

NEW Spirit!

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The Katrina Church Recovery Appeal

'We will not shrink from this challenge,' bishop vows

By Tim Tanton*

Sitting outside the shell of a church building, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward acknowledges the grief that Mississippians feel in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but today she is all about resolve.

"The United Methodist Church is committed to this recovery," Ward says. "That commitment is long term."

Beside her looms the ruin of Mississippi City United Methodist Church, a gutted building that still holds random attributes of a vital church - a few chairs, a piano, a stuffed toy. Mostly, though, it has a lot of open space.

Like the church, much of the area along Mississippi's Gulf Coast still looks as battered as if the storm struck yesterday instead of half a year ago. While recovering slowly themselves, the churches at the same time are helping homeowners and their communities rebuild.

"We will not shrink from this challenge," Ward says. But she acknowledges the enormity of the job ahead. "The task of rebuilding is long, is arduous, is beyond our comprehension still."

Ward is encouraging United Methodists to help the churches in Mississippi and Louisiana rebuild through the Council of Bishops' Katrina Church Recovery Appeal. The appeal, developed at the council's meeting last fall, will be emphasized during U.S. annual conference sessions in May and June.

The bishops launched the appeal to raise money for rebuilding churches in the Katrina-stricken areas, help pay pastors' salaries and re-equip congregations for ministry in their areas. The appeal is different from the United Methodist Committee on Relief's fund-raising work, which is



Katrina is not over. Please join the efforts to restore our congregations, parsonages and mission facilities damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. See page 6 to see how your congregation can give support.

supporting humanitarian relief on the coast.

Mississippi City United Methodist Church exemplifies the pressing need.

"This is one of our most historic churches," Ward says. The church was founded in 1890 by a mission pastor who sent

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VIM teams share legacy of hope and love

More than 800 people from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have or will have participated in 60 Volunteers in Mission teams going to the Gulf Coast by the end of this year.

According to Ben Botti, VIM Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, 28 of them have been so moved by the experience that they have returned already for a second trip, and several more are planning return trips for later in the year.

United Methodists from 100 churches in our conference will have gone to share their talents, labor, and love with persons in the devastated communities of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Here are some of their stories:

From Sue Early of Immanuel UMC in Cleona, PA: "We had a wonderful time in Vancleave, MS! Our group of 12 stayed at the Vancleave UM church and they showed us an outstanding amount of hospitality! We worked on a church in Summerville MS, which had a lot of flooding. We met a lot of local people from the church and they were wonderful as well. They appreciated our

being there and fed us for lunch and some helped us work. This was our first experience of this kind and I think the whole group was just amazed at how much damage there was and how much there is to do. The excitement of serving in this way seems to be catching and we are planning another week-long trip for 2007. It was a great first experience through VIM and we look forward to more opportunities to serve God."

From Gary Williams of Grace UMC in Pen Argyl, PA: "Our team of eight just returned last evening from Vancleave, Ms. We spent one week there, and each of us would like to find a way back this week if we could. What a tremendous ministry the Vancleave United Methodist Church has. They will not shy from the total mission approach that is making them used by God. They house, feed, assign and monitor reconstruction, and most importantly feed spiritually, each missionary, each day. And we have some new good friends in Mississippi.

continues on page 9

UM's advocate for justice in Pennsylvania

By Peggy Wood*

From a small office one block from the Pennsylvania capitol, one of only two United Methodist state advocacy groups in the nation works faithfully to help legislators to see their work through the lens of our Social Principles. Housed at the Grace United Methodist Church on State Street in

justice according to the Social Principles of the church.

Currently, there are several high priority issues for this legislative session: raising the minimum wage, reforming the way private interest groups lobby legislators, and creating a policy to provide equitable education for all students in Pennsylvania. These are issues of justice that A UM Witness is address-



Harrisburg, A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania tracks legislation and informs United Methodists throughout the commonwealth on how pending bills either advance or impede

ing with our legislators, and to which our Social Principles speak.

continues on page 10

Conference Calendar

JUNE 11

Peace with Justice Sunday

One of the six official Sundays celebrated by The United Methodist Church, Peace with Justice Sunday is designed to increase awareness of issues affecting the quality of life of folks within the Annual Conferences. Last year this offering allowed us to provide grants to LUMINA in Lancaster for a Power Packs program which provides nutritious foods, supplies and educational pieces weekly so that children in poverty can learn without the distractions of hunger and fatigue. The offering helped St. John's Ivyland to expand their trailer ministry with Red Bird Missionary Conference. Individual grants have been made to folks to study mediation techniques to address violence in the inner city with alternative and peaceful solutions. For more information contact Rev. Carolene Brubaker, the conference Peace with Justice Coordinator, at cbrubaker@westchesterumc.com. Resources available at www.umcgiving.org

JUNE 17

United Methodist Day at Hershey Park

(See ad on page 12)

JUNE 22

The Alternative to Militarism and War presentation - The EPA chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action is sponsoring the second ReconneXion to Justice event, The Alternative to Militarism and War: A Service of Prayer and Conversation with Celeste Zappala on Thursday June 22 from 6:15 to 7:15 pm at Arch St UMC, Broad and Arch Streets, in Philadelphia. This is during the dinner break for Annual Conference and Arch St. UMC is a short walk from the Conference hotel. Celeste Zappala lost her son in Iraq and founded Gold Star Families Speak Out.

JUNE 24

Gala Opening and Block Party at the "Chester Student Center"

(Rain date - July 1, 2006)

Our Motto: "You Are Never Too Old to Learn"; Our Theme: "Keys to Wholeness." Where: 8th & Butler Streets, Chester PA (former Concord Day Care on grounds of Trinity United Methodist Church) Time: 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. A dedication service will take place at Trinity United Methodist Church at 9:30 A.M. Sharp! Building tour, health services, food, education music, fun and much more. This project is a collaboration of Unity Center, Organization of Chester Neighborhoods to include Grace Community UMC and Trinity UMC.

JUNE 25

Boehm's Chapel Society's Heritage Celebration - 4:00 pm. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Heritage Celebration held at the Chapel, located near Willow Street. The Rev. Michael Sigman, Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church will be the speaker. Music for the Heritage Celebration will be

provided by the Staherski Family, members of the Grandview United Methodist Church. The program, which is open to the public, begins at 4:00 pm with a short business meeting where the activities of the past year are discussed along with election of board members for the next term. The worship service will begin immediately following the business meeting. After the conclusion of the program, a light supper will be served in the fellowship hall of the Boehm's United Methodist Church. Boehm's Chapel is located at 13 West Boehm's Road, Willow Street, PA. Directions to the chapel can be found at www.boehmschapel.org. For more information or questions, contact Janice Sherick 717-393-7104 or execdirboehms@dejazzd.com.

JULY 14 - 16

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries - 28th Annual National Conference and Youth Conference

on Spirit-filled living in the Wesleyan tradition - July 12 to July 16, 2006 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, 699 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Youth ages 12-18 can make an impact on their generation by attending the Aldersgate Youth GO DEEPER Conference running concurrently with adult general sessions for Adults and Children separately. Youth ministry during the Pre-Conference will be led by Nic Billman. For more information, go to www.aldersgaterenewal.org.

JULY 16-20

SOULfeast - Lake Junaluska, NC. SOULfeast is the conference for those who hunger for a deepening spirituality. Perfect for any one of any age, this year we will experience four days of "Sensing the Sacred in All of Life" through workshops, worship, and Sabbath rest. SOULfeast provides an exciting opportunity for deeper discovery, and will be especially meaningful for those who have experienced Upper Room resources like Companions in Christ, The Walk to Emmaus, and The Academy for Spiritual Formation. <http://www.upperroom.org/soulfeast/>

JULY 21 - 23

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women 2006. Theme: Harvesting Peace - School of Mission is a unique 3 day opportunity for study, worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and challenge to get involved in mission and social action. (See ad on page 8)

JULY 22

7:30 pm, Janet Paschal will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at Hopewell United Methodist Church. **Janet Paschal** is an award winning and versatile singer/songwriter whose works are most often categorized in the inspirational and southern gospel genres. Tickets are \$12 in

advance or \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. A family pack is also available for \$30. For more information, contact Hopewell UMC at 610-269-1545 x103 or visit the Hopewell web site, <http://www.HopewellUMC.org>. To hear a sample of **Janet Paschal's** music, visit her website, <http://www.janetpaschal.com>.

JULY 29

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

(See a on page 12)

AUGUST 11-13

THE 23RD ACADEMY FOR LACITY

"Growing in Faith to Serve Christ In the Local Church, the Community, and the World"
The Inn at Reading, 1040 Park Road, Wyomissing, PA. (See ad on page 3)

AUGUST 13-17

Clergywomen Consultation

Clergywomen from around the world will gather in Chicago, IL to review our sense of call, remember our past, reflect on the global church, reach forward to a new generation, and rejoice together. For more information, go to: www.gbhem.org/clergywomen

SEPTEMBER 17

Health and Welfare Ministries Sunday

Support the Health and Welfare Ministries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: the Methodist Home for Children, Cornwall Manor, Simpson Senior Services, Wesley Enhanced Living, the Methodist Hospital. These organizations provided more than \$5 million in charitable care in 2005. Your church can support their missions with an offering on September 17.

SEPTEMBER 23

7:30 pm, River Ministries Trio will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at Hopewell United Methodist Church. River has been ministering together for thirteen years. They have recorded nine projects, have presented over 1,000 concerts, and have had ten national top 10 radio singles. Their music is pure, the harmony is wonderful, the lyrics of their songs convey important messages. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. A family pack is also available for \$30. For more information, contact Hopewell UMC at 610-

269-1545 x103 or visit the Hopewell web site, <http://www.HopewellUMC.org>. To hear a sample of **River's** music, visit their website, <http://www.riverministries.net>.

SEPTEMBER 26

ADVANCED SEXUAL ETHICS WORKSHOP - CLERGY CROSSING SEXUAL BOUNDARIES

September 26, 2006: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, 750 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia.

Cost: \$30. Dr. Stephen Treat, DMin is the director of "PENN Council for Relationships". Dr. Treat will work with us on issues of our family-of-origin, our self-concepts, possible marital difficulties, and possible addiction problems. He will offer positive steps to help clergy stay emotionally healthy. Registrar: Judy Ehninger, ehninger@ptd.net, 2620 Gracie Lane, Macungie, Pa. 18062; 610-965-2290.

OCTOBER 1

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

For information, worship resources, and items you can use to promote World Communion Sunday, go to: <http://www.umcgiving.org>.

OCTOBER 6-14

Wesley Heritage Tour of England, sponsored by First UMC, Lancaster, PA. We will visit Wesley sites in London, Epworth, Oxford, Bristol, and the Cotswolds in addition to Cambridge, Coventry, Salisbury, Stonehenge, and Windsor Castle. Dr. Chuck Yrigoyen is the devotional leader and Methodist Interpreter. It will be an inspirational and informative experience, a trip full of fun and fellowship, an unforgettable journey to the historic roots of our church's life. For the information brochure, see this website: <http://fumclancasterpa.org/Connections/Tours/England/England.htm>, or write to Katherine Spear, First UMC, 29 East Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602-4936.

JANUARY 13 and 20, 2007

Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend conference-wide 2007 **Staff Parish Relations Training**. Your instructors will be Brenda Tildon and Bishop Marcus Matthews. More information will be forthcoming.

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Dealing with Change

By Beverly Andrews*

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3: 1 NRSV*

Summer is a season of change for most of us, and for most of our churches. Schedules may shift. College students may be back. Families may be away for vacations. For families with school-aged children there is the issue of childcare expenses during parents' working hours. For congregations and pastors experiencing pulpit changes there is the whole pastoral transition process that Rev. Yocum wrote about last month.

In a larger sense the world, our churches, and we ourselves are in a constant state of change. How can we keep our equilibrium in all this change? Whatever happened to the consistency we remember that made things feel safe and manageable? All this change can sometimes feel truly overwhelming.

When we look at the biblical record of God's relationship with humanity, we see a stream of never-ending changes. There was a succession of rulers over God's people as they struggled with what it meant to be God's people and to be less than perfect. Each period of history revealed more about both God and God's people. When Jesus came to be God – with-us, we saw even more clearly who God is. That seeing changed the way many of us understood and experienced God. Through all of this history God did not change. God stayed with God's people, no matter what the circumstances of the time, seeing them through. God is still with us now.

I once found one of those tea bags with sayings printed on the label. It said, "The best way to cope with change is to be a part of it." That tea bag helped change my perspective on change. I began to think about what God might want me to see or learn or experience in each change. I began to consider how I could work to help shape the change to be a part of God's will in that time and setting.

Some changes are extremely difficult to manage. Losing a spouse, a parent or a marriage is a huge change and takes time to adjust to. Many changes in church leadership or worship can feel just as devastating for some of us. Other changes are more nuisances, like last-minute changes in plans or losing electrical power in a storm. The one thing that never changes is God. The love God shows us through Jesus' life and the presence of the Holy Spirit does not de-

pend on circumstances or comfort. It is the love that never fails.

As you deal with the changes that are a part of all our lives, it is normal to feel annoyed or upset or even devastated. It's important to give yourself time, space, and permission to face and work through these feelings. Writing in a journal about the experience of change can be helpful in staying present with your feelings – and can give perspective as you work through them. Talking with friends and colleagues who have made it through tough changes can be a source of support, encouragement, and understanding. Certainly, sharing this journey with those closest to you is vital to your ongoing relationships. It can also be both helpful and necessary to find a trained professional to help guide you through the changes that really seem to shake your foundations. Clergy needing assistance in finding such professionals, either counselors or spiritual directors, may contact Cecile Grantham, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry's Pastoral Care Committee at cgrantham@verizon.net.

It is also important to take time to remember what has *not* changed both in life and in church. Making a list of what can still be counted upon can help keep a realistic balance in the midst of changes, large or small. The sun still comes up every morning. The 23rd Psalm still brings both comfort and the call to faithfulness in following the Shepherd. Sunday School children still love to sing. Prayer still works. At the top of this list of things "still dependable" be sure to place your relationship with God in Christ. As the Footprints story reminds us, it is often when we are least aware of God's presence that God, indeed, carries us through to the place where we can stand again. Jesus has promised in Matthew 28: 20b: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." NRSV

A Prayer for Times of Change
Gracious God, giver and sustainer of life, I need your help in this change. It is hard and I fear that it will sweep away things that are important to me. Lord, let me experience your presence with me in these days. Send human helpers to walk alongside me. Show me your will in this situation and lead me in your path. Bless and keep those I love who are also affected by this change. Light our way and give us your peace. I pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

*Pastor Beverly Andrews serves Bridesburg and Wissinoming United Methodist Churches in Philadelphia.

Mission team trains at Camp Meeting

More than 20 seasoned and aspiring workers for the Youth Mission Team slogged their way through torrential rains and soaked earth to demolish, or "carefully deconstruct" a 105 year-old cottage at the Chester Heights Camp Meeting. The team of high-school and college students and young adults, practiced their building and teamwork skills in preparation for a week-long mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi. The Chester Heights Camp Meeting in Delaware County is home to 60 two-story historic Victorian "cottages," in original un-restored condition, built in the late-1800's, along with a worship tabernacle, dining hall, youth dormitory and a 120-seat worship gazebo.

"There are no 'rain dates' for our training, because our missions last only one week, and it's essential for our team to learn how to work safely in all kinds of weather," said Debra DePrinzio, a member of Mount Hope UMC in Aston, and team leader. Her team also learned the value of conserving and recycling materials. "That's important, as Chester Height Camp Meeting is an approved site for the national 'Save America's Treasures' program and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places," said the Rev. Jimmy Ray Montgomery, its president.

The Youth Mission Team worked hand-in-hand with experienced craftsmen, such as Dave Dobbins, owner of "Dream Finishers", a local construction company. Dobbins and two of his

subcontractors, Bob Kittle and Peter Gavlishin volunteered to first collapse the two-story building, and then work



The Youth Mission Team: (back row) Devon Gray, Shannon Taylor, Richard Gable, Pat McCormick, Ryan Lewis; (front row) Eileen McIntyre, Debra DePrinzio, Debbie McCormick, Stephanie Harper, Austin Gray.

alongside the volunteer adults and youth, sharing their skills and knowledge.

The Youth Mission Team is an official project of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. DePrinzio said, "This year's project in Gulfport, Mississippi will focus will be on roofing and installing insulation and drywall in residential homes." The work is not glamorous, but the team revels in their cause, traveling in two 15-passenger vans followed by a utility truck and trailer.

For more information contact Debra DePrinzio (610) 361-0720. For more information on Chester Heights Camp Meeting and its summer gospel concerts: www.ch-campmeeting.org or (610) 459-5678.

In Memoriam

Rev. Rowland L. Carlson, retired elder, who died on Saturday, May 13, 2006, surrounded by his family. He was 87 years old.

Rev. Carlson served the following appointments beginning in 1948: Bristol: Harriman, Doylestown, and Philadelphia: Johnson Memorial. He retired in 1982, and in retirement served Richmond, Lumberville, and Pipersville: Rolling Hills. He graduated from John Fletcher College in 1942 (B.A.), from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1948 (M. Div.), and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1951 (Th.M.). In retirement, Rowland and Barbara Carlson founded Discovery Service Projects in 1987. They led teams of volunteers on mission service projects to Africa, Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and other countries.

Rev. Carlson is survived by his wife, Barbara, four daughters, and one son.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Carlson at 306 Rolling Hills Road, Pipersville PA 18947-9783.

A Memorial Service for the Rev. Rowland L. Carlson will be held on June 25, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at Doylestown United Methodist Church, 320 E. Swamp Road, Doylestown, PA 18901; 215-348-5224.

The family would like to compile a book of remembrances. If you would like to share how Rev. Carlson influenced you, please put your response in writing. This can be brought to the service, e-mailed to rochelle@reppart.org or mailed to: Rochelle Reppart, 421 W. Ferry St.,

Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Rolling Hills UMC or Discovery Service Projects, c/o Rolling Hills UMC, P.O. Box 347, Pipersville, PA 18947.

Mrs. Dorothy G. Smith, wife of retired elder, the Rev. William Henry Smith, on March 1, 2006. Rev. Smith served one church in our conference: New Hope-Lumberville, from 7/1/88 to 6/30/92; he retired 7/1/92.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband, Rev. Smith, and by four children: Michael E. Smith, Sue Ellen Simpson, Timothy P. Smith, and Jennifer L. Strom.

Condolences may be sent to Rev. William Henry Smith, 153 Peaks Road, Prospect VA 23960.

The Rev. Louis C. Johnson, retired elder, died on May 8, 2006; he would have turned 90 on May 16.

Rev. Johnson started in ministry in the Kentucky Conference in the early 1940's. He served as a chaplain in the U.S.A.F. beginning in 1942. His next appointment was as a missionary through the Methodist Board of Missions to the Central Congo Conference. He transferred to the Philadelphia Area Conference, and served East Stroudsburg as an Associate (1962-65) followed by Honey Brook (1965-67). He retired in 1971.

Rev. Johnson is survived by his wife, Barbara Johnson, by two daughters: Patricia L. Braggins and Marilyn K. Towle, and a son, Glenn S. Johnson. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Barbara Johnson, 38 Friendship Circle, Dayton OH 45426-1828.

The 23rd Academy for Laity

August 11-13, 2006

at The Inn at Reading, 1040 Park Road, Wyomissing, PA

"Growing in Faith to Serve Christ-in the local church, the community, and the World"

Offering the Basic Course and Advanced Courses for Christ Servant Ministers

Open to all Laity in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Visit the Conference Website at www.epaumc.org or the Christ Servant Minister Website at www.gbgm-umc.org/csm for further details.

Contact person: Verna M. Colliver, Dean of Laity Academy and Chair of the Planning Committee, 215 855 0797 or vcolliver@comcast.net

In the nation

Storm's aftermath bridges religious, cultural divides

By Tim Tanton*

Hurricane Katrina left misery in its wake, but it also left the foundation for bridge building in unexpected ways.

One April morning, two buses carrying about 100 Jewish students and 10 to 15 chaperones from Los Angeles pulled up at the ruins of a United Methodist assembly center in Waveland. They were at Gulfside Assembly, a historic retreat center initially built for the African-American members of a once-segregated denomination.

The kids were sophomores and juniors from Milken Community High School. Watching the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina unfold several months earlier, they had begun raising money immediately for a trip. In addition to paying their own way, the students raised \$10,000 — half of it to the United Way Survivors' Center in Natchez, Miss., and \$3,000 to the Chabad of New Orleans, a Jewish community center with a synagogue and education and children's programs.

Kevin O'Hara Hughes, the construction facilitator for The United Methodist Church's Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference, greeted the students as they stepped off the buses at the assembly center site. They had arranged to meet with him; they wanted to work.

"I'm really glad y'all are here," he told them.

Before putting them to work cleaning up the site, he called them around his pickup truck, where he

explained the significance of Gulfside Assembly. "It was one of the few places during the '60s where blacks could be on the gulf without being molested or lynched," he said.

Only a beach and a narrow road separate the site from the Gulf of Mexico, and the premium location on the water proved disastrous for the retreat center on Aug. 29, when the fury of Hurricane Katrina left nothing standing.

But Katrina also knocked down other walls, such as those between faith groups. A few days before the youth arrived at Gulfside, United Methodists in the Louisiana Annual Conference learned they would be receiving a \$35,000 grant from the American Jewish Committee to help rebuild historic First United Methodist Church in New Orleans.

"This gift is an expression of our belief in the need for solidarity and cooperation between faith communities and peoples — a need that is especially poignant in the face of the tragedy that Hurricane Katrina wrought in the region," the federation's David A. Harris wrote. "At times like these, we must come together as Americans and friends who are dedicated to building and rebuilding, to strengthening our communities and our country, and to reaffirming the bonds that unite us as members of one human family."

For the students from Milken, some of whom had not been to the South before, the trip to the Gulf Coast was one of discovery, as they performed such community service activities as reading to school



Milken Community High School students remove debris and salvage items from the grounds of Gulfside Assembly, a United Methodist retreat center in Waveland, Miss. The 100 Jewish students from Los Angeles stopped at Gulfside while on a trip through Mississippi and Louisiana. During their stops, they performed different types of community service and made donations with money they had raised back home. A UMNS photo by Ginny Underwood.

children, working with Habitat for Humanity, repairing driveways. From Waveland, the group was going to New Orleans.

The destruction saw no color, race or religion, said chaperone Rebecca Steinberg. "Neither do our kids."

The night before arriving at Gulfside, they participated in a healing concert at an African Methodist Episcopal Zion church in Natchez.

The experience at the AMEZ church was the first time most of the students had been in a church, said Adria Hendler, 16, a junior. "The music and everything was inviting."

Hayley Miller, 15, a sophomore, said one of the women at the church was crying and hugging the visitors. The students also received affirming comments from grateful people at places like Wal-Mart.

"It's real easy to send money to help people, but it's harder to come out and do something," noted Noah Stern, 16, a junior.

The students described what they had seen so far on the trip as "intense" and "shocking." One said it was hard to believe that so much damage from the hurricane remained after so many months.

For Miller, seeing the devastation on the coast made other things that happened in their lives seem small. "It puts everything in perspective."

The trip was a first for the school, said Steinberg, director of admissions. It was called a "yad l'chaver" trip. Translation? "Lending a hand to your friend."

*Tanton is managing editor for United Methodist News Service.

The nation in brief

•**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** About 100 grandparents in Michigan will have a "grand weekend" thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the Committee on Older Adult Ministries and the vision of the Rev. David W. Meister, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Buchanan, who knows firsthand the challenges of raising the children of your children. The grant will be used to help low-economic and racial/ethnic grandparents afford two days of play and support at a Grand Camp. It is one of 29 programs receiving grants this year through the Committee on Older Adult Ministries at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship in Nashville. The funds total \$38,000.

•**BETHEL, Conn.** The Rev. Chuck Ferrara knows firsthand the stresses of police work. He says he suffered with post-traumatic stress disorder before it was even diagnosed during his 16 years with the New York Police Department — before he became a United Methodist pastor. He patrolled some of the city's toughest neighborhoods and was involved in a shootout in Harlem that left one of his partners dead. As senior

pastor at New Life Community Church United Methodist in New Fairfield, he volunteers as a chaplain to the 50 employees at the nearby Bethel Police Department. Over the last three years, Ferrara has helped Bethel officers deal with financial and marital difficulties, deaths of relatives and other problems. "Police officers have lots of strain in their lives," Ferrara says. "I can think of no other profession where somebody may potentially have to take another person's life, short of a combat soldier in war."

•**NORTHEAST JURISDICTION.** United Methodist Men from across the Northeastern Jurisdiction met with staff at the Board of Church and Society May 16-18 to identify common values, address successful ministries led by men in rural and urban settings, and to learn ways to be advocates for issues ranging from preventing domestic violence to increasing the minimum wage to a living wage. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, whose father was a United Methodist pastor, spent 45 minutes talking with the men about their concerns.

•**FLORIDA.** Many Florida communities continue to recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. They are also gearing up for the next storm season, which starts June 1. United Methodists in the denomination's South East District — around Orlando — are asking churches to identify a local disaster coordinator who will prepare their church's plan and response and form congregational care teams that can identify vulnerable populations — widows, shut-ins, single mothers, people with special needs, mobile home residents, the elderly. The teams should get contact information for those special populations, find out where they're staying during the storm, and then follow up with them after the storm.

•**GULF COAST.** Many Gulf Coast pastors say Hurricane Katrina has forced them to look at ministry in a new way. In the days after the Aug. 29 storm, members of the congregations at Carrollton and Parker Memorial United Methodist churches in New Orleans served as rescue workers, provided relief, and distributed water, food and

flood buckets throughout their neighborhoods. "It caused us to move out beyond our walls in almost every way," says the Rev. Cory Sparks, pastor. Church members are meeting with people from around the community to talk about the rebuilding process, protecting the neighborhoods from future flooding, improving energy efficiency and addressing climate change issues. Those mission efforts are being called "Operation New Creation."

•**NEW JERSEY.** Members of more than three dozen faith organizations have joined the recently formed National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Writing to leaders of the 35 member denominations of the National Council of Churches, the Rev. Bob Edgar, NCC chief executive, noted that the "issue of torture by the United States has been of concern to Americans of faith and of conscience since the first pictures of Abu Ghraib were transmitted around the world." Edgar is urging each denomination to consider supporting the campaign. More information can be found at www.nrccat.org.

In the world

Grants fund dreams for peace around the globe

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

The West African country is trying to recover from 14 years of a bloody civil war that was often fought on the backs of children. The Peace Builder Children's Club is the dream of a United Methodist missionary to change ex-combatant children into "bearers of good tidings of peace."

"These children, who have been soldiers, they know the things they've done, and they worry that they will not be accepted back into society," says Frido N. Kinkolenge, a North Carolina-supported missionary in Liberia. A \$5,000 grant from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society will help make the Peace Builder Children's Club a reality.

"Boys and girls as young as 10 have been recruited by force by different belligerent powers to fight," says Kinkolenge. "They were fed drugs, taught murder and (they) murdered by utilizing hacking machetes. Children were used as channels for carrying out hatred across Liberia."

The club will be for children ages 14-16. They will learn to work with their peers in United Methodist churches, United Methodist schools and communities in Grand Bassa, Rivercess and Sinoe counties and the Morweh circuit. The children will receive education about peace, reconciliation and forgiveness through seminars and workshops, Kinkolenge says in his request for the grant. The grant will also provide training for 200 people to work with the children in the different counties and circuit.

Peace Builder Children's Club is one of 15 Peace with Justice Grants totaling \$49,500 approved at the spring meeting of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

The funding comes from a churchwide offering taken on Peace with Justice Sunday, which falls on June 11 this year.

Grants for 2006:

- Partners in Justice For Peace, Grand Rapids (Mich.) District Peace with Justice Community and Female Light Production for All Occasions Partnership (\$5,000). FELIPRO will implement a business-cooperative model in which women are all owners learning to produce marketable embroidered art for local, tourist and international markets.

- United Methodist Action for Justice and Peace in Central Congo, West Congo Annual Conference (\$5,000).

The grant will help train 100 election observers in each annual conference and inform people about democratic values for the upcoming national election process.

- Lost Boys: Found! A Time of Reunion, Vision, Advocacy and Hope, Crossroads United Methodist Church, Ashburn, Va. (\$5,000). Five "Lost Boys of Sudan" have partnered with Crossroads United Methodist Church to plan a reunion of lost boys who have resettled in the United States.

- International Interfaith Accompaniment Program to Facilitate the Truth and Reconciliation Process in Liberia, Manhattan District, New York, and United Methodist Church, Liberia (\$5,000). The program will serve as a visible expression of solidarity with those seeking reconciliation and peace. Religious leaders will be paired with members of the international faith community to cultivate community-wide affirmation for people who want to testify before the commission.

- Skyline Urban Ministries, Oklahoma Area (\$4,000). The grant will be used for a Peace Challenge Camp for fifth- and sixth-graders that will push the



Akim Werkpewolo (center) enjoys playing games at an interim care center for former child soldiers in Virginia, Liberia.

possibility of forgiveness in creating a culture of peace.

- The Micah Project, First United Methodist Church, Tacoma, Wash. (\$4,000). The grant will support staff during a 12-month timeline for organizing an anti-poverty summit.

- Youthbridge Peace Education Expansion Project, Marvin United Methodist Church, Tyler, Texas (\$4,000). Seven new teachers will be trained for the expansion of a peace education program that teaches peace building during a year-round program in Vukovar, Croatia.

- Student and Youth Participation in Conference on Theology of Peace, Methodists United for Peace With Justice (\$2,500). Methodists United for Peace with Justice, a national association of laity and clergy, and Temple United Methodist Church, San Francisco, will bring at least 30 diverse students and young people from all five United Methodist U.S. jurisdictions together to draw upon the Wesleyan tradition of "holy conferencing."

- Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land, the Holy People, Southwest Texas Conference (\$2,000). Peace with justice coordinators and participants

of other faiths will travel to Israel, the West Bank and Jordan to gain an understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- Urban Renewal/Ministries Project, Jefferson United Methodist Church, Goldsboro, N.C. (\$2,000). This project is reaching out to the community by offering various programs geared toward restoring physical, mental and spiritual wholeness.

- The Lighthouse, a United Methodist Community Center, in Louisville, Ky. (\$2,000). The grant will be used to help pay the fees for a child psychologist who will work with children scarred from abuse.

- Just Lead, Lennon-Senney United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. (\$2,000). The grant will help the church expand after school and church ministry to three days a week with student and family relational activities.

- Justice for Our Neighbors, North Texas Conference, (\$2,000). This is an immigration legal counseling clinic serving low-income immigrants in the Dallas metro and surrounding area.

- A special grant was made to the American Indian Alliance for \$500.

*Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.

The world in brief

• AFGHANISTAN: WARMTH, HEALTH, AND LIFE

This winter UMCOR Afghanistan helped some 2,000 returning refugee families who are in temporary living conditions on the Pakistan border. "These packages provided by UMCOR saved our lives," said Tahsil, a 70 year-old man who is caring for his seven grandchildren after his son was killed by a mine. UMCOR gave priority to families headed by widows, people with disabilities, and large families. Many recipients acknowledged UMCOR as the first organization to offer them any kind of assistance. UMCOR Sager Brown provided the non-food supplies and the US Department of State provided the funding to carry out this life-saving program.

• SRI LANKA: CARE IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE

Heavy fighting has erupted in recent weeks in eastern Sri Lanka, violating the 2002 peace agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE). This has particularly

affected Trincomalee, one of UMCOR's areas of operations. The fighting has caused a rapid increase of displaced people and civilian casualties. The 40,000 newly displaced people compound the already 800,000 Sri Lankans displaced by war and the tsunami. UMCOR is working with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka to provide immediate relief to families affected by this outbreak of violence. The good reputation of the Methodist Church on both sides of the conflict allows UMCOR and Methodist Church personnel unusual freedom of movement during the conflict, placing them in a unique position to provide assistance.

• CAMEROON: BREAKING THE HUNGER CYCLE

UMCOR partner RELUFA breaks the hunger cycle by establishing community grain banks that help villages have sufficient food through the "lean season." RELUFA helps the community set up the grain bank and provides training so that community

members know how to manage the bank throughout the different stages of the growing season. The community-managed grain banks ensure that grain resources stay in the community and that there is sufficient food long after the harvest.

• SUDAN: CONTINUING THE WORK

UMCOR workers in Sudan are providing humanitarian assistance in South Darfur. The UMCOR board of directors recently approved funds to extend the work into a second year. This work includes child protection, camp management, micro-credit, health, skills training for young adults, and agriculture programs. Last fall the result of seeds and tools program was an abundant harvest. Peanuts, millet, sorghum, watermelon, and okra were harvested. Good rainfall, new agriculture techniques such as planting several crops together in the same plot, and adequate food to eat during the growing season have yielded this bountiful harvest in the Al Daein region of South Darfur, Sudan. This

sustainable ministry continues with your generous donations.

NICARAGUA: CLEANER VILLAGES

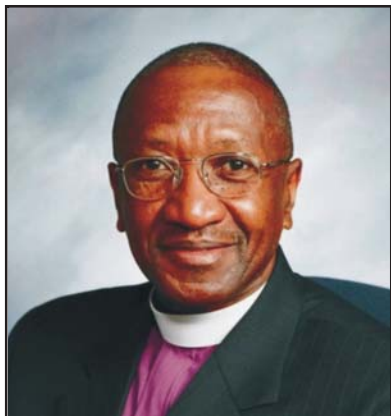
Clean water and sanitation facilities are the building blocks of public health. El Porvenir is an organization in Nicaragua that works to meet these basic needs by enabling poor communities to improve their health and preserve their watersheds through sustainable self-help development. Seven rural communities now have wells where clean water was lacking and latrines where sanitation facilities were non-existent. El Porvenir ensures community ownership for their new wells and latrines for these programs by requiring that 100% of the labor be provided by community members. The program is also forward-thinking by planting trees in areas where wells are dug to give back to the environment and help maintain the water table. UMCOR supports the important work of this organization through advance giving.

Living Connected as God's people: "Celebrating the connection"

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

June 21 - 23, 2006 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center

Opening Worship - Preaching by Bishop Marcus Matthews and music by The Africa University Choir



Bishop Marcus Matthews, Philadelphia Area



The world-renowned Africa University Choir is an established choral ensemble of Africa University. United Methodist-related Africa University opened in March 1994 as the first private, international university in Zimbabwe, today serving more than 1200 students from more than a dozen African countries.

Invite persons from your church to come to Annual Conference Worship and hear the Africa University Choir.

Memorial Service and Service of Ordination

Preaching by Bishop Hope Morgan of Mississippi



Bishop Hope Morgan Ward came to the Mississippi Area in 2004 after she was the first bishop elected at the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She recently led a team from Mississippi to Zimbabwe in support of Africa University.

Bible Study on Thursday and Friday Mornings

with Mr. James H. Salley, Bible Study Leader



James H. Salley is the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement for Africa University. Jim serves as the chief advancement officer and fund raiser for the institution; he is in charge of the University's institutional advancement program; and he is responsible for interpreting the programs of the University to local churches, organizations, and agencies throughout the United Methodist connection and beyond.

Annual Conference Offerings

Opening Worship
Wednesday, June 21, 2006
Undergraduate Students



First Offering - Scholarships

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference offers scholarships to our undergraduate United Methodist students, which say to young persons that their church encourages, and supports them as they achieve their dreams in higher education. Each year the Scholarship Team of the Annual Conference has more students who apply for financial assistance than there is money to respond to the needs. Please give generously, so we can make some award to these students. The monies collected will be equally divided among the eligible students.

Memorial Service
Thursday, June 22, 2006
Katrina Response
Goal \$150,000.00



Second Offering - Katrina Response

Indeed, Hurricane Katrina is not over. Money is needed to pay salaries of clergy, church staff and mission personnel on the Gulf Coast and to care for the many churches, retreat centers, urban ministries, retirement homes and mission centers severely damaged or destroyed. Many of these facilities were underinsured, with insufficient coverage for damage due to rising water. And the impact has a ripple effect across United Methodism. Connectional ministries is jeopardized as affected congregations lack the resources to fund local church, district, conference and general church commitments. Your generous gift is urgently needed today.

Service of Ordination
Friday, June 23, 2006
Africa University



Third Offering - Africa University

Africa University, a United Methodist-related university in Mutare, Zimbabwe, opened in March 1992, through the support and funding of The United Methodist Church. Today, Africa University provides quality education to more than 1200 students from 20 African countries - so students may acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities. Here we train future leaders who can transform the continent by working for peace, prosperity, and hope.

United Methodist T-shirts

Order now, and wear yours for United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK and 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 check-in table at HERSHEY PARK, throughout Annual Conference at the camping table, and 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.



FRONT

BACK



Generations of Caring

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

John Wesley

Health & Welfare Sunday (formerly Golden Cross Sunday) September 17, 2006

Benefiting the Health and Welfare providers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church who provide benevolent care for all God's people:

- Cornwall Manor Retirement Community
- Methodist Home for Children
- Methodist Hospital
- Simpson Senior Services
- Wesley Enhanced Living



Program helps interns like 'Captain Planet' make impact

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

Erick Veliz — sometimes known as Captain Planet — doesn't look like a superhero at first glance.

Talk to him for a while and you begin to believe he probably could save the world if given a little more time. After all, he's only 23.

Veliz, a native of La Paz, Bolivia, is working for the Tennessee Fair Housing Council. In his spare time, he is helping establish English as a Second Language classes at his local church, the United Methodist (Nashville) Hispanic Fellowship; working for Amnesty International USA; and looking for any opportunity to advance his three top priorities: working for the rights of indigenous people, promoting equal rights for women and stopping torture.

His passion for human rights grew stronger and more focused after he spent two months in the 2005 Ethnic Young Adult internship program sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society in Washington.

The internship has been sponsored by the board for the last 20 years and has at least 200 participants who either now lead the church in some capacity or influence society in their vocations, says the Rev. Neal Christie, a board executive. The program is open to young adults ages 18-22 representing the five ethnic caucuses of The United Methodist Church — Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and Pacific Islander.

Interns live together and are assigned to work in organizations addressing social justice concerns. The work is supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of timely social justice concern, area field trips and Sunday worship in area United Methodist churches.

"Most internships in D.C. are very European-American. You can see that just by looking out the window of 100 Maryland Ave.," Christie says, referring to the address of the United Methodist Building at Capitol Hill. "To my knowledge, this is one internship that in its own small way has had a lasting impact on an intentionally multi-racial group of young people gathered from across the country to work not just on mercy but to do advocacy with the Hill and the United Methodist Building at the center." Details on the internship are available by contacting Christie at nchristie@umc-gbcs.org or (202) 488-5611.

Veliz already had experience working for human rights and social justice when

he became one of 13 young adults in the 2005 program. There he earned his nickname, Captain Planet.

"Everyone was interested and they became more active once they were in the program," he says of the other interns, "but I was already passionate about it."

While a senior in college, Veliz took time out to work and stay with farm workers in Immokalee, Fla., where they labored in the scorching sun picking tomatoes for \$3 an hour. Then he traveled with their union leader to Washington to



Erick Veliz, a 2005 intern, participates in a forum on sustainable agriculture. A UMNS photo by Vince Isner

persuade members of Congress to improve the farmers' conditions.

"I don't just want to talk about human rights, I don't just want to complain, I want to do something," says Veliz who grew up as a Catholic in Bolivia. "I saw that The United Methodist Church was very active in promoting justice and did it with a true love and interest for people."

Veliz says he feels fulfilled by the work he is doing with the Fair Housing Council. The council works to enforce the Fair Housing Act, passed after the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He handles complaints from the community and trains volunteers.

"I feel fulfilled working in communities; I don't want to be a policy nerd who just sits at a computer constantly tracking policies."

Before attending the internship program at the board, Veliz says he wasn't sure many other Christians were as passionate as he was about human rights and social justice.

"I know so many people who went on mission trips to Brazil or Mexico and forgot that they were real people; it was like going to a museum," he says. "They come back with pictures of themselves with little Brazilian kids, hugging a Venezuelan girl and saying, 'Look at how compassionate I am,' but as soon as they are back home, they are buying \$100 bags that were probably made by those same children."

When asked about his long-term goals, he pauses to think. "The greatest thing would be to work within communities of faith and provide that link to human rights."

"The empowerment that I was given by the Board of Church and Society was to see the worth, the possibilities and the options that we can do as groups of faith," he says. "They talk about human rights and quote Jesus Christ at the same time. As Christians, we should all do that."

*Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.



Ethnic Young Adult interns gather on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. A UMNS photo by Vince Isner



Annual Conference 2006 - June 21-23

CLERGY SESSION

All clergy are reminded that they are expected to attend the Clergy Executive Session on Monday, June 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Hempfield United Methodist Church. (Directions are available on the church's website, <http://www.hempfieldchurch.org/>.)

In addition to essential business, the session will include a report and discussion based on the Study of Ministry currently being conducted by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Please note that childcare will be provided for the Executive Session at a cost of \$5 per child. If you wish to take advantage of this service, please send a check made out to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference along with a note listing the ages of your child/ren to Rev. Amy Smith, 409 S. Main St., North Wales, PA 19454.

LAITY SESSION

The Laity Session will take place on Wednesday, June 21, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Arch Street United Methodist Church, Broad and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. It is essential that all lay representatives to Annual Conference attend in order to elect the new Conference Lay Leader. Attendees are encouraged to walk the four blocks from the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel, located at 17th and Race Streets, to Arch Street UMC. Limited transportation will be available for those who need it, via church van, to and from the hotel: vans will leave the hotel at 1:00 p.m. to go to Arch Street UMC. In addition to the voting, Lee Smedley will make a presentation on Small Church Initiatives.

ORDINATION

All clergy are urged to participate in the procession at the beginning of the Service of Ordination. Clergy are to wear robes and red stoles.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #2006-19 RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE KEDRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS the financial resources of the Kedron United Methodist Church are limited and insufficient to maintain current operations; and
WHEREAS the membership of the Kedron United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue; and
WHEREAS members of the Kedron United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Trustees have consulted with the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and received consent to discontinue; and
WHEREAS the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 15th day of March, 2006 gave advice and consent to discontinue the Kedron United Methodist Church, 16 South Morton Avenue, Morton, PA 19070 effective the 14th day of May, 2006; and
WHEREAS the responsibility for the building and land of Kedron UMC has been transferred to the care of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kedron UMC discontinues effective the 14th day of May 2006.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assets resulting from the sale of property; after all liabilities have been paid, and any other remaining assets held by Kedron UMC be distributed as follows:

1. Proceeds from future sale of the church properties to Camp Innabah and/or Camp Pocono Plateau of the EPA Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry for a building/s to be named after Kedron and; if any funds remain, for camping scholarships awarded in Kedron's name.
2. All music ministry items - choir robes, sheet music, cabinets/shelves housing music and piano to Prospect UMC.
3. Satellite Broadcast Ministry to Evangel Assembly of God Church.
4. The organ is to go to the prospective purchaser of the church building. If not wanted/needed by the prospective purchaser, the organ is to go to Prospect UMC. If the organ is not wanted/needed by Prospect UMC, then it is to go to Holmes Presbyterian Church.
5. Membership to C.C. Hancock UMC.
6. Symbols of faith, paraments, and hymnals to go to a new church start at the discretion of the D.S. if none is in need, then to Prospect UMC.
7. Memorial gifts being returned at donor's request will go to the following churches:
Brass engraved candlesticks - (Zambito Family) to Sun City UMC
Advent wreath - (West Family) to Eilemsport UMC

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lease on the Parsonage will be assigned to the EPA Conference (to be assigned to the purchaser thereafter, if during the current lease period).

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the historical documents be reviewed by Kevin Readman and then archived accordingly and/or housed at St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Susan J. May

RESOLUTION #2006-20 RESOLUTION TO 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESOLUTION RELATING TO SALARY/BENEFITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007 PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, Resolution 2003-05 called for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to become one of the top three conferences in our jurisdiction with respect to salary level; and
WHEREAS, the Commission on Equitable Compensation continues its study of the compensation structures of the other conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, and projects increases in minimum salary levels in order to achieve the goal of being one of the top three conferences in respect to salary levels; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Conference in 2004 established a 4.5% minimum annual increase in cash salary through the year 2009, subject to annual review of the Jurisdiction's base minimum salary for full-time appointment to the local church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Conference establishes the *minimum* salary for persons under appointment in the local church for the year 2007 as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection | \$31,655 |
| b) Transitional Deacons, and Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments | \$30,614 |
| c) Associate Members | \$29,919 |
| d) Full-Time Local Pastors | \$28,325 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to arrive at the *minimum cash salary* for each pastor, the required service year increments be added to the appropriate base listed above in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of service, defined as full-time service under appointment [part-time accrues, i.e., two years in half-time appointment equals one year of service]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a consideration for a cost of living increase along with a merit raise be given to each pastor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each church or charge in recommending increases

consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor (Staff) -Parish Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy as self-employed persons for Social Security, family needs, and payment towards health insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any amount provided as a housing allowance as described in the "General Conference Policies" in the 2005 Journal, pages 610-612, is not to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Lester Groves

RESOLUTION #2006-21A RESOLUTION TO THE 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESOLUTION FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SWIFTWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTED BY THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the church council of Swiftwater United Methodist Church, at its meeting held September 28, 2005, passed a resolution recommending that the church hold its final worship service on Sunday, October 30, 2005, and that each member transfer their membership to the church of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the charge conference of the Swiftwater United Methodist Church voted on October 10, 2005 to discontinue the church in accordance with Paragraph 2548.2 of the *Book of Discipline 2004* effective October 30, 2005 and to dispose of its property in accordance with Paragraph 2548.3 of the *Book of Discipline 2004*; and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent has recommended discontinuance of Swiftwater United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Swiftwater United Methodist Church be officially discontinued effective at the close of this 2006 Annual Conference.

Person responsible for presenting this resolution: Rev. Rodney Shearer, Superintendent, Northeast District

RESOLUTION #2006-22A RESOLUTION TO THE 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTED BY THE EAST DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the membership of the Abundant Life Christian Center United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue their relationship with The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, members of the Abundant Life Christian Center United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Pastor consulted with the Superintendent of the East District and at a called Church Conference on the 10th of November, voted to discontinue effective December 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 18th of October, consented to discontinue Abundant Life Christian Center United Methodist Church, effective December 31, 2005;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Abundant Life Christian Center United Methodist Church discontinue effective the close of this Annual Conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical records be forwarded to the Commission on Archives and History.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Alfred Maloney, Superintendent East District

RESOLUTION #2006-23A RESOLUTION TO THE 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESOLUTION FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF OPEN VISION IN MANAYUNK NEW CHURCH START UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTED BY THE EAST DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Open Vision New Church Start located in the Manayunk area of Philadelphia County was initiated in July of 2005 to start a new church in this growing area of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the financial obligations required to sustain this project were based on Resolution #2005-24A (which called for 30% of the proceeds of sale from the Falls Church sale and as of this date have not been realized as projected in the initial prospectus); and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent has recommended discontinuance of this New Church Start project; and

WHEREAS, the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Open Vision New Church Start Project be discontinued as of October 31, 2005.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Alfred Maloney, Superintendent East District

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2006 THEME: HARVESTING PEACE

WHAT: School of Mission is a unique 3 day opportunity for study, worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and challenge to get involved in mission and social action.

WHO: School of Mission is planned for women, children (ages 6-11), youth, and men, both laity and clergy. Children & youth must be with responsible adult.

WHEN: Friday July 21 to Sunday July 23, 2006. Registration starts at 7:30 am on Friday, with the opening session beginning at 9:00 am. Closing worship is on Sunday from 2:30 to 3:00.

WHERE: The Inn at Chester Springs, on Route 100, near the intersection with Route 113. It is one mile south of the Downingtown exit of the PA Turnpike.

HOW: Everyone shares in a spiritual growth study and selects one other course, either a geographical mission study or a social issue study.

COURSES:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY: Shalom-Salaam-Peace

GEOGRAPHIC MISSION STUDY: India and Pakistan.

SOCIAL ISSUE STUDY: Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives.

COST: \$275 full-time adults and youth, \$175 commuters, \$75 children. First 20 youth to register by May 15 get half-price rate. Registration deadline for all is June 1. Scholarships available. For UMW first-time attenders, call Mary Lou Kerrick, 570-646-2443. For laity call Frances Sokso, 610-269-3192.

REGISTRATION: Send by June 1 to Ruth Baker, 1045 NW End Blvd., #363, Quakertown, PA 18951. 215-529-0842. Checks payable to EPA Conference School of Mission. To print out a registration form, go to:

<http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1344>

The School of Mission registration form is also available on the UMW Conference website. If you would like more info. or would like to download it please go to <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umw-epac/> On the School of Mission page you will find instructions for downloading the file for printing. If you encounter a problem or have questions please contact peggy.wood1@verizon.net

Peace with Justice Sunday

Fourteen-year-old Robert* learned to use an AK-47 rifle when he was 8. "I was often really afraid," he recalls. "I talk to counselors a lot about what happened. Now I'm learning to be a carpenter, but I want to go back to school before starting to work."

Some children play war. Others fight real wars. In many countries of the world, children like Robert grow up knowing nothing but war. Recruited as soldiers when they should be learning to read and write, they face an unknown future—if they survive.

Today Robert, a former combatant in Liberia's 14-year civil conflict, is beginning a transition back into his community. Camp residents surrender their arms to the United Nations peacekeeping force. Then, in partnership with other religious and humanitarian groups, The United Methodist Church provides a place for them to live, recreational activities to address war trauma, and basic necessities such as fresh drinking water and medical treatment.

On Peace with Justice Sunday, we are called to care for every one of God's children, especially those who have never known peace. Your special offering helps God's people everywhere to learn to live lovingly and peacefully. Because of your generosity, global outreach through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conference-related



Child soldier stands grimly at Sinyea Village, Liberia. "The way of peace they have not known." Romans 3:17, NRSV

peace with justice ministries are strengthened.

In his letter to the church at Rome, the apostle Paul wrote: "All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God" (Romans 8:14, NRSV). Plant seeds of hope by giving generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!

*Real name withheld for security reasons

For more information on the six special Sunday offerings, go to: www.umcgiving.org

VIM teams

continued from page 1

Their lives will be better because of our God and how he used us. To quote Pastor Larry Maugh of Vancleave United Methodist Church, "If you want to go out and fix houses, go ahead. When you're done with one, I have 10,000 more for you. But this is not about sheet rock, or even fixing houses. It's about bringing hope to the people."

From Doug Smith of Gravel Hill UMC: "I traveled with a VIM team from Sanctuary UMC (in North Wales) to Brewton, Alabama, in early January to help with recovery from Ivan. We were able to help three different families regain the use of their entire homes. The experience was wonderful and my faith in the United Methodist "Connectional" system was increased. Generally the term "connectional" is only used in connection with money. What I experience, however, was local UM church VIM teams from Pennsylvania, being supported by local UM churches in Alabama, connected by our respective Conferences in a way that caused us to be able to part of the mighty working of God. May God be praised!"

From Tim Thomson-Hohl of The Garden Church in Lansdowne, PA: "The consensus was that it was a FANTASTIC experience for all involved. It could be summed up by saying it was awesome, hard, disturbing, compelling, incredible! At the church where we stayed, 105 other people (UM's) from all over the country all were housed in the same building. The building was being worked on; in fact some of the time, we helped with that. And there was a crew from Kansas fixing all the meals. While we were there, we worked primarily on three homes, three churches and three outreach ministries. That is, our team divided up and went to the various places to either do physical work or relational work. And of course, there was the emotional toll of the devastation, personal stories of hardship and overall helplessness. But, there was also the deep joy and satisfaction of knowing we helped our brothers and sisters in need, the genuine appreciation that was expressed to us and the real satisfaction we felt as the hands and feet, the voice and heart of God. The other major blessing was the team camaraderie. Our group of 18 bonded quite well and tried to support each other through every experience. So, the best word would be "Encourage". That is, encourage people to go. The folks there need encouragement, hope and support and the best way to do that is by going and being with them in the rebuilding process. It means so much to so many."

From Joe Parsio of The Garden Church in Lansdowne, PA: "I just wanted to let you know, to pass on to other Churches that are thinking about sending a team: somehow the money comes in to pay for the trip; don't worry if you have no skills - they will team you up with someone who has; don't worry if you can not physically do work - you can work in the soup kitchen - just go. What fun - I wish I was retired so I could go all the time."

From Sue Klinedinst of Crossroads UMC in Uwchland, PA: "Local people, eager to share their stories of the devastation from wind and water,

displayed a spirit of hope and determination to rebuild. What a blessing to be a part of this effort! Our team was assigned two houses. The Wormley family was grateful for everything we did at their house. We spackled and sanded and wiped and spackled and sanded and wiped and ... now the walls are ready for painting. Soon they can move out of the tiny trailer and back into their home. The Parks family was overwhelmed at how much we did in one week. Monday their house was just an empty shell. By Friday noon we had purchased, hauled, and installed sheathing, insulation, and sheetrock in all but one room. It was really starting to look like a home again. They invited us to share some great Southern cooking, prayers, hugs, and tears of blessing before we had to go. There was another unexpected opportunity. A preacher from another church in Biloxi brought us a person in need of blessing. A woman, tired and worn, with slippers on her feet, had nowhere to go and didn't know what to do. Claudia (how did God know we would need a psychologist on our trip?) spent the better part of two days with her, assessing her needs and getting her medical attention. Tom contacted her family. The entire group collected money for a bus ticket so that she could return home to Indiana. Thursday we received word from her son that she arrived safely and was being cared for. And then there is Biloxi Blue, the world's cutest puppy, who followed Peggy all the way home."

From Barb and Ed Hartman of First UMC in Lansdale, PA: "We were there by God's Grace to show His Love through our hands, weariness, and support for the afflicted homeowners. We came back enriched by the experience and will be heading back to in April with a large team of about 80 to the Laurel, MS area. There is so much to do and our giving of our time to help in the recovery is a Blessing from God to the people we serve and for those serving."

From Drena Miller of Willistown UMC: "As we were enroute to MS, I received a call from our contact person, Dena, who told me that they had to cancel teams from coming because they were so backed up on their paper work. When I told stated that we had a former caseworker and a hospital secretary on our team she said, "This is an answer to prayer, this is an answer to prayer." Dena had been praying because she did not know how they would get the paper work completed before the caseworkers could assess the cases and the work teams scheduled again. When we entered the office our first day we saw a new, empty, file cabinet and files on the desks, on the floor, and in boxes. That night I told the women on our team that my goal was to get a filing system in place by the end of the week. By the time we left, they had a functional office with a file system in place and contact had been made to three-fourth of the applicants. Our men did whatever was needed. They painted, helped put on a roof, unloaded a tractor-trailer of shingles, and did clean up. We're thankful for the opportunity to serve and we'd like to go back again."

For information on serving on a VIM team, contact Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960; 215-723-8367; e-mail bbotti@entermail.net.

Christ Servant Ministries

by George Hollich*

Is your church one of the 281 being served by Local Church Servants and/or Christ Servant Ministers? The people in the pews have had a long tradition of serving in the church. When the early circuit riders moved to attend to other churches on their charge, it was the laity who handled the affairs of the church. The laity who filled the pulpit when the pastor was elsewhere were called exhorters. In the 1940's the program name was changed to Lay Speaker.

The General Conference of 1992 gave a new look to the Lay Speaking program. No longer did it highlight just speaking, but rather the program was expanded to include caring, leading, and communicating.

There were quite a few people in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who felt the name "Lay Speaker" didn't fit the expanded description. Conference Lay Leader, Keith Ladd, George Hollich, and others on the Board of Lay Ministry held conference meetings and discussions that addressed other names to call this new direction.

In 1997 the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference approved a resolution to use the name Christ Servant Ministries to identify programs used for the training, service, and recognition of the Laity within our conference.

The "Book of Discipline" lists two training levels for Lay Servant Ministry. The Local Church Servant is someone who completes the basic course (written in 1998 by the Rev.

Dennis Williams) and is dedicated to ministry in the local church. The Christ Servant Minister is active in local church ministry, but is also involved in ministries outside the walls of the local church. Christ Servant Ministers also take the Basic Course... but continue their training by taking advanced courses in leading, caring, and/or speaking.

The 2005 Annual Conference recognized the contributions of the Laity throughout history, the challenges in the world uniquely suited to the ministry of the laity, and passed Resolution #017 that called each church in the annual conference to have at least one Christ Servant Minister before 2007.

Over the past year there were CSM training courses conducted in Lansdale, Reading, Jonestown, Myerstown Theological Seminary, Stroudsburg, Camp Innabah, Evangelical Manor, and Simpson House in Philadelphia and the number of Local Church Servants and Christ Servant Ministers grew at a 12% rate. Today the program recognizes over 800 trained laity and does not include the over 80 Elders and Local Pastors who started their journey as a Christ Servant Minister or Lay Speaker.

The workshop at this year's annual conference entitled, "Now you are a Christ Servant Minister - What's the Next Step?" can suggest additional ways for your church to use Local Church Servants and Christ Servant Ministers.

*George Hollich is the conference director of Christ Servant Ministries.

UM's advocate for justice

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A UM Witness has been in the forefront of informing the PA state representatives of our denomination's beliefs on the issues for more than twenty-four years. In 2005, A UM Witness took the lead in opposing the death penalty, opposing the expansion of gambling, and advocating for property tax and educational reforms. In 2006 A UM Witness has two resolutions before the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference: one in support of Lobbying Reform and a second in support of raising the minimum wage. Through our connection, we continue to speak wherever and whenever we can about issues of concern to us as United Methodists. Members are also encouraged to contact their own legislators on an individual basis urging either support of or opposition to particular bills before the state legislature.

The formation of A UM Witness began in 1982 at the suggestion of the bishops of the four United Methodist annual conferences in the commonwealth: Western PA, Central PA, Eastern PA, and Wyoming (in northeastern PA). Organized as a non-profit corporation (under IRS rule 501(c)(4)), A UM Witness is governed by a board of directors that includes the four bishops, as well as lay and clergy persons elected and appointed by their respective conferences, and is funded by the four annual conferences in Pennsylvania. Board members from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are Bishop Marcus Matthews, the Rev.

Dr. Christopher Kurien, the Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall, Mr. Hank Hershey, Mrs. Barbara Drake, the Rev. Mark Young and Mrs. Peggy Wood.

United Methodist churches in Eastern Pennsylvania support the important work of A UM Witness directly through the conference Connectional Ministries Fund. In addition, A UM Witness receives financial support from lay and clergy persons throughout the state who pay a membership fee of \$10 per year, who then receive news and periodic legislative "action alerts" about specific bills that relate to the Social Principles. Finally, A UM Witness, as an approved Conference Advance Special, is eligible to receive an additional \$2,500 in funds.

Please stop by our table in the vendor area at Annual Conference for more information about the work of A UM Witness, for information on contacting your legislators, and to find out how you can become **A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania**.

For more information on A United Methodist Witness, go to: www.umwitnesspa.org. For more information on the United Methodist Social Principles - the EPA Conference Church and Society Work Team: www.gbgm-umc.org/epacs; or The General Board of Church and Society: www.umc-gbcs.org.

*Peggy Wood is a member of West Chester United Methodist Church, serves on the Church and Society Work Team, and is chairperson of A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania.

The Katrina Church Recovery Appeal

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an appeal across the conference requesting dimes to erect the building.

Ward has preached twice here, including one occasion, right after the storm, when the church had its communion table set up in the parking lot. Today, about 100 members of the congregation meet for worship in a nearby warehouse that the church owns.

The conference is expecting more than \$4 million in uninsured and underinsured losses to churches and related properties.

"It's essential that we respond to the bishops' appeal for the rebuilding of our churches," Ward says. "Our churches are strategic centers" for nurturing and worship, she says, noting that 30 conference churches are hosting work teams along the coast.

United Methodist giving is helping keep pastors in their communities, she says. "In Mississippi, the pastors who evacuated returned very soon to their congregations. A number of the pastors never evacuated and experienced the storm even as their homes and churches were destroyed. The presence of pastor leadership in a community is a shepherding gift to the entire community."

The Rev. Rick Brooks, of Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis, is one such pastor. The financial

worshipping together since their buildings were destroyed. Over and over, the bishop says, she hears people say this is their "finest hour."

"These months have been the most heartbreaking and the most inspiring, simultaneously," she says.

The weight of grief in Mississippi is great, Ward says. It's a grief reflected in her account of a church member weeping that her town won't be rebuilt in her lifetime, or in a simple message spray-painted on the ruins of a home: "This was our house."

In some ways, the Gulf Coast area seems starker and harsher than it did right after the hurricane hit, she says. Now empty expanses exist where before there had been buildings, churches, homes, playgrounds. "There is nothing, where before there was life and vitality."

Vital connection

People on the coast are tired of the destruction, but Ward says she knows the strength of the Christian community. Daily, the conference receives thousands of volunteers. A week earlier, a team of Bolivians arrived to help, and tsunami survivors also have traveled to Mississippi for relief work. Volunteer in Mission teams stay for periods ranging from a week to months. The conference coordinates their work



support helps sustain congregations in need, he says. "I use that word 'sustaining,' and I really believe that's true. It's sometimes amazing the difference a little bit of help can make."

"It's essential that our pastors be present in our devastated communities," Ward says. "... Unless the connection is helpful in garnering the resources for pastors' salaries, pensions and insurance, for the recovery of parsonages, pastoral presence will be diminished among us.

"And," she says, "the mission of our church as a whole is lessened."

Finest hour

Despite the adversity, Ward says she is seeing a new spirit in the congregations. At Heritage United Methodist Church in D'Iberville, members have collected sleeping bags and tool kits. "They have regained their strong sense of being a missional congregation."

Some congregations have drawn closer in connection with one another, such as a white church and an African-American congregation that have been

with a main response center and four regional offices, all funded by UMCOR.

"It is important for the whole church to stay connected, to stay vitally involved," the bishop says, "because this is our calling as God's people."

Staying connected will be important as a new hurricane season begins in June.

"We have learned what wind and water can do," Ward says. "We are in a stronger place as a result of this experience, in a better place to move forward into the hurricane season."

"It is our genius as United Methodist people to live in connection with one another, Ward says. "We know that we have not suffered through this alone. We know that we don't face the future alone. ... God has given us life together, and for that we are deeply grateful."

*Tanton is managing editor for United Methodist News Service.

Investing Church Funds

Two of the questions we often get asked at the Foundation are what types of church funds do you manage and how do you manage church assets? As one of its main services the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation manages approximately \$28 million for more than 150 churches and agencies, covering all types of church assets, including the following:

- Endowment Funds
- Memorial Funds
- Parsonage Funds
- Trustees Funds
- Building Funds
- Cemetery Funds
- Donor Restricted Funds
- Charitable Gift Annuities

Generally any type of non-operating fund that a church might have is a candidate for solutions offered by the Foundation. The last two are funds created by donors for their churches, perhaps for a specific purpose, such as a church's music program, or, to generate income to support the church's operating budget. The minimum investment is \$5,000.

The first step we take in managing assets for a church is to understand what the church's objectives are for their assets. What is the purpose of the assets in the life of that church? Churches are blessed to have assets from donors, and are meant to use those assets in a responsible manner in order to move forward the work of the church. How those assets play a role in the ministry of the church is very important when setting up an investment program.

In addition, there are three questions we want church=s to be able to answer quantitatively: What are the income or return targets for these assets? How long will they be invested for? How much risk are you willing to tolerate in order to achieve your objectives? These questions go a long way to establishing the right mix of stocks and bonds in a portfolio for each church. Some church committee's can tolerate stock market risk, some cannot, and for many, an equal blend of stocks and bonds is the right place to be. This is the most important step in the investment process as asset allocation is the greatest contributor to a portfolio's success.

Once we know what the right blend of stocks and bonds is for an investment portfolio, we invest the assets across a series of funds created by the Foundation. These funds are much like mutual funds without the underlying fees and regulatory requirements since the only investors are Philadelphia Area United Methodist churches and agencies. The Foundation currently has two domestic equity funds, one bond fund (with another to become available in the next quarter) and solutions for international and small cap investments. Most of the funds are actively managed, that is, the Foundation's Board

has hired firms to select the holdings within the funds. This allows for the funds to be in compliance with our United Methodist social principles. Performance for these funds is available upon request.

Individuals may invest with the Foundation through the creation of a gift to their church or other local United Methodist agency. As noted above, these are in the form of Donor Advised Funds or Charitable Gift Annuities where the individual makes an irrevocable gift of the principal. Details on how these gifts can benefit you and your church are available at the Foundation.

Stacy J. Martin
Executive Director
Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula
United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
800-828-9093 x247
Email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org



Classifieds

RISOGRAPH AVAILABLE FOR FREE. Needs repair. If you'll take it away, it's yours. Call Bron Yocum at First UMC of Phoenixville, 610-933-5936.

USED CHOIR ROBES AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION. Burgundy and cream robes in good condition available. About 30 choir robes in adult sizes and matching acolyte robes in youth sizes. Call Bron Yocum at First UMC of Phoenixville, 610-933-5936.

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR NEEDED:

Memorial United Methodist in Quarryville is seeking a part-time associate pastor to assist in all pastoral duties. The chief responsibilities include hospital and shut-in visitation, assisting in worship on Sunday mornings, pastoral counseling, and some administration of program ministries. For a full job description please contact Rev. John Longmire, Memorial United Methodist Church 109 S. Hess St., Quarryville, PA 17566 717-786-2941; memorialumc@cnonline.net

DISCIPLING PASTOR POSITION OPEN
St. Mark's United Methodist Church is a growing church in Mount Joy. We are seeking a full-time Discipling Pastor who will participate in the overall staff team emphasis of discipleship and disciple-making, equipping our congregation in spiritual formation and the development of leadership skills that will empower the Church to fulfill its mission and vision. Call (717) 653-5493

YOUTH PASTOR / STUDENT MINISTRY DIRECTOR

St. Mark's United Methodist Church a growing church in Mount Joy, is seeking a part-time (20 hr/wk) Youth Pastor / Student Ministry Director who will participate in the overall staff team emphasis of discipleship and disciple-making to Middle School and High School students and their families. Call (717) 653-5493.

Workshops at Annual Conference

Lunch will be served in the workshop room. In order to have an accurate count for the hotel, you should only attend the workshop that you registered for.

Thursday, June 22 and/or Friday June 23 (12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m.):

- Church DNA – Part 2 “Know your Church Culture” - Thursday Only
- This Holy Mystery – A Discussion of Our Official Statement of Communion - Thursday and Friday
- Writing Successful Proposals and Grants - Thursday Only
- I am a Christ Servant Minister – Now What? - Thursday and Friday
- Clergy and Church Board Coaching - Thursday Only
- Faith Science and Intelligent Design - Thursday Only
- **Developing Spiritual Leadership and Ministry Teams - **Thursday** and Friday
- The United Methodist Connection and You - Thursday and Friday
- Understanding AIDS and the Response of Our Churches - Thursday Only
- How Your Church can Come Alive in Missions - Thursday and Friday
- Pastoral Transition Workshop - Thursday and Friday
- Deacons, Transforming Ministry Through Service - Friday Only
- **Helping Movers and Shakers, Move and Shake! Creating a High Impact Leadership Team - **Friday Only**
- So you have a new pastor, Who Broke the Old One? - Friday Only
- So You've Taken HWOR, Now What? - Friday Only

****Workshops are filled.** For more information on workshops, please contact Brenda Tildon at brendatildon@aol.com.

“Healing the Wounds of Racism”

Introductory
(Level 1 - Year 2008)

August 14-16 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA

August 18-20 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA

September 15-17 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, Lebanon, PA

October 6-8 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Teen “ARK” - Anti Racism Kamp

November 17-19 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Port-O-Call Hotel, Ocean City, NJ

NO CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE ARE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS.

PERSONS ATTENDING FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD TIMES, WILL ONLY PAY FOR THEIR ROOM AND BOARD.

Registration Fee is \$200.00

Celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK

June 17, 2006

Share a day of fun and fellowship and an evening of Christian music and entertainment as we celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK on June 17 and a portion of each ticket sold will help to support conference ministries for youth and young adults. Bring your family, friends, youth group, Sunday School - or your whole church!

If you ordered your ticket before May 15, you may have received a free t-shirt. Wear your T-shirt through the park to show your United Methodist team spirit!

Ride the rides, including 10 world-class roller coasters, six drenching water rides, 20 kiddie rides, and many family rides.

New this year: REESE'S XTREME CUP CHALLENGE, the first interactive dark ride to pit car against car in a high-energy score-fest that is unequalled anywhere in the world. Hang onto your laser blasters!

Picnic in the picnic area just outside the park, or enjoy one the many restaurants in the park: pizza and pierogies, iced tea and ice cream, and of course, **chocolate!**

EVENING IN THE AMPHITHEATER

Christian music and entertainment in the park's amphitheater at no extra cost, 6:00 p.m. until the park closes at 10:00 p.m.

Already booked: Saline, high energy, original rock music, and Everyday Process with a no-compromise message using hip-hop's own magnetism to spread the truth everywhere.

More exciting entertainers are being added to fill the evening.

More information will be mailed soon to your church.

Spread the word!

For additional information you may call Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping & Nurture Ministries, at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225.

FOOD
Restaurants, Fast Food & Snacks are available throughout park.
Picnic table areas just outside park
Group picnic catering, available through Hershey Park (1-800-242-4236)
No food or beverage may be brought into the park.

ATTRACTIONS

Over 60 Rides
New Reese's Xtreme Cup Challenge
10 Coasters
6 Water Rides
Many other family rides and kiddie rides

ADMISSION COST

\$33 - Ages 9-54
\$25 - Ages 3-8 and 55+
Free - Age 2 and under

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Christian music and entertainment in the park's Amphitheater from 6 p.m. until closing (10 p.m.) Groups who will inspire and entertain include:



John Messner Matthew Kann John Kramer Eugene Korn Dan Maurer

saline

Faith driven, highly-energized, infectious original modern rock music



UNIVERSAL ROYALTY

An urban flavored blend of hip-hop, rap and rock.



EVERYDAY PROCESS

A no-compromise message using hip-hop's own magnetism to spread the truth.

19TH ANNUAL United Methodist Day AT THE



SPONSORED BY
EASTERN PA CONFERENCE,
PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE AND
GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE



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/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1372>
Or contact the Conference Office at 1.800.828.9093