Annual Conference 2006 Highlights

By Suzy Keenan*

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference met in Philadelphia for its 220th session, June 21-23, 2006, with the theme, “Living Connected as God’s People: Celebrating the Connection.”

Opening Worship
Conference opened on the evening of Wednesday, June 21 with a spirit-filled and joyous procession. Torch bearers, a beautiful cross, the Africa University Choir singing Ziyahamba, and glittering banners and flags, brought to life the conference theme, “Living Connected as God’s People: Celebrating the Connection.” Music led by the Rev. Harry Benson and Mrs. Dixie Hall included an orchestra made up of fourteen conference members. Bishop Marcus Matthews opened his sermon by thanking and praising the churches he has seen in mission in our neighborhood, those who support the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and all of the Volunteers in Mission teams going to help rebuild the Gulf Coast. Bishop Matthews asked, “What is our mission? What is role of persons we will commission tonight? To help us build up the Kingdom of God – to step out of our comfort zones in order to build our churches spiritually and numerically. Our goal is not to finish first, but to hold onto the light and share the light until we cross over the finish line together.”


The conference received an offering of $4,238 for scholarships for undergraduate students in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Bible Studies
Mr. James Salley, associate vice-chancellor for Africa University, led two Bible studies. Accompanied by music and testimonies of the Africa University Choir, Salley said, “You have invested in Africa University. Here is proof positive that your investment is at work on the continent of Africa.” Salley’s Bible Studies focused on “Visions and Dreams” using Acts 18: 5-11 as text. He shared the vision for the transformation of Africa and the dream of a university, which was begun in 1992. Choir members shared their testimonies and dreams for their futures, made possible in part by the education they are receiving at Africa University. The conference received $82,496 in an offering for Katrina Church Recovery Appeal, and celebrated the United Methodist connectional response to the hurricane.

50th Anniversary Celebration
The 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women was celebrated with on Thursday.
JULY 26
Life and History of Jacob Albright
7:30 p.m.  The Historical Society of Cocalico Valley is sponsoring a meeting on the life and history of Jacob Albright at the home of Caryl Jacob, the Community Services, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26. Join French, the founder of Fonkoze, and Anne Hastings, the Director of Development, as they update on the work of Fonkoze and on the situation in Haiti. Meet with Father Joseph Philippe, the founder of Fonkoze, and Anne Hastings, the Director of Development, as they update on the work of Fonkoze and on the situation in Haiti. Meet with Father Joseph Philippe, the founder of Fonkoze, and Anne Hastings, the Director of Development, as they update on the work of Fonkoze and on the situation in Haiti. Meet with Father Joseph Philippe, the founder of Fonkoze, and Anne Hastings, the Director of Development, as they update on the work of Fonkoze and on the situation in Haiti.

SEPTEMBER 23
Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth
Support the Health and Wellness Ministries at Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown, PA. Special Guest: Rev. Don Simmons, Ph.D. Don's passion is equipping laity for ministry, especially "Beyond the Walls" and brings unique perspectives having served with both religious and secular volunteers for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years. He was a founding faculty member of Leadership Development and a pioneer in organizing faith-based organizations for almost 30 years.

OCTOBER 6-7
Marriage Enrichment
Bethany UMC, Allentown, PA. Marriage Enrichment is an affiliated program of the United Methodist Church, and is designed to make good marriages better. The program begins at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and concludes on Saturday evening. Marriage Enrichment is not a counseling program, nor intended for relationships in serious trouble. Rather it helps those with good marriages improve communication skills and draw closer together, as well as mutually closer to God. Most couples leave the workshop feeling invigorated and renewed in their commitment to each other, armed with practical ways to communicate better. Registration is open to all, with a fee of $50 per couple. Child care will be provided at the church, plus lunch and dinner will be on Saturday. The registration covers for the cost of the program, and a free will offering will be accepted to help with meals and child care. Contact us at 385-3295 or by email at charles.gerviser@verizon.net. Please register by September 28th. For more information, we can send you a CD to share with others in your church or community, or you can get information at www.marrying.org.

OCTOBER 8
CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS
Reserve October 8 through 11, 2006 for the second annual health and wellness conference sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries Health and Wellness Congregation Health Ministries team. The focus of this year’s conference, “Transform, Mobilize, Advocate,” promises to provide many “hooks” for those working for health and wellness in their annual conferences and local churches. For more information, please visit the GBGM website at http://www.gbgm.org/health/congmin/ or the regional conference website.

NOVEMBER 10-12
Carson-Simpson Farm Groundbreaking
By Jim Wilkin*

On June 4, 2006, Carson-Simpson Farm Christian Center hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction for a new multi-purpose building on its campus in Hatboro. The new structure will greatly expand the facilities at the site and will provide the first all-season overnight accommodations in the history of the camp.

The groundbreaking ceremony included inspiring words from Bishop Marcus Matthews, the Rev. Ralph Blanks, president of United Methodist Metro Ministries; the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, co-chair of the Camping Board; Mr. Raymond Nietz, director of Carson-Simpson Farm; and the Hon. Stewart J. Greenleaf, state senator from the 12th Senate District of Pennsylvania.

Actual construction is scheduled to begin in the fall on the three-story building. The ground floor will house six conference rooms, a community room, the camp store and the chapel. The first floor will hold 12 hotel-style rooms with private baths, three meeting rooms, the kitchen, a seated dining area for up to 54 persons, and a full-size gymnasium that will also be used for large scale dining or meeting space. The second floor will include 12 more hotel-style rooms plus six dormitory-style rooms with six to eight beds each and two sleeping rooms for staff.

The history of Carson-Simpson Farm as a Christian camp and retreat center began on April 14, 1919, when Judge Alexander and Ella Simpson donated 80 acres of land to the Philadelphia Missionary Society for one dollar. The property was to be used as a recreation center for poor children, and a rest home for working girls and the wives and daughters of ministers. The ministry has expanded through the years and today includes a vibrant day camp program, an overnight camp for church groups to spend Monday through Friday participating in camping activities during the day and sleeping in the dorm at night, and a day use program for churches and other groups to picnic, play sports and games, explore nature, and worship in the outdoors. A major emphasis of Carson-Simpson Farm is serving children and youth from our inner city churches. Carson-Simpson Farm Christian Center is dedicated to giving children the opportunity to experience God’s redeeming love and power through our Christian camping ministry. The history of Carson-Simpson Farm Christian Center will always be an important part of its definition even as we grow and expand our facilities and our programs.

The new multi-purpose building will update the facilities at the site to provide all-season sleeping accommodations similar to those of our other three Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camps. The new building will be an excellent resource for groups in the conference to come for overnight retreats. It will provide expanded opportunities for day use at the site, including space for meetings, banquets, recreational events such as basketball or volleyball leagues or tournaments, and single day retreat events.

United Methodist Metro Ministries has been actively seeking the necessary funding for this building project from a variety of sources. Churches and individuals are invited to pledge donations, which will make possible this important expansion of our ministries to persons of all ages. If you would like more information about the project, or if you would like to make a pledge of financial support, please contact Jim Wilkin, director of Camping and Nurture Ministries at 610-666-9090 ext. 225 or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.

*Jim Wilkin is director of Camping and Nurture Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

In Memoriam

Rev. George L. Overley, retired elder
Rev. Overley passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at The Brehrenite Village at the age of 94. Rev. Overley served the following appointments beginning in 1933: Paxton; Charlestown; Steelton; Mt. Zion; Georgetown; Peach Bottom; Mt. Zion; Pleasant Grove; Goodwill; Glen Moore; Lancaster; Ross Street; Phila; A. J. Kynett; Middletown; Christ; Valley Forge; St. Matthews; and Chester; Madison Street. Rev. Overley retired in 1976 and served three churches in retirement: Cochrannie, Atglen, and Christiana. A funeral service was held at Bird-in-Hand United Methodist Church, 2620 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Rev. Harold M. Young, retired elder
Rev. Young served the following appointments beginning in 1949: Loyaltown UM Circuit; Lansdale; Christ; and Lititz. He retired in 1983. In retirement he served Safe Harbor; Colemanville; and Schoeckens West Memorial. Rev. Young also served as chaplain at Evangelical Manor, Philadelphia. A service was held on Friday, June 16 at Lititz UMC. He is survived by a son, H. Lee Young, of 47 Crestview Drive, Lebanon PA 17042, as well as two daughters, Lenora Wible and Dawn Keene. Memorial contributions can be made to Patient Benevolent Fund of Brehrenite Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17606 or Hospice of Lancaster County, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17694-4125.

Mrs. Virginia S. Overley, who passed away on Friday, July 7, 2006, at the age of 88. She was the wife of the late Rev. George Overley, who passed away on June 10, 2006. Mrs. Overley was a member of Bird-in-Hand UMC where she was a member of the United Methodist Women. She worked closely with her husband who served churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for more than 25 years, beginning in 1933: Paxton; Charlestown; Steelton; Mt. Zion; Georgetown; Peach Bottom; Mt. Zion; Pleasant Grove; Goodwill; Glen Moore; Lancaster; Ross Street; Phila; A. J. Kynett; Middletown; Christ; Valley Forge; St. Matthews; and Chester; Madison Street. Rev. Overley retired in 1976 and served three churches in retirement: Cochrannie, Atglen, and Christiana.

Mrs. Overley is survived by a son, Dale S. of Lancaster; a daughter in law, Fyrne Overley, of Florida; three great-grandchildren—Ashley, Drew, and Micah; a brother, John E. of New York; and six grandchildren—Amy, Nathan and David; and three great-grandchildren—Ashley, Drew, and Micah; a brother, John E. of Quarryville; and a sister, Hazel S. of Howood. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, July 11 at Bird-in-Hand UMC. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mrs. Overley’s memory may be sent to the Bird-in-Hand UMC, 2820 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mrs. Overley’s memory may be sent to Mrs. Overley, 29 N. Plum Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Virnette T. Gilmore, deceased
Virnette T. Gilmore died on July 11, 2006 at the age of 77. She served at Tinley Temple, Chester; Grace Community, and Gradyville. She went on Leave of Absence in 1992, and was then discontinued in 1994. A viewing was held on Friday, July 14 at The Garden Church United Methodist Community, 8 N. Lansdowne Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050; 610-623-1643. She is survived by her husband, LeRoy Imes Gilmore, and one adopted and two natural children. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Overley, 29 N. Plum Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Vimetta T. Gilmore died on July 11, 2006 at the age of 77. She served at Tinley Temple, Chester; Grace Community, and Gradyville. She went on Leave of Absence in 1992, and was then discontinued in 1994. A viewing was held on Friday, July 14 at The Garden Church United Methodist Community, 8 N. Lansdowne Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050; 610-623-1643. She is survived by her husband, LeRoy Imes Gilmore, and one adopted and two natural children. Condolences may be sent to her son, Shane Gilmore, P.O. Box 2683, Frisco, TX 75034.

www.epaumc.org
**The Nation In Brief**

**US-2 program helps put faith into action**

By Linda Bloom*

For Emily Harris, social activism has often been a part of her involvement with the United Methodist Church. So it wasn’t a stretch when she joined the US-2 program of the denomination’s Board of Global Ministries to explore the calling she felt. “It always made sense to put my faith in action for economic justice,” she said. Harris, from the church’s Virginia Conference, is one of seven US-2s who have just finished their two-year term of missionary service. They shared some of their experiences during a June 22 briefing at the board’s New York head-quarters.

The US-2 program offers leadership development through peace and justice ministries at U.S.-based community organizations. It is open to young adults, 20-30 years old, through peace and justice ministries at U.S. based community organizations. A UMNS Web-only photo from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Kandis Samuels, a US-2 missionary with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, helps a student with her homework at the Bamden Family Center in Baltimore. The US-2 program offers leadership development for young adults, 20-30 years old, through peace and justice ministries at U.S. based community organizations. Photo by Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, New York, 10008-9068. Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6158 or online by going to http://secure.UMN.org/donations/ minstereus2, on the Board of Global Ministries Web site.

US-2s are not asked to raise monetary support during their time as missionaries, but United Methodists can support the program through the Advance for Christ and His Church. Checks may be written to Advance GOF 0508, and mailed to Advance GOF, P.O. Box 9068, New York, New York, 10008-9068. Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6158 or online by going to http://secure.UMN.org/donations/minstereus2, on the Board of Global Ministries Web site.

The US-2 program offers leadership development for young adults, 20-30 years old, through peace and justice ministries at U.S.-based community organizations. A UMNS Web-only photo from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Photo by Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, New York, 10008-9068. Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6158 or online by going to http://secure.UMN.org/donations/minstereus2, on the Board of Global Ministries Web site.

US-2s are not asked to raise monetary support during their time as missionaries, but United Methodists can support the program through the Advance for Christ and His Church. Checks may be written to Advance GOF 0508, and mailed to Advance GOF, P.O. Box 9068, New York, New York, 10008-9068. Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6158 or online by going to http://secure.UMN.org/donations/minstereus2, on the Board of Global Ministries Web site.

* Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.**
Six seminary students from three Afri-
can countries got more than they bar-
gained for after a summer internship at
the United Methodist Publishing House.
And so did staff at the Nashville United
Methodist agency.
At an emotional chapel service to say
goodbye June 29, it was evident students
and staff had made lifelong friendships.
The seven students were the first in a
new, three-week African Internship Program
created by the Publishing House to find
ways to nurture seminary students inter-
est in pursuing a professional career in
Christian publishing, marketing, mer-
chandising and distribution.
"This is really one of our most exciting
projects," said the Rev. Fred Allen,
executive director of African American Initiatives/International Outreach at the
Publishing House. Allen also served as
mentor for the young students.
"Almost throughout their lives in Africa,
the interns had to live on the edge of
social and political unrest, thus having to
overcome some overwhelming odds that
would have been impossible for many,
they said."
"As they shared their powerful testimo-
nies of faith with the United Methodist
Publishing House family, we were pre-
ferred as close friends with their deep commit-
ment to God through Christ and their love
of the United Methodist Church."
"My experience at the Publishing House
was more than a learning experience, and
it was also a turning point of my life," said
Enmanuel Naweji, a native of the
Democratic Republic of Congo, a
student at Garrett-Evangelical Tho-

cal Seminary, Evanston, Ill.
"My dreams have been redefined. I
actually dream of pursuing a doctorate program so that I will be able to combine
church and development of African communities through writing, teaching and
preaching."
"Being here for these past three weeks was a life-changing experience in
many ways," said Neenga Mpyo, also from the
Democratic Republic of Congo, an
English major at Gammon Theological
School of Theology, Atlanta.
"I came to have a deep sense of what it
takes to get from an idea to a finished
product ready to be published," he said.
"At the United Methodist Publishing
House we learned the art of hospitality,
understanding hard work, commitment and
quality," said Wilson Marimi of Kenya, a
student at Gammon Theological Semi-

ary, Atlanta. He said the students wit-
nessed the staff's "love of God individu-
ally and collectively!"
"We were blessed more than mere words can be able to describe," he said.
Allen said these first six students were
chosen based upon recommendations
from the doans of the schools of theology.
The students had stories of struggle and
triumph that they shared during their
Juda two weeks to stay with us.
"I always pray to God not to remove any
moose, and conduct community
solicit gifts via e-mail," said Deborah
Okitakoyi Lundula, a senior communica-
tions major in Nashville, Tenn. They
also a measure of the impact we have on
the lives touched by our products and
also an effort to show how much God has
interested in a career in Christian publishing. With Allen as their mentor, the students
will have a chance to gain real-world,
professional work experience as they
work alongside Publishing House staff
during summer and fall internships.
"We are a generation hungry for
knowledge and ready to make a difference.
We believe that publishing is the key to
nurturing the minds of African youth,
"But God was telling me to go and do his will
sooner. My parents fished for a living.
"That's how I started music. That's how I started
music from ITC. Gammon is one of the
African seminary students, Emmanuel Naweji (from left), Neenga God Mpyo, Newlove
Annan, Okitakoyi Lundula, Wilson Marimi and Dominic Dadzie surround the Rev.
Fred Allen (third from right), executive director of African American Initiatives/Inter-
national Outreach at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tenn. They
are the first in a New African Internship Program to nurture seminary students interested
in a career in Christian publishing. With Allen as their mentor, the students spent
June 13-20 learning about the industry from Publishing House staff. A UMNS
photo by Betsy L. Gilbert.

African seminary students, Emmanuel Naweji (from left), Neenga God Mpyo, Newlove
Annan, Okitakoyi Lundula, Wilson Marimi and Dominic Dadzie surround the Rev.
Fred Allen (third from right), executive director of African American Initiatives/Inter-
national Outreach at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tenn. They
are the first in a New African Internship Program to nurture seminary students interested
in a career in Christian publishing. With Allen as their mentor, the students spent
June 13-20 learning about the industry from Publishing House staff. A UMNS
photo by Betsy L. Gilbert.
Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
continued from page 1

morning, with tambourines, flags waving, dancing, singing, and praising the Lord. The Rev. Melinda McKonly preached, sharing the stories of clergywomen who paved the way through difficulties and struggles, such as Rev. Jane Harner and Rev. Lynetta Hunter. She sang her own humorous blues song about being a woman in ministry. The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm celebrated women in professional ministry in a presentation of photographs and words. Bishop Matthews invited women and men who felt God’s call to ministry to come forward, and four persons responded to the call.

Retirees Honored
The gifts and service of fourteen retirees were recognized in a worship service. Honored retirees included Rev. Mary Ellen Beckman, Rev. Jeaninne Brenner, Rev. Carol A Campbell, Rev. Larry D Carl, Rev. Daniel R. Ellis-Killian, Rev. Joseph Healey, Rev. David G. Heberling, Rev. Laurence Hof, Rev. Fred R. Landa, Rev. John C. Nesbitt, Rev. John T. Parker, Rev. Archie Pasmore, Rev. Ruth Hope Woodlen, and Rev. Joanne Young. Bishop Matthews noted their vitality and energy, wondering if they perhaps might be “up” for another appointment. He encouraged them to continue to be in ministry in new ways. This celebration continued with the symbolic passing of the mantle from retirees to ordinands. Bishop Matthews laid the mantle on retiring elder Rev. Carol Campbell, who then transferred it to Rev. Kipp Gilmore-Clough representing the Class of Ordinands. Then the retirees anointed the ordinands.

Mayor John Street
The Honorable John Street, mayor of Philadelphia, greeted the conference. Mayor Street, who begins each new year leading worship in prisons, quoted from Matthew 25: 36, and said that we all have a responsibility not just to those in boardrooms, but also to the 8,000 persons in Philadelphia prisons. He expressed appreciation for the churches’ work in promoting equal educational opportunities for all children. Mayor Street thanked Bishop Matthews for his leadership, and presented him with an engraved Liberty Bell.

Memorial Service
The conference remembered twenty-eight deceased clergy and clergy spouses in a memorial service, where Bishop Hope Morgan Ward preached. She brought greetings from Mississippi, “where there are many with broken hearts,” she said. Quoting from the Book of Revelation, she shared how “the Lamb at the center will be their shepherd. The Lamb will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Relating the complex message of the Book of Revelation, she shared its overall message of hope over life’s struggles and losses to be, “God wins!”

Celebration of Ministries
The Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall led a celebration of the conference’s connectional ministries. The Denman Evangelism Awards were presented to Mrs. Frances Sokso, member of Olivet United Methodist Church, and Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, pastor of New Life UMC in Upper Darby, Pa. The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson-Tatem presented the Kim Jefferson Award for effective urban ministry to LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner City Alliance.) The Rev. Sally Wisner Ott, ex-

Annual Conference DVD Order Form
Revised pricing as of July 1st.

- Opening Worship - $15.00
- Two Bible Studies - $30.00
- Women Rights 50 Years Celebration Service - $15.00
- Memorial Service - $20.00
- Service of Ordination - $20.00

Total Order Amount: $________________________

Name: _______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City: ______________________ State & Zip: ____________

Please send this order form with check made payable to EPA Conference to:
Communications/Video Order
EPA Conference of UMC
P.O. Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

Mrs. Karen Todd, one of fifty volunteers to wave banners, is shown here at Opening Worship. The beautiful banners were loaned by Henderson High School Color Guard of West Chester, Pa.

The Africa University Choir directed by Beenon Kigozi (seen at right), shares African harmonies and rhythms at Opening Worship.

www.epaumc.org
2006 Highlights, June 21-23, Philadelphia

cutive director, accepted the award for LUMINA. The Rev. David Wesley Brown and Mr. Meritce M. Shane received Healing the Wounds of Racism Transformation Awards, presented by the Rev. Hilda Campbell, director of Human Relations and Leadership, for promoting the “Beloved Community.” The conference affirmed support of its partnership with the Annual Conference in Nigeria in operating a mobile health clinic in Northern Nigeria. Mr. Jim Wilkin, director of Camping and Nurture Ministries, introduced a video celebrating the groundbreaking of a year-round overnight facility at Carson-Simpson Farm, one of four conference camps. Dr. Marshall celebrated the service of the Rev. Elaine Barnes as Conference Disaster Response Coordinator and introduced Mrs. Debra DiPrinzio, who succeeds her in that role.

Laity Address by Lenora Thompson

Friday afternoon of Annual Conference, Lenora Thompson gave her last Laity Address ending her eighth year as EPA Conference Lay Leader. She spoke of the “joy in serving” and likened it to the Apostle Paul’s writing in Philippians 2. She publicly thanked her family and all those who have supported her leadership, embraced her vision, and affirmed her ministry. She recalled how others have helped her to learn, to preach, and to explore God’s call. She reminded us that many of the seeds that we sowed have blossomed far beyond what we could have imagined. New ideas came to fruition under her leadership such as the town meetings in every district, conference-wide laity day, changing the Board of Lay Ministries, Lenora Thompson in every district, conference-wide laity leadership such as the town meetings together in faith have blossomed far beyond what many of the seeds that we sowed have supported her leadership, embraced her vision, and affirmed her ministry. She publicly thanked her family and all those who have supported her leadership, embraced her vision, and affirmed her ministry. She recalled how others have helped her to learn, to preach, and to explore God’s call. She reminded us that many of the seeds that we sowed have blossomed far beyond what we could have imagined. New ideas came to fruition under her leadership such as the town meetings in every district, conference-wide laity day, changing the Board of Lay Ministries.

Ecumenical Dean Thomson

The Rev. Melinda McImony sings “The Saturday Night Blues” at the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Full Clergy Rights for Women.

Orders of Ordination

Three bishops participated in the Service of Ordination on Friday evening: Bishops Marcus Matthews and Hope Morgan Ward, as well as Bishop Richard Franklin Norris of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Ward preached on the call to be servants of God, who speaks the Word and worlds are created. Scripture, Melody Porter was ordained as deacon, and the Deaconess Orders of Rev. Deborah Tankley-Brown were recognized. Five persons were ordained as elders: Rev. Thomas Daniel, Rev. Gregory Kipp Gilmore-Clough, Rev. of dedicated service, and the conference elected a new lay leader, Dr. Mary White. The conference voted to approve a budget of $3.7 million for the General Church and World Service, totaling $6.5 million. In addition, a new apportionment system in support of our connectional relationships was approved by a vote of conference.

Service of Ordination

Three bishops participated in the Service of Ordination on Friday evening: Bishops Marcus Matthews and Hope Morgan Ward, as well as Bishop Richard Franklin Norris of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Ward preached on the call to be servants of God, who speaks the Word and worlds are created. Scripture, Melody Porter was ordained as deacon, and the Deaconess Orders of Rev. Deborah Tankley-Brown were recognized. Five persons were ordained as elders: Rev. Thomas Daniel, Rev. Gregory Kipp Gilmore-Clough, Rev.

Mrs. Sarita Bhajian presented a check in the amount of $11,946, a percentage of sales from the Cokesbury Store, which will be contributed to the Central Conference Pension Fund in memory of the Rev. Dr. Robert Daugherty. Mrs. Ruth Daugherty presented engraved NVSB Bibles for Children recently published by Abingdon Press to Bishop and Mrs. Matthews for their three grandchil-

A total of twenty-two resolutions, fourteen of which were voted to a consent calendar, were approved. Included were three resolutions designating new United Methodist Historic Sites: Tindley Temple UMC and the Charles A. Tindley Gravesite, Grove UMC, and Coventryville UMC; a resolution approving thirty-one Conference Advance Specials for second mile giving; and two resolutions relating to lobbying disclosure and minimum wage increase presented by A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania.

Annual Conference 2007 will be held June 13-15 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center. Clergy Sessions will be at 9:00 am, opening and organization will be at 2:00 pm, and the first ballot will be at 2:15 pm.

* Suzy Keenan is director of communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Thank you to photographers: Paul C. Davis, Jim Mundell, Jr., and Jose Urdaneta.

Thank you to volunteer writers: Vicki Baker, Karyn Kisher, JoAnn Higgins, and Cheryl Zegers.

www.epaumc.org
Newsweek lists UMCOR among Big Names in Katrina Relief

By Michelle Scott*

The United Methodist Committee on Relief ranked sixth for the amount raised for hurricane relief in a recent survey by Newsweek of the “Big Names in Katrina Relief.”

UMCOR raised some $64.5 million for hurricane relief and rehabilitation that will fund long-term recovery for the next three years.

This is in addition to the thousands of hours United Methodist volunteers have put into the recovery effort and the $7.6 million United Methodists and others donated in relief supplies.

“UMCOR is thankful that the capacity for giving is so great,” said the Rev. Paul Dirdak, the agency’s chief executive. UMCOR’s policy of using 100 percent of all designated funds for their intended programs ensures every dollar donated will go to hurricane recovery, he added. Other

other financial backing of United Methodists,” he explained.

UMCOR is working in partnership with five annual conferences to assist the most vulnerable hurricane survivors for years to come. Coordinating work with annual conferences and local organizations ensures that the agency’s relief and rehabilitation programs are not duplicating the efforts of other organizations and ensures that the particular needs of a given community are met, he said.

*Scott is an UMCOR staff member in New York.

Responding with faith to immigration

Participate in this 10-week campaign from Independence Day to Labor Day to raise awareness and commitment among Christians about the concerns of immigrants. What does the Bible say? What do we believe as the people of the United Methodist Church? What day-to-day challenges face new immigrants? How can we address these concerns in our life of prayer? Our goal is to lead people from prayer to action. We are asking 100,000 faithful United Methodists to sign our pledge expressing their personal support for the immigration pledge.

Sign the Pledge

“We pledge ourselves as followers of Christ to stand with our immigrant neighbors who have come to the United States from throughout the world. We recognize immigrants as human beings made in the image of God and we prayerfully commit ourselves to support laws that affirm their dignity, preserve their families, and acknowledge the value of their presence among us.”

Study guides available

Study guides are available for each of the ten weeks of the campaign. Print them and promote them in your Sunday school and local church.

For more information, go to: www.umc-gbcs.org.
Cokesbury’s Live B.I.G Makes Sunday School Fun for Children

Would you like to transform your Sunday school into a vibrant educational setting for children? Today’s wired children are growing up in today’s wired world. But often the church isn’t keeping in step.

Cokesbury’s Live B.I.G: Heat, See, and Live Your Belief in God with interactive DVD provides an opportunity to bring the world children live and learn in to Sunday school to make it as engaging as what they encounter the rest of the week.

Sunday school is the single largest source of service while meeting the needs of the church. “I liked having the music, drama, open-ended questions. It provides help for the teachers—but still a lot of room for the teachers to relate and build a relationship with the children.”

“I was excited about using the medium with which the world does such damage, i.e., video and TV, to teach the good news of Jesus Christ,” said another teacher. “This is a much more up-to-date approach that provides activities for all learning styles.”

Available this summer for first use in September 2006, Live B.I.G. is for children ages 3 to 13 and has been tested by hundreds of churches who responded enthusiastically. An eleven-year-old boy in one of the test groups rated Live B.I.G. with all its on a 10-point scale, saying that he liked the lesson because “it’s better than reading boring things.” Some of the teachers started out skeptical about using a DVD in the classroom, but after the test period they were enthusiastic.

“Initially I was thinking that the kids would watch so much TV now—that I didn’t want to have them watch it at church also,” said one teacher. “But after seeing the sample I realized that this could be a good way to relate to the kids.”

“It is upbeat and appealing,” said another teacher in one of the test churches. “I liked having the music, drama, open-ended questions. It provides help for the teachers—but still a lot of room for the teachers to relate and build a relationship with the children.”

“Having fun isn’t a diversion, it is a sound and important way to enhance the learning experience,” said Mary Pion, Director of Children’s Resources for Cokesbury/Abingdon Press. “The children are stimulated visually, verbally, musically, physically, and more. We add the Bible basics and life skills so that Sunday school teachers can help children come to know and choose Jesus.”

“Live B.I.G. will be available from Cokesbury in June for first use in September. For further information call 1-800-251-8591 or go to www.LiveBIG.com.

Contact: Rachel Smith at 615-749-6238 or e-mail at rasmith@umpublishing.org

Deacons: Transforming Ministry through Service

by Rev. Doris K. Dalton *

Who are Deacons? What do they do? How do they serve the Body of Believers and the Ministry of the Church? A workshop at Annual Conference helped laity and clergy alike to be made aware of the ministry of the Deacon and how Deacons and Elders can effectively work in partnership to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to life through service while meeting the needs of the world.

Rev. Sharon Rubey, the Director of Candidacy for Deacons from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), was the guest speaker for the workshop. She gave a broad national picture of what is happening and evolving within the Order of Deacons.

Rev. Richard Erisman, a retired Deacon from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, spoke on his experiences as a Deacon in Eastern Pennsylvania, providing a focus and understanding of the local Order of Deacons. A Pastor of Deacons spoke on their individual experiences as Deacon, how they came to be Deacon, and the work that they do to serve our Church.

Instituted at the General Conference of 1996, the Order of Deacon in the United Methodist Church was set into place to ordain and authorize persons who were called to a ministry of service and justice, connecting the body of believers to the world through servant leadership and discipleship and bringing the concerns and issues of the world community to the Church (paragraph 319, 320 in the Book of Discipline). Today Deacons answer their calling in many ways and forms, such as educators, campus ministers, HIV and AIDS counselors, church administrators, communication directors, and reconciliation ministers. Though Deacons are a very new Order, their numbers are growing.

Rev. Rubey shared that though there are approximately 1,250 ordained Deacons in Full Connection in the United States, there are many more ministers in the “Deacon candidacy pipeline” waiting to be ordained, and more exploring this clergy order each year. Currently one of the challenges for Deacons is spreading information and understanding of who they are, how they can function in the local church, and their relationship to the Elder and the Laity.

Opportunities for information and discussion such as this workshop become key in the work of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and local churches to understand how Deacons are vital in bringing the fullness of ministry to our doorstep.


* Rev. Doris K. Dalton is a probationary Deacon and was commissioned at 2006 Annual Conference.
United Methodists Wear Bracelets to Support Rebuilding Churches and Communities

As a symbol of continued solidarity and commitment to the communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina, United Methodists can wear bracelets sharing the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal logo, “rebuilding churches and communities.”

Money from purchases of the maroon wristbands will support the appeal made by the bishops of The United Methodist Church, mobilizing church members to participate in long-term recovery efforts to the region devastated by Katrina last summer.

With members scattered and buildings destroyed, many churches in the affected areas still seek the assistance of caring United Methodists to re-store their mission and ministries. The appeal focuses on the needs of clergy, church staff and mission personnel in the affected areas and on the United Methodist facilities—churches, retreat centers, urban ministries, retirement facilities and mission centers—that were severely damaged or destroyed. Many were underinsured, with insufficient coverage for damage due to rising water.

Wristbands are $2 each, with free shipping for orders of 50 or more. Order them by calling toll free (888) 346-3862 or online at www.umc.org/churchrecovery. Churches are encouraged to sell the bracelets as a local fundraiser.

In addition to purchasing bracelets, contributions to the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal can also be made online via credit card or through local church offerings labeled “Bishops’ Appeal B18-001.”

The Council of Bishops have asked congregations to take a special offering for the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal Aug. 27, the Sunday closest to the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s first strike to the United States coast on Aug. 25, 2006.

United Methodist T-shirts

Order now, and wear yours for United Methodist Night at the Phillies, and to show the world you are a United Methodist!

Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL

Cost: $10 for shirts picked up in person at the conference office $12 for each shirt sent through the mail.

For more information or to place an order, contact Jim Wilkin, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225.

EXPLORATION

November 17-19, 2006

EXPLORATION is an informative and discerning weekend of worship, Bible study, prayer, workshops and small group discussions for young people - high-school seniors through age 24 - who are exploring a call to ordained ministry. If you have sensed that God might be calling you to ordained ministry, wondered what ministry in The United Methodist Church is all about, or would like some help sorting through the issues surrounding a Christian vocation, this is the gathering for you. Exploration 2006 will be held in Jacksonville, FL. For more information, go to: http://www.gbhem.org/

SPLAT

July 11-15, 2007

More than 10,000 United Methodist youth from across the world are expected to “splat” at Youth2007, the largest quadrennial youth event of the United Methodist Church, July 11-15, 2007, in Greensboro, N.C. While speakers have been confirmed, workshop leaders are needed to reinforce the theme “Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, Teach” by developing activities and experiences for the event. Registration is open at www>Youth2007.org, and more information including workshop leadership applications is available from Dayna Schoonmaker, Youth2007 office coordinator, at (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7190, or Youth207@gbod.org.
Conference responds to flooding

Heavy rains on June 23 led to flood ing throughout communities of Eastern Pennsylvania. Churches, businesses, and homes were afflicted with damage.

Debra DePrinzio, new coordinator for the Conference Disaster Response Team, is encouraging all churches to either report damage in their communities or to organize teams to assist with clean up efforts.

Governor Edward G. Rendell announced that a total of 21 counties have been given federal disaster designation for the Individual Assistance program, which will now help homeowners, renters and businesses in a total of 21 counties recover from disaster damages as a result of the heavy rain and flooding. President Bush and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated the following counties for disaster assistance: Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Chester, Columbia, Franklin, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery and Northumberland.

While we are in the process of evaluating the needs within our conference after the flooding that occurred, pastors are asked to contact their District Superintendents or the Conference Disaster Response Team to provide an update on any damage to your churches and to your surrounding communities.

If you or members of your church would like to volunteer in response to this disaster, you are asked to fill out a volunteer form (which can be obtained by contacting your pastor). After the flooding that occurred, pastors are asked to contact their District Superintendents or the Conference Disaster Response Team to provide an update on any damage to your churches and to your surrounding communities.

For more information, contact Debra DePrinzio, new coordinator for the Conference Disaster Response Team, at ddeprinzio@clement.com.

Flood Buckets needed

Flood buckets are needed to assist home and business owners with clean up. Assembled flood buckets may be dropped off at Camp Innabah, 712 Pughstown Road, Spring City, PA 610-468-6111. For directions check out their website www.innabah.org or call 610-468-6111. Other locations collecting flood buckets include Holy Cross UMC in Reading, Yardley UMC, and Washington Crossing UMC. For directions on how to assemble flood buckets, go to: http://www.philadelphiaconference.org/ getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket/

Please be in prayer for our conference as the Lord challenges all of us to rise up to meet the needs and to be his presence within the community.

For more information, contact Debra DePrinzio, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, 575 Kingswood Court, Glen Mills, PA 19342, 215-919-9789 or e-mail: ddeprinzio@clement.com

Flood Bucket

Value: $45 per bucket

- Note: If the requested item size is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, “This bucket contains no 5-gallon bucket with reusable lid
- 1 bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable wraps)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. bottle
- Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottle
- 50 clothes pins
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves
- 1 pair work gloves
- 24 bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 insect repellent spray, 6-14 oz. can (if aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below)
- 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. bottle (if aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below)
- 1 freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (if aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below)

Important Kit Assembly Information

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Cleaning Agents: All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic bottles. No powders. Pack them inside a tarp or strong outer box. Thank you for your donation- it helps sustain lives!

Director of Children’s Ministries

Hope UMC in Havertown is seeking a part-time Director of Children’s Ministries to lead children in grades K-5. Only 2-3 hours per week to start, position has opportunity for growth. If you are Happy, Optimistic, Pleasant, Enthusiastic, Fun, Understanding, and Loving, then HINTPULS of Hope UMC want you! Full job description or to apply contact the church office at (610) 446-3351.

Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults

Otterbein United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA: Full time office position is available, please call Hopeland UMC, Lititz, PA (717) 738-1444 or email to: hopelandumc@snu.com

Youth Minister

Hope UMC in Havertown is seeking a part-time Youth Minister to lead youth in grades 6-12. Must be available 20 hours per month required, as well as regular attendance to services. Looking for a caring, creative, constructive Christian. For full description or to apply contact the church office at (610) 446-3351.

Youth Minister

Otterbein United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA: 15 hours a week. Otterbein UM Church, is seeking a person with experience working with and creating programs for youth and young adults. Call the church office at 717-394-3755 or send resume to Otterbein Church, 20 E. Clay St. Lancaster, PA 17602.

Church Musician - seeking musician with leadership ability and experience with accompaniment along with keyboard skills for two different styles of worship. Duties include: Liturgical coordination with Pastor/Worship team; additional talent and creativity. Full description or to apply contact the church office at 717-394-3755 or send resume to 610-485-8484 or e-mail BVMCOPPEL@comcast.net
Wesley Heritage Tour

Join Bishop and Mrs. Matthews and the Philadelphia Conference Depart on August 6, 2007

9 Exciting and Educational Days

Your Journey of a Lifetime Includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare
- Week Stay in First Class Midlands Hotel
- Daily Breakfast and Dinner (dinner in London on your own)
- Deluxe Motorcoaches
- Guided Sightseeing
- Entrance Fees
- Study Guide
- Lecture Program

Educational Program:

* Asbury House, Birmingham
* New Room and Charles Wesley House, Bristol
* City Road Chapel, London
* Old Rectory and St. Andrews Church, Epworth
* Coventry Cathedral, Coventry
* St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester

Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Charles Wesley's Birth

For brochure contact the conference office at 1-800-828-9093 or e-mail Carol vonMinden at Carol.vonminden@epaumc.org.

19TH ANNUAL United Methodist Night AT THE

Phillies™

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2006 @ 7:05 PM
PHILLIES VS. FLORIDA MARLINS

Up to $5.00 from each ticket sold will benefit Conference Youth Programs

Get your orders in early—seats are going quickly!
For registration form go to: http://www.epaumc.org/newsletters/epau06-1372
Or contact the Conference Office at 1-800-828-9093

www.epaumc.org