

What's Inside

**Bishop's Lenten
Day Appart**
Page 3

**World Methodist
Conference
in South
Korea**
Page 5

**New Workshops
for Annual
Conference**
June 22-
23, 2006
Page 11

INDEX

CALENDAR 2
THE NATION 4
THE WORLD 5
CLASSIFIEDS 11

Never too young to make a difference

It's been just over two years since Crossroads, a new United Methodist congregation, first opened their doors for public wor-

ship. Yet one of the biggest discoveries the fledgling congregation has made is that age and size have nothing to do with

helping people rebuild their lives. Referring to mission work the Rev. Tom Hall, Crossroads' pastor, said,

"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 met them 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"

continues on page 6



The VIM team from Crossroads UMC worked with family members to rebuild a house destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Back row- George Parks (son of the homeowners who quit his teaching position in another state to come help his parents rebuild), Vic Dodd, Glenn Wadel, Tom Hall, Jon Corle, Mike MacTurk. Front row - Mary (sister of homeowner), Deborah Parks, Terry Lazor.

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. "What a great opportunity we have to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are poised to move out into the neighborhood and welcome and invite all to St. George's," said Rev. Day.

Currently, the church has about 75 members, and 30 in worship each Sunday. More than 5,000 visitors come each year to see the historic church and its collection of artifacts which include a



Scaffolding stretches from floor to ceiling in "Old" St. George's UMC while painting and renovations are underway.

continues on page 8

Todd appointed to Southwest District

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,

continues on page 6

Conference Calendar

MARCH 2 - APRIL 20

"A Journey through Your Life: A Lenten Pilgrimage." See page 10

MARCH 5

Addressing the Community for Ministry, workshop led by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Maloney. Although we think we understand the change that is happening in our church, the most stressful change can be happening right outside our four walls. Change that we cannot control needs to be understood and used to strengthen the role of the church in the community, always looking toward making disciples for Christ and His church. We begin by analyzing and assessing our church and community for ministry. Dr. Maloney, superintendent for the East District, has extensive experience in working with urban, suburban, and rural churches and their communities. Workshop will take place on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at 2:00pm in Whittle Hall at Johnson Memorial UMC, 3117 Longshore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19149. For more information, please contact Rev. Rick Andrews at 215-338-4487 or by e-mail at johnsonchurch@juno.com.

MARCH 13

2006 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice - will be held in Washington, DC on March 10-13. This year's theme is "Challenging Disparity: The Promise of God - The Power of Solidarity." Last year close to 900 people of faith joined together to advocate for a world that better reflects our Christian faith and values. It was this spirit of solidarity in faith that guided the sponsors and the planning team of the 2006 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice as they prepared for 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 cannot attend an entire weekend, you are encouraged to participate in the Lobby Day on Monday, March 13. Visit our webpage

www.advocacydays.org for information, registration, and updates. For more information on Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Church and Society Work Team participation, contact Peggy Wood at peggy.wood1@verizon.net.

MARCH 14

Dr. David Stoop to Lecture at Evangelical School of Theology Clinical psychologist David Stoop will present the Duane Moyer Lecture on Pastoral Care and Healing at Evangelical School of Theology Tuesday, March 14. Dr. Stoop will speak on "What Makes a Christian Marriage Christian?" at 9:30 a.m. and on "Seeking God Together" at 11:00 a.m. Both sessions will be held in Dech Chapel of Christ Hall on the seminary's Myerstown campus. Founder and director of The Center for Family Therapy in Newport Beach, California, Stoop is an adjunct professor at Fuller Seminary and co-host of the national New Life radio program. He received his Masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. He is a Gold Medallion winning author of over 25 books, including *Forgiving Our Parents*, *The Complete Parenting Book*, *When Couples Pray Together*, and *Forgiving the Unforgivable*. He and his wife Jan have three sons and five

grandchildren. Together they lead seminars and retreats focusing on marital relationships, parenting, fathering, and forgiveness. The public is invited, and continuing education units are also available for pastors. For more information, call 800-532-5775 or check the website at evangelical.edu.

MARCH 17-19

SPRING CHILDREN'S RETREAT at Pocono Plateau for Grades 3-6 on March 17-19, 2006. Program Directors Jessi & Patti Klotz will lead children to discover why we should build our house 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 Sunday, March 19 at 2pm. Join us for crafts, games, singing, make-your-own fun snacks and more! Cost is \$75.00/person. Registration form is on our website at: www.poconoplateau.org or register by phone by calling the camp office at 570-676-3665.

MARCH 24 & 26

Stewardship in Today's World Workshop presented by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Eastern PA-Peninsula UM Foundation, featuring the Rev. David S. Bell, Director of Stewardship, Center for Christian Stewardship, The United Methodist Church

Two Dates Available:

Friday, March 24, 2006

4:30 appetizers, 5:30 dinner
Shady Maple, East Earl
Full Buffet - included in fee \$25

Sunday, March 26, 2006

1:30 refreshments, 2:00 start
Tindley Temple, Philadelphia
Light refreshments, included \$10
Book: Creative Giving: Understanding Planned Giving and Endowments in the Church Included in fee)
Registration: information to follow - save the date now! For more information, contact Ms. Stacy Martin, executive director; 1-800-828-9093, ext. 247 or stacy.martin@epaumc.org.

MARCH 25

Christ Servant Ministries Training in Visitation and Nurturing
Sat., March 25, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. at Elam UMC. See page 10.

MARCH 25

War, Peace and the Social Principles The Church and Society Work Team is sponsoring a forum on Saturday, March 25, 2006 entitled "War, Peace and the Social Principles". See page 10

MARCH 26

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. See page 9

MARCH - APRIL 2

51st Annual United Methodist Men Convocation. See page 9.

APRIL 1

A Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training Session. For more information, see page 10.

APRIL 1

A Day Apart for the Diaconate of the EPAUMC - "Our Mission in the Church and in the World" With Rev. Dr. Ben Hartley, Professor of Mission Studies at Palmer Theological Seminary and Ordained Deacon in Full Connection in the Western Michigan Conference. All Deacons, Diaconal Ministers and Deacon Candidates are encouraged to attend. To be held 8:45

am to 2:30 pm at Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131. Fee \$25 including lunch. For registration contact Susan Worrell: 610-436-9298 or jsworrell@aol.com. Register by March 22.

APRIL 6

"Form and Freedom: Worship in the Wesleyan tradition" is the theme for the 2006 Wesley Colloquium to be held at Evangelical School of Theology, Myerstown, 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 9:00-3:15 and includes four presentations by Wainwright and Tucker. Registration costs \$20; lunch is available for \$6; and CEU's are also available for an additional fee. Call 800-532-5775 or check the website at www.evangelical.edu to register.

APRIL 8

Disaster Response Training
see ad on page 10

APRIL 25

Sabbath Retreat: Recreation for the Soul. Leader: Susan Cole, D.Min., Spiritual Director and UM Clergy. See page 10.

APRIL 28 - 30

United Methodist Marriage Encounter in YORK— "Rediscover the one you love on a Marriage 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 Risinger 224 Main Ave., Warren, Pa 16365 ; (814) 723-1296 or Bernell & Jola Shoff (717) 244-4848; 936 Old Commons Rd, Windsor Pa 17366 or on line at www.encounter.org. Also September 29 - Oct. 1, 2006 in Pittsburgh Area.

MAY 4-7

United Methodist Women's Assembly - More than 8,000 women will gather at United Methodist Women's Assembly on May 4-7, 2006, at the Anaheim, Calif., Convention Center. Part of a one-million member organization, the women are bonded by common concerns - the issues and struggles of women, children and youth. Held once every four years, the event this year will follow the theme of "Rise, Shine, Glorify God!" To register, go online at <http://www.umwassembly.org> More information on page 4

MAY 12, 2006

Innabah Golf Outing
Save the date! More information will be forthcoming.

JUNE 17

United Methodist Day at Hershey Park - a day filled with performances of live Christian music, fun, food, and fellowship. For more information, contact Mr. Jim Wilkin, director of camping and nurture ministries, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225. More on page 7.

JULY 12

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries 28th Annual National Conference and Youth Conference on Spirit-filled living in the Wesleyan tradition - July 12th, 2006 to July 16th, 2006 at the

Springfield, Illinois 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. Be a part of this powerful summer experience by joining with hundreds of other youth from across the nation who are making the commitment to be filled, gifted, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit to impact their world for Christ. Beth Helton along with a gifted leadership team that includes David Burke (Peninsula-Delaware Conference), Steve Miller, Stan Cosby and Karen Clark, will make this an event you can't afford to miss. Youth ministry during the Pre-Conference will be led by Nic Billman (youth pastor at Tabor UMC in Woxall in Eastern PA). For more information on "Go Deeper" the Aldersgate 2006 Youth Conference, or on Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, go to www.aldersgaterenewal.org or email Nic Billman at thebillmancrew@yahoo.com

JULY 15

Battle of the Bands Coventryville United Methodist Church is pleased to announce its first battle of the bands concert set for July 15, 2006, in Pottstown. This outdoor event, starting at noon, will feature bands playing in half hour to forty-five minute sets. We are soliciting demo tapes from any interested Praise or Christian rock bands that would like to participate. Please forward all questions, demos and your information to Warren Hampton, Lay Leader, 1157 Ridge Road, Pottstown Pa 19465. (610) 469-0555; email: handmc@aol.com.

JULY 29

7:05 p.m. **United Methodist Day at the Phillies:** Phillies vs. Florida Marlins. For more information, contact Mr. Jim Wilkin, director of camping and nurture ministries, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225.

AUGUST 11-13

The 23rd Academy for Laity 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 vcolliver@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCT. 1

United Methodist Marriage Encounter in Pittsburgh Area— "Rediscover the one you love on a Marriage 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 Risinger 224 Main Ave., Warren, Pa 16365 ; (814) 723-1296 or Bernell & Jola Shoff (717) 244-4848; 936 Old Commons Rd, Windsor Pa 17366 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. HiRho 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 clergywomen in full connection are not on their own in a local church; that not only are clergywomen marginalized by gender, but even more by racial and ethnic status. God calls us to level the field and bring *shalom* 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.

We 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 minister to Jesus. Bishop Matthews challenged us to do the same, so that all will know we are



The Rev. HiRho Park, speaker, Director of Formation for Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Philadelphia Area.

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.

*Sherrin Marshall is executive director of conference resourcing and connective ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Appointments

Full time appointments:

District and Conference Staff appointments

James B. Todd - From Solebury UMC to Southwest District Superintendent

Central District

Robert Hoffman - From Southwest District Superintendent to Cedarville UMC

Maxime Jaouen - From Birdsboro: Focht Memorial UMC to Lansdale: First UMC

Gerard McGrath - From Prospect UMC to Lincoln Park: Community UMC

East District

Felicia Kumar - From Jarretstown UMC (Associate) to Willow Grove UMC

Northeast District

Michael Netznik - From Springtown: Salem UMC to Jim Thorpe/Nesquehoning UMCs

Southeast District

Christopher Schiavino - From Cherry Lane UMC to Grove UMC (Associate)

Southwest District

Ryan Khan - From Pen Argyl: Grace UMC (Associate) to Brunnerville UMC

Richard Wilcock - From Shamokin: St. John's UMC to Conestoga UMC

Steven Taylor - From Millersville: First UMC to Mt. Joy: Chiques UMC

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, assistant to V.P. for University Relations; 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 a son, Marlin 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; Landenberg; West Grove; Phila.: St. Philip's; Linwood Heights; Pen Argyl: Grace; Phila.: Fox chase; Cornwells Heights. He retired in 1979, and died in 1993.

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 19063-5967 and Peggi A. Billman, 7982 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton

TN 37080. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to the Chester Heights Campmeeting Association, Chester 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 Frankford Hospital Vitas Hospice in Philadelphia. He was 77 years old. Dr. Longenecker served in the following appointments: Rocherty; Fontana; Myerstown: Zion; Annville; Allentown District Superintendent; Phila.: St. James; Phila.: Holmesburg. He retired in 1994. He graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a B.A. in 1951, from United Theological Seminary with a M. Div. in 1954, 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: Fred Eugene, Timothy Robert, and Victoria Elaine; a fourth child, Steven David, died in 1966. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Longenecker at Apt. 410, Pilgrim Gardens, 7025 Rising Sun Ave., Phila. PA 19111. The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to First UMC of Germantown to purchase a new pulpit for the sanctuary.

MR. GEORGE MERRILL DOLL, JR., former pastor in the EPA Conference, who died on January 29, 2006. He resided in Honey Brook, PA. Mr. Doll served the following appointments: Cherry Valley; Hellertown Springtown; Gordon Simpson; Avon Zion; Chapman Quarries; and Willow Street Boehms. He went on leave of absence in 1990 and on Administrative Location in 1992. He is survived by a daughter, Terry, wife of David Eames, and a son, George M. Doll, III. Condolences may be sent to at family at the Labs Funeral Home address: 141 Pequea Ave., Honey Brook PA 19344

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

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

Bishop Marcus Matthews Philadelphia Area Bishop
Suzy Keenan Director of Communications
Ileana Rivera Graphic Design and Layout

Annual subscription \$12
 Please submit articles for publication by the 10th of the month to:
The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church,
P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820
 or via e-mail to communications@epaumc.org

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

In The Nation

United Methodist hurricane relief exceeds \$62 million

By Elliott 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 Fernandes, treasurer of the Board of Global Ministries, the denominational agency of which UMCOR is a part.

UMCOR had received \$62.37 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 the Rev. Paul Dirdak, the executive in charge of UMCOR for the mission board. "Meanwhile, UMCOR has responded 100 percent to the emer-



The Rev. Paul Dirdak

gency relief and rehabilitation start-up requests made by the annual conferences, with over \$6 million expended to date. Our rehabilitation efforts will likely cover a four-year period."

David Sadoo, international field staff for UMCOR, said the work in Mexico and Central America is an important part of the church's hurricane response. "We are assisting there with both relief and long-term rehabilitation."

The Rev. R. Randy Day, top staff executive of the Board of Global Ministries, expressed appreciation to United Methodists and their friends for the outpouring of support for

people and communities affected by the hurricanes.

"United Methodists are such caring and generous people," he said. "How thankful we are that we can provide major assistance to the storm-ravaged areas."

The Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama-West Florida and Texas conferences were the most severely affected by hurricanes striking the United States in 2005. The first two were the hardest hit by Katrina, which made landfall Aug. 29. The Texas Annual Conference received



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 largest number of displaced people from New Orleans, followed by a major hit from Hurricane Rita in September.

Dirdak said the cash contributions are only one measure of the enormous United Methodist response to the hurricane disasters. In addition, tons of supplies have been sent to UMCOR's Sager Brown materials depot in Baldwin, La., for distribution in the disaster zone. Thousands of church members are helping with cleanup and rebuilding as volunteers in mission.

"The compassion of the United Methodist people for those in crisis appears to be unlimited," Dirdak said. "It is a compassion rooted in thanksgiving 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

Hurricane Rita, and some came in response to 2005 storms prior to Katrina.

Money reaches UMCOR in a variety of ways: telephone and Internet gifts, checks sent directly to the agency, and contributions made through local congregations and channeled by annual conferences to the church's General Council on Finance and Administration. The council serves as treasurer for relief and other designated giving through what is called the Advance for Christ and His Church.

Conferences have until late January each year to make their submissions to the finance agency.

*Wright is the public information officer of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Diversity marks 2006 United Methodist Women's Assembly

By Linda Bloom*

A Bolivian organizer, Tongan women's choir, 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 Anaheim, Calif. 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 educate themselves, "discern the future" and have fun. Love told United Methodist News Service that this year's theme "promotes the long-standing commitment of United Methodist Women to the unity of mission and evangelism across the country and the world. It will be infused into the life of the

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 drums will accompany Kyung Za Yim, the Women's Division president, in 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 interpreta-

tions - 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 7820 Reading Road, Caller 1800, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800. The registration deadline is March 20.

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



Award-winning Actress Anna Devere Smith. Image by: Courtesy of Anna Devere Smith. Source: Responde

In The World

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 100 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 Toyhacao, 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 2,400-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 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write “UMCOR Advance #240235,



Philippines Emergency” on the memo line. Online donations can be made by going to <http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/donate/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 newsdesk@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 specifically brings together people from all of the world’s Wesleyan traditions. The theme will be “God in Christ Reconciling.”

“This theme will be the focus of our time together each day,” Freeman said. “We look forward to the gathering of believers in the Methodist/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. The gathering will open with 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 Uniting 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 messages 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.

“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 cross. 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 movement, meets every five years. The last gathering was held in Brighton, England, in July 2001.

Information on the conference is available by contacting the World Methodist Council, P.O. Box 518, Lake Junaluska, N.C. 28745, or going to www.worldmethodistcouncil.org.



The Kwang Lim Trinity Choir of Korea performs a traditional Korean dance during closing ceremonies at the 18th World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England, 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.

Travel details are available by calling Travelink at (800) 227-5680 or (828) 252-8484 or going online to www.travelinkonline.com.

*The World Methodist Council provided information for this report.

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.umcsgiving.org or contact InfoServ online at www.UMC.org (click on “Questions”

continued from page 1

Never too young to make a difference



Members of the VIM team from Crossroads UMC, Denita Connor (left) and Patty Dodd, work on the inside of a Biloxi home destroyed by the hurricane in September.

Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Team grabbed dust masks, hammers, and ferried drywall sheets from trucks to living rooms and began to rebuild two houses that were ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

On this particular trip over eighty United Methodist workers from all over the U.S. had converged on Biloxi—each wanting to do what they could to rebuild Biloxi's families. Workers laid their sleeping bags wherever they could—in hallways, on pews, in the choir loft, and even in front of the altar. "We all came with our own food menus," said one of the Crossroads cooks. "Each group had planned to feed their own groups," the cook explained, "but it wasn't long before we pooled our resources; this was one of the best-fed groups of workers that has ever been on a mission trip."

"It felt good to get up and do something that really impacted people's lives," one of the Crossroads team members remarked. "Showering at the end of the week may have changed

us back from drywallers into soccer parents, employees, and fast-paced easterners," Hall remarked on the plane headed back to Philly, "but the biggest change happened when we realized that mission is a matter of the heart, not the size or age of the church."

"We had never had a Volunteers in Mission team before," said Hall. "Ben Botti was wonderful in walking us through the steps to train our team and prepare for the trip." Botti serves as VIM coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Botti remarked, "The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is showing a remarkable outpouring of caring for our brothers and sisters whose lives were devastated by the hurricane. Sixty two teams have plans to go to the gulf area on VIM mission trips, and some are planning a second trip already."

A training will be held on April 1 for VIM teams from local churches. This training is good for preparing for domestic VIM trips, as well as for international trips. The training will be led by Greg Forrester, Northeastern Jurisdiction VIM Coordinator, at West Lawn UMC in Reading.

Crossroads UMC meets each Sunday at 9:30 am at the Ludwig's Inn and Oyster Bar, Routes 100 and 401, Chester Springs, PA. They're planning to return to Biloxi in October. For more information, go to:

www.crossroads4u.org.

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 1700's. In a trip back to Germany in 1752, 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 commit-

ted 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 camping programs. He led a trip camp for seven years in Maine, which included sea-kayaking, mountain biking, and hiking 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 to 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 said 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."

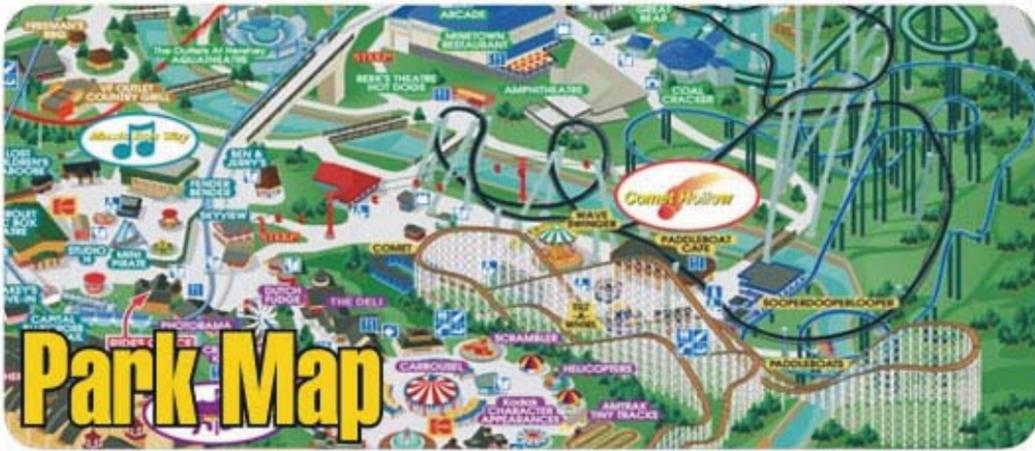
On the conference level, Todd has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Commission on Religion and Race, the Committee on Nominations, the Commission on Town and Country Ministries, and the Conference Youth Council.

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 dog, Hook, is an aging American Staffordshire Terrier.

In his vacation and free time, Todd enjoys camping, sailing, biking, 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



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.*

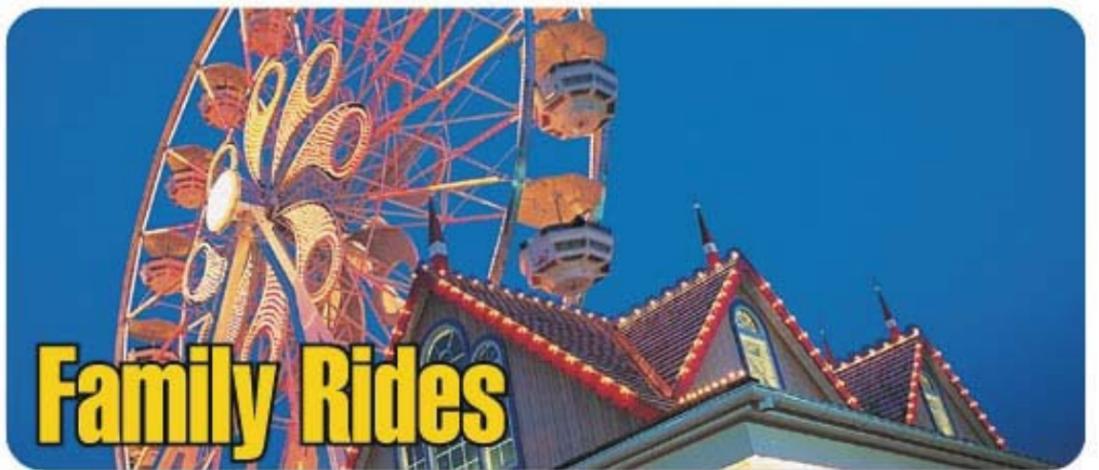
Share a day of fun and fellowship and an evening of Christian music and entertainment as we celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK on June 17. Bring your family, friends, youth group, Sunday School - or your whole church!

Discount tickets will soon be available.* If your purchase yours by May 1, you will receive 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

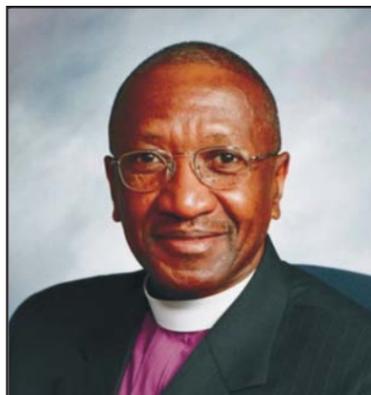


Living Connected as God's people: "Celebrating the connection"

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.

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.

Workshops
New information available on page 11

continued from page 1

Renewal for Old St. George's

chalice that John Wesley sent to St. George's in celebration of its becoming a congregation in 1785; Bishop Asbury's Bible used at services of ordination; a sword that belonged to Thomas Webb, founder of religious

colonial workmanship. They also say that the wear and tear on the building is especially stressful because of the close proximity – only 14 feet – to the Ben Franklin Bridge, which crosses the Delaware River.



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.

Confirmation 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 dorsal 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 the museum." The Trustees have also kept the original balcony floor boards, removed for safety reasons and are considering something special for them as well.

The workers noted that the ceiling plaster they patched was full of horse hair – an indication of state of the art

A spring time open house is planned to show the refurbishments to the churches of the conference and to introduce the church to the Old City community burgeoning with new residents.

The renovations will cost approximately \$200,000. Rev. Day acknowledges the church's gratitude for contributions from its small but dedicated membership and the 400 associate members from around the country. Much of the funds for the renovations will come from income from the church's \$3 million endowment fund.

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 and becoming a satellite Cokesbury Bookstore." Cokesbury 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.

Hours for visitation are Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and weekends by appointment. Tours are also available after the 11:00 am service

every Sunday. Persons who are interested in becoming part of a guide guild are encouraged to contact St. George's and attend training on Saturday, April 29.

Information requests and support for St. George's UMC may be sent to 235 N. 4th St., Philadelphia, PA 19105.



Concert celebrates life and work of Tindley



Presenters at the Tindley Celebration included (left to right) Rev. Randy Day, Bishop Violet Fisher, Ms. Anne Williams, Ms. Deborah Bass, Ms. Terrald Scott Mckie, Rev. Thomas Jackmon, Rev. Ralph Blanks, and Rev. William Gary George

Instead of sitting in front of the TV 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.

Tindley Temple United Methodist Church hosted the event, and its pastor, the Rev. Thomas Jackmon, welcomed everyone to the concert. Miss Hattie Hamilton, who knew Dr. 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." Also representing the General Board was its general secretary, the Rev. R. Randy Day. "Tindley Temple stands as a beacon for the entire denomination," said Day, "and as a tribute to Tindley whose hymns expose the great truths of the Gospel."

Performers included soloist Carolyn Disnew, singing "I'll overcome some day," accompanied by Seth Okrend on the guitar. The choral ensemble from Vandever Park UMC sang both "Stand by me" and "A better day is coming." Dr. Verolga Nix directed the Intermezzo Choir Ministry, singing "Nothing between," "By and by," and "Leave it there." "Beams of Heaven" was performed by Ms. Bessie Williams, accompanied by Theodore Thomas, Jr.,

organist of Tindley Temple. Thomas also performed a solo medley of Tindley hymns on the church's 6,000-pipe organ.

Ms. Doris Mack, former president of the Charles A. Tindley Institute, shared plans for a library to preserve Tindley artifacts and his works, and a building for educational and musical opportunities adjacent to the church, which is located on Philadelphia's famous Avenue of the Arts.

The Rev. Dr. S.T. Kimbrough, Jr., associate general secretary for Mission Evangelism of the General Board, made presentations to Tindley Temple and the Rev. Dr. Randolph Nugent. Kimbrough and Ms. Robin Wilson performed a Tindley Suite of Hymns, which was dedicated to Dr. Nugent.

Reflections and readings of Tindley's poetry were presented by Ms. Deborah Bass and Ms. Jerrald Scott McKie, both from the General Board, and the Rev. Dr. Gary George, pastor of Grace UMC in Philadelphia.

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.



The choral ensemble from Vandever Park UMC. Photo by Herbert R. Bell

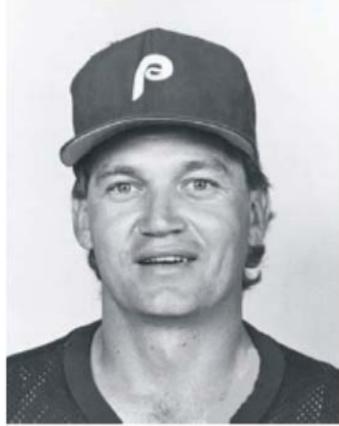


Resources

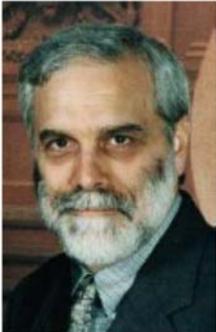


51st annual
United Methodist Men Convocation
March 31, April 1-2, 2006

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:
<http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1252>

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.



So, You've Answered The Call?? Now What??

by Rev. Andrew L. Foster, III, M. Div.

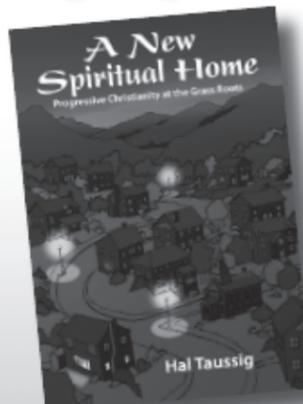
The Rev. Andrew L. Foster, III, M. Div.
 Is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

What steps are necessary to ensure a healthy balance between family and ministry? What are the steps to be fully present with your family and fully present in the service of God?

You can find answers to these questions and more by supporting a fellow colleague in ministry. In honor of Black History month and in support of clergy and laity everywhere, The Rev. Andrew L. Foster, III., author and Senior Pastor of Grace Community UMC in Chester, PA believes this book is a "Must Have" for clergy and laity alike. It is available online at www.trafford.com/05-2257 or by calling Rev. Foster at 610-876-6347 directly. 25% of all proceeds are sown back into the ministry of Grace Community UMC. The cost of the book is \$15.00.

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 undercuts 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 para-churches 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
 2006 ISBN 0-944344-71-2

POLEBRIDGE PRESS

To order call toll free 877-523-3545 or visit www.polebridgepress.com

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING MARCH 26, 2006

“You are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4b,NRSV
 Go to: http://www.umcgiving.org/content/sundays/OGHS_nav/OGHS%20worship.htm
 to print the Sunday Program Insert.



Conference Briefs

Lenten Devotional

Rev. Doug Ridley, pastor of Grace UMC, Cambridge, MD, has put together a Lenten Devotional book, entitled "The Measure 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 scriptures to read, some thoughts and a prayer, all centered on the premise that "Jesus Christ is the measure of all things." The daily devotions in the book begin the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, (February 26, celebrated in the liturgical calendar of the Christian Church as Transfiguration of the Lord) and go through Easter Sunday. Some

copies of the Devotional will be available at the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conference Offices. If you want to order one from Doug, send him \$1.00 to cover mailing costs (not handling) at 501 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613. He says, "I hope those who use it will find it enjoyable, inspiring, and thought-provoking. After Easter, I would love to get feedback about the book and about your experience of using it through the season of Lent." Doug Ridley has been a pastor in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference since May, 1969, and has been seriously writing poetry on and off since 1989.

Disaster Response Training

Disaster Response Training will be held Saturday, April 8 at Camp Innabah, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Tom Hazlewood, domestic disaster response coordinator for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), will lead this basic training, offered for the first time in the EPA Conference. Anyone interested in disaster response is invited to attend. The training will be helpful for those interested in disaster response in our region or around the world. Registration fee is \$12, and includes lunch and a snack in the morning.

Registration deadline: April 3. Limited to a maximum of 100 registrants. To register, please mail your name, address, email address, and phone number along with check for \$12 made payable to EPA Conference to: Evangeline Johnson, Events Coordinator, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820; evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org; 1-800-828-9093, ext. 215. Camp Innabah is located at 712 Pughtown Rd, Spring City, PA 19475; phone: 610-469-6111. For directions, go to: www.innabah.org.

Christ Servant Ministries Training in Visitation and Nurturing

This advanced training course in *Visitation and Nurturing*, led by Karyn Fisher, is designed to provide lay pastoral caregivers with the basic knowledge and skills needed to care for others in a uniquely Christian way. The course combines skill building in active listening with practical approaches for 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 provide 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

practice skills, share experiences, and, hopefully, gain new insights into the role of caring. These sessions are approved for CSM training. Karyn Fisher is a Licensed Professional Counselor and National Certified Counselor. She received her training at Columbia University where she earned M.A., M.Ed., and M.Phil. degrees in psychology. Karyn has been a Christ Servant Minister for several years, and is a certified candidate for ministry in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Send name, address, phone, email, church and district along with a check for \$28 (made payable to Elam UMC) to Randy Schaffer, Elam UMC, 1073 Smithbridge Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342; 610-459-2911 - www.elamumc.org. We must receive registration by March 5, 2006.

Sabbath Retreat: Recreation for the Soul

Tuesday, April 25th, 2006, 9:30am - 3:30pm at Pocono Plateau Program Center, Cresco, PA. Cost: \$25, check payable to EPAUMC. This workshop fulfills the requirement for .5 CEU in Advanced Sexual Ethics.

"The LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it." Exodus 20:11b
The Sabbath is holy time, set apart for rest, renewal, and re-creation.

Yet pastors are busiest on Sundays. Overwork threatens the soul.
This Sabbath retreat day offers: Time to listen for God's voice in music and poetry,

Volunteers in Mission Training

A Volunteers in Mission Team Leader training session has been scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at West Lawn UMC (Reading area). This will be a full session focused on traditional VIM teams, both national and international. The training sessions conducted in the Fall of 2005 in the Eastern PA Conference were abbreviated sessions geared specifically toward Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. The training will be led by Greg Forrester, NE Jurisdiction VIM Coordinator.

The cost of the training will be \$35 for the first member of each church and

will include a copy of the new VIM Training Manual for Mission Volunteers and lunch. The cost for the second person and above from each church or those who already have copies of the manual will be \$10 each.

Please make your reservations by March 27 and mail checks payable to "EPA - VIM" to Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960. Reservations may be made via email to bbotti@entermail.net. West Lawn UMC is located at 15 Woodside Avenue, Reading, PA 19609.

Summer Vocational Intern Program

The 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 exposed to hands-on experiences of Christian ministry, while earning \$3,000 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 a VIP is split between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the local church.

This program may be for you if you are:

"A Journey through Your Life: A Lenten Pilgrimage."

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." Take the opportunity to reflect on your life and the memories it holds, to open yourself to gratitude, compassion, and healing.

This is safe space to share our stories and listen for the compassionate presence of God, in companionship with others on the same journey. With *Behold Your Life: A Pilgrimage Through Your Memories* by Macrina Wiederkehr as a resource, journey through the 40 days of Lent and prepare to greet Easter and the future with new freedom. Rev. Susan Cole, D.Min. leads both an evening and a morning group. She is a United Methodist pastor and Spiritual Director, with a spiritual direction practice, "Oasis of the Spirit," in Chestnut Hill. When: Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm (March 2nd-April 20th) or . . . Tuesday mornings 10:30am-12:30pm (March 7th-April 18th) Where: Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, 8814 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia. Cost: \$150. To register, and for more information, contact Rev. Cole at susancole7@verizon.net or 215-242-0611x2.

War, Peace 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 Mojzes, Professor of Religious Studies at Rosemont College, President of Christians Associated for Relationships with Eastern Europe, and an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church will be the guest speaker. Dr. Mojzes will explore the challenges posed by 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 peaceable solutions?

Dr. Mojzes has extensive experience in this area. He was asked by the late Pres. Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia (also a Methodist lay preacher) to facilitate inter-religious dialogues for peace. Dr. Mojzes has participated in international Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogues.

West Chester UMC located at 129 S. High Street, West Chester, PA (610-692-5190) is the venue for this program. It begins at 10:00 a.m., with a continental breakfast being served at 9:30. Directions are available at www.gbgm-umc.org/epacs on the Upcoming Events page. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Wood at (610) 524-5935. Childcare will be provided.

—a college-age or second career person who is considering a vocation in professional ministry and would like to spend the summer being paid for rewarding service;

—a pastor who would like to provide guidance and mentoring for someone who is exploring ministry, and at the same time receive assistance with pastoral duties;

—a leader in a local church who would like a staff person to work under your supervision with summer, children's, youth, or new ministries with minimal expense.

If you would like to participate in this valuable program, contact Rev. Sukja Bang, Calvary United Methodist Church, 16E. Park Ave. Ambler, PA 19002; 215-646-8145 or 215-646-4533; sbang@verizon.net. for more information or an application. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 1.

Healing the Wounds of Racism Workshop Schedule

**Introductory Level 1
Year 2006
Registration fee: \$200**

March 13-15

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) at Blackrock Retreat Center, Quarryville, PA

May 14-16

(Sunday, Monday, Tuesday) at Camp Innabah Program Center, Spring City, PA

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 Greta Glen Camp and Retreat Center, Lebanon, PA

*Additional Workshops
may be scheduled as
needed.*

For a copy of the brochure and registration form, go to: <http://www.epaumc.org/pdf/2006brochure.pdf>

Or call

1.800.828.9093

For registration questions, please call Evangeline Johnson at ext. 215.

For direct inquiries, please call Hilda 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 Danielsville, 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 strong 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 will tell you about the lack of paved roads, and how church was the center of family life. Music was a great part of her growing up years; she and her brother sang on a radio program. Tootie's family, which included her mother, father, and brother, would sing around the piano after dinner, often singing 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 Quarries 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 Quarries 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 12-18 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, Laura Cummins, Mary Cummins, Kristen Hodulik, Kimberly Klingborg, Kelly Kromer, Alyssa Rau, Meghan Rau and Jacquelyn Smith.



Youth in Jail: Gabrielle Correll, Kimberly Klingborg, Jacquelyn Smith, Kristen Hodulik, Meghan Rau and Alyssa Rau

Classifieds

BENEFITS MANAGER - reports directly to the Board of Pension and Health Benefits and takes work 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; and managing annual enrollment process. For full description, call 1-800-828-9093. Minimum requirements include Bachelor's degree in business, Human Resource Management or related discipline and five years experience in a related position or equivalent combination. Bilingual capabilities are a plus 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, E. 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 METHODIST MINISTERS FROM CORNWALL MANOR, is available for special music Sunday mornings, within a reasonable distance. We can also provide a full evening program. Further information call Tom Bare at 717-273-5049 or John O'Neill at 717-273-6951.

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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM LEADER - Opening for Children's Ministry Team Leader for infants through grade 5. Should enjoy sharing the joys of Jesus while you learn from the children. Average 10 hours per week. Duties include coordinating and overseeing Children's Church for the 10:30 service, child care for special services, Vacation Bible Adventure, and other children's ministry events within the church. A criminal background check is required. Please contact the office at Hope Church (610-385-7141) or contact Pastor DeWalt, kdewalt@dejazzd.com, for more information. Hope's Website: <http://www.hopechurchamity.org/>

"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 proves to be more exciting than the last.

1. **The United Methodist Connection and You** - Chuck Yrigoyen
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 Donna 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 McEllhenney & The Order of St. Luke
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 4Clergy.
8. **Developing Spiritual Leadership and Ministry Teams** - Misty Fuller
9. **Writing Successful Grants and Proposals** - Lenora Thompson
10. **So You Have a New Pastor - Who Broke the Old One?** - Brenda Tildon
11. **Faith, Science and Intelligent Design** - Christopher L. Fisher
12. **Understanding AIDS and the Response of our Churches** - Denita Connor, Deborah Tanksley-Brown and Susan Worrell
13. **How Your Church can come alive in Missions** - Melinda L. McKonly, Richard Howarth
14. **Pastoral Transition Workshop** - Jared Rardin, Samaritan Counseling Center and Sherrin Marshall, Office of Conference Resourcing, EPC
15. **So You've Taken HWOR, Now What?** - Hilda Campbell, Director of Human Relations and Leadership, Mert Shane, William Gary George

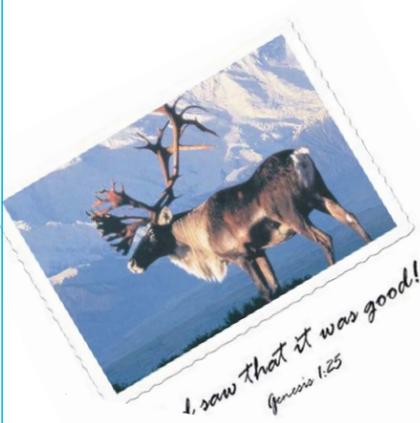
Look for your registration forms in the Conference Booklet, and please note, you must attend the workshop that you register for. This assures that everyone has a seat and a meal. If you have questions, contact the Leadership Resource Team at brendatildon@aol.com

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, 17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA

June 22-23, 2006



Alaskan Explorer Cruise with Bishop and Mrs. Matthews



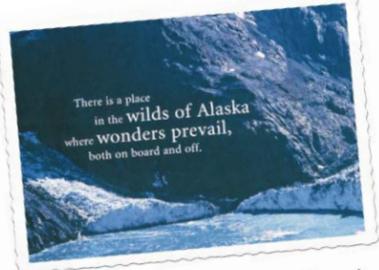
*I saw that it was good!
Genesis 1:25*



Greetings from Glacier Bay

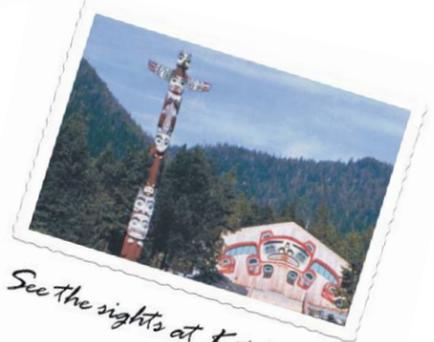


Come share God's creation with us!



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

*Find your spirit refreshed and
inspired by her grandeur!*



See the sights at Ketchikan!

An extraordinary opportunity open to members of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, their families and friends: **3-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.**

UM Night at the



Jim Wilkin, Dorothy Watson Tatem and Royal Pinder

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.

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 76ers. 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 76ers. Although retired from being



World B. Free and Bishop Marcus Matthews

Summer Camp 2006

**Beyond
the
Border**

**Carson Simpson Farm
Gretna Glen
Innabahi . Pocono Plateau**

*The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church*

**CALL US (TOLL FREE) 1-877-UMC-CAMP
or visit us at www.epaumc.org/camping**