Renewal and Renovation for “Old” St. George’s

The historic sanctuary of St. George’s United Methodist Church looks a bit different in this new year. Scaffolding stretches from floor to ceiling and workers are busy patching and painting the worship space that dates back to 1769.

The sanctuary repainting is part of larger renovations at Historic St. George’s begun last fall. Projects included roof repair, exterior and painting, balcony and ceiling repairs and replacing some of the floor boards in the sanctuary balcony constructed in 1792. But renewal for St. George’s means more than updating the building. St. George’s lies in the middle of one of the hottest real estate areas of Philadelphia - Old city and Northern Liberties. When the neighborhood declined from being industrial, the congregation went from several thousand to under a hundred. Now the area is turning residential with the transformation of warehouses and factories into luxury lofts and condominiums.

“When some people think of ‘mission’ they think of big, established churches, big budgets, and well-oiled committees. But mission is simply having a heart to help others in need.”

After saying their final amen at Sunday morning worship on January 22, fifteen people who are actively involved at Crossroads boarded a plane for Biloxi, Mississippi. Words fail to describe what they learned when they debarked in Biloxi—collapsed apartment complexes, bridges, and a sea of rubble where glittery casinos once towered. “Everyone in the van went silent as we passed block after block of missing neighborhoods,” observed Hall. Not a single restaurant or casino survived along Biloxi’s popular main drag. Everywhere in the neighborhood are blue Red Cross tents—living quarters for families. “We’re still alive” read one note scribbled in red paint across a demolished house. Others weren’t that fortunate.

For the rest of the week, the “Crossroads Biloxi Blues” would continue. Bishop Marcus Matthews has appointed the Rev. James (Jim) B. Todd to be a superintendent of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, effective July 1, 2006. Todd will serve the Southwest District. Todd, who has served Solebury United Methodist Church in New Hope since 2003, is a native of southeastern Pennsylvania. He was baptized at Berwyn UMC by the Rev. Stacy Myers in the late 1950’s. His natural affinity for the Eastern PA Conference comes from his Philadelphia roots: his mother grew up at First UMC Roxborough (now Green Lane), and his father at St. James UMC.
MARCH 12 2006 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice - will be held in Washington, DC on March 10-13. Information at www.epaumc.org/advocacy. For more information, contact Ms. Stacy Martin, executive assistant. Visit our webpage at: www.epaumc.org or register by phone by calling the campaign office at 570-676-3663.

MARCH 24 & 26 Stewardship in Today's World Workshop led by Dr. David S. Bell, Director of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Eastern PA-Peninsula UM Foundation, featuring the sermon “Disparity: The Promise of God – The Power of Soilarity.” Last year close to 500 people joined together to advocate for a world that better reflects the original values. It was this spirit of solidarity in faith that guided the sponsors and the planning team of the monumenal Advocacy Days for Global Peace for last year’s event. We invite you to participate in this year’s conference. There are many exciting tracks offering tremendous opportunities to learn not only more about the issues, but also about how you can have an impact on our elected officials. For those who can’t attend an entire weekend, you are encouraged to participate in the Lobby Day on Monday, March 13. Visit our webpage at: www.advocacydays.org for information, registration, and updates. For more information, contact Dr. David Stoup at poconoplateau.or.org or phone 1-800-828-4848; 936 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17366 or on line at www.gbgm-umc.org. **See page 4**

MARCH 25 - APRIL 20 A Journey through Your Life: A Ministry of Discovery for Adults and Youth ages 12-18 can make an impact on your church, the church and community for ministry. To be held at Evangelical School of Theology Tuesday, March 25, 2006 entitled “War, Peace and the Social Principles.” See page 10

APRIL 1 A Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training Session. For more information, see page 7

APRIL 2 51st Annual United Methodist Men Conference. For more information, see page 8

APRIL 10 A Day Apart for the Diocane of the EPAUMC - “Our Mission in the Church and in the World” With Rev. Dr. James Maloney, superintendent for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Eastern PA-Peninsula UM Foundation. Great opportunity for 25 books, including Forgiving One Another: New Strategies for Forgiving the Inforgivable. For more information, see page 5

APRIL 15 6th Annual Youth Conference

APRIL 17 SPRING CHILDREN’S RETREAT at Pocomo Plateau for Grades 3-6 on March 17-19, 2006. Program Directors Jesst & Patti Klotz will lead children to discover why we should build our foundation on solid foundations – not on sand, using the theme, “GOD ROCKS!” (Matthew 7:24-27). The Retreat begins Friday, March 17 at 7pm and ends on March 19 at 2pm. Join us for crafts, games, singing, making-your-own fun snacks and more! Cost is $75.00/ person. Registration form is on our webpage at www.epaumc.org or register by phone by calling the camp office at 570-676-3663.

APRIL 26 & 28 United Methodist Marriage Encounter in YORK – “Rediscover the one you love on a Marriage Encoun- ter Weekend!” Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can grow closer from jobs, kids, chores and phones—and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationships, you’ll like the difference a marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend can make! For registration information please contact Dick & Donna Rittiger 214 Main Ave, Warren, PA 16365. (814) 723-1286 or Bernel & Jolj Shoff (717) 244-4848; 906 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17566 or on line at www.encounter.org. Also September 29 – Oct. 1, 2006 in Pittsburgh Area


APRIL 30 - MAY 1 United Methodist Marriage Encounter in YORK – “Rediscover the one you love on a Marriage Encoun- ter Weekend!” Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can grow closer from jobs, kids, chores and phones—and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationships, you’ll like the difference a marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend can make! For registration information please contact Dick & Donna Rittiger 214 Main Ave, Warren, PA 16365. (814) 723-1286 or Bernel & Jolj Shoff (717) 244-4848; 906 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17566 or on line at www.encounter.org. Also September 29 – Oct. 1, 2006 in Pittsburgh Area

MAY 4-7 United Methodist Women’s Assembly in Visitation and Nurturing Sat., May 5, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. at Elam UMC. See page 10. MAY 24 War, Peace and the Social Principles – The Church and Society Work Team is sponsoring a forum on Saturday, May 24, 2006 entitled “War, Peace and the Social Principles.” See page 10

MAY 26 One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. See page 9

MARCH - APRIL 2 Student Travel Team planning for their trip to Europe. See page 10

APRIL 29 Stewardship, Center for Christian Stewardship, Pennsylvania Conference and Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Eastern PA-Peninsula UM Foundation, featuring the sermon “Disparity: The Promise of God – The Power of Soilarity.” Last year close to 500 people joined together to advocate for a world that better reflects the original values. It was this spirit of solidarity in faith that guided the sponsors and the planning team of the monumenal Advocacy Days for Global Peace for last year’s event. We invite you to participate in this year’s conference. There are many exciting tracks offering tremendous opportunities to learn not only more about the issues, but also about how you can have an impact on our elected officials. For those who can’t attend an entire weekend, you are encouraged to participate in the Lobby Day on Monday, March 13. Visit our webpage at: www.advocacydays.org for information, registration, and updates. For more information, contact Dr. David Stoup at poconoplateau.or.org or phone 1-800-828-4848; 936 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17366 or on line at www.gbgm-umc.org. **See page 4**

MAY 5-7 28th Annual National Conference and Innabah Golf Outing at Anaheim, Calif., Convention Center. See page 11

JULY 15 Baptism at the Bands Coventryville United Methodist Church is pleased to announce its first battle of the bands contest this Sunday afternoon in Pottstown. This outdoor event, starting at noon will feature bands playing in half in forty-five minute sets. We are soliciting demo tapes from any interested Praise or Christian rock bands that would like to participate in this exciting and exciting event! Demos and your information to Warren Hampton, Lay Leader, 1157 Reynoldsville Rd, Exton, PA 19341 (610) 374-0041. email: hamrdmc@aol.com or phone 610-374-0041. **See page 11**

AUGUST 11-13 The 23rd Academy for Laity The Inn at Reading, 1040 Park Road, West Reading, PA. To Serve Christ—in the local church, the Conference, or the world! Offering the Basic Course and Advanced Courses for Christ Servant Ministers Open to all Laity in Eastern Pennsyl- vania Conference. Visit the Confer- ence website at www.epaumc.org/laity or contact the Christ Servant Minister Website at www.gbgm-umc.org/laity for further details. Contact person: Donna Coliver, Dean of Laity Academy and Chair of the Planning Committee 215.360.3075 coliver@epaumc.com. **See page 11**

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCT. 1 United Methodist Marriage Encouter in Pittsburgh Area — Re- discover the one you love on a Mar- riage Encounter Weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones—and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationships, you’ll like the difference a marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend can make! For registration information please contact Dick & Donna Rittiger 214 Main Ave, Warren, PA 16365. (814) 723-1286 or Bernel & Jolj Shoff (717) 244-4848; 906 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17566 or on line at www.encounter.org. **See page 11**

APRIL 6 “Form and Freedom: Worship in the Twenty-first Century” with the theme for the 2006 Wesley Colloquium to be held at Evangelical School of Theology, Merytown, on Thursday, April 6. Keynote speakers are Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright, Robert Earl Cushman Professor of Christian Theology at Duke Divinity School, and Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker, Professor of Worship at Boston University. The program runs from 9:00-12:00 and includes four presentations by Dr. Wainwright and Tucker. Registration costs $20, lunch is available for $6; and CEUs are also available for an addi- tional fee. Call 800-522-6775 or check the website at www.evangelical.edu to register.

APRIL 8 Disaster Response Training see ad on page 10


APRIL 30- MAY 1 United Methodist Marriage Encounter in YORK – “Rediscover the one you love on a Marriage Encoun- ter Weekend!” Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can grow closer from jobs, kids, chores and phones—and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationships, you’ll like the difference a marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend can make! For registration information please contact Dick & Donna Rittiger 214 Main Ave, Warren, PA 16365. (814) 723-1286 or Bernel & Jolj Shoff (717) 244-4848; 906 Old Commons Rd, Windsor PA 17566 or on line at www.encounter.org.
Bishop Matthews host Lenten Day Apart for clergy

By the Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall*

The beginning of Lent was welcomed and blessed for over 300 clergy from the Philadelphia Area, the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Delaware Conferences, in a Spirit-filled morning of song and word at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Wilmington, DE, on February 28, 2006. Our presenter for the morning was the Rev. Dr. Hillis Park, Director of Continuing Education for Ministry for the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Rev. Park’s rich presentation, “Bringing the Body of Christ Together” placed an enlightening and informational power-point presentation before all. What does it mean to be called to be a Christian leader? How does God call us to empower different voices so that all have a voice in serving Christ as disciples, as a discipleship of equals? Rev. Park included Korean concepts in her message, notably “min jung,” the people, as a whole, as a mass, and “eun inn,” a “grace person,” a person who has graced one’s life. We were each challenged to become “grace persons.” But, at the same time, we are called to recognize the ways in which our exclusionary ways and lack of support for others impacts ministry negatively.

Rev. Park shared the results of a recent study from the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University which demonstrated that one-third of clergymen in full connection are not on their own in a local church; that not only are clergymen marginalized by gender, but even more by racial and ethnic status. God calls us to level the field and bring sham to all God’s people. All have a role to play in carrying out God’s mission in the world.

Bishop Matthews selected as his preaching text Matthew 26:6-13 and shared that in his perspective, Mary should be placed in the “Christian hall of fame” for her extravagant love and devotion, which was then subsequently criticized by all the disciples. She was criticized, Bishop Matthews affirmed, for being a woman, and for daring to take this bold and financially costly action. She dared to be different.

“Don’t break open our jars,” the Bishop said, “for we fear there won’t be enough for us.” He challenged the pastors present to dare to be different, and risk being foolish. In this year when we celebrate 50 years of full clergy rights for women, we need to remember that women were the first to minster to Jesus. Bishop Matthews challenged us to do the same, so that all will know we are Christians by our love. The service concluded with Holy Communion, and we were sent forth by our Bishop’s blessings to serve God’s church and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Memoriam

THE REV. MARLIN D. SEIDERS, retired pastor (U.S.Navy, Ret.), age 79. Chaplain Seiders resided at Cornwall Manor. His wife, Nancy Jean, died less than a year ago, on May 30, 2005. Chaplain Seiders served the following appointments since his first in 1951: extension ministry: U.S.N., Chaplain extension ministry: Bucknell University, extension officer. Of Christ, Lancaster; Lebanon: Covenant. He retired in 1991. He graduated with the following degrees: B.A. from Lebanon Valley College. M.Div. from United Theological Seminary, Temple University, M. Th. from Harvard University, and D.D. from Lebanon Valley College. He is survived by his son, Martin David Seiders, Jr. and a grandson. Condolences may be sent to his son, M. David Seiders, 703 Ridgewood Drive, Mt. Home, AR 72653. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Covenant United Methodist Church, 346 N. 9th Street, Lebanon, PA 17046.

MRS. CECILE EILEEN MONTGOMERY, surviving spouse of The Rev. Charles F. Montgomery, on February 2, 2006. She was 89 years old, and resided in Kissimmee, Florida. Rev. Montgomery served four appointments in the Southern Illinois Conference before serving in these appointments in Eastern Pennsylvania: Hamorton, Landingberg, West Grove, Phila.: St. Philip’s, Linwood Heights; Pen Argyl: Grace; Phila.: Fox Chase; Cornwells Heights. He retired in 1979, and died in 1990. She is survived by her children, Dorothy Elaine Prange of Dallas TX, the Rev. Jimmy Montgomery (pastor of Hamorton UMC), Margaret (Peggi) Billman (wife of The Rev. Frank Billman, Director of Church Relations, Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, in Tennessee, TN), 12 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to The Rev. Jimmy Montgomery, 126 W Knowlton Road, Media PA 19063-5567 and Peggi A. Billman, 7982 Whites Creek Pike, Jostown TN 37060. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to the Chester Heights Campmeeting Association, Chestor Heights, PA 19017, where Mrs. Montgomery owned a cottage for many years, or to the charity of your choice.

THE REV. DR. ROBERT P. LONGENECKER, retired and former district superintendent and pastor in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, died on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the Francford Hospital of a hip injury. He was 77 years old. Dr. Longenecker served in the following appointments: Rocherty, Fontana, Mertstown, Zionsville, Allentown Diocese 1953, United Methodist Diocese, Phila. 1954-1956, and Lebanon Valley College with a B.A. in 1953, from United Theological Seminary with a M. Div. in 1964, and from Lebanon Valley College with a D.D. in 1978. He is survived by his wife, Elaine F. Longenecker. Also surviving are three children: Prod Eugene, Timothy Robert, and Victoria Elaine. A fourth child, Steven David, died in 1996. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Longenecker at Apt. 410, Palmer Gardens, Tinicum Township, PA 19011. The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to First UMC of Gormont to purchase a new pulpit for the sanctuary.

MRS. EILEEN MONTGOMERY, survivor spouse of Rev. Charley F. Montgomery, on February 2, 2006. She was 89 years old, and resided in Kissimmee, Florida. Rev. Montgomery served four appointments in the Southern Illinois Conference before serving in these appointments in Eastern Pennsylvania: Hamorton, Landingberg, West Grove, Phila.: St. Philip’s, Linwood Heights; Pen Argyl: Grace; Phila.: Fox Chase; Cornwells Heights. He retired in 1979, and died in 1990. She is survived by her children, Dorothy Elaine Prange of Dallas TX, the Rev. Jimmy Montgomery (pastor of Hamorton UMC), Margaret (Peggi) Billman (wife of The Rev. Frank Billman, Director of Church Relations, Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, in Tennessee, TN), 12 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to The Rev. Jimmy Montgomery, 126 W Knowlton Road, Media PA 19063-5567 and Peggi A. Billman, 7982 Whites Creek Pike, Jostown TN 37060. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to the Chester Heights Campmeeting Association, Chestor Heights, PA 19017, where Mrs. Montgomery owned a cottage for many years, or to the charity of your choice.

*Sherrin Marshall is executive director of a conference resourcing and continuing ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.
United Methodist hurricane relief exceeds $62 million

By Elliot Wright*

NEW YORK (UMNS) - More than $62 million was contributed in 2005 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for hurricane relief and rehabilitation in the United States and wider Gulf of Mexico region.

"Year-end receipts from the annual conferences pushed the figure far, far beyond what we anticipated in the late fall," said Roland Fernandez, treasurer of the Board of Global Ministries, the denominational agency of which UMCOR is a part.

UMCOR had received $62.27 million as of Dec. 31. All of the money was or is being applied to relief and rehabilitation primarily through the church’s annual (regional) conferences affected by the strong series of hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast post-hurricane work in Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua also was covered.

"In April, our directors will make decisions about how the balance will be expended," said Rev. Paul Diridak, the executive in charge of UMCOR for the Outgoing Board of Global Ministries. "Meanwhile, UMCOR has responded 199 percent to the emergency assistance. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

Hurricane Katrina devastated this waterfront neighborhood in Bayou La Batre, Ala., on the Gulf of Mexico. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has announced that more than $62 million was raised in 2005 to provide relief and rehabilitation in areas affected by last year’s hurricanes, with millions already expended to provide emergency assistance. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

"The compassion of the United Methodist people for those in crisis appears to be unlimited," Diridak said. "It is a compassion rooted in thanks-giving for God’s grace and love and in Jesus’ mandate to love our neighbors." While most of the $62 million was contributed in response to Hurricane Katrina, some amounts were earmarked for relief following the later

Diversity marks 2006 United Methodist Women’s Assembly

By Linda Bloom*

A Bolivian organizer, Tongan women’s choirs, Latino orchestra, Christian salsa band and drummers from several cultures reflect the diversity to be found at the 2006 United Methodist Women’s Assembly.

The assembly, which has occurred every four years since 1942, will meet May 4-7 at the convention center in Nashville, TN. The theme is “Rise! Shine! Glorify God!” and an estimated 8,000 women are expected to attend.

Well-known assembly presenters will include Anna Devere Smith, the actress, playwright and writer; and Emily Saliers, a musician and one-half of the Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls.

For Jan Love, who is marking her first assembly as chief executive of the Women’s Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the event offers an opportunity for United Methodist Women to unite in a nightly assembly through performers, speakers, testimonies and people.

An important element to the assembly is hearing stories of mission. “We’ll also be surrounded by mission projects and programs that witness to the love and grace of Jesus in the lives of women and children,” she said. “These were founded and supported by United Methodist Women and have changed thousands of lives.”

A carnival-like procession of 63 banners from each of the denomination’s annual (regional) conferences, led by three huge puppets, will open the assembly at 7 p.m. May 4. Latino, Tongan, African and Native American drummers will accompany Kyung Za Yim, the Women’s Division president, as the call to worship. Japanese Taiko drumming will be interspersed with Scripture readings as worship continues.

On the afternoons of May 5 and 6, participants can choose from more than 60 workshops addressing the issues of mission, theology, worship, UMW membership, spirituality, politics and social concerns.

The evenings of May 5 and 6 are devoted to the arts. On May 5, a performance by Devere Smith - known for combining journalistic interview techniques with dramatic interpretations - will focus on issues of social justice pertinent to women and children. Latino Orquesta Jubileo also will perform with a 14-piece Christian salsa band.

The assembly will close with worship the morning of May 7, featuring dancers, a house band and musician Jorge Lockward.

Registration information for the assembly can be found online at www.umwassembly.org or obtained by writing to the Assembly Business Office at 7825 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800. The registration deadline is March 20. *Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.
UMCOR begins response to mudslide in Philippines

By United Methodist News Service

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is asking for prayers and financial support as it responds to the mudslide that has buried an entire village in the Philippines. A Feb. 17 mudslide, triggered by days of rain, buried the entire village — including an elementary school — of Guinsaugon on southern Leyte Island. The island is about 420 miles southeast of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of the village of Guinsaugon on the Leyte Island in this time of tragedy and grief," said the Rev. R. Randy Day, top staff executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, parent agency of UMCOR. "We think especially of the families of the children trapped in the school covered in the mudslide," he said in a press release. "The Philippines is part of our United Methodist global family of nations, and we are mobilizing to offer tangible signs of compassion and care."

So far, about 190 bodies have been found, and officials estimated that the toll could climb to about 1,000. The village and school were buried under a massive amount of mud. U.S. Marines, a Malaysian rescue team and others were still helping with rescue efforts Feb. 20. The dead included the Rev. Niel Teyhacan, the pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines' congregation in Guinsaugon, and his 6-month-old son. Of the church's nearly 70 members, only nine so far are known to have survived, according to a bulletin from the denomination. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines is a partner church of the United Methodist Church, with strong historical links to United Methodism through the former Evangelical United Brethren part of the denomination. The village had about 1,800 people, and more than 240 children were in the school when the tragedy occurred. Heavy rain from Feb. 7 to Feb. 16 turned the 2,499-foot Mount Kanabag into a mudslide that covered the village, according to news reports. UMCOR said it anticipated working with partners in the area, including the Manila, Davao and Baguio episcopal areas of the United Methodist Church in the Philippines, to provide immediate relief and support for long-term recovery. Cash gifts will help the relief agency support immediate relief and long-term recovery of those affected by the mudslide. Checks can be mailed to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9688, New York, NY 10087. Write "UMCOR Advance #246265, Philippines Emergency" on the memo line. Online donations can be made by going to http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/donate.cfm?id=1019604. Contributions also can be placed in church offering plates, and congregations around the denomination will be collecting support for UMCOR on March 26, during the annual One Great Hour of Sharing observance. One hundred percent of every donation to any Advance appeal, including appeals for the Philippines, goes to support recovery efforts in the disaster-stricken regions. News media contact: Tim Tanton, Nashville, Tenn. (615) 742-5470 or newswalcks@umcom.org.

World Methodist Conference for July in South Korea

Methodists from the far corners of the earth will come together July 20-24 in Seoul, South Korea, for the 19th World Methodist Conference. All Methodists worldwide have been invited to join with their Korean Methodist brothers and sisters in attending this momentous event and in praying with the Korean Methodists for peace in their land and for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, said the Rev. George Freeman, top staff executive of the World Methodist Council. The assembly is the only event that denominations with roots in the Wesleyan tradition will hold in 2001. Preparations are under way for the 2006 conference, set for July 20-24 in Seoul, South Korea. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.


The uniqueness of Christianity will be apparent as participants gather in seminars Saturday afternoon,” she said.

On a daily basis, the program will reflect some of the diversity of the world’s cultures. On July 21, the Korean Church will present Korean Cultural Night, with music and dance from the host country.

Michael Tan, from the Methodist Church Singapore, has designed the conference logo, which represents the four corners of the earth in the shape of the world. "The logo and theme symbolize the reconciliation that God offers all humanity through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The conference, representing 76 denominations with roots in the Methodist and Wesleyan family and to the things which God will cause to happen as a result of this conference.

Conference sessions will be held in the 10,000-seat Kum Nan Methodist Church, and the conference will hear a 400-voice choir and full orchestra from Korean Methodist churches. A procession of representatives carrying banners from many of the 130 countries where Methodist and United Church Christians live will wind its way to the altar.

Delegates will have an opportunity to become better acquainted through five days of Bible studies and seminars brought by Methodist leaders from Ireland, Kenya, Sri Lanka, the United States, Israel, South Korea, South Africa, Singapore.

Gillian Kingston, a lay pastor from the Methodist Church of Ireland and chairperson of the program committee, said discussion and sharing that will take place in seminars and workshops will focus on crucial issues facing Methodists worldwide: ecumenism and dialogue; education; world evangelism; family life; social and international affairs; theological education; worship and liturgy; and youth.

Information on the conference is available by calling Travelink at (800) 227-5688 or (628) 252-8484 or going online to www.tmtravelinc.com.

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United Methodist participation in the World Methodist Council is underwritten by your support of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund apportionment. For more information, please visit www.umcogiving.org or contact InfoServ online at www.UMC.org (click on “Questions”).

www.epaumc.org

MARCH 2006
continued from page 1

New appointment for Southwest District

The Rev. Jim Todd

Olney

Todd grew up in McLean, Virginia, nurtured in his faith at a large church, Trinity United Methodist. Todd acknowledges his historic pastoral roots, which go back to an ancestor, Michael Schlatter, who was instrumental in organizing the German Reformed churches in Eastern Pennsylvania in the mid to late 1700s. In a trip back to Germany in 1792, Schlatter recruited several young energetic pastors for the work in America, among them being Philip William Otterbein, a founder of the United Brethren, a forerunner denomination to The United Methodist Church. Todd said about his ancestor, “Schlatter was a pastor very committed to ecumenical relations, and I see myself very much in his mold.” Todd’s calling to the ministry was awakened while a student at Grove City College. “Several people, including my mother, had urged me to consider pastoral ministry,” Todd said, “but I ignored their counsel. I put myself on a career path to become a meteorologist, a weatherman, something that still fascinates me today.”

Todd was devastated to find out that his background in physics and math were not strong enough for meteorology. “One night at the evening vespers service, I felt that the Dean of the Chapel was speaking directly to me in a sermon on the calling of persons to ministry. I switched my major to Business Administration, while at the same time taking many religion courses.”

The Vocational Internship Program, sponsored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, introduced Todd to ministry. As an intern, he worked one summer at the Advocate St. Stephen’s Parish with the Rev. Dr. Herbert Snyder. “Herb has become a lifelong mentor for me from the time of that ministry experience,” Todd said.

After graduating in 1982 from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, PA, Todd was appointed as associate pastor to First United Methodist Church in Media. He then served six years as senior pastor at Penns Park UMC, followed by ten years at Messiah UMC in Lafayette Hill.

“One of my greatest joys and passions in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has been the camping ministry,” Todd said. He has served both as counselor and director in three of the conference camps for children and youth during off-seasons. He led a trip camp for seven years in Maine, which included van kayaking, mountain hiking, and biking for a week over many miles of some of the most rugged places in and around Acadia National Park. “I believe our camps can be training grounds for present and future leaders, which can ground young people around principles of Christian leadership. I will encourage all clergy to participate as leaders in the life-changing ministry of Christian camping!”

As Superintendent, Todd looks forward to encouraging churches to discover the needs of their community and to find creative ways to address those needs. He believes it is an important role of the superintendent to help churches make connections with other churches and pastors as well as with conference staff that have the expertise and experience they need to expand their ministry and look outward. Todd said, “The goal of our reaching out to the communities around us is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to help strengthen their faith, then deploy them in the community and the world to continue making disciples. A church that is inwardly focused will tend to focus only on its weaknesses and problems. A church that is outwardly focused sees opportunities instead of problems, and will use its financial and human resources to call persons to faith in Christ and help address human need. I will challenge all the churches on the Southwest District to be outwardly focused, yet internally grounded in what they believe as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Matthews showed that one of the reasons for Todd’s selection is that he has demonstrated strong leadership qualities and character. “Jim has a passion for missions,” said Bishop Matthews. “It is very clear that he will bring to the cabinet gifts that will help us continue to strengthen the ministry and mission of the Annual Conference.”

On the conference level, Todd has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Commission on Religion and Race, the Committee on Nominations, the Commission on Town and Country Ministries, and the Conference Youth Council.

Todd and his wife, Karen, have been married since 1979. Karen has long been involved in Christian education and is passionate about finding creative ways to teach the Gospel to children. They have two daughters: Lauren, 21, a junior at Boston University, and Kristin, almost 16, a sophomore at New Hope-Solebury High School. The family’s dog, Hook, is an aging American Staffordshire Terrier.

In his vacation and free time, Todd enjoys canoeing, snowboarding, rollerblading, skiing, hiking, photography and woodworking. He strives to always seek the “road less traveled,” and to simplify his life as much as possible.

The Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) H. Hoffman, currently serving as Southwest District superintendent, has been appointed to Cedarville United Methodist Church beginning July 1.
Celebrate United Methodist Day at Hersheypark

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

Memorial Service and Service of Ordination - Preaching by Bishop Hope Morgan of Mississippi

Bible Study on Thursday and Friday mornings - with Mr. James H. Salley, Bible Study Leader

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 of 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.

*A portion of each ticket sold will help to support conference ministries for youth and young adults.

Living Connected as God’s people: “Celebrating the connection” The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference June 21 – 23, 2006 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center

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.

Workshops

New information available on page 11

www.epaumc.org
class meetings and the organizer of Methodism in Philadelphia; correspondence from John Wesley to Bishop Asbury and other early Methodists; two hymnals that belonged to John Wesley; and a hymnal in John Wesley's handwriting from which one of the first collections of Wesley hymns was published. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's archives, including records of closed churches, church ledgers, logs, and minutes, are also kept there.

Confession classes often visit and learn about their Methodist roots, and dozens of people come to do research on site. Many requests also for research come by mail and telephone.

Interior renovations to the historic building will include replacing the dossal cloth that hangs behind the altar. The ornamental cloth has faded considerably from its original deep red.

"We asked the workers to be very careful removing the nails," said the Rev. Fred Day, St. George's pastor. "They are colonial originals. We want to keep them and find something special to do with them in the church or on site. Many requests also for research come by mail and telephone." 

Further hopes and plans include making the sanctuary and the museum fully accessible and improving space for archives and artifacts, for which an addition will likely be needed. "The whole Methodist Book Concern developed out of this church - what is now known as the United Methodist Publishing House and Cokesbury," said Rev. Day. "As the place where it all started, the church now looks forward to dedicating space for archives and artifacts, for which an addition will likely be needed."

They also want to turn out instead to celebrate the life and work of the late Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley.

Tindley Temple United Methodist Church hosted the event, and its pastor, the Rev. Thomas Jackmon, welcomed everyone to the concert. 

Instead of sitting in front of the TV to watch the pre-game Super Bowl show on the afternoon of Sunday, February 5, nearly 1500 persons chose to turn out instead to celebrate the life and work of the late Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley.

"Beams of Heaven," accompanied by Ms. Bessie Williams, whose hymns expose the great truths of the Gospel, "and as a tribute to Tindley, shared remembrances with the crowd. The Rev. Ralph Blanks, superintendent of the Central District said, "Part of Dr. Tindley's life ministry was creating songs that still encourage and nourish our souls."

"The General Board of Global Ministries and Black Methodists for Church Renewal co-sponsored the event. Among the participants was Bishop Violet Fisher, vice president of the General Board, who remarked, "God laid on our brother's heart this ministry, which has blessed thousands of persons."

"We encourage and nourish our souls." The General Board is the United Methodist Publishing House Bookstore designers are in the process of creating a design for the bookstore, and will help renovate the space, as well, hoping to complete this project by the end of spring.

The concert was held in conjunction with the release of a CD and songbook, "Beams of Heaven: The Hymns and Sacred Poems of Charles Albert Tindley." Both are available at the Cokesbury Bookstore.

Performers included soloist Carolyn Disney, singing "I'll overcome some day," accompanied by Seth Griend on the guitar. The choral ensemble from Vandeveer Park UMC sang both "Stand by me" and "A better day is coming." Dr. Verolga Nugent, our brother's heart this ministry, which has blessed thousands of persons."

The General Board was its general secretary, the Rev. R. Randy Day. The concert was held in conjunction with the release of a CD and songbook, "Beams of Heaven: The Hymns and Sacred Poems of Charles Albert Tindley." Both are available at the Cokesbury Bookstore.
Resources

51st annual
United Methodist Men Convocation
March 31, April 1-2, 2006

Pocono Manor
Inn and Golf Resort
Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania

Theme Speaker
Dickie Noles
Former member of the 1980 championship Phillies baseball team

Communion preacher
Rev. Mark Marino
Binghamton District Superintendent, and Wyoming Conference, Dean of the Cabinet

For more information and brochure, go to:

MARCH 2006

Welcoming and Inviting Training
Help your church create open hearts, minds, and doors by sending a team to this training:

March 25 - Johnson Memorial UMC, 3117 Longshore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
April 22 - Willistown UMC, 6051 West Chester Pike (Route 3), Willistown, PA
May 13 - Calvary UMC, 1 W Wyomissing Avenue, Mohnton, PA

Registration begins at 9:30 am, training 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Cost is $10 per church and $35 for Living the Promise Tool Box. Send check payable to EPA Conference To Evangeline Johnson, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820. To register, contact Evangeline Johnson at 1-800-828-9093 ext. 215 or email: evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org.

A New Spiritual Home
by Hal Taussig
A new kind of Christianity is emerging at the grass roots. Full of heart-felt expression, artistic creativity, and liberal social values, progressive churches and small Christian communities have established themselves across the denominational spectrum. Reporting on a national research study that underscores the impression that right-wing Christianity is the only new development on the contemporary American religious landscape, Hal Taussig identifies thousands of progressive churches and parishes and describes five characteristics of this new movement.

Essential reading for anyone interested in religion in the US today. For those who have been seeking, this book is a real find.

— Karen L. King, Harvard University

216 pages, paperback, $20.00

To order call toll free 877-523-3845 or visit www.palbridgepress.com

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering
MARCH 26, 2006

“ar with me, your rod and your staff... they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4b, NRSV
Go to: http://www.epaumc.org/content/sundays/OGHS_nav/OGHS%20sunday.htm to print the Sunday Program Insert.
Lenten Devotional
Rev. Doug Ridley, pastor of Grace UMC, Cambridge, MD, has put together a Lenten Devotional based on the text of All Things,” and is making it available to pastors from the Philadelphia Area, at no charge to them (as long as copies last). The book is a collection of theological and devotional poetry, accompanied by suggested scripts to read, some thoughts and a prayer, all revolved around the premise that “Jesus Christ is the measure of all things.” The book begins the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (February 26, celebrated in the liturgical calendar of the Christian Church as Transfiguration of the Lord) and goes through Easter Sunday.

Disaster Response Training
Disaster Response Training will be held Saturday, April 8 at Camp Innabah, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Camp Innabah is a United Methodist Conference site located in an area served by the United Methodist Men, offered for the first time in the EPA Conference, for all persons involved in disaster response. The time frame is designed to be attended by those interested in disaster response. The registration fee is $12, and includes lunch and a snack in the morning.

Church Servant Ministries
Training in Visitation and Nurturing
This four-week intensive course in Visitation and Nurturing, led by Karyn Fisher, is designed to provide lay pastoral care for those who have skills and needs to care for others in a unique way. The course includes skills building in active listening with specific areas of need such as grief, illness, job loss, among others. Participants will learn how to incorporate scripture in caring ways. There will be opportunities to identify what challenges certain situations may pose for them as individuals. A workbook in Caring Ministries will be provided to each participant. Using role plays, videos, discussions, and lectures, as well as the workbook, participants will combine skills building in active listening with specific needs of areas such as grief, illness, job loss, among others. Participants will learn how to incorporate scripture in caring ways. There will be opportunities to identify what challenges certain situations may pose for them as individuals. A workbook in Caring Ministries will be provided to each participant.

Sabbath Retreat: Recreation for the Soul
Sabbath Retreat: Recreation for the Soul is a weekend retreat being held at Camp Innabah, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Camp Innabah is located at 712 Pughtown Rd, Spring City, PA 19475; phone: 610-928-8282. For more information, go to: www.epaumc.org.

Peace, War and Social Principles
The Church and Society Work Team is sponsoring a forum on Saturday, March 25, 2006 entitled “War, Peace and the Social Principles.” Dr. Paul Mojez, Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Maryland, is the guest speaker. Dr. Mojez will explore the social principles of the United Methodist Church in our response to the issues of war and peace, especially with regard to the current Iraq situation. We will explore whether we as Christians bear any special responsibility to be peacemakers and reconcilers when so many in our nation feel threatened by Islamic and other terrorists. What steps can we take to promote peaceful solutions? Dr. Mojez has extensive experience in this area. He was asked by the late President Trajkovski of Macedonia (also a Methodist lay preacher) to sit down with religious leaders for peace. Dr. Mojez has participated in international Jewish-Christian-Muslim trilogues.

Summer Vocational Intern Program
This year's Board of Ordained Ministry sponsored a Vocational Intern Program for the summer. This program places students and second career persons in parish situations or specialized ministries where they can be expected to live and learn experiences on Christian ministry. The Board will pay $1,000 for ten weeks of service. Vocational interns (VIP’s) may serve in new church starts, long established churches, group ministries or institutional settings, experiencing every aspect of ministry from preaching, teaching and visiting to organizing day camp and Vacation Bible School to conducting neighborhood surveys. The salary cost of $500 will be deducted from the stipend. The remaining $500 will be paid to the local church. This program may be for you if you are:

*A Journey through Your Life: A Lenten Pilgrim-age.*
Our lives hold beauty and pain, joy and heartache; there are treasures to behold and burdens to release. You are invited to make a pilgrimage into your history this Lent by participating in “A Journey through Your Life: A Lenten Pilgrimage.”

Sunday, March 19 (Third Sunday of Lent). Exact time to be announced; one hour of worship and time to process outside. To register: Contact Clarita Krall, c/o East Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Smithbridge Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342; email, church and district along with a maximum of 100 registrants. To register, send name, address, phone number along with check for $12 made payable to Elam UMC to Randy Schaffer, Elam UMC, 1073 Smithbridge Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342; 610-459-2811; www.elamumc.org. We must receive registration by March 5, 2006. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 1, 2006.

For more information or an application, contact Rev. Sue Redding, 908-262-0820; or sbang@verizon.net.

For direct inquiries, please call Fields Campbell at ext. 224.
At 102 “Tootie” still serves the Lord

Born February 19, 1904, Evelyn Yeager, known in her Northampton community as “Tootie,” serves her Lord with joy and gusto. On February 19, Salem UMC in Danziesville, where she has belonged for as long as anyone can remember, helped her celebrate her 102nd birthday.

Tootie has seen the world change tremendously throughout her lifetime. Still living alone, her sharp wit and a young spirit are amazing to those who encounter her for the first time. She is twice widowed and has three children. Her life has seen a great deal of tragedy yet she continues to stay focused on Christ.

She drove until the age of 97, continues to do crafts for a hobby, and she attended her first Philadelphia Phillies game in the summer of 2005, where she met her favorite player, Jimmy Rollins. She has also been involved in a study of aging and why some people do live longer than others. She hopes to be able to attend her great-great grandson Brad’s wedding in July.

When asked about life during her childhood, she responded, “I eat what I want, drink Coca-Cola, and most of all love my Lord - He is my Lord and Savior and I love Him with all my heart."

Music was a great part of her life. She often sings old hymns. Her favorite is “In the Garden.” In Wesleyan style, she sings with a great and clear voice.

When asked how she has lived so long her response is “I eat what I want, drink Coca-Cola, and most of all love my Lord - He is my Lord and Savior and I love Him with all my heart.”

Chapman Quarrries and Bushkill UM Churches Youth found guilty of compassion

If caring for the needs of the hungry is a crime, then nine teenagers are definitely guilty.

Members of the Bushkill/Chapman Quarrries United Methodist Youth Group were locked in a jail cell in Town Hall of Chapman Borough on December 5, 2005. The youth raised their “bail” before being put in the “lock-up.” "Bail" consisted of all the fixings needed to make a complete Christmas meal. After their “arrest” and incarceration, each youth was allowed to make one phone call to the person responsible for supplying their bail.

The youth Group members collected 88 meals, which were distributed through Northampton County Children and Youth Services. Each family received a 12-13 lb. turkey, 5 lb. of potatoes, stuffing, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, cookies, hot chocolate and a roasting pan.

The “lock-up” was coordinated by the Rev. Kenneth A. Klingborg and youth group leader Judy Remaly.

Youth Group members who participated were: Gabrielle Correll, Kimberley Klingborg, Jacqulyn Smith, Kristen Hodulik, Meghan Rau and Alyssa Rau.

Youth in Action

Gabrielle Correll
Kimberley Klingborg
Jacqulyn Smith
Kristen Hodulik
Meghan Rau
Alyssa Rau

"Living Connected as God’s People—Celebrating the Connection"

Workshops at Annual Conference 2006

The following represents the 2006 Workshops for Annual Conference. Every year proven to be more exciting than the last.

1. The United Methodist Connection and You – Chuck Yogevce
2. Helping Movers and Shakers Move and Shake – Val Hastings
3. Deacons, Transforming Ministry Through Service – Doris Dalton, Sharon Ruby, David Brown, Laurie Ann Rookard and Denna Jones
4. I am a Christ Servant Minister – Now What? – George Hollich
5. This Holy Mystery – A Discussion of our official statement on Communion – Ken Rowe, John McElhanney 
6. Church DNA – Part 2 – Know Your Church Culture – Al Maloney
7. Clergy and Church Board Coaching – Dorothy Watson Tatem, Director Urban Ministries, Rene Perez, Director of Church Multiplication and Val Hastings, Jr. Pastor and Founder of Coaching 4 Clergy
8. Developing Spiritual Leadership and Ministry Teams - Misty Fuller
9. Writing Successful Grants and Proposals – Lesesa Thompson
10. So You Have a New Pastor – Who Broke the Old One? – Brenda Tildon
11. Faith, Science and Intelligent Design – Christopher L. Frueh
12. Understanding AIDS and the Response of our Churches – Deuna Connor, Deborah Tankles-Brown and Susan Worrell
13. How Your Church can come alive in Missions – Melinda L. McKeeny, Richard Howarth
15. So You’ve Taken HWOR, Now What? – Hilda Campbell, Director of Human Relations and Leadership, Meet Shane. William Gary George

Look for your registration forms in the Conference Booklet, and please note, you must attend the workshop that you register for. This assures that everyone has a seat and a meal. If you have questions, contact the Leadership Resource Team at info@epaumc.org

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, 17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA
June 22–25, 2006

MARCH 2006

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 Classifieds

BENEFITS MANAGER - reports directly to the Board of Pension and Health Benefits for direction from the Conference Treasurer. Responsibilities include overseeing pension and health benefit programs and acting as executive director of the Board. Representing the Board between meetings. Duties include review and analysis of benefit programs, working with consultants, responding to questions from plan participants and churches, training Conference staff and plan participants; opportunity for growth and success. For full description, call 1-800-828-5695. Bachelor’s degree in business, Human Resource Management or related discipline and five years experience in a related position or equivalent combination. Bilingual English/Spanish as is professional certification (PHR, SPHR, CBP, CCS, etc.). Frequent travel required. Salary based upon experience and background. Application deadline March 4, 2006 or until position is filled. Send letter of intent, resume and salary history to the Personnel Committee, K. PA Conference, The United Methodist Church, Board of Pension and Health Benefits, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

"THE ELDERTONES", A MALE QUARTETTE OF RETIRED UNITED METHODISTS FROM CORNWELL MANOR, is available for special music Sunday morning, within a reasonable distance. We can also provide a full evening program. Selections include contemporary, fun, understanding, and loving, then the HOPEFULS of Hope UMC want you! For full job description or to apply contact the church office at (610) 446-5313.

YOUTH MINISTER – Hope UMC in Havertown is seeking a part-time Youth Minister to lead youth in grades K-6. Only 2-3 hours per week to start; position has potential for growth. You must be: Happy, Optimistic, Enthusiastic, Fun, Understanding, and Loving, then the HOPEFULS of Hope UMC want you! For full job description or to apply contact the church office at (610) 446-5313.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES – Hope’s Website: http://www.hopechurchhavertown.org/ for more information.

www.epaumc.org
Conference staff Jim Wilkin, Dorothy Watson-Tatem and Royal Pinder, a member of Tindley Temple UMC, see photo, were among the 200 persons attending United Methodist Night at the Sixers. Bishop and Mrs. Matthews, members of the cabinet, conference staff, clergy, and lay persons cheered and rooted for the Sixers as they played a close game against the Memphis Grizzlies on January 20.

Bishop Marcus Matthews greeted “The Ambassador of 76ers Basketball,” World B. Free, at United Methodist Night at the Sixers. Although retired from being a player, he travels to schools, recreation centers and playgrounds in the tri-state area teaching the fundamentals of basketball and life. The prolific scorer from Brooklyn spent four years with the 76ers (1975-78, 1987), and poured in 17,955 points over his illustrious 13-year career, which ranks 49th all-time in NBA history.

An extraordinary opportunity open to members of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, their families and friends:

7 Day Alaska Scenic Cruise aboard Holland America’s ms Oosterdam departing Seattle, WA on May 20, 2006. Cost per person ranges from $1408.00 for an inside cabin to $2738.00 for a luxury suite; plus $220.00 in port taxes and $45.00 in government taxes. Early registration is advised - space is limited. For brochure, call the EPA Conference Office at 1-800-828-9093.

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