Work of art to celebrate United Methodist Connection

by Suzy Keenan

A work of art, handcrafted in wood by Mrs. Ruth Groves, will bring to life the Annual Conference theme, “Living Connected as God’s People: Celebrating the Connection.” The Annual Conference will meet June 21 to 23 in Philadelphia for Holy Conferencing and worship.

Mrs. Groves is handcrafting the cross by joining figures of people that have been cut from over twenty kinds of wood, which show both our connectedness and our diversity. The finished work of art will be 4’ wide by 6’ high, and it will be hung over the altar at Annual Conference.

Hundreds of hours have gone into designing the figures, laying them out on a life-size pattern, selecting the wood for each figure, and then cutting each one out on a scroll saw. “When I started to create the figures, I thought we need to include everybody,” said Mrs. Groves. “There is a pregnant lady, an older man with a cane, a

Celebrating 50 years of full clergy rights for women

By Dawn Taylor-Storm

“...it seems to me if we give [women] the full rights of belonging to the conference, that we will be making it possible for many more women who have the ability and the training and all the qualifications, to respond to our need. Therefore, I believe that we should open the way.”

Bishop Marcus Matthews and his cabinet, along with other members of Philadelphia’s faith community, met with Mayor John Street at City Hall on April 5 to discuss a faith-based partnership in support of the mayor’s antiviolence initiative termed “Operation Safe Streets.”

More than 150 representatives from Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and Jewish faiths came to hear and discuss how the partnership could bring about positive and real change in Philadelphia communities that are experiencing violence.

Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson encouraged this new partnership, saying, “Law enforcement will never change the community; the faith community needs to come out to make the change.” He cited crime statistics stating that, as of April 5, there were 86 homicides in 2006 in the City of Philadelphia. Of those, 71 were African-Americans - mostly women.

He added, “It’s not about statistics; it’s about quality of life.”

Commissioner Johnson encourages police officers to be role models and give back to the community. “The strongest partner we can have in this city is the faith-based community,” Johnson said. He urged those around the table to work to tighten gun control legislation.

Johnson announced that six rallies would continue page 9
MAY 10
Feast of Feelings About Aging: Faith Needs of Older Adults
Cornwell Manor, Exeter Retirement Community will be hosting the senior ministry seminar “Feast of Feelings About Aging: Faith Needs of Older Adults” on Wednesday, May 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The seminar will be held in Cornwall Manor’s Freeman Auditorium. This session is designed for clergy, lay leaders, adult Sunday school teachers and anyone else who works with or is interested in, older adults. Attendees will learn about the myths and realities of aging, losses and gains associated with aging, the wisdom of aging, and the faith needs of older adults. An older adult panel will describe their experiences about how their needs changed as they aged and what they view their ages as, as older adults, see as their spiritual needs. Registration for this seminar is due by May 1. For more information, directions, or to receive a copy of the seminar brochure, please contact Kelly Saylor at 717-273-2642 or ksaylor@cornwellmanor.org. A registration fee of $10.00 may be paid at the door of the seminar.

MAY 11-13
“Jubilee Voices: An Inward Journey”
An Outward Call Conference
Columbia, SC
A conference for all United Methodist clergy sponsored by UMC-related Columbia College
Celebrating 50 years of full clergy rights for women To register & learn more: www.umc-columbia.edu/50
1.0 CRU: qualifies for Continuing Education funds
Affordable registration; accessible location by car & air; National church leaders, dynamic workshops, engaging speakers. MAY 12
Innahah Golf Tournament at Spring Hollow Golf Course
Join us at the Innahah Golf Tournament for our Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament. The tournament begins at 1:00 PM followed by dinner and awards ceremony. To request a brochure, please contact Debbie Hefflin at innahahdirector@aol.com or 610-468-6119. Innahah members and golfing buddies enjoy this event. Hope to see you there! Sign-up soon, space is limited.
Camp Innabah, 727 Pughtown Road Spring City, PA 19475, 1-877-UMC-CAMP ext. 303
MAY 12-13
Gretna Glen Camp’s Spring Fun & Work Weekend - All Ages
This weekend is a great opportunity for families, youth groups, individuals or any group of people to work together on service projects. Friday evening will be filled with games and a movie. Saturday will bring many opportunities to serve through various acts of kindness, landscaping, and other projects around camp. All meals are provided. Cost is by donation. Call the camp at 717-273-6525 or e-mail coordinator@gretnaglen.org for more information.

MAY 13
Coventry United Methodist Church is holding a Chili Cook-Off 
5-6 PM. Competition is open to anyone who would like to participate. Judging will be done by those who come to taste. Chili Entries are $10 per entry (Enter a Salas category $5). Fun prizes and bragging rights will be awarded. “Admission Fee” of $8 per person to taste and judge. Hot dogs and soda will also be available for purchase. For more information or to enter, please call 610-489-9300.

MAY 13
Welcome Training
See Page 9
MAY 13 & JUNE 3
Pancakes for Peru - Mission trip fundraiser
Tabor United Methodist Church, located in Womall, PA in the Perkinston Valley is sponsoring a missions trip to remote areas of Peru from July 14 to July 23, 2006. To help fund the mission, TUMC members are sponsoring 3 pancake breakfasts open to the public. The pancake breakfasts for Peru” breakfast dates are April 29th, May 13th, and June 3rd. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 am to 11:00 am in TUMC’s Weller Hall. The cost for pancakes will be $5.00 and $3.00 for 12 year olds. Children under age 5 are free. More information about the “Pancakes for Peru” events and Tabor UMC can be found at its web site, www.taborumc.org or by calling TUMC at 215-234-8552.

MAY 20
Camp Fest at Gretna Glen
Come join us for a day of awesome camp activities. Get a taste of the many activities campers will enjoy this summer. Bring your family to explore Gretna Glen Camp. Join us for a fun concert of patriotic music on a m.a. with Darlene Van Dyke, contemporary Christian recording artist. There will be something for everyone! Call the camp at 717-273-6525 or e-mail coordinator@gretnaglen.org, for more information.

MAY 21
Open House & Day of Prayer for Gretna Glen Camp
12:00 noon-6:00 p.m.
This will be an opportunity to explore Gretna Glen Camp and find out more about our summer camp program. Staff and volunteers will be available to take you on a tour of the camp and answer your questions. Enjoy roasting hot dogs and marshmallows on our campfire. Join us at 5:00 p.m. for a worship and prayer gathering in the Funk Center. It will be a time to lift up in prayer the camp, staff, volunteers and campers. Call the camp at 717-273-6525 or e-mail coordinator@gretnaglen.org, for more information.

JUNE 17
PANCREATIC CANCER at Fritz
Memorial United Methodist Church
303 Packer Ave [corner of Packer Ave & Montclair], Bethlehem, PA 18015
Telephone: 610-866-1515
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
JUNE 22
The Alternative to Militarism and War presentation
The EPA chapter of Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc. is sponsoring the second ReconneXion event to Justice event, The Alternative to Militarism and War: A Service of Prayer and Conversation with Celeste Zappala on Thursday June 22 from 6:15 to 7:15 pm at Arch St UMC, Broad and Arch Streets, in Philadelphia. This is during the dinner break for Annual Conference and Arch St UMC is located a short walk from the conference hotel. Celeste Zappala lost her son in Iraq and founded Gold Star Families Speak Out. Hopewell UMC hosts a Christian Concert Series - three evenings of Christian music and testimony in the serenity of our 1000-seat outdoor amphitheater. The lineup for this year’s Christian Concert Series is: * GLAD, Sat., May 13, 7:30 pm * Janet Paschal, Sat., May 20, 7:30 pm * River Ministers, Sat., Sept 23, 7:30 pm All-male quartet GLAD is America’s premier Christian a cappella group. GLAD performed in Hopewell’s amphitheater in 2003 and returns bringing its 30 year history of recording and concert ministry. GLAD is noted for its trademark impeccable arrangements, layered harmonies, and vocal versatility. Their work is body of art by a cappella lovers of all ages. Although GLAD is now Nashville-based, the original members of GLAD rehearsed together for the very first time at West Chester College (now West Chester University) in 1972. The concert will feature arrangements from their newly released album, “Receive the Glory,” their first a cappella album in five years. Concert tickets are available at Hopewell UMC or through our website, www.HopewellUMC.org Event tickets are $12 in advance and $15 at the door. Children 12 and under are $5. Series tickets, family packs, and group rates are also available. JUNE 17-21
Soulfeast is the conference for those who hunger for a deepening spiritual- ity. Perfect for any one of any age, this year we will experience four days of “Sensing the Sacred in All of Life” through workshops, worship, and Sabbath. Soulfeast provides an exciting opportunity for deeper discovery and will be especially meaningful for those who have experienced Upper Room resources like Communities in NNY. The Walk to Emmaus, and The Academy for Spiritual Formation.

JULY 17-21
for Children Conference
Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund hosts the Proctor Institute at Haley Farm in Pennsylvania. The educational conference event for learning more about child advocacy and for motivation and inspiration. Last summer, Bill Chayly and I attended and met Dr. Otis Moss, Jr, a civil rights activist who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King; Dr. Jim Wallis, Editor of Sojourners magazine and author of God’s Political; Marian Wright Edelman, a Washington lawyer and longtime advocate who are doing great things. This year’s Institute is July 17-21 at Children Defense Fund Haley, Clinton, Tennessee. Leaders for the event include Dr. Otis Moss, Jr and Rev. Otis Moss, III, Dr. Fred Craddock, Dr. Joanna Addams of Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Dr. James Forbes, Jr. of the Riverside Church in NY, Dr. William Epps, Abyssinian Baptist Church in NY, Dr. Robert Franklin, Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics at Candler, Howard Zinn, noted historian, intellectual and author and Marian Wright Edelman. Workshops include: *Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline 
*Alternative for Children during Summer and After School Hours 
*Alienating Poverty through Tax Cluses for Working Poor Families 
*How to Organize Your Community … and more.

JUNE
Carrying on Continuing Education time and money or have a real desire to make a difference you are encouraged to call Ericka Wright at 865-438-4866 or visit the Children’s Defense Fund website at www.childrensdefense.org for registrations and details.

See Page 9
Bishop Matthews participates in International Consultation in Vienna

by Suzy Keenan

Bishop Marcus Matthews traveled to Vienna March 1 to 6 to participate with sixty United Methodists from Europe and the United States in a look at the Social Principles in a changing Europe. The International Administrative Ministries, a meeting which takes place once every four years, gathered in Vienna in the Republic of Austria. The consultation was also a combined effort of the United Methodist General Boards of Church and Society, Global Ministries, and Higher Education and Ministry.

The discussion centered around where God is calling the world-wide United Methodist Church as it relates and applies the Social Principles to the church’s work. The Social Principles impact the entire denomination, and discussion of the consultation revolved around how the principles play in our mission, in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, and in our role of advocating for justice around the world.

Bishop Matthews was one of six bishops of The United Methodist Church, and the only North American bishop. He attended in his role as a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, recognizing his leadership and commitment to theological education. He participated in working group conversations. Bishops from Europe included Bishop Rosemarie Wenner; the first woman United Methodist bishop in Europe, Bishop Patrick Streiff; Bishop Heinrich Bolleter; Bishop Oystein Olsen, and Bishop Hans Vazby.

The Rev Neal Christie, Assistant General Secretary, Ministry of Education and Leadership Formation of the General Board of Church and Society said, “It was wonderful to be on the listening end, hearing the critical issues of church and society in Europe; the Iraqi War, alleviating global debt and poverty, economic development in central and eastern Europe. In Europe, there are major differences and divisions between countries, taking into account their differing histories and current realities. It was a unique opportunity to work together in a new way.”

This quadrilateralium, the United Methodist Church has placed a focus on the Social Principles, as we approach the Jordanian National Consultation, Rev Christie said, “In Europe, the Social Principles are taken seriously, as United Methodists are in the majority. In each country, what distinguishes our church is the country’s dominant church. It is a part of their identity, a part of their Christian formation, and guides their mission and advocacy.”

He continued, “Here in the United States, the migrant workers issue is an important topic. But what does that mean in regard to the Roma (gypsies) in Bul- garia, and Iraqi refugees in Switzerland or Norway? The people are saying, ‘we have done enough,’ but the church is saying, ‘we need to do more.’

“We can learn from the United Meth- odist Church in Europe – in Wesleyan terms about personal and social holiness and accountability,” said Rev Christie. “There is much to learn from these minority churches in Eu- rope, where people are joining the church because of the Social Principles, and because the church there honors tradition, and reaches for racial and economic inclusivity.”

For more information on the United Methodist Social Principles and Social Creed, go to: www.umc-sbc.org

Appointments

Bishop Marcus Matthews announces the following appointments, effective July 1, 2006:

- Central District: Jose “Ricky” Ayala - From Columbia UMC (Associate) to Conshohocken UMC
- Northeast District: Robert Shrom - From Extension Ministries to Springtown UMC
- SouthEast District: Sandra Parsons - From Ackermanville UMC to Prackville UMC
- Southeast District: James F. McIntire - From West Grove UMC to Prospect Park: Prospect UMC
- Southern District: George Darby - From Extension Ministry Peninsula Delaware Conference to Cobblestone Bend Drive, High Point, NC

In Memoriam

Reverend William R. (Ron) Kimball, Jr., who died on December 6, 2006 in High Point, NC. Rev Kimball served the following appointments in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Fairless Hills (1979) and Narberth (1986). He subsequently transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference. A memorial service was conducted on Sunday, January 15, 2006 at Jamestown United Methodist Church in Jamestown, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and his children. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Joan Kimball, 384 Cobblestone Bend Drive, High Point, NC 27265.

Rev. Dr. Stacy D. Myers, Jr., who died early in the morning on Saturday, April 1, 2006. Dr. Myers served the following appointments beginning in 1953: Berwyn, Jenkintown, West Chester District Superintendence Conference Evangelism; Temple, West Lawn. He retired in 1995, and served Fleetwood; Emmaus in retirement. Dr. Myers graduated from Dickinson College in 1951 (A.B.), Temple University in 1954 (M.Div.), Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1978 (D.D.), and Allbright College in 1982 (D.D.). A memorial service was held on Wednesday, April 5, 11:00 am at West Lawn United Methodist Church. The family received visitors from 10:00 am to 11:00 am prior to the memorial service. An additional service was held on Thursday, April 6 at 11:00 am at Willow Street: Bohem’s UM Church, 13 West Grandview Blvd 1 mile south of Willow Street off Rt. 227, Willow Street, PA. Internment followed this service. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; two daughters: Cindy Myers and Paul; and two sons: Stacy and Paul. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Ruth Myers, 641 Willow Valley Square J110, Lancaster, PA 17602-4871. Memorial contributions may go to Albright College, 133 and Berks Streets • P.O. Box 15234 • Reading, PA 19612; Lancaster: First UMC; Building Fund, 29 East Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602-4568; or; West Lawn UMC Memorial Fund, 15 Woodside Ave., Reading, PA 19609-1664.

Helen B. Poortstra, wife of the Rev. Robert Poortstra, retired local pastor. Mrs. Poortstra passed away on Tuesday, April 11th. Rev. Poortstra served formerly at Portland, Delaware Water Gap, and more recently as pastor of visitation at East Stroudsburg. Services were held Friday, April 14 at 11:00 a.m. at Lanterman & Allen Funeral Home, 27 Washington St., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (570-421-4590). Condolences may be sent to Rev. Poortstra at 56 Brown Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.
By Woody Woodrick*

Many residents of the Gulf Coast lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Dee and Jack Boreing gave up everything because of Katrina.

The Boreings are working in Mississippi as site coordinators for work teams helping in recovery efforts. They moved from Douglasville, Ga., where they had lived all their lives.

“We have been in the mission field for many years and knew for the past three years that we wanted to be doing something full time,” said Dee Boreing. Members of New Covenant United Methodist Church in Douglasville, the Boreings have made five or six mission trips to Mexico.

Family obligations put full-time work on hold, but when that situation changed, the Boreings were ready.

“Knowing their deep faith, their knowledge and organizational skills and their commitment to Christian service, when we received the urgent request from the Mississippi volunteer office for coordination assistance, it was a ‘no-brainer’,” said Joe Hamilton, associate director of the Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission.

The staff almost simultaneously said their name and placed a call.

“With their expressed commitment to volunteer service, their proposal was effectively ‘Here am I, send me.’”

Hitting the road

When the Boreings accepted the call to Mississippi, Jack said he had already said yes before even knowing where Pascagoula was, they owned an embroidery business, home and land.

Dee said two weeks after agreeing to come to Mississippi, “We gave away everything else,” Dee said. “We paid off everything we owed, packed up and came to Mississippi.”

The Boreings purchased a travel trailer and a new truck before hitting the road. The trailer sits behind First United Methodist Church and is the Boreings’ home.

“Even though many of the tribes worked side by side, the greatest priest and the have-nots worked side by side. That’s the way we do everything, working side by side with the Lord,” Jack said.

Long days

Long days and hard work are a way of life for the Boreings, who get up early and usually don’t get to bed until about 10:30 p.m. They coordinate and assign teams to work sites and then spend the day going from site to site ensuring the teams have the materials they need. They meet with homeowners seeking assistance and the needs for repairing homes. They eat most of their meals at Pascagoula First United Methodist Church with the work teams.

“The work is basically seven days a week job,” Jack said. “There’s Scripture to cover that. If your neighbor has an ox in the ditch, you’re going to stay there until he’s out. I consider this an ox in the ditch.”

Little direct training exists for hurricane recovery, but Jack said if he had known he would give up so much he would have thought out homes and spraying for mold. He spent 33 years as a mechanic for Delta Airlines, and that included hazardous materials training. He received damage control training in the Navy, and his grandfather was a fire chief in Georgia.

“Dee and Jack bring outstanding leadership skills and a deep faith in Jesus Christ to their role as UMVIM volunteers,” said Hamilton. “Their gracious gift is empathy and compassion for the survivors of disaster (and) that serves them extremely well in bringing hope to people who may well feel abandoned. They are people of their word: they do not make promises lightly, and the promises they do make are fulfilled.”

“We weren’t prepared for anything we’ve had to do, but God has provided,” Dee said.

“The Boreings do get some time off. Jack usually says they recently took four hours for themselves. They were there to help because of Katrina. They visited friends and family, took a trip out of state, but there have been two grandchildren born, who may have been abandoned. They are people of their word: they do not make promises lightly, and the promises they do make are fulfilled.”

“We weren’t prepared for anything we’ve had to do, but God has provided,” Dee said.

“Dee and Jack say they are going to Mississippi because it is the place God has provided,” Hamilton said. “Their gracious gift is empathy and compassion for the survivors of disaster (and) that serves them extremely well in bringing hope to people who may well feel abandoned. They are people of their word: they do not make promises lightly, and the promises they do make are fulfilled.”

No arguing with God

“When the end of August arrives, where will they go? Jack and Dee say they’re not going home. They express desire to stay in Pascagoula until the work is done but don’t know when that will be. Mexico is still a possibility. UMVIM has two very well-equipped sites there.”

Families of UMVIM volunteers have expressed concern. “Without such volunteers, UMVIM would not exist. Each year, thousands of UMVIM volunteers, both short term and long term, are the glue that binds a community of hope together in service to Christ and his church,” he said.

Wherever they go, the Boreings say it will be where God leads them.

“We never question what God wants us to do,” Jack said. “I’m not about to argue with him. I’ve done that before, and I end up losing.”

*Woodrick is editor of the Mississippi Advocate, the newspaper of the United Methodist Church’s Mississippi Annual Conference.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — Like many inner-city youth where she grew up, Latoya Williams never finished high school, but the Petersburg Urban Ministries, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, changed that for Williams. She is learning cooking and nutrition at the Petersburg Urban Ministries’ Youth Build program. She works five days a week and is paid $8 an hour.

Although she missed out on a high-school diploma, the Youth Build program was able to teach Williams a trade and work toward her high-school equivalency degree. She is one of the first four students in the food-services course, and she’s received funding from the Youth Service Fund of the United Methodist Board of Disciple-ship.

The students cook breakfast for the Youth Build students four days a week in a makeshift kitchen located in a former warehouse. “It’s exciting to see the clients eat their food and begin to make plans for their lives ... and learning skills that they can carry with them and receiving validation and hope,” said Dwala Ferrell, director of Petersburg Urban Ministries.

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — Immigration rallies across the United States on April 10 signal that something hopeful and historic is brewing, said United Methodist Church leaders, after nearly 2 million marched in 140 cities for the rights of undocumented people. Hund- reds of thousands gathered in the nation’s capital, where United Method- ist Bishop Minerva Carcaño, who leads the denomination’s Phoenix Area, was one of several speakers. In New York, United Methodist Bishop Jeremiah Park led clergy and laity in a prayer vigil at historic John Street United Methodist Church.

President George W. Bush signed the $28 billion hurricane recovery bill into law last week. In the 63 U.S.-based (annual) regional conferences, 13 reported increases in membership, while 16 reported attend- ance growth. During the last 10-year period, the number of members churchwide decreased by 5.48 percent. Countering the U.S. decline, United Methodist lay membership in the central conferences – regions of the church in the South – increased 1.4 percent – increased more than 68 percent from 1995 to 2004, to 1.8 million. The report is available at http://www.UMC.org/
Army Chaplain Jay West has gone from a “mud on the boots” chaplain to the pastoral voice for service members in 56 countries.

For the past year, the United Methodistist has been the broadcast chaplain for the American Forces Network in Ger-

man
dy. It is a role that has been a little hard for him to get used to.

“I truly love being with soldiers, and my preference would be to be out there living in the mud, in the dirt and the sand,” he says. “Nevertheless, this is where God, through the Army chap-

l

laincy, has assigned me.”

Before transferring to his position in Mannheim, Germany, he served as an Army chaplain for the 3rd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky. While serving at Fort Campbell, he was deployed to Iraq for more than a year.

West’s combat experience, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star for valor, gives him a special connection and understanding those far so far from home — many for the first time.

He says he knows about “the pain, anxiety, adrenaline rush, loneliness, and flood of emotions that wash over a soldier and his or her family in times of war.”

“This is a military at war,” he says. “My focus is on spiritual fitness and readiness. It is my job to tell soldiers that God loves them and knows what they are going through.”

A broad parish

Shifting from being hands-on with 500 soldiers to sending his voice out to “faceless thousands” is stepping out of the mud and into the airwaves.

“I’ve got a handful of soldiers now that I get to work with as a unit chaplan,” he says. “It is a role that has been a little different.”

Heilongjiang University, an institution related Hendrix College is establish-

ing a student exchange program with the University of Shanghai. The exchange will begin next year.

Hendrix President J. Timothy Cloyd says he knows about “the pain, anxi-

ety, loneliness, and flood of emotions that wash over a soldier and his or her family in times of war.”

“Faceless thousands” is stepping out of the mud and into the airwaves.

United Methodist Army Chaplain Jay West was recently named to the pastoral voice for service members in 56 countries. For the past year, West has been the broadcast chaplain for the American Forces Network in Germany. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

US/CHINA (UMNS) - The Rev. Doug Smith is grateful for the time his Muslim neighbors and colleagues devoted to him when he worked as an attorney for a Texas-based oil company. Smith, who leads four Methodist churches near Bolton in northwest England, invited Moulan Faruk Ali to speak about Islam at a districtwide Methodist mis-

sion event in March. He and Ali serve as chaplains at the Bolton Royal Infr-

mary, where Smith says Ali has been “waging peace” by making people feel better for the past 17 years. He hopes that by inviting Ali to talk about his experience as a Muslim, people will get to know there are many sides of Islam.

“Our Wesleyan legacy is so rich and offers so many opportunities to speak to people where they are in today’s society,” he says. “We are Wesleyan mi-

s


ers — we hold on to our heritage and don’t share it enough.”

A modern Wesley

West loves his United Methodist heritage. He notes that Methodist founder John Wesley rode around on horseback, pulling his Bible out of his backpack and telling people they mattered.

“My horse is a Humvee, but it is the same concept,” he says. “Here was a guy (Wesley) who understood that the focus of what we are called to do is not done within the four walls of what we call the church. This was a guy who understood that ministry is done out there in the midst of a team-

ing, seamy, withering humanity.”

In The World

Chaplain uses airwaves to get troops ‘spiritually fit’

By Kathy L. Gilbert*
Asbury Protestant Ministry sponsors Alternative Spring Break

Instead of heading down to some pristine tropical destination or just catching up on sleep at home, 11 Drexel University students, along with four faculty and staff, spent their Spring Break in New Orleans on a work trip sponsored by Asbury Protestant Ministry, a ministry of the Wesley Foundation of Philadelphia and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

As part of Drexel's Alternative Spring Break program—March 25-April 1—the 15 team members made the long drive to New Orleans, where they worked with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help clean out and gut homes damaged by flooding after Hurricane Katrina.

In New Orleans, more than 90 percent of the city was flooded, and throughout the Gulf Coast, it's estimated that more than 350,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 150,000 severely damaged. Overall, according to the American Red Cross, more than 850,000 housing units were damaged, destroyed or left inaccessible. Many parts of the city still have the look and feel of a ghost town.

The reality of New Orleans is that it does seem so unreal," said Drexel first-year student and Philadelphia native Jordan Aranda. "It feels impossible to ever understand the reality of it all. The experience opened my heart and my eyes so wide that a week was nowhere near enough for me."

The team had an opportunity to tour some of the more severely damaged areas of the city, including some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in New Orleans, as well as one of the poorest—the Lower Ninth Ward, located right next to one of the ruined levees. There, work crews are just beginning to clean up. Block after block of houses completely destroyed; trees with house numbers painted on them so people can find where their house once stood; abandoned, mud filled cars; entire neighborhoods piled high with debris, nothing but concrete foundation slabs and an occasional fence still intact.

And there, cadaver dogs are still finding dead bodies. More than 1,600 people are confirmed dead in the wake of Katrina and Rita; nearly 2,000 remain unaccounted for. "I suppose we knew intellectually what we were getting ourselves into but nothing could prepare us for being there," said Pastor Tim Rardin, Asbury’s director and the trip leader. "It was an intense week—physically, emotionally and spiritually—but it was a meaningful week."

The team worked on houses in two other neighborhoods, but spent most of their time in the New Orleans East section of the city, at the home of Toshia Hayes. The home where Toshia and her older brother and sister were born and raised; and a home that, like many, had not been home that, like many, had not been physically, emotionally and spiritually intact. "It was an intense week—I know I sound like a broken record, but I can't thank you all enough for your help," said Hayes, who is living temporarily in Memphis, TN. "I can't imagine how I would've got this work done."

One estimate suggests that volunteer crews can save homeowners a minimum of $10,000 in gutting/clean-up work alone. "I have always thought it would be fun to just rip a house down and take it apart," said Matt Reichl, a Drexel sophomore from Slatington, PA. "But after experiencing what I did in New Orleans, it was actually some of the hardest and most tiring work I have ever done."

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Only some glassware and dishes, a few mirrors and wall hangings and several photo albums were salvageable. "I have always thought it would be fun to just rip a house down and take it apart," said Matt Reichl, a Drexel sophomore from Slatington, PA. "But after experiencing what I did in New Orleans, it was actually some of the hardest and most tiring work I have ever done."

"I have always thought it would be fun to just rip a house down and take it apart," said Matt Reichl, a Drexel sophomore from Slatington, PA. "But after experiencing what I did in New Orleans, it was actually some of the hardest and most tiring work I have ever done."

The most incredible part of the trip was being able to sit and talk with the homeowners about their experiences pre- and post-Katrina," Moore said. "All of them were open and willing to share their individual stories with us in complete candor, and each person exemplified hope and resilience."

"By the end of the week Toshia’s house was just a shell of its former self, nothing but a skeleton structure left to be cleaned and disinfecting by another UMCOR volunteer team before rebuilding can begin. "It was satisfying to be able to make so much progress on the house, and to provide at least some sign of hope for Toshia," said Rardin. "Still, it’s overwhelming when you consider that there are literally hundreds of thousands more like it."

"The reality is sobering, but the overall experience was profound for team members. "It was important for the students and all of us—to get a more personal sense of what’s really happening in New Orleans, and to be able to help in some small way," said Rardin. Many students have already expressed interest in going back, and Asbury may make a return trip next year."

Cokesbury
Visit our newly renovated Cokesbury Store in King of Prussia.
Order material for summer now:
Vacation Bible School
Summer Reading
Selections from our New Release Books
Annual Conference Display:
Visit the Cokesbury Display during Annual Conference!
Books- NRSV Children's Bibles, New Interpreter's Bible Dictionary and many newly released books
Robes and stoles
Giftware and special discounts for conference attendees.

COKESBURY: Resources for the Christian Journey (across the King of Prussia Mall)
Sarita Bhajjan, Manager
350 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406
Tel: 610.263.0341 or Toll Free: 1.800.933.9851
Fax: 610.263.7638
philadelphia@cokesbury.com

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

MAY 13 - Calvary UMC, 1 W Wyomissing Avenue, Mohnton, PA
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., training at 10:00 a.m. - 12 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 e-mail her at evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org

www.epaumc.org
Beyond the Border Summer Camp 2006

There is no border that will keep Jesus away from us. Whoever we are, and wherever we are, Jesus is ready and waiting to meet us.

In 2006, our camps will provide a broad range of exciting opportunities at various locations for children and youth of all ages. All of these experiences, as different as they are, will share a common theme - that Jesus crosses any border to be with us. There are not just a few places that Jesus can be found. God’s grace, through Christ, is available to all people, in all places.

Our Mission
As a ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church we provide safe, meaningful, enjoyable experiences in camp and retreat settings that lead people toward and renewed life in Jesus Christ.

Call Toll-Free
1-877-UMC-CAMP
(1-877-862-2267)

Press #2 to order a 2006 summer camp catalog
Press #3 to be connected to Carson-Simpson Farm
Press #4 to be connected to Gretna Glen
Press #5 to be connected to Innabah
Press #6 to be connected to Pocono Plateau
Press #1 to be connected to the EPA Conference Camp/Retreat Office

3 Ways To Register

1. On-line at www.epaumc.org/camping
2. By fax to the Camp/Retreat Center of the Event
3. By mail to the Camp/Retreat Center of the Event

Contact Us For Information About:
- EPA Camperships, site scholarships or volunteer scholarships
- Ways you can volunteer as counselor, program director, nurse, or support staff
- Information about your registration or bill

Contact Your Local Church About:
- Information on local church scholarship support
- How you can obtain a “Camp Cash” voucher

For Further Information: A complete copy of this catalog, additional registration forms and other information are available at the EPA Conference Camp/Retreat website: www.epaumc.org/camping

19TH ANNUAL
United Methodist Day
At The

Phillies

Sponsored by
Eastern PA Conference,
Peninsula-Delaware Conference and
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Saturday, July 29, 2006 @ 7:05 PM
Phillies vs. Florida Marlins
Up to $5.00 from each ticket sold will benefit Conference Youth Programs

Get your orders in early-seats are going quickly!
For registration form go to: http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?newsID=1372
Or contact the Conference Office at 1.800.828.9093

www.epaumc.org
UMCOR Disaster Relief Training

By Jim Wilkin*

On April 3, 2006, twenty-eight people from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered at Camp Innabah for Disaster Response Basic Training provided by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). They were reminded that we can be the body of Christ in the midst of disasters. While pictures of property damage flash on our televisions, we know that the real impact is on the lives of the people. UMCOR volunteers are continually reminded that “it’s not the project, it’s the people.” UMCOR responds to an event somewhere in the world every three days. While much of the work is done by volunteers, a meaningful, effective response in so many places requires great financial support. UMCOR funds come from One Great Hour of Sharing and from special appeals and donations. All money received through appeals, such as for tsunami relief and Katrina relief, goes directly to the those in need; none to administration.

In addition to providing direct relief work, UMCOR sends trainers to conferences throughout the country to help them prepare for disasters. They also maintain a site in Baldwin, LA where persons can go to receive more advanced training. Larry P. Powell, Sr., International Catastrophic Disaster Relief Consultant for UMCOR, and Rick D. Nelson, Case Management Technical Supervisor for Katrina Aid Today, led the training at Camp Innabah to help our conference be better prepared for the possibility of a disaster. Larry is a retired fire marshal from Las Vegas, NV, who has worked extensively with UMCOR in disaster response. Rick has led the coordination of United Methodist disaster response efforts in Western Pennsylvania. The training participants identified a number of reasons why they felt that disaster relief is such an important ministry. One participant doesn’t want people to have to go through a crisis alone. Another had experienced disaster and was supported by others, so knows firsthand how important it is. Others added: “God calls us to do it,” “We are a mission people,” “People need hope, and Christ is the hope.” “We can’t change the whole world, but we can impact one person at a time,” and “Scripture says we are to bear one another’s burdens.” The group learned that the most important part of disaster response is to have a plan in place before the disaster occurs. Plans should be developed at the conference, district and local church level. The conference should plan for donations management, volunteer management, and communications. Districts should identify how to support conference efforts and help in coordination with local churches. The local church should identify its strengths and interests, facilitate training, and seek out other local churches with whom to partner.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will be continuing to strengthen its disaster response skills and abilities. Anyone seeking more information or wishing to be part of the planning and preparation process should contact the Rev. Sherrin Marshall, Interim Coordinator: sherrin.marshall@epaumc.org or 1.800.828.9093 ext. 230.

* Jim Wilkin is director of Camping and Nurture Ministries with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. Contact jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.

Boehm’s Chapel Society receives unexpected $1 million donation

by Janice Kluck

Joyce Jenkins, a woman previously unknown to the Boehm’s Chapel Society, left a $1 million bequest to the Society at her death, in September 2005. Her ashes were interred in the cemetery near Boehm’s Chapel following a March 26 memorial service there.

Miss Jenkins, who succumbed to ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease), was a 9th generation descendant of Jacob Boehm, the brother of Chapel founder Martin Boehm. She was a life member of the Society who proudly displayed the plaque all life remembers receive. A quiet, frugal, modest woman who resided in Bethesda MD, Miss Jenkins left half of her estate to the Chapel Society and the other half to the Children’s Inn of her long-time employer, the National Institutes of Health. The Inn shelters parents from around the nation and the world whose children are undergoing medical treatment at NIH.

Miss Jenkins began her career as an administrative officer of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases before her retirement. Her home, which included neither a dishwasher nor clothes dryer, was one of the more modest in a lined neighborhood. The neighbor won, buying the house for $1,157 million most of which will provide a generous endowment for the Boehm’s Chapel Society.

If you are unable to visit Boehm’s chapel in person, we can bring it to you! The Boehm Legacy—More Than Just a Chapel on a Hill? has recently been released. It is a 25 minute documentary about the Chapel—its history including information on the reconstruction and pictures of the Chapel before the reconstruction. Learn about Martin Boehm’s life and ministry. See programs held at the Chapel before the reconstruction. Visit the website at Boehm’s Chapel Society.

If you are unable to visit Boehm’s chapel in person, we can bring it to you! The Boehm Legacy—More Than Just a Chapel on a Hill? has recently been released. It is a 25 minute documentary about the Chapel—its history including information on the reconstruction and pictures of the Chapel before the reconstruction. Learn about Martin Boehm’s life and ministry. See programs held at the Chapel before the reconstruction. Visit the website at Boehm’s Chapel Society.

www.epaumc.org

Methodist Home for Children

Methodist Home for Children is the Child Welfare Agency of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Building a community of families

One child and one family at a time

Changing lives, restarting careers, offering educational support and intervention Designed to preserve the family unit

Call 215-877-1926 x 109 today

To say “YES! I WANT TO KNOW MORE!”
Caring for Our Community is in Our Spirit

Our generous benefactors, the Methodist Hospital Foundation has awarded nearly $500,000 in grants since 1998.

Through their support Methodist is able to provide the Paoli Nurse Program, Methodist Hospital’s Southeast Asian Outreach Program, and The Caring People Alliance: “Visiting Animals, Plants and Life” for the homebound elderly, among others.

Methodist Hospital Foundation supports health care services in South Philadelphia. To contribute to the Methodist Hospital Foundation, please call 215-562-3006.

REGISTRATION: Send by June 1 to Ruth Baker, 1045 NW End Blvd., #363, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Ceiling 50 years of full clergy rights for women

Continued from page 1

Webb, Ohio. After years of fierce struggle and second-class citizenship, on May 4, 1956 women were granted full clergy rights within the former Methodist church. And yet, in order to understand the struggle, we must go back more than fifty years. For women have been praying and preaching, marching and leading, many years before 1956. Within the Method- ist tradition, women’s leadership began with Susan Wesley.

While her husband was absent in London in 1711 attending convocation, Mrs. Wesley adopted the practice of reading to her family and instructing them. One of the servants told his parents and they wished to come. These told others, and they came, till the congregation amounted to forty and increased till they were over two hundred, and the parsonage could not contain them that came. In 1735, John Wesley appointed lay women as deaconesses, and in 1749, women assumed the role of class leader. The first woman “licensed” to preach by John Wesley was Sarah Crosby; however, in 1803 a conference vote brought the practice of licensing women to an end. The struggle continued and in 1880, Anna Howard Shaw was ordained in the New York Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, however, when the Meth- odist Protestant Church merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South to become the Methodist Church, women’s clergy rights were once again sacrificed. Finally, on May 4, 1956, the Methodist Church granted full clergy rights to women, with the right to a pastoral appointment.

Maud K. Jensen was the first woman to receive full clergy rights and conference membership in The Methodist Church. In 1960, the North Central Jurisdiction elected The Rev. Marjorie Matthews as the first woman bishop in the United Methodist Church, and in 1984 the The Rev. Leontine T.C. Kelly was elected as the first African American Bishop.

Within our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, there have been many bold women who have paved the way. The Rev. Dr. A.J. Garner, the Rev. (now bishop) Susan Hassinger and the Rev. Elaine Barnes were among the first women to serve within our conference. The Rev. Lucy Pierre (Bolds) was the first African American woman to be appointed within our conference (1975, Philadelphia- St. Thomas); The Rev. Milca Plaus (1970) and The Rev. Victoria Martinez (1980) were the first Hispanic appointments (Milca to Lancaster; El Redentor, Victoria to Southern Chester County Hispanic Ministry, now Kennett Square- Cristo Rey). Eastern Pennsylvania has also lifted up two significant female Bish- ops within the life of our church.

Bishop Susan Hassinger elected in 1996 and Bishop Violet L. Fisher, elected in 2000 as the first African American woman from the Northeast Jurisdiction to be elected to the episco- pacy.

Truly, the above list of names does not do justice to so many women who have been praying and preaching, marching and leading for the past fifty years. Some of the women are un- named saints who stood in their time and welcomed their new pastor with outstretched arms; others shouted for justice when no one would listen and still others continue to work and labor day after day until the vineyard is a safe and welcoming place for all women.

At this year’s session of Annual Conference, we will join the celebrating the 50th anniversary year of full clergy rights for women. This celebration will lift up our sisters who have tire- lessly worked to bring the beautiful diversity of God’s kingdom to our churches. I pray that you will mark this celebration on your calendar and that you will come and raise your voice in song to celebrate and this significant occasion in the life of our church. We also encourage local congregations to mark this signifi- cant celebration. Resources for wor- ship can be found on the General Board of Discipleship website.

So there the girls stood, teaching and preaching, laughing and singing, “playing church.” They did not see anything surprising about their ac- tions. These told others, and they came, till the congregation amounted to forty and increased till they were over two hundred, and the parsonage could not contain them that came. Truly, in those young girls, we see the fruit of our labor and the hope for our church.

*Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm currently serves White Haven United Methodist Church and is on the planning team for the 50th anniversary celebration to take place at Annual Conference on June 22, 2006.

School of Mission is planned for women, children (ages 6-11), youth, and men, both single and married. It is one mile south of the Downingtown exit of the PA Turnpike.

WHERE: The Inn at Chester Springs, on Route 100, near the intersection with Route 113.

Closing worship is on Sunday from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m.

WHO: School of Mission is planned for women, children (ages 6-11), youth, and men, both single and married.

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

WHERE: The Inn at Chester Springs, on Route 100, near the intersection with Route 113.

For courses and registration information please go to: http://www.epaumc.org/methodist.

For an appointment, call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

www.jeffersonhospital.org/methodist


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

WHO: School of Mission is planned for women, children (ages 6-11), youth, and men, both single and married. Children 8 youth must be with responsible adult.

WHEN: Friday July 21 to Sunday July 23, 2006

Registration starts at 7:30 am on Friday, with the opening session beginning at 9:00 am. Closing worship is on Sunday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Inn at Chester Springs, on Route 100, near the intersection with Route 113.

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

For courses and registration information please go to: http://www.epaumc.org/

REGISTRATION: Send by June 1 to Ruth Baker, 1045 NW End Blvd., #363, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Used book sale at Annual Conference

Look for the annual used book sale sponsored by Archives and History at Annual Conference.

Please bring your books to donate to Annual Conference, and your checkbook to purchase other people’s donated treasures! We will have our general sales table, where hardbacks are $1 each and paperbacks are 50 cents; also our bid table, with antique and rare treasures. AND we expect some unique volumes and sets, which will be available for buyers willing to make an offer. Look for our 2006 edition of the Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania, which will be on sale for $5. We will also be assigning us articles on Philip Otterbein, Jacob Albright, and Simpson House, plus several first hand accounts of life in our Conference from the 1800s. Align proceeds go forward the work of the society to preserve and disseminate our Conference’s rich historical legacy. If you have questions, contact Joe DiPaolo at (610) 688-5650 or jgaume@verizon.net.

www.epaumc.org

MAY 2006 9

Save the date for ...

Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth 2006

A sharing event designed to help resource local churches in the community.

Saturday afternoon, September 23, 2006
Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown, PA

Special Guest – Rev. Don Simmons, Ph.D.

Workshop topics and registration information will be available soon. For the latest information, visit our Web site at www.hopewellumc.org. If you would like to be notified when more information is available. Please call 610-989-1345 or send an email to plantseeds@hopewellumc.org.

Used book sale at Annual Conference

Look for the annual used book sale sponsored by Archives and History at Annual Conference.

Please bring your books to donate to Annual Conference, and your checkbook to purchase other people’s donated treasures! We will have our general sales table, where hardbacks are $1 each and paperbacks are 50 cents; also our bid table, with antique and rare treasures. AND we expect some unique volumes and sets, which will be available for buyers willing to make an offer. Look for our 2006 edition of the Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania, which will be on sale for $5. We will also be assigning us articles on Philip Otterbein, Jacob Albright, and Simpson House, plus several first hand accounts of life in our Conference from the 1800s. Align proceeds go forward the work of the society to preserve and disseminate our Conference’s rich historical legacy. If you have questions, contact Joe DiPaolo at (610) 688-5650 or jgaume@verizon.net.

www.epaumc.org
**SAYING GOODBYE, LETTING GO:**

*By Bronwyn Yocum*

This spring, many pastors and congregations will say goodbye, as clergy who have received new appointments move. When the break is made well, a new pastor and congregation can develop a healthy relationship. But when the previous goodbye is not accomplished well, destructive behavior can impair the relationship between an incoming pastor and a congregation, and damage their ability to work for the glory of God.

For clergy, leave-taking can be difficult. Congregations need to remember that much of a clergyperson’s life centers around the church they serve. The church is often one of the most important places in their lives. Many of their friends from within the congregation. Children of the pastor may resist the move, and leave parents feeling guilty about uprooting their family. Beginning again in a new congregation, forging new relationships, learning a new community… these can all be intimidating to clergy who must move.

Churches thus have to struggle to let go of a pastor who is leaving. Clergy play an important role in people’s lives—performing marriages, baptizing children, walking alongside those who are grieving or ill. Saying goodbye to a pastor who has played a significant role in a congregation’s life can be difficult. The congregation may wrestle with anxiety about the incoming pastor, fearful of the future with unknown pastoral leadership.

Both pastors and congregations can influence the process of leaving-take in the departure of a pastor who is beloved.

When the departing pastor is a beloved leader, congregation members may naturally want to know about the upcoming change, and avoid talking about the pastor’s leaving. The temperament is one of goodbyes, and then when they can no longer be denied, move as quickly as possible through them because they are painful. We don’t want to dwell on those negative feelings of loss and sadness. Denial also takes shape in ignoring the upcoming change, and failing to plan to welcome the new pastor. We may think we can ignore the change and escape the pain of goodbye. But the best way to deal with the difficult emotions of loss is to recognize them and share them. Instead of avoiding painful feelings, create congregational opportunities to share feelings about the pastor’s leaving, and to discuss the transition. Imagine the feelings of the congregation saying goodbye to the incoming pastor. Transitions go best when we take the time to explore our feelings, to admit the fears, and the sense of loss that may be experiencing. We discover that we are not alone in our feelings.

One way to explore feelings is to plan opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of the departing clergyperson, creating memories for the future. Make note of milestones in the pastor’s tenure, and the church’s growth under the pastor’s leadership. Create a group to plan goodbye process as well as a group to plan a welcome for the new pastor. Allow a member a time to tell the departing pastor what their ministry has meant, perhaps holding a goodbye luncheon after church.

Pastor also needs to say goodbye effectively. When a pastor leaves a congregation, their pastoral role with that group of people ceases. They are no longer the pastor to whom people should turn for care and support. As much as it may make a pastor feel needed to have former members call for help, our system is built on the expectation that the pastor will defer to the new minister who has been appointed to that congregation. A departing pastor can help set the tone of welcome for a new pastor by making it clear that he or she will not be available to serve in the pastoral role. They can also help develop welcome plans for the new pastor, and encourage openness to change. Within the family and with close friends, the pastor can share their feelings about beginning again at the new appointment. They, too, will want to look back over their tenure and recognize the contributions they have made to the role of the congregation.

Finally, churches and pastors can also bury the trauma of the transition. The United Methodist Book of Worship contains services of goodbye and welcome for pastoral changes. These liturgies provide ways for the entire congregation to participate in the transition, and to offer prayers for the departing and incoming pastors. One important element of the service of farewell is the offering of forgiveness between pastor and congregation. None of us is perfect, and there will be hurts and mistakes committed by both pastor and congregation. The offering of forgiveness allows each to move forward into God’s new future without carrying the burden of unresolved guilt.

Pastors who need assistance dealing with the transition may contact the employee assistance program that offers counseling at no charge. Should additional counseling be advisable, the Pastoral Care Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry does offer financial assistance as needed. Contact Cecile Grantham, chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at cgrantham@epaxion.net. Congregations struggling with issues of letting go may want to discuss conference resources with their district superintendent.

Pastoral transitions are never easy. But we enter into this time of change with the reassurance of God’s word in Isaiah 43:18-19: “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Remember, unless we let go of the old, we cannot receive God’s new beginnings.

Look for two workshops at Annual Conference: “Pastoral Transition Workshop,” Thursday and Friday, led by Rev. Jared Bardin and Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall, and “So you have a new pastor; Who broke the old one?” led only, by Ms. Brenda Tildon.

*The Rev. Bronwyn Yocum is pastor of First UMC of Phoenixville.*
How do your Church’s investments measure up?

Performance
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stacy.martin@epaumc.org

Offering socially responsible investment solutions and stewardship education to area churches and agencies.

First Offering at Annual Conference for the Students

By Stacy J. Martin

Each year the Scholarship Team of the Annual Conference has more students who apply for financial assistance than there is money to respond to the needs. For the last four years, we have come before the Annual Conference during the time of its first offering and asked you, the delegates, to help the Team make some award to these students. Again, this year we appeal for your help. Would you give generously as you have in the last four years? The monies collected will be equally divided among the eligible students. Your contributions will help buy books, pencils, and say to young persons that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages them as they achieve their dreams in higher education.

We are pleased to share with you that the offering received at the 2005 conference totaled $5,101.54! This is more than twice the 2004 amount! The largest gift last year was made by Pocono Lake UMC. Not only did they demonstrate their commitment to the ministries honored at this three offerings during this Conference, but the members of Pocono Lake planned in advance and prepared one check for all three offerings! Their commitment and stewardship should be modeled by us all.

Another opportunity to provide scholarships to United Methodist students is through the annual Student Day Offering. There is a long history of Methodism supporting youth, culture and pressures, we are role model and understand today’s communication skills, are a strong ties include the continued development of a youth leader to impact the lives junior and senior high youth. Responsibilities include the continued development of an established youth program, overseeing adult volunteers who assist with youth activities, working jointly with ministry team to achieve goals, and active involvement in the life of the church and the youth. If you have BA/BS in related field (or equiv exp), 3 yrs exp dealing with youth, strong communication skills, are a strong role model and understand today’s youth, culture and pressures, we are interested in hearing from you. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resumes to youthcouncil@mediamethodist.org.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES Part-time (120 hrs/month)
Seeking an energetic and dedicated youth leader to impact the lives junior and senior high youth. Responsibilities include the continued development of an established youth program, overseeing adult volunteers who assist with youth activities, working jointly with ministry team to achieve goals, and active involvement in the life of the church and the youth. If you have BA/BS in related field (or equiv exp), 3 yrs exp dealing with youth, strong communication skills, are a strong role model and understand today’s youth, culture and pressures, we are interested in hearing from you. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resumes to youthcouncil@mediamethodist.org.

ORGANIST WANTED Pipe organ. First UMC Bangor: one Sunday service; accompany adult choir; pt; contact music director, Ellis Williams, day 610-588-2121, x25; evening 610-588-0260.

ALLEN ORGAN AVAILABLE Two manuals and full pedal board. Contact First UMC Bangor, 610-588-4672.


ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Needed for active, 400+ member congregation. 30 hours per week. Proficient in Microsoft Word and Desktop Publishing. Salary negotiable. No benefits package. Resumes may be sent to St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, 600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA 19078 or emailed to pastor@smatthewswv.org

WANTED: LARGE SIZE NATIVITY SET suitable for outdoor display for Mount Hope UMC in Aston. Please contact Judie Ashworth: 267-250-2174 or jashworth@MothersWork.com

FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR Qualifications: Plan, Prepare, Cook and Serve Meals; Schedule, Train and Supervise Food Service Staff; Order Food and other Food Service Related Items; Accept Vendor Deliveries and Manage Proper Storage; Organize and Implement Cleaning Schedule for all Food Service Areas; Maintain a Food Service Inventory control system; Assist with general Guest and Facility Housekeeping; Participate in weekly Staff Meetings and Devotions; Assist, as necessary, with any tasks that arise in the ongoing ministry of Gretta Glen. For more information on benefits and salary, please send inquiries and resumes to Paul Douglas, Director, Gretta Glen Camp & Retreat Center, 87 Old Mine Road, Lebanon, PA 17042; (717) 273-6025; director@grettaglen.org; www.grettaglen.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES Hope UMC of 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 Havertown is seeking you! For a full job description or to apply, contact the church office at (610)446-3331.

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) 446-3331.

ORGANIST/PIANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR for Bustleton United Methodist Church. Resume To: Music Search, 9707 Bustleton Ave. 19115. Phone: 215-673-1504, Fax: 215-673-3900, or e-mail: bustletonumc@worldlynx.net.
Celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK 
June 17, 2006

Share a day of fun and fellowship and an evening of Christian music and entertainment as we celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSHEY PARK on June 17. 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 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.

**ADMISSION COST**

- $33 - Ages 9-54
- $25 - Ages 3-8 and 55+
- Free - Age 2 and under
- Free T-Shirt with every ticket ordered by May 15th!!!!

For ticket order form go to: www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.aspx?pa geID=1183

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

**EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**
Christian music and entertainment in the park’s Amphitheater from 6:00 p.m. until closing (10 p.m.)
Groups who will inspire and entertain include:

- Saline, high energy, original modern rock music
- Faith driven, highly-energized, infectiously original modern rock music
- Everyday Process
- Universal Royalty

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

*NEWSPRINT!*