY. Parents must provide lunch and a snack.

www.epaumc.org
World Communion Sunday
October 2, 2005

I press on toward the goal for... the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14, NRSV)

When you are a college junior, your life goals begin taking form, and Ashley Tyler thinks going to law school might be one of hers.

Now, however, the business administration major is concentrating on completing her undergraduate degree at Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, where she also plays clarinet in the marching band.

Active in The United Methodist Church all of her life, Ashley is quick to express thanks for the Ethcnic Minority Scholarship she received. "Getting financial help from the church makes a big difference," she said. One of six children in her family, Ashley has shared her talents and her faith as an acolyte, choir member and Sunday school teacher in her local church, as a district youth representative, and as a Memphis Conference Council on Youth Ministries member.

In her letter to the church at Philippi, the apostle Paul wrote: "I press toward the goal for... the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." This could be the words of Ashley and other men and women for whom the journey is made easier by generous United Methodists. The World Communion Sunday offering provides Ethcnic Scholarships for Minority students at Ashley Tyler, Crusade Scholarship for international and U.S. racial-and-ethnic-minority graduate students, and scholarships for racial-ethnic minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

Your gift makes a world of difference! For worship resources, go to: http://www.umcvg.org/content/sundays/communion.asp

or email: esumc@ptd.net (Subject: Lay Led position)

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THE GALA
DELAWARE CONFERENCE REMEMBRANCE...
40 YEARS
SATURDAY, OCT. 29, 2005

WYNDHAM HOTEL
8TH & KING STREETS
WILMINGTON, DE 19801

Honorary Chairpersons:
Bishop Marcus Matthews
Bishop Melvin G. Talbert

RECEPTION
4:00 PM
DINNER PROGRAM
7:00 PM

Keynote Speaker
Bishop Violet Fisher

EXTENDED RECEPTION
10:00 PM

**** BLACK TIE EVENT!! ****

TICKETS:
$ 50.00 PER PERSON
TABLE OF 10: $500.00

COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET & HOTEL INFORMATION AVAILABLE
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rev. Hebert Coe
610-576-8102
Ms. Betty Henderson
215-226-5268
Rev. Herbert Palms
215-226-0223
Ms. Anne Williams
215-223-1391

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

The Older Adult Ministry will be holding a conference on the Northeast District on Friday, October 21 & Saturday, October 22, 2005 at the Days Inn Conference Center in Allentown. The conference will feature Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Eastern PA Conference and Dr. Richard Gentzler from Nashville to discuss issues affecting older adults. The Days Inn Conference Center is located at 1151 Bulldog Drive, Routes 22 & 309 in Allentown. For more information contact Dorothy Burnett at 215.476.5504 or by email: oama@netzero.com.

The EPA Conference Older Adult Ministries is available to assist you with planning a training workshop. For more information contact Mrs. Dorothy Burnett at 215.476.5504 or by email: oama@netzero.com.

October 21-22
"Exploring our Faith Journey"
Maria Wald Retreat Center in Reading, PA. Seeking and celebrating together! Enjoy a presentation by Kelly Martini who serves on the General Board of Global Ministries of the U.M. Church as Communications Director of the Women's Division. Arrival-Friday 4:00pm. Departure-Saturday 5:00pm. Cost: Single $70.00, Double pp. $60.00, Triple $55.00. Fee includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Deposit required-$20.00 by August 15th (limited accommodations). Checks to: Elam U.M. Church, 1073 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342. Attn: Randy C. Schaffer.

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You're Invited

September 13-15
NEJ Clergy Women's Gathering
“Herstory-Growing Wholeness in Our Lives” at the Auburn Holiday Inn, 75 North St., Auburn, NY Cost $275.00 plus lodging. Lodging begins at $85.00 per night, per room (double). Many interesting and helpful workshops are planned as well as an opportunity to visit the Harriet Tubman home and the Women’s Hall of Fame. For more information please contact: NCNY Conference, Central Lakes District, 144 Genesee St., Suite 404, Auburn, NY 13021 at (315) 259-0756 or email: centralallasses@verizon.net.
Alaskan Explorer Cruise with Bishop and Mrs. Matthews

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.

18th Annual United Methodist Church Day with the Phillies

Over 1300 United Methodists enjoyed a beautiful summer evening at United Methodist Night at the Phillies on August 20. Bishop Marcus Matthews and his niece, Shara Walker, walked out to the “pitching mound” at the beginning of the game. Walker had the privilege of throwing out the first ball to the Phillies Phanatic in front of 43,000 Phillies fans that night. Bishop Matthews and his family and Ross Brightwell, organizer of the event, were greeted and honored in the Phillies Hall of Fame Room with a dinner.

West Chester UMC youth and senior choirs, led by Mike Muzzo, music minister, sang the national anthem to the crowd. Everyone enjoyed a humorous moment when the Phanatic grabbed the microphone in front of the choir.

During the game, Bishop Matthews toured the stadium and greeted members of the 30 congregations that participated. United Methodist Night at the Phillies is a fundraiser for conference youth programs. The Phillies will rebate $5 for each ticket sold, thus raising $6500 for conference youth ministry.

Be sure to look for information on the upcoming United Methodist Night at the 76ers this year!