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VIM team celebrates 25 years of mission

by Suzy Keenan

"How did it all start?" is a question often asked of Henry Funk. 2007 marks the 25th anniversary for Mr. Funk leading Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trips to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

For Mr. Funk and his wife, Nancy, the VIM trips began at the urging of Bishop F. Herbert Skeete of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. After a devastating hurricane that destroyed a Methodist Church in Old San Juan, Bishop Skeete called upon Henry, knowing of his expertise in building churches through his contracting business, Arthur Funk & Sons of Lebanon, PA.

In February, the VIM team joining Mr. and Mrs. Funk numbered forty-three and included United Methodists, Lutherans, UCC's, Roman Catholics, and Pentecostals from the mainland, and several local Puerto Ricans. The team also included seven teenagers and four children, age eight to ten. They all stayed and worked for twenty-three days on the island.

Prior to leaving, though, the

Funks and Jay Muller, a member of First UMC in Lancaster, spent months making contacts, ordering materials, arranging finances, ordering tickets, and carefully laying plans for the work to be done.

Once in San Juan, the Funks and Mr. Muller organized the work assignments, which including hammering, sawing, plumbing, and painting, as well as community health work. The main site of the team's work was Campamento Corson, founded by Bishop Fred Pierce Corson during his time as Bishop of the Philadelphia Area Conference of the Methodist Church, which continues to reach out to children, youth, and adults in the island Methodist Churches, local communities and other denominations as well.

As a dedicated team member, Rev. Lou Troester (retired EPA pastor) has been accompanying the VIM team for seventeen years. Self-described as a "jungle mechanic," he fills in wherever needed: "Whatever is missing on the team is my job -



Henry and Nancy Funk have been leading Volunteers in Mission trips to Puerto Rico for 25 years.

gopher, carpenter, electrician, cement mixer, sewage system fixer, and trouble-shooter."

In his annual "Gopher Report", Rev. Troester listed some of the team's accomplishments. Showing the vari-

ety of kinds of work, a partial list includes, "The team drained, pressure washed, painted the pool, and installed a new motor for the pool pump. The basketball

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Volunteer shares blessings of mission

By Emily Morris*

Ben Botti has kept himself fairly busy in his retirement by working as a travel agent of sorts.

But the trips he plans require a lot of emotional preparation before, during and after. He's traveled on quite a few of the trips himself, and experienced the emotions firsthand when he returned first trip where his wife, Amy, accompanied him.

"She wanted to sell everything and go back and be missionaries," said Botti, 67. "And I said, whoa, let's wait a day or two."

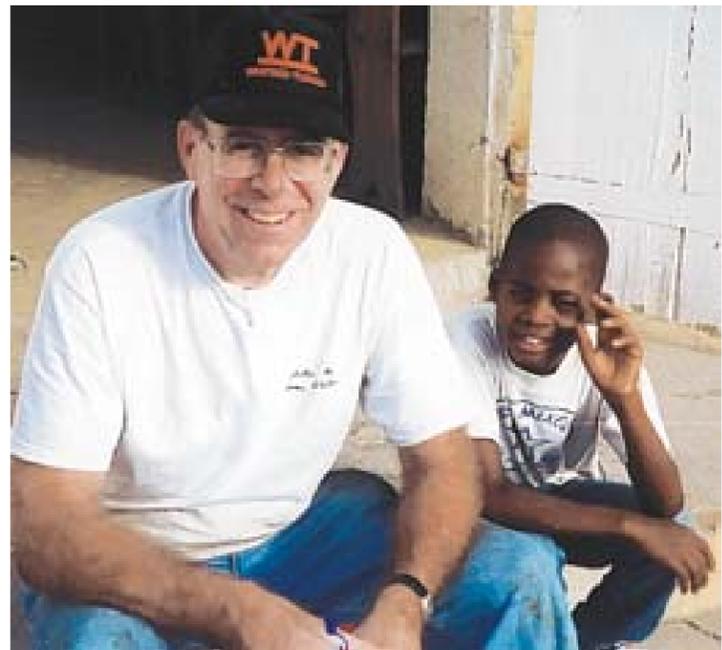
Anger, guilt and frustration are all typical emotions experienced by those traveling on their first mission trip to help others in need. Helping people anticipate those emotions, as well as the emotions that they will encounter from those they are helping, is one of the most important parts of Botti's job.

Botti took the volunteer job as the Volunteers In Mission (VIM) coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church after being recommended for the position in 2002. He has been involved in mis-

sion work since 1994 through his church, First United Methodist, in Perkasio. Botti began the job after a former VIM coordinator found out he had spent his career as a civil engineer working in construction and thought his skills would be a major asset to mission work - and they have been. Botti traveled with former FUMC Pastor Phil Poncé when he was the VIM coordinator. Poncé would handle the spiritual aspect of the work while Botti offered the necessary construction knowledge.

In his first several years of mission work, Botti traveled to Honduras, Trinidad, Grenada and Antigua, taking one international trip each year. There, the groups would help with recovery from flooding, hurricanes and other disasters by building homes, churches and doing really whatever needed to be done. In fact, versatility is another pillar of mission work that the church emphasizes.

"We stress flexibility in our training because we really are often surprised when we get there that we're doing some-



Ben Botti sits on a porch in Antigua with Sherwin, a local boy who befriended him after Botti helped him carry two large bags of groceries home. Botti keeps a letter he received from Sherwin after he returned from the trip.

thing other than what we expected," said Botti.

The prime focus of Botti's job is to perform training

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Conference Calendar

APRIL 13 - 15, 2007

Marriage Encounter Weekend in York, PA - Put a little shine on your marriage! The 44-hour weekend begins 7:30 p.m. Friday night and concludes late Sunday afternoon. Space is limited. GBOD is offering 1.5 CEU credits for clergy upon completion of this weekend. The weekend is also open to non-clergy husbands and wives. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of \$50.00. To register contact: Dick & Donna Reisinger 224 Main Ave, Warren, PA 16365. For registration form call Bernell & Jola Shoff at 717-244-4848, or get a registration form on line at: www.encounter.org.

APRIL 14, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Prayer. See page 10.

APRIL 17, 2007

Pocono Plateau Youth Leader's Day - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. This special day is designed for youth workers as a resource in your ministry with youth. Continental breakfast and lunch provided. Topics and Information available include: Ministry in the Wilderness; How to Plan and Lead a Retreat; Games, Activities, and the use of Adventure in Youth Ministry; Fun Food for Youth Groups; Service Projects for Youth and Adults; Summer Camp Opportunities. Tour the facilities including: Main Site and Adventure Site accommodations; High Ropes courses; Low Ropes/Team Building course; Zip line; Climbing tower; and Leap of Faith. Experience first-hand our "Leap of Faith" high challenge element. Free time to walk the grounds, hike our interpretive nature trail, enjoy boating or canoeing on our 25-acre lake. Optional: Stay overnight for a free personal retreat. Contact the camp office for more information. RSVP at 570.676.3665 by Wednesday, April 10, 2007. Check out our web site: www.poconoplateau.org

APRIL 18, 2007

Anger Management for Clergy—An Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, Pa. For directions: www.cornwallmanor.org. Cost: \$30
Topic: Addressing Anger Before It Addresses You: Anger management and the vulnerable minister. Using case studies and group discussion of the stressors encountered by Ministers, the basics of anger management will be illustrated with direct application to the professional role of ministry as well as to the personal life of the individual. Opportunities for discussion of pastoral issues will be provided.

Leaders include Ronald J. Karney, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist and Paul J. Ashton, D.Min., Psy.D. Candidate, Kelly Counseling & Consulting. **Registrar:** Rev. Bronwyn Yocum, Revumcmom@comcast.net, 865 South Main Street, Phoenixville, Pa 19460 610-933-5936.

APRIL 19, 2007

Spiritual retreat for older adults titled "KEEPING THE SABBATH WHEN LIFE IS A WHIRL OF ACTIVITIES" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Christian Conference Center in Valley Forge. The retreat will be led by the Rev. Dr. J. Dennis Williams, former District Superintendent and Dean of Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. "Keeping the Sabbath" is

a day-long experience for older adults that is meant to refresh a person's faith. The cost for the session, including lunch, is \$35 per person. To register contact Mrs. Georgiann Parks at ghpns1119@verizon.net. Deadline for registration is March 30. For directions: www.nc3.org. Sponsored by The EPA Conference Older Adult Ministry Committee.

APRIL 20, 2007

Basic Sexual Ethics - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Camp Innabah. Cost: \$25.00. Workshop Leaders: Dr. Donna Fiedler and Dr. Gary George. Registrar: Rev. Cecile Grantham, cgrantham@verizon.net, 2285 Heather Lane, Pottstown, PA 19464; 610-324-9703.

APRIL 20-21, 2007

Christ Servant Ministries Basic Course at Cookman UMC, 12th and Lehigh Streets in Philadelphia will be led by Rev. Donna Jones. This course needs at least 12 participants and will be limited to the first 20 registrations. Cost \$20. For registration information: www.gbmg-umc.org/csm/.

APRIL 20-21, 2007

Gretna Glen Camp's Spring Fun & Work Weekend - All Ages. This weekend is a great opportunity for families, youth groups, individuals or small groups 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 clean-up, construction, landscaping, and other projects around camp. All meals are provided. Cost is by donation. Call the camp at 717-273-6525 or email coordinator@gretnaglen.org for a brochure and registration form. www.gretnaglen.org.

APRIL 20-22, 2007

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat - Theme "Resurrection Women" will be held at the Days Inn and Conference Center in Allentown at Routes 22 and 309. The retreat will begin with dinner on Friday evening and on Sunday morning. Our leaders from the Northeast Jurisdiction Core Planning Group are Marion Perkins and Dr. Mary White. Music leaders are Yvette Diaz and Frances J. Rivers. *The retreat is open to all women.* Please bring friends. The retreat will focus on the theology of mission. The purpose of the retreat is to increase the understanding and the commitment to God's mission to women, children and youth. There will be opportunities to join in singing, Bible study, Biblical drama, meditation, a labyrinth walk and worship. The cost per person is: 2 people sharing a room - \$130.00; 3 people sharing a room - \$107.00, 4 persons sharing a room - \$95.00. If you have questions, please contact Grace Potts at 610 775 1773 or the Registrar, Henrietta Thomas at 215 572 1318 or you may visit the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women Website at www.gbmg-umc.org/umw-epac/. Register on line or contact the Registrar.

APRIL 21, 2007

Gretna Glen Historical Scrapbooking - Don't you love old pictures? Do you have any vintage Gretna Glen ones? Come and join us as we continue our scrapbooking and celebrate Gretna Glen's history. Call

the camp at 717-273-6525 or email coordinator@gretnaglen.org for a brochure and registration form. www.gretnaglen.org.

APRIL 25, 2007

Observe Malaria Awareness Day—Skip a Lunch. Send a net. Save a Life. - At the White House Summit on Malaria, President Bush said he will designate April 25, 2007 as "Malaria Awareness Day" in conjunction with the observance of Africa Malaria Day. The purpose of Malaria Awareness Day is to raise global awareness of malaria and to reaffirm the nation's commitment to fighting this disease. How do I get involved? We would like to encourage United Methodists to skip lunch on April 25 and donate the \$10 instead to the Nothing But Nets campaign. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation challenge grant will match our contributions dollar for dollar, net for net. Join with Upper Room Covenant Prayer groups, staff of United Methodist Boards and agencies, and United Methodist churches around the world to pray for the children of Africa, for those suffering with malaria, and for global health. For more information:

www.umc.org/nets.

MAY 2, 2007

"DESIGNING AND ENHANCING AN OLDER ADULT MINISTRY", a workshop for pastors, older adult ministry coordinators and anyone interested in ministry to older adults, at Cornwall Manor from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will be led by Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., Director of The Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries, UMC General Board of Discipleship. The cost is \$25 (including lunch and materials) per church registration and \$10 per person for additional registrations from the same church. For more information contact the Cornwall Manor Public Relations office at 1-800-222-2476 or info@cornwallmanor.org or visit the Cornwall Manor web site www.cornwallmanor.org.

MAY 5, 2007

Companions In Christ and The Way of the Child Training Event
A one-day leader training event for the Companions in Christ family of resources at West Chester United Methodist Church, 129 South High Street, West Chester, PA from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The training provides leaders of children and adults with an in-depth experience in Companions in Christ resources and trains them in the distinctive leadership skills called upon when leading formational groups. To register for either training, go to www.companionsinchrist.org and click on the Training Events link.

For information, call Jo Ann Higgins at 610-692-5190.

MAY 10, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Living as Christian Disciples: The Means of Grace and Ordinances of God. See page 10.

JUNE 13-15, 2007

Annual Conference - See page 6.

JUNE 13-15, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Faith Sharing and Evangelical Recruitment. See page 10.

JULY 20-22, 2007

EPA Conference United Methodist Women School of Missions - Reading Inn; Reading, PA.

JULY 21, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Vibrant and Transformative Worship. See page 10.

JULY 28, 2007

Phillies vs. Pirates @ 7 p.m.

Look for ticket order forms in your church office in early April. A UM Men's Choir will sing the National Anthem. See page 16.

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

24th Annual Academy for Laity at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center, King of Prussia, PA. The theme for the weekend is "Sharing Our Faith—in the local church, in the community and in the world." The Rev. N. Lynne Westfield, Associate Professor of Religious Education at Drew University and an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker. Mark the date on your calendar and register early for the Academy. Details about courses and registration will be available in March on the Christ Servant Ministry website: www.gbmg-umc.org/csm or the Conference website: www.epaumc.org. If you have questions, you may contact Verna Colliver, Dean of the Academy for Laity at vcolliver@comcast.net or 215 855 0797.

AUGUST 18, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance. See page 10.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. See page 10.

OCTOBER 13, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Faith Sharing. See page 10.

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Stewards of God's Gifts. See page 10.

DECEMBER 13, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry for all ages. See page 10.

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Gary George installed as superintendent

By Suzy Keenan

Bishop Marcus Matthews welcomed the Rev. Dr. William Gary George as a conference superintendent in a Service of Installation at Tindley Temple UMC on Sunday, March 18, 2007. Dr. George has been assigned to the Central District, where he began on February 1. Previously, he served as pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Rev. Thomas Jackmon, pastor of Tindley Temple, offered the welcome and opening prayer, and remarked on Dr. George's ties to Tindley, where he and his family attended church in his childhood.

Clergy and lay representatives of the Central District came forward to present Dr. George with the signs of District Superintendency, which include a Bible, water, bread and cup, a hymnal and book of worship, a towel and basin, a stole, a Book of Discipline, and a globe. In a touching moment, Portia George, his wife, assisted

Dr. George's mother, Margaret, in placing the stole over her son's shoulders.

Dr. George preached on "the Power of Love." He first welcomed Jennifer Smith, the newly-hired District Resource Assistant for the Central District. He thanked the many people from Tindley Temple, who were role models for him during his childhood, "fine Christian men and women who guided and directed me." Many persons from Grace United Methodist were present to hear Dr. George's thanks, too. "Grace embraced me and my family, and carved an indelible print of love in my and my family's hearts," he said.

Dr. George based his sermon upon 1 John 4: 10 - 11, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." In speaking about loving one another, Dr. George said, "We need to talk about the Savior of the world.

We don't need another program, we need to talk about Jesus!" He continued, "If God so loved us, we ought to love one another. This is not a request; it is an exhortation!" He remarked, "If parents only learned to say that four-letter word - not the bad ones - to say 'I love you' to their children's faces, there would be less violence in the world." He told the story of his cross-cultural appointment in 1988, and about not being welcomed by one family in the congregation. After nearly a year of sharing his ministry of caring and loving kindness in the family's life, they were sad at his leaving. He said, "They cried when I came, and they cried when I left. Love is more powerful than hate!"

Dr. George's brother, Robert, offered his gift of song, singing Charles Albert Tindley's hymn, "Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there."

An offering was received for United Methodist Neighborhood Services in Philadelphia.



Bishop Marcus Matthews prays for the Rev. Dr. Gary George at the Service of Installation.

WELCOME

Janet Mills

Janet Mills has joined the staff of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as Senior Support Associate, Pension and Benefits Communication and Coordination. This is a part time position, with full time responsibility and rewards.

In this position, she will provide communication of necessary pension and health benefit information to employees, clergy and retirees covered by the pension and benefits programs used by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. She will develop and conduct training schedules to communicate the content of the pension and health benefit programs and any amendments and changes. Ms. Mills said, "I look forward to meeting and speaking to all constituents in need of a clearer understanding of our benefits program. In addition, I will liaise with outside consultants and General Boards for a more in depth knowledge of pension and benefits programs."

Ms. Mills will work closely with Support Associate/Benefits Administrator, Eleanor Weiser, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Ms. Mills is an active United Methodist and member of Philadelphia: Janes Memorial in historic Germantown, where she has served as



Janet A. Mills, Senior Support Associate, Pension and Benefits, Communications and Coordination

a Christ Servant Minister; on the Staff Parish Relations Committee, on The Usher Board, as a Trustee Apprentice, as Business Manager for Daughters of Janes, and as secretary for the Janes United Methodist Women. "I have the honor of being East District President-United Methodist Women, Equalizing Delegate to the Annual Conference, member of the Conference Board of Lay Ministries, member of the Laity Academy Planning Committee, United Methodist Women's Conference

Girls on the Go Task Force, and board member of United Methodist Neighborhood Service Center," Ms. Mills explains about her conference-level participation.

Her prior experience includes work are as a Licensed Insurance Agent, PA & MD, sales and marketing of print media and publishing materials, and Philadelphia Public School teacher in Health Related Technology. She is a graduate of Philadelphia High School for Girls, and of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in Political Science. Currently she is enrolled at Lutheran Theological Seminary for the certificate program in Church Leadership.

Jennifer Smith

Jennifer Smith has been hired to fill the position of District Resource Assistant for the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Her responsibilities include providing administrative support for District Superintendent Dr. Gary George, resourcing local churches in the district, coordinating district events when needed, collecting and inputting data into the conference database system, and working at Annual Conference.

Her background includes experience in both non-profit and business settings. She has a Masters degree in Christian Education and worked as a

Christian Education Director at Jarretstown United Methodist Church full-time for six years and then later part-time for three years. She also worked as an Administrative Assistant for a computer company, as a receptionist, part-time in school cafeterias, and as a driver.

Ms. Smith attends Jarretstown UMC, having been a member since 1984. Currently she is facilitating a class, "Faith Walkers" for "W.O.W.!" ("What's On Wednesday?") during Lent. She is also a member of the church's Strategic Planning Team.

Ms. Smith lives in Ambler with her children: Emily, 13, and Jack, 10.

In Memoriam

Donald Eckert, who passed away at the age of 69, on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Don was discontinued as a lay pastor after serving Oregon UMC for 10 years. A memorial service was held at Emmanuel UMC, Brownstown, on Friday, March 16, at 12 p.m. He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Joan Eckert, and their 3 children. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Joan Eckert, 34 Geist Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

The Rev. Harold J. Schieck, who died March 27, 2007. He was 89 years old. His wife, Elizabeth, predeceased him in 1999. Rev. Schieck served the following appointments: Portland; Delaware Water Gap; Scottsville; Frackville; First; Morrisville; Ardmore; Berwyn; Extension Ministry: Simpson House Chap./Admin.; Extension Ministry: Evangelical Manor. He retired in 1983. In retirement he served Extension Ministry: Penn. Home, Philadelphia, Interim Admin.; Extension Ministry: Heritage Towers, Interim Admin.; Extension Ministry: EPC Foundation, Ex. Dir.; and Berwyn.

Rev. Schieck is survived by a son, George, and a daughter, Lois Ann Boyer (Mrs. Philip). Condolences may be sent to Lois Ann Boyer, 1769 Little Conestoga Road, Glenmoore PA 19343.

APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Marcus Matthews announces the following appointments, effective July 1, 2007:

FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS Central District

Steward Warner from Annville UMC to Reading: Holy Cross UMC
Larry A. Frank from Hamburg: Bethany UMC to Harmony UMC

East District

Grant Johnson from PenDel to Philadelphia: Grace UMC

Northeast District

James D. Anderman from New Life Outreach Charge to Allentown: Salem UMC
Drena Miller from Willistown UMC to Drums: St. Paul's UMC
Samuel Kofi Ashley from Portland UMC to Richmond UMC

Northwest District

John Lynch from Myerstown: Zion UMC to Annville UMC

Southeast District

Southwest District

Mark Moore from Extension Ministry to Mt. Joy: Glossbrenner UMC
John Pfeil from Reading: Holy Cross UMC to West Willow UMC
Heidi Silliman from Cochranville UMC to Brownstown: Emmanuel UMC

In The Nation

Church must use gifts of older adults, leader says

By Jeanette Pinkston*

The world's elderly population has nearly quadrupled in the last 50 years, and The United Methodist Church needs to find a way to use "this incredible resource," said the Rev. Rick Gentzler, Jr.

The elderly population increased from 130 million in 1950 to 419 million in 2000, according to a report by Gentzler, director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

He outlined the trends in aging that will impact the global church and society during the United Methodist Committee on Older Adults meeting March 8-12.

Gentzler suggested that The United Methodist Church identify a modern purpose of a longer, healthier old age and seek to answer the questions: "To what use do we put the incredible resource of elderhood, and what are

the new models of old age for our coming maturity?"

Two key proposals in the Comprehensive Plan for Older Adult Ministries for the 2009-2012 period include training a cadre of volunteer caregivers to interact with the growing number of older adults, and modeling intentional intergenerational ministry, in which older adults serve as mentors or coaches to young people.

From a global standpoint, the world's population is aging at an accelerated rate due in part to declining fertility rates and improvements in life expectancy.

"Over the next 14 years, the number of people over 50 in the U.S. will grow 74 percent, while people under 50 will increase by only 1 percent," according to research conducted by Edwin J. Pittock, president of the Society of Certified Senior Advisors.

Sixty-two percent of The United Methodist Church's members are 50

years old or older, while nearly 50 percent are 60 or older, Gentzler said.

Trends in aging

The plan highlights the following trends that will impact the global church and society.

- More people are living longer. The population of those 65 and over will increase from 35 million in 2000 to 72 million by 2030.

- Current markers of old age are changing, which means that increasing longevity will not only postpone the arrival of old age but will also cause all of the stages of life to shift significantly.

- As people are living longer, there will be a pandemic of chronic disease, which will result in increased need for community-based services.

- Dementia is expected to increase, with Alzheimer's disease potentially affecting 11 million to 16 million people by 2050.

- With fewer children being born and more older adults living longer, the U.S. could experience a crisis in family care giving. Globally a growing number of grandparents are raising grandchildren.

- Increasingly, the growing cost of health care has led to discussions about limiting the health care of older adults through rationing.

- Financial insecurity brought on by challenges to Social Security and Medicare and changes in pensions could lead to a future with massive elder poverty. (Most U.S. seniors are neither wealthy nor living in poverty.)

- Many older adults will continue to work long hours after "the normal" age of retirement because of career interests, a desire to stay productive, fear of unstable Social Security coverage, dwindling retirement investments and the fact that some simply can't afford to retire.

Addressing the needs

Intergenerational equity is paramount to address ageism and the belief that all generations should be given the chance to express concerns about their stage of life with equal weight and power, Gentzler said.

Declining church attendance, in light of the myth that older adults have a mature Christian faith, points



Gabriel Unda Yemba, United Methodist Board of Discipleship member from the Democratic Republic of Congo, addresses the gathering as Judith A. Ball, Board of Global Ministries member, listens.

to the need to get people involved in care giving and religious education, he said. Only 42 percent of older adults in the United States attend religious services on a regular basis.

In other action, the committee approved grants, prepared for a symposium and worked on legislation for the 2008 United Methodist General Conference.

The Committee on Older Adult Ministries provides a forum for information sharing, cooperative planning, and joint program endeavors in collaboration with participating boards and agencies. It serves as an advocate for older adult concerns and issues and supports ministries by, with and for older adults throughout The United Methodist Church and in the larger society.

"New Beginnings: The Gifts of Aging" is a video available in DVD and VHS formats at \$15 each. It was produced by United Methodist Communications and is available for ordering at www.upperroom.org/bookstore. A leader's guide has also been developed and is available for free at www.aging-umc.org or by contacting the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37202-0003; phone: (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7177; fax: (615) 340-7071; or e-mail rgentzler@gbod.org.

*Pinkston is director of media relations for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.



The Rev. Rick Gentzler and Teri Kline listen to a presentation at the United Methodist Committee on Older Adults meeting in Nashville, Tenn. UMNS photos by Jeanette Pinkston.

The Nation in Brief

- United Methodists are urged to give up lunch and save lives by using that money to buy an insecticide-treated bed net. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, president of the denomination's Council of Bishops, is asking United Methodists and others to skip lunch on Africa Malaria Day and use their lunch money to buy a lifesaving mosquito bed net. Wednesday, April 25, has been designated Africa Malaria Day and, for the first time in the United States, President Bush has proclaimed a Malaria Awareness Day that same day. United Methodist Communications and The Upper Room Living Prayer Center also encourage a 24-hour period of prayer that day for the children of Africa, those suffering with malaria and for global health. "Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds in Africa," Huie said. "Bed nets are the most cost-effective way to protect children from the mosquitoes (that) carry this killer disease." More information: www.nothingbutnets.net.

- Eight-year-old Courtney Williams carefully sifts through a collection of tiny clothes to match the red hair on a doll. The doll is a gift - for someone that Courtney doesn't even know. She and her 11-year-old sister, Becca, started a project with their grandmother to brighten other children's lives by making doll baskets for needy families in the Wichita, Kan. area. "A lot of kids, they always get a lot of stuff. And those other kids, they don't have much," says Courtney, a member of Aulne United Methodist Church. The girls and their grandmother scour garage sales looking for new or gently used dolls, along with baskets to keep them in. Together, they have made about 50 doll baskets in the past year, donating most to the Wichita urban ministry program.

- The amount of money a United Methodist college student may borrow annually from a denominational loan fund will double to \$5,000, while the

interest rate for repayment will decrease to 5 percent. Governing members of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry approved a four-pronged approach to help students finance their higher education and seminary education. The board's March 8-10 meeting focused on reaching and supporting young people in their vocational endeavors. Changes to the United Methodist Student Loan Fund - including decreasing the interest rate from 6 percent to 5 percent - will take effect in August.

- Instead of finishing her senior year in high school with friends, Jamie Hurst, 18, has some new responsibilities - caring for her infant daughter and working to help pay the bills for her family. "There are times where I just go, 'Man, I wish we would have waited,' because I don't know how I'm going to get through this next step," said the new mom in West Lafayette,

Ind. She is not alone. Hurst and about two dozen teen moms and mothers-to-be get help and encouragement from the Teen MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) program at First United Methodist Church in West Lafayette. At weekly meetings, the ministry offers encouragement and instruction through classes about child care, performing CPR on infants, writing a job resume and balancing the family budget.

- United Methodist Women are raising awareness about the use of mercury as a preservative in some vaccines and other drugs. Educating the faith community on the issue is the goal of "The Truth is Coming to Light," a conference set for June 6-7 at Simpsonwood Retreat Center near Atlanta. The event is sponsored by the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the UMW's administrative arm.

In The World

Ministry trades toys for toy guns in Iraq

By Lilla Marigza*

Two small churches in rural Iowa have found a way to outsmart insurgents in Iraq, using boxes filled with soccer balls and stuffed animals to spread goodwill and save the lives of children in Fallujah.

The ministry began last year after Janet Wakehouse, a member of Turin (Iowa) United Methodist Church, heard about a sickening war tactic through her Marine son-in-law serving in Iraq. She learned how insurgents gave children realistic-looking toy guns in hopes that a U.S. soldier might mistakenly shoot a child



Janet Wakehouse shows some of the donated toys being sent to children in Iraq. A UMNS photo by Tim Griffis.

and incite anger against the United States.

Wakehouse also read about a soldier who had traded a soccer ball for a fake assault rifle that one Iraqi boy was carrying.

Out of the two accounts, a hometown effort grew to collect safe toys to swap for the dangerous ones. Members of the Turin church and The United Methodist Church in neighboring Onawa began gathering soccer balls, backpacks, Beanie Babies and other toys for the cause.

Word spread, and one man donated 1,500 soccer balls, asking that 500 go to Baghdad, 500 to Afghanistan and 500 to Fallujah.

In the end, 28 boxes were shipped before Christmas so the toys could be distributed by Wakehouse's son-in-law, Staff Sgt. Tylor Belshe, and his fellow Marines.

"People are so generous," she says. "In spite of all the bad in the world, there are wonderful people out there."

The cases of deflated soccer balls brought additional benefits, giving Iraqi children a positive activity to occupy their days. "They're not setting off roadside bombs; they are blowing up soccer balls," Wakehouse says.

The toys are a welcome treat for children who live in a war zone and face hardships and danger on a daily basis. For the girls, favorites include Barbie dolls, crayons and construction paper. "We did it to make the children happy, to help them forget some of



A U.S. Marine distributes school supplies to Iraqi children. A UMNS photo by Staff Sgt. Tylor Belshe.



A young Iraqi boy happily shows off a soccer ball sent by the Turin and Onawa United Methodist churches in Iowa. A UMNS photo by Staff Sgt. Tylor Belshe.

the terrible things that have happened to them in their lives," Wakehouse adds.

The ministry has been a blessing for the two Iowa churches as well, according to the Rev. Arley Ellingson, who pastors both congregations.

"I think we are called in our role as Christians to respond to the word of Jesus Christ and to his children in

any way that we can," says Ellingson. "We as a Christian people will accomplish much more if we open our eyes, see how the world is talking to us and respond as the spirit moves us, to that ministry, wherever it may be."

For Wakehouse, the calling became evident, even as she was more than 6,000 miles away from the Iraqi war. "Something within you ... God says ... 'You need to do something about this,'" she explains.

For her 28-year-old son-in-law, the toy delivery from Iowa was a care package that he and his fellow Marines cherish, knowing that they are making a lasting impression on the children of Iraq. "He was happy, he was very happy," says Wakehouse. "It was a Christmas he will not forget."

*Marigza is a freelance producer in Nashville, Tenn.

The World in Brief

- United Methodists in Liberia have a new radio station at 98.7 FM. The 300-watt station is located in Monrovia at the Liberia Annual Conference headquarters and was dedicated during a March 3 service attended by United Methodist bishops of the West Africa Annual Conferences. Equipment from the church's last radio station was stolen and destroyed, along with much of Liberia's infrastructure, during a civil war that lasted for more than a decade. The new station was funded with contributions from U.S. United Methodists through the Illinois Great Rivers Annual (regional) Conference, the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., and the Rev. Dean Williams, a retired pastor in the East Ohio Annual Conference. Bible Voice Broadcasting, a radio ministry based in Canada, donated the 300-watt transmitter.

- UMCOR helped 300 families to have a warmer winter in Wardak and Paktya Provinces of Afghanistan. The 2006-2007 winter was notably longer and colder than previous years. UMCOR's winterization program targets communities of refugees who recently returned to Afghanistan from abroad—none of whom have electricity or running water in their shelters. The winterization packages that consisted of a metal stove for heat, warm blankets, and vouchers for firewood are a major addition to returnees' households, allowing them to survive the winter without vacating their new homes for warmer climes. All of UMCOR's beneficiaries are carefully selected as the most vulnerable, which means they are receiving little or no other assistance, and include widows, the elderly and people with disabilities. Support UMCOR's life-giving work in Afghani-

stan by giving to UMCOR Advance #602225, Afghanistan Emergency.

- Vellore Christian Medical College in India has been training health professionals in HIV/AIDS treatment for the last five years. This special program, the Fellowship in HIV Medicine, has proved to be quite successful in providing India's hospitals with health care practitioners who have thorough knowledge in how to best treat individuals with HIV/AIDS. In the last year funding for this critical program has dried up. United Methodists are stepping in to fill the funding gap through the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. This is just one of many programs supported through this fund that was created with an \$8 million goal—representing \$1 for each United Methodist in the US. UMCOR Advance #982345.

- Julie fled her hometown with her

father and siblings to escape the ongoing violence in the area. In their flight they had to sell most of their possessions just to survive. When they arrived in Kilwa, it was a struggle for her father to provide for her family and paying school fees was nearly impossible. Without UMCOR's assistance Julie would not be able to go to school. She is one of 2,012 girls in five villages and towns in the southern highlands of Congo who qualify for assistance in the girl's education program. UMCOR also has a mentor program through which the girls are encouraged in their studies and plans for the future. The success of the program is evident in the numbers; 92 percent of the girls successfully passed their examinations to the next class. Democratic Republic of Congo Emergency, UMCOR Advance #198400.

Living Connected as God's People: "Nurturing the Connection"

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

June 13-15, 2007 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel



Workshops

***The Church and Technology: Changing how we communicate and interact** - Dr. David W. McKay, president of Ecumenical Technologies, Inc., is an ordained United Methodist Minister; author, lecturer, and Church consultant. McKay specializes in helping churches use Digital Communications and Information Technology to further their mission and ministry goals. *Thursday and Friday*

***Teaching this Holy Mystery to Children...of All Ages** - Carolyn Tanner, author of *New Communion Study for Children* and *The Order of St. Luke*, will discuss 7 learning styles and how they are used to teach children, youth and adults about communion. *Thursday*

***Do My Stained Glass Windows Need Repair?** - Presenter Nidia Mezalick is owner of Mezalick Design Studio, Philadelphia, PA. *Friday*

***Guiding Seniors and Their Families through the Decision Maze** - Presenters include Jon Gruber, Esq., Rev. Glen Esler and Katie Beckhardt, Cornwall Manor, and Rev. David Adam, Simpson House. *Thursday*

***Reclaiming the Flame: Wesleyan Theology for the 21st Century** - Rev. Chris Brady, Special Asst. to the Dean of The Divinity School at Duke University will present this workshop. *Friday*

***What a Tavern can Teach Us about Reaching our Community; Or, How to Grow A Congregation Through Multi-site Ministry** - The Rev. Thomas and Mrs. Dixie Hall, Church Planters, Crossroads UMC, will present this workshop. *Thursday*

***Singing Our Faith with Charles Wesley** - Dr. Yrigoyen, former General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History, is a renowned Charles Wesley scholar and author of *Praising the God of Grace: The Theology of Charles Wesley's Hymns*. *Thursday & Friday*

***Christ Servant Ministers: Partners for Local Church Ministry** - The Rev. Dr. Alfred Maloney, Superintendent of the East District, will present this workshop. *Thursday*

***Companionship for the Journey: Spiritual Direction and the Life of the Spirit** - Presenters include Spiritual Directors Susan Cole, Carol McGinley, Sara Davis-Shappell, and Beth Abbott. *Thursday & Friday*

***Making Your Church a Beacon of God's Justice in Your Community** - This workshop will be presented by a panel: Rev. Joe Agne, Joy Bergey, Bill Mefford, Dana E. Jones, and moderated by Rev. Mindy McKonly. *Thursday*

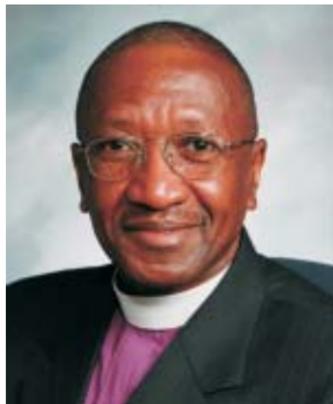
***Coaching: Helping Church Leaders Bridge the Path to Making Disciples** - The Rev. Val Hastings, pastor, and the Rev. Rene Perez, Director, Church Outreach and Multiplication and Latino Ministries will present this workshop. *Friday*

***Lait and Clergy, a Spiritual Trust that can change the way we do Ministry** - Brenda Tildon, presenter, offers options for laity to more fully engage in leadership in the local church and community. *Friday*

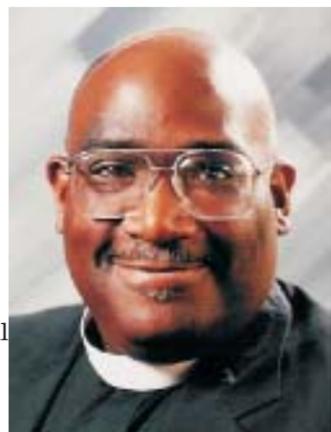
***Ministry with Children: Worship includes people of all ages** - Presenter for this workshop is Misty Fuller, lay supply pastor appointed to Clearview UMC in Philadelphia. *Friday*

***When Faith Intercedes with Politics, What Would Wesley Have to Say? Faith and Politics: How the Church Can Lead the Way to Justice** - Presented by Soozung S. Rankin, Executive Director, A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania, the Advocacy Arm of The United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania. *Friday*

***Open my Eyes Lord—Helping the Church to Respond to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic** — This workshop will help us see the need to respond differently, challenge us to become willing and ready to get involved in caring for persons living with AIDS and allow us to hear the stories of some who are personally involved. Denita Connor and Susan Worrell. *Thursday*



Bishop Marcus Matthews will preach for Opening Worship of The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, June 13, 2007. Bishop Matthews is spiritual leader for nearly 1,000 United Methodist Churches in the Philadelphia Area, comprised of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences. He will lead the annual meeting for its three days in Center City Philadelphia, as nearly 1,200 delegates from 475 churches gather in Holy Conferencing and to elect delegates to the 2008 General Conference to be held in Fort Worth, TX.



Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will be preacher for the Memorial Service and the Service of Ordination. Bishop Palmer is the Resident Bishop of the Iowa Episcopal Area (Iowa Annual Conference), assigned there after his election in 2000. He is the President-Designate of the U.M. Council of Bishops, elected in November 2005. He will become President of the Council in 2008. Bishop Palmer was born and raised in Philadelphia, son of the Rev. Herbert and the late Mrs. Charlotte Sue Palmer. In 1977 he became a deacon (probationary member) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and was ordained Elder in 1981 in the East Ohio Conference. He served six churches in North Carolina and Ohio and as Superintendent of the Youngstown District prior to his election as bishop.



The Rev. Mary Ann Moman, Associate General Secretary of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry will lead the Bible Studies at Annual Conference. Rev. Moman is responsible for the overall administration of the work and programs of the Division of Ordained Ministry, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools, and the Commission on Theological Education. She serves as the liaison with United Methodist seminaries and provides support for the University Senate.

Annual Conference Mission Project

In relationship to the theme "Nurturing the Connection," members of the Annual Conference will be asked to contribute items to children and youth of the Methodist Home for Children. The items are as follows:

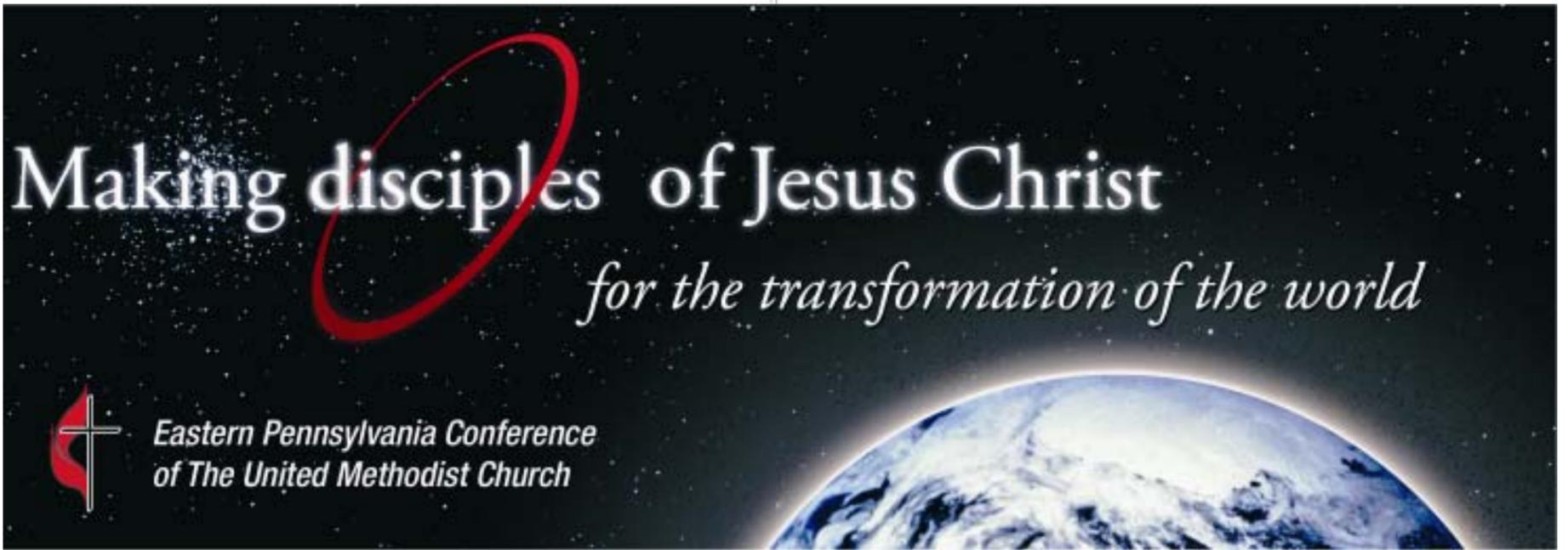
Gift cards - drug stores, clothing stores - Wal-Mart, JC Penney, etc.
Underwear for youth (all sizes)
Backpacks
Toiletries - deodorant, lotion, soap, feminine items

Methodist Home for Children will have receptacles available to receive the items. In the event the contributions are more than Methodist Home for Children can handle, donations will then go to ministries like LUMINA and United Methodist Neighborhood Services.

"Celebrate this since we are doing something for the children, and under the leadership of one of our institutions." Bishop Marcus Matthews

Annual Conference Music

Calling all musicians to participate in the 2007 Annual Conference Orchestra and Choir. These groups will share in two worship services during the June 13-15 session of Annual Conference in Philadelphia. We are looking for all voice types and all orchestral instrumentation (strings, woodwinds, and brass). If you enjoy making music, have average skill or better, or you have questions, please contact - by April 20 - Harry Benson: hrevhrbenson@aol.com or 215-365-1810, or Dixie Hall: Dixie@crossroads4u.org or 610.913.0779. Dates, times, and locations for rehearsals are to be determined.



Prayer Encounter: a foundation for church growth

On Saturday, April 14, Dr. Terry Teykl will present "Acts 29 Prayer Encounter" at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia. Encounter prayer in a way that will invite the presence of God into your church and your life. Learn how to build a prayer ministry and how to inspire your church to fulfill the Great Commission through prayer evangelism.

Dr. Teykl's warm humorous style makes him one of the most sought after speakers and seminar leaders in the country. He was a pastor for 28 years and is now full-time in the prayer ministry. "Sometimes as Christians we wind things up so tight that we break them. But prayer is God's idea. Our responsibility is to participate not produce...He makes it work," said Dr. Teykl.

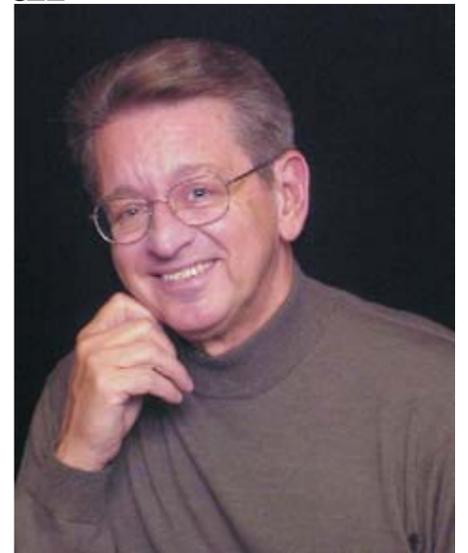
Since 1980, Dr. Teykl has been actively teaching and preaching on one topic - mobilizing the local church to pray and to fulfill the Great Commis-

sion: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Having begun a church with only eight people who were committed to prayer, Aldersgate United Methodist Church grew to a membership of over 1,000 in 5 years. He firmly believes in prayer-evangelism as a working principle for church growth. His first book, *Pray and Grow*, along with its companion, *Personal Prayer-Evangelism Guide*, speaks about this theme and he has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops on the topic.

Because Dr. Teykl pastored several small, rural churches before starting Aldersgate United Methodist Church, he writes and speaks about practical and specific help for the local church in their efforts to make disciples. He has a calling to produce quality prayer resources that teach people how to pray with purpose and understanding, and how to make prayer exciting. Out of this ministry have come many resources to guide people as they pray.

Dr. Teykl also sparked an explosion of prayer rooms with his book, *Making Room to Pray*, which outlines a plan for building a prayer room in a local church. Hundreds of such rooms all over the country have become strategic prayer centers targeting cities for spiritual awakening. Dr. Teykl encourages churches to make prayer a priority by setting aside a special place for prayer and recruiting, training and encouraging people to pray. He published a corporate prayer plan entitled, *Acts 29*. He believes that the 28 chapters of Acts are merely blueprints for what God wants to do in the church today. His book, *Blueprint for the House of Prayer*, from the *Teach Us to Pray Series*, is a wonderful resource for groups or individuals to learn how to master an effective prayer life.

Having been a pastor for 28 years and having worked with pastors from all denominational backgrounds, Dr. Teykl is aware of both the joys and



Dr. Terry Teykl

continues on page 9

United Methodists Called to Pray

John Wesley understood this truth well and taught his followers, "God does nothing apart from prayer."

GBOD and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries will sponsor "Becoming a People of Prayer," September 21-22, 2007 at Brentwood United Methodist Church in Nashville.

The purpose of the prayer conference is to call The United Methodist Church to prayer and to strengthen and empower our ability to pray: as individuals, as families, and as congregations.

A prelude to General Conference 2008, the prayer conference is expected to attract some 300-500 persons.

"The Scripture makes it absolutely clear that at the heart of Jesus' life and ministry was his relationship to God in prayer. To be effective in the Christian life, we must have a vital prayer life," says Tom Albin, team leader for Upper Room Program Ministries and dean of The Upper Room Chapel.

"Unfortunately, in this post-modern, post-Christian culture—United Methodist still live with the 'modernist' mistake that puts prayer in opposition to 'doing something.'"

United Methodists believe prayer is doing something and that without

prayer; all of our efforts produce little fruit if any. This line of thinking says, "Are you going to sit around and pray; or, are you going to get on your feet and do something?"

Albin calls this "the modernist mistake because we can find no such language in the Bible or in the life of Jesus."

Albin goes on to say that "the future of the Church is directly related to our life of prayer and understanding that our entire life is our prayer."

According to Albin, John Wesley understood this truth well and taught his followers, "God does nothing apart from prayer."

Those persons who attend the conference will be introduced to a variety of new ways to pray—as individuals, as families and as congregations.

"I believe those who attend the prayer conference will return home with a greater spiritual life and strength. For those who are willing to go deeper, they will have the opportunity to become a partner in a world wide prayer network where we will continue to share the very best ideas and practices—for the building up of the body of Christ and the transformation of the world, said the Rev.

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April 14, 2007
Tindley Temple UMC
11:30 A.M. - Clergy/Laity Luncheons
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Session

Background Data for Misson: March Madness

Year-end collegiate basketball tournaments grab much media attention during March. Many offices have pools to see who does best at picking winners in the brackets. Always of interest are the Cinderella teams, if any, which upset the highly seeded and ranked teams. These are often smaller colleges that have lacked the prestige and dollars of larger programs and thus have not traditionally been able to attract the coaching or talent. One such program is Gonzaga, a 4000 student Catholic school in eastern Washington State. The distinguishing feature of this program however, is that they have been able to consistently sustain teams which can compete with large top tier schools, and thus may not actually qualify to be called a Cinderella.

Several suggestions present themselves on how this small college could develop and sustain a basketball program that achieves so far above what would otherwise be expected. Part of that success is somehow breaking through and having a degree of success initially. Success breeds success. After having a few good years, the program is in the national spotlight and top players are easier to recruit. Players love to be a part of a winner. At Gonzaga, the team relationships have much more going for them than winning. There is a remarkable support and closeness that makes them a real team, in the best sense of that word. That attracts players as well. Some players express appreciation for a smaller college atmosphere with a top-notch program. Another factor is that the program is supported very strongly by the University administration.

Some of these same principles can be applied to small churches so they can become winners also. There is no shortage of small United Methodist Churches. Half of all UMCs reporting in 2005 reported 52 or less average weekly worship attendance. Less than a third of these showed any

increase in worship attendance over the previous 5 years. While recognizing that increased worship attendance is not the only factor that can be considered to make a small church a winner, the numbers are still indicative. It is possible, however, for small churches to overachieve, much as Gonzaga basketball has. An interesting case study for such a small church exhibiting the Gonzaga effect can be found about 15 miles north of Gonzaga.

Green Bluff Community UMC was running about 22 in attendance four years ago. It is a little open country church that has been there nearly 100 years and had only seen attendance in the forties in the best of years. The finances were abysmal and it had recently been through a tough internal conflict. (The silver lining there, however, is that the negative, no-change people had ultimately left.) The church had hunkered down in survival mode and was paying pennies on the dollar in apportionments.

Today, Green Bluff is averaging over 50 in attendance. Giving has more than tripled. The church is a supporting congregation for a new church start in the far east of Russia through the Russia Initiative, a mission initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries. The church has paid full apportionments for three years. Vacation Bible School had over 50 registered last summer. The music and worship far overachieve for the size of congregation. Two Disciple classes are currently running. Church school has added a women's adult class with over a dozen registered. A similar class is about to launch for the men. A pre school is now offered. The congregation is mostly young. The list goes on. This church is now a winner by any rendering of that term and has become designated as a teaching congregation in its annual conference. One might ask how this small church achieved the Gonzaga effect.

Several common factors are shared with those identified at Gonzaga bas-

ketball. Once the church started to gain momentum, it became more attractive to prospective visitors. It has started to gain a reputation. Also, much like the Gonzaga administration supporting the basketball program, the annual conference made a highly unorthodox appointment to Green Bluff, anticipating results. An experienced elder serving in extension ministry was given a very part-time appointment. This pastor was conversant in congregational development and had vision for the church.

On the church side, the people were open to the new leadership and demonstrated very little resistance to proposed changes. Furthermore, the matriarch passed away from cancer within the first year. To her credit however, she was encouraged that the changes she saw actually were bearing fruit. A few people left. Those remaining did not have long histories with the church, so for the most part were not stuck in the past. They were responsive to messages of hope for the future.

Two of the first major changes resonate with David Devereauxs (from December 2006 issue) top two. Prayer was emphasized and practiced, including the adding of a weekly prayer meeting. Prayer was not just for the usual needs such as sickness and travel, but for evangelism, God's presence in worship, spirit empowered ministry, and growth. Next the worship service was upgraded, adding additional musicians, needed sound equipment, and ultimately projection technology and a worship ensemble.

Many congregational development consultants comment that for real positive change to happen in any church, the first step is for spiritual formation of the leadership. To this end a Bible study was begun, where none existed at the time. After the pastor led this weekly, it morphed into Alpha and Disciple classes. The transformation of some key individuals and their increased sense of

missional calling has been invaluable to the ministry of the church.

Green Bluff has been encouraged to think big, though they are small. Again this parallels Gonzaga Basketball. Many people are looking for a small church but appreciate some of what happens at larger churches, which most small churches cannot provide. Having quality worship and some standout programs has served Green Bluff well. Incidentally, two Gonzaga students consistently drive 30 minutes each way from campus to be a part of the Green Bluff worship life.

The most important factor with Green Bluff overachieving is captured in the moniker on their t-shirts and sweatshirts: GreenBluffChurch: Its a God Thing. Just as God used a David against Goliath, and a handful of disciples turned the world upside down, God is using little Green Bluff to accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God. Stories abound of how ministry happens and new people come, not resulting from some Green Bluff program or strategy, but by some other surprising development. Of course, prayer is a player in this. God Thing indeed.

Small churches overachieving does not have to be limited to a select few. This can happen manifold times. Given that somewhere between two thirds and three fourths of all United Methodist churches are small (depending on how small is defined), a movement of overachieving small churches could have a great impact. For example if half of the 20,000 plus small churches could each add 10 people in worship over the next few years, that would be a 100,000 person increase for the denomination. Bring on the Gonzaga effect.

*Background Data for Mission is published by the Office of Research, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 300, New York, NY 10115. E-mail: research@gbgm-umc.org. ©2007

Offering Christ Today: Review of *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*

by Kwasi Kena*

What if you could talk to one thousand people in mainline denominations about how they are succeeding in evangelism? What if that discussion prompted additional conversations about evangelism in your local church? If you are looking for ways to jump-start evangelism in your local church, read *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese. Reese's book is the result of a four-year study of hundreds of churches called "The Mainline Evangelism Project." *Unbinding the Gospel* is a summary of the beliefs, motivations, and actions of one thousand people interviewed in 150 mainline churches. The 150 churches surveyed were doing a good job of reaching people who had no church background. Reese's conversational style should put the most "evangelism-cautious" person at ease.

The book is a mixture of analysis of the research, examples from the interviews, discussion questions, and practical application options.

Three Views; One Topic

In part one, the book looks at attitudes and beliefs about evangelism in mainline churches today. It raises questions such as, "What is evangelism? Why do it? How is the church doing?" Part two is a "best practices" section that provides examples of churches that are successful in sharing faith. The examples serve as catalysts for discussion in local settings. Part three focuses readers on practical applications. The final chapter, "Getting Started," alone is worth the purchase price of the book.

Key Questions

Reese opens the book with several thought-provoking questions: "Why do evangelism? What's motivating you? What difference does being a Christian make in your life?"

The primary strength of the book is its ability to generate honest dialogue between clergy and laity about evangelism. To get the most out of the book, use it as a group study with key laity. *Unbinding the Gospel* is designed to be used as a seven- or ten-week study. Imagine the cumulative impact of engaging such topics such as: Why do evangelism? ·

How well are mainline churches helping people become Christians? · Prayer and evangelism. ·

What new members want — transformed lives. Barriers and bridges to evangelism. · Keys to doing evangelism. Each chapter contains insights gleaned from the research, a helpful set of discussion questions, and exercises for practical application. Many chapters include suggested resources. Additional information may be found at www.GraceNet.info.

Two Cautions

The book has two weaknesses: First, it presents a concept called a "Trinity of Relationships." This refers to relationships with God, relationships among church members, and relationships with people outside the church. The book addresses the first two relationship categories, but fails to clearly articulate its discussion about initiating relationships with people outside the church. The second weakness appears in the *bandwidth concept*. This refers to the categories of people with whom we can share our faith. The categories of people are called *bandwidths*. Included in these categories are "Committed Christians from simi-

lar or dissimilar theological background." These *committed Christians* are referred to as "transfers." Many evangelism experts argue that transfer growth is not evangelistic growth. These two weaknesses aside, this book remains an important resource for churches to study today.

Don't Miss the Last Chapter

The final chapter, "Getting Started," is a must-read. It instructs clergy to develop a four-person clergy group for encouragement and for the development of evangelism ministry. Clergy are also instructed to create E-Teams (evangelism teams) made up of artistic people, research types, and prayer intercessors. The E-Teams meet for a year to focus on improving evangelistic outreach in their local churches. The E-Teams work independently and collaboratively with E-Teams from three other churches. This creative approach is sure to jump start evangelism ministries for those churches willing to try it.

*Kwasi Kena is the Director of Evangelism Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship. Please direct suggestions and comments to him at kkena@gbod.org. Copyright © 2007 the General Board of Discipleship.

Prayer Encounter: a foundation for church growth

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pressures of ministry. He knows that pastors and their families need a prayer hedge around them for protection and blessing in order to fulfill their calling. In his book, *Preyed On or Prayed For*, he asks, "Could the pastor be the least prayed for person in the local church today?"

Dr. Teykl has authored several books, including *Pray the Price*, *Blueprint for the House of Prayer*, *Acts 29*, *Preyed on or Prayed For*, *Making Room to Pray*, *How to Pray After You've Kicked the Dog*, and *Outside the Camp*. Whether writing on personal prayer or corporate prayer, the central purpose is to teach people to pray with power and confidence so that they might win this generation to Christ.



Dr. Teykl holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Sam Houston State University where he graduated summa cum laude. He earned his Master of Theology at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He earned his Doctorate of Ministry with honors from Oral Roberts University. He and his wife Kathleen live in Houston, Texas and they have 2 grown sons, 2 grown daughters and several beautiful grandchildren.

Register now for "Acts 29 Prayer Encounter" with Terry Teykl. You may register online or print out and mail in a registration form. For more information, go to: www.epaumc.org or call the Conference Office at 1-800-828-9093.

United Methodists Called to Pray

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Karen Greenwaldt, top executive for GBOD.

"This event is a major step forward in the journey of The United Methodist Church 'becoming a people of prayer,'" she said.

The conference design team is hopeful participants will leave with an increased awareness of the importance of prayer in their personal life and in the life of the church; with one goal being to equip persons within the church to establish prayer ministries.

"*Becoming a People of Prayer*" targets pastors, lay members and leaders in The United Methodist Church and leaders in other denominations.

Participants will hear from a variety of leaders and will have the opportunity to pray together in a rich variety of traditions, including Native American, Euro-American, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian.

The conference includes plenary speakers and interactive workshops on various styles of prayer; times of corporate prayer and praise; and a prayer room, which will provide space for spiritual reflection and private prayer.

Among the plenary speakers are:

- Terry Teykl**, *Becoming a Praying Church*,
- Suzette Caldwell**, *Giving My Heart to God*, Windsor Village UMC, Houston
- Marjorie Thompson**, *Seeking the Heart of God*, GBOD
- Taylor Burton-Edwards**, *Giving Prayer and Worship Back to the Congregation*, GBOD

For more information and to register contact, Becky Caudill, 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7059 or e-mail: bcaudill@gbod.org.

For the transformation of the world...

Ashes to ashes, dust to hope

By Bishop Sally Dyck*

I missed Ash Wednesday. I missed attending an Ash Wednesday service and saying the prayers, hearing Psalm 51 and receiving the ashes. Yet I think I experienced what the day is all about. On Ash Wednesday, I was on my return trip home to the United States after traveling abroad during February.

Part of the time I was in Africa to preach at the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Visiting Liberia gave me a new appreciation for what happened at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John. John 13 doesn't mention that Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with the disciples. Perhaps the tradition was so strong by the time this Gospel was written that the writer didn't think it necessary to mention.

What this Gospel does emphasize is the washing of the disciples' feet. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The infrastructures of Liberia are so deteriorated that dust, mud and dirt cover everything, especially the roads and walkways. Several times a day in Liberia I would try to wash my feet and looked forward to the ritual. (At least once a day I even took off my shoes and poured water on them to clean them up!) My feet were hot, sweaty and swollen by the humidity.

The cool refreshing water from a bucket (which was also used for bathing) was an immense relief, restoring and renewing my whole body. Some religious groups have taken Jesus' foot washing functionally, as Peter initially did. They have missed that it was an act of relationship with Jesus, not a hygiene concern. Dust, dirt and grime remind us that we are sinners in need of "grace, grace that pardons and cleanses within," as the hymn puts it. I find many churches no longer include prayers of confession and (importantly) words of assurance in their worship services.

Yet people in our culture need to confess their sins and receive the good news that they are forgiven. We all live in the pressure cooker of expectations and demands, where nothing is ever good enough for us or from us, and where our perfectionism, excuses and need to control take over. Confession and words of assurance bring the exquisite relief, restoration and renewal to our spirits that the water brought to my feet. Foot washing was usually assigned to the lowliest servant, or guests did it themselves after being offered the means to perform the task. I wonder if usually the disciples washed their own feet, having no assigned servant to do so for them. Self-service, if you will.

Take care of yourself and don't be bothered by others' needs. Here Jesus offers another model of being in community: serving each other even in the most humble, common and personal ways. Our intensified, heightened and determined self-sufficiency and privatization keep us from true community in Jesus Christ as modeled in Jesus' service to the disciples.

A recent Gallup poll indicated that more than half of highly religious Americans believe they do not need to change society or the world around



Bishop Sally Dyck

Those "highly religious Americans" who believe they do not have to

them in order to be faithful to their beliefs. Yet in the Bible, Jesus tells his followers about their role in bringing about the realm of God on earth.



A man works the ashes in Liberia, where dust, dirt and mud cover everything and make foot washing an act to appreciate. A UMNS photo by Bishop Sally Dyck.

change society are disregarding Jesus' teaching. "Lent is a spiritual pilgrimage toward God, but it's also a journey toward others and into community, including the global community." Jesus served his disciples so that they would learn to serve each other and take that service out into the world, thereby changing the world. Rather than self-service, we're called to bother with each other, to be concerned and caring about the lives and conditions in which others live.

As a result of my travels, I'm bothered and I care that teenagers in Liberia walked up to me and asked if I would take them home with me so that they could get a better education, have a hot shower, study by electric light instead of kerosene and not have to beg for shoes. I've never been more proud of my country than the morning that John G. Innis, the United Methodist bishop of Liberia, announced to his annual conference that the United States had forgiven significant debt to the nation of Liberia.

The annual conference members cheered with hope that roads,

electricity, running water and education would replace debt retirement as the national priorities. This is a different kind of forgiveness, but nonetheless a forgiveness that brings relief, restoration and renewal.

Liberian United Methodists believe they can be an energy and catalyst for transforming their country. I believe they will be a light of hope to all of Africa and the world as they rebuild their nation. They don't seem to think that caring about these things is too political. It is survival for one and all, and it's their faith that will make them instruments of transformation. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Lent is a spiritual pilgrimage toward God, but it's also a journey toward others and into community, including the global community.

Forgiveness brings relief, restoration and renewal as well as transformation in our personal lives and in our relationships with others, even those in faraway places like Liberia. In Liberia's dust, I walked where Jesus walks.

*Dyck is bishop of the Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Deepening Your Effectiveness Restructuring the Local Church for Life Transformation

By Dan Glover, Claudia Lavy

Is your goal to build great churches or make great disciples? Is your congregation full of professing-only Christians?

Becoming a Christian disciple is supposed to be life-altering, a process of maturation and transformation. The church is to intentionally support that development - both individually and corporately. Sometimes, though, pitfalls and barriers in life and even within the church itself can damage the committed but un-equipped follower.

Proposing a "deep-sea change" from the typical church plan, Glover and Lavy offer experienced coaching in how to systematize disciple-making in a congregation.

"As people of the Great Commission, we have only one job: to fill our churches with people who can say... 'I really know Jesus,'" writes Glover and Lavy. "When this happens, the world will not be able to contain the church. We will be everywhere, serving everyone and lifting the name of Jesus as our motivation. Jesus, who is Truth, would not have sent us to go and make disciples of all

nations if we weren't actually able to accomplish the mission."

Framing their very workable ideas in a seashore analogy, the authors explain how to identify the stages of spiritual development - from skeptical seekers to authentically functional disciples. Each aspect is supported with examples of both ministry successes and failures.

Every church understands its mandate to "Go and make disciples," but not every church has a plan to make it happen. *Deepening Your Effectiveness* is the template you've been looking for to attract new believers and move them toward Christian maturity.

With Glover and Lavy as your guides, you'll transform your congregation's mandate to "Go and make *mature and committed* disciples!" A Facilitator's CD is also available for church leaders.

Order from the Upper Room Bookstore: www.upperroom.org/bookstore: \$14.00 . Ten or More: \$11.90 each
224 Pages . Trim Size: 6" x 9"
ISBN# 978-0-88177-475-7 . Order# DR475

Making Disciples Training Schedule

APRIL 14, 2007 - PRAYER - Saturday - One location: TINDLEY TEMPLE UMC in Philadelphia (Childcare will be provided.)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM - Clergy/Laity Luncheons
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Acts 29 Prayer Encounter with Terry Tekyl

MAY 9, 10, AND 11, 2007 - Preparing Your Congregation's Ministry Action Plan - three separate locations, childcare will be provided

6:00 PM - Dinner
6:45 PM - 7:15 PM - Worship
7:15 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 5

JUNE 13-15, 2007 - Faith Sharing and Evangelical Recruitment- During Annual Conference with streaming video/audio to people not attending Annual Conference - suggested through plenaries

Session 6 and Session 7
**Celebrate successes 6-month check in for the Making Disciples Initiative*

JULY 21, 2007 - Vibrant and Transformative Worship - Saturday - one location,
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Session 8

AUGUST 18, 2007 - Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance

9:00 AM - Small Congregations
11:00 AM - Medium Congregations
1:30 PM - New Church Starts
3:30 PM - Large Churches
Training by Rev. Rene Perez and Rev. Dorothy Watson Tatem

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007 - Christian Education and Spiritual Formation - Saturday, one location, Congregational Leaders Team

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Small Groups
11:00 AM - Plenary GBOD - Carol Krau
Noon-1:00 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - (Age level, youth, young adult, college/campus ministry, family, single, etc.)

OCTOBER 13, 2007 - Faith Sharing - Saturday, One location: "Using Communications in Evangelism Recruitment" - location to be determined

9:30 AM-4:00 PM - Training by Rev. Larry Homitsky, Director of Connectional Ministries, Western PA Conference, UMC and Suzy Keenan, EPA Director of Communications
Worship
"Igniting Ministries Training"

NOVEMBER 3, 2007 - Stewards of God's Gifts

David Bell
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Worship
6:30 PM- 8:15 PM - Training by the Rev. David Bell, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 13, 2007 - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry for all ages

6:45 PM - 7:15 PM - Worship
7:15 PM - 8:45 PM - Training by Steve Manskar, GBOD

IGNITING YOUTH

Launching in July at Youth 2007

Welcoming is how we show kindness, acceptance, and hospitality to everyone - guests and members alike. In a nation that's becoming more unchurched all the time, we need to ensure that teen seekers encounter in us a Christ that they want to know better.

The *Igniting Youth* program has been designed to offer a teen-relevant United Methodist welcoming experience that, in context, shares the values, inclusiveness and living-embodiment of The United Methodist faith community, and actively invites seeker teens to journey into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It also offers local churches new teen-specific training and teen-relevant tools to encourage teen-to-teen community outreach.

There is nothing like this welcoming experience — it is launching exciting new interactivity that brings the teen voice of the Church online. When first entering the experience - www.discover.umc.org/ - seeker teens are immediately engaged with a design that piques curiosity and communicates there is a journey ahead and that any teen seeker is welcome to join the journey whenever they're ready.

Participate Now!

Right now, we sincerely need your help. There are several ways to participate, teens and adults alike, based on your interests and time available. You will NOT regret being a part of this initiative.

• Talk Up Teen Welcoming, Be Our Friend

http://www.myspace.com/um_teen_welcoming

• Nominate A UM Teen
Nominate a teen who would like to self-produce a short but meaningful profile about themselves (we will coach you) to share glimpse of their spiritual selves with teen seekers.
• 'Name The URL' Contest
\$2,000* Grand prize for teen or group nominating the winning name (determined by popular vote at Youth2007). What's better than kiwibox.com? Or, cosmeo.com?
• Build A Seeker Welcome From Your Youth Group
Be a part of this welcome — start a home for your youth group in the

new social network.

• Become A Youth Welcoming Ambassador
Bring this teen outreach & welcoming to your congregation earn the first YWA dog tag! We can help you from developing a presentation to sharing how this teen welcome fits in your youth ministry.

• Join The Advisory Group
Teen Townhall - www.7villages.com/TeenTownHall - is an online hub for teens, youth leaders and pastors,

alike. Share your experience and insights — help shape the theology expressed and other key strategies.

New Evangelism Tool
For youth and youth leaders, this teen welcoming experience, companion teen welcoming training handbook, and teen outreach collateral all serve as a community evangelism tools. Stepping into your community and engaging seekers teens can be as simple as a door hanger campaign, or a open invitation to participate in an outreach project, such as yard cleaning for elderly neighbors.

Welcoming plays a vital role in living the promise of "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." with the seekers coming to your church as a result of the United Methodist national television commercials. Research-Driven, Teen-Immersed

"Their [teens] ideal spiritual place is a casual and comforting environment that would help them feel

more comfortable with their spiritual life through open discussion." — Harris Interactive Qualitative Study, September 2006

Based on comprehensive research, the teen welcoming experience brings seeker teens into a vibrant faith community that is living our Wesleyan social principles on a deep and meaningful basis which, collectively, is a mobilized change agent on the global stage.

A collaboration of United Methodist Communications with:

- Division on Ministries With Young People (GBOD)
- DevoZine (GBOD)
- Abingdon Youth (UMPH)
- Youth Worker Movement
- United Methodist Youth Groups

For more information:
www.ignitingministry.org.



www.Discover.UMC.org

Volunteer shares blessings of mission

continued from page 1

sessions to prepare people to deal with these feelings while being sensitive to the culture and emotions of those who are the victims of disaster.

The training sessions do not include practical knowledge like how to hang drywall or install insulation. Those are skills that the group is expected to have in its makeup and can thus pass on during the trip.

"We need to have somebody that knows what they're doing," said Botti of each group's make up. "If the leader is good at his job or her job, then they can find jobs for everybody."

Botti teaches the groups how to deal with the emotional aspects – the anger and guilt people feel when they compare their own lives to those they are helping – in many cases, those who have lost everything. Botti said people often start with euphoria over being in a new place so different from their own. This soon leads to frustration over cultural differences in how things are done and sometimes, why more can't be done. That leads through several more stages until finally, if the groups would be there long enough, they would have acceptance of their home culture as well as the one where they find themselves on the trip, Botti said.

Botti's workload has increased drastically in the past couple years. Before Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, the UVMIM coordinated only a handful of trips each year and most of them internationally. Domestic groups were sent out as needed. Since Katrina, however, UVMIM has sent out 80 trips just to the Gulf Coast with 60 of those trips occurring within the last year.

"My job now, since Katrina, has been basically a full time job," said Botti, who said he was initially working 40 to 60 hours a week. Lately, that amount has cut back some, but he has not had the chance to do any consulting work on the side since the first two days after Katrina hit when he was wrapping up a project in Philadelphia. Overall, he seems to enjoy the direction this path has taken.

"It's very rewarding," said Botti of the work, which he said often is life altering for people.

Botti recalls the story of one woman who approached him at a regional meeting for the two towns, Bay St. Louis and Waveland, Miss. that were adopted by Bucks County after Katrina hit. A woman approached him about how she could get involved in trips to the region, and he added her to an e-mail list about groups that were going down to the region. One day he received a thank you card from her letting him know that she had hooked up with a group going down from West Lawn United Methodist Church located on the far side of Reading. Receiving notes of appreciation from people who have been greatly affected or moved by mission trips is not strange to Botti. However, Botti later found out that the woman was regularly commuting from the Doylestown area to attend church in West Lawn with the group she had met. Prior to that, she had not attended church regularly in more than 20 years.

"It does transform lives," said Botti. "It affects people on the receiving end, too."

One couple, Darrell and Bernice, stick out in Botti's mind. The couple owned a home that was one of the projects that a group from First United Methodist Church helped with reconstruction after Katrina. Bernice explained to the group that her husband Darrell had trouble motivating himself to even clean out the house after the storm or help prepare it for reconstruction. He felt it was a waste and that his house was gone forever. This is where the mission teams come in and offer a different brand of reconstruction – the gift of hope.

"[Bernice] said it wasn't until the teams started to come down there and were laughing, singing and joking that he started to perk up and have some interest in it," said Botti.

One of Botti's favorite memories and pictures from that trip is one where Darrell helps install the deadbolt on the front door – a finish-



Matching T-shirts help with solidarity on a missions trip to Pascagoula, Miss. to help with recovery from Hurricane Katrina. Participating in that trip are, from left, Jeremy Gares of Phoenixville and First United Methodist Church members Ben Botti, Karyn Fisher, Janet Dietrich, Rogger Stauffer and Pat Stauffer. Not pictured is Barbara Sveen.

ing touch on a home he thought could never be restored.

In fact, this is what mission work is all about.

"We stress in our training that the goal of our trip is not the project," said Botti. The main goal is to listen and talk with people about what they've been through. "If they want to talk, stop and talk with them and the project will get done somehow."

The first response groups – those that are the first volunteers to arrive after a tragedy strikes – actually include a "listener" whose only job is to listen to the people's stories.

"It's cathartic for people to be able to talk about their experience," Botti said.

For the volunteers, much of the life-changing thoughts and challenges can occur both during and after the process.

There continue to be many changes as the number of volunteers interested in helping increases. In February, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, which focuses on challenging church members into service, and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which responds to

disasters, held a conference to focus on working together to smooth out challenges the groups have faced as disaster response groups become more necessary.

No matter what the future holds, volunteers like Botti and all those he has worked with over the years will become relied upon more to reach out and help those that are less fortunate, and in many cases, those who cannot help themselves for any number of reasons.

"I surely appreciate what we have more," said Botti of how his work has affected him. "It always amazes me when I come from a place like Honduras with open sewers, ditches and creeks. To get on a plane in Honduras and fly for a couple hours and land in Miami, and circle around before landing and see all the houses with the pools and all the cars on the highway...An hour and a half, two hours ago, you left a place where people are living in huts. We're so blessed and we take it for granted, and I don't think I'll ever get used to that."

* Emily Morris is a staff writer for the News Herald. Story reprinted courtesy of the News Herald.

Children learn about mission

Each year thousands of children attending Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) around the nation learn what Jesus meant when he said, "You give them something to eat." Through Bible stories and activities found in the Society of St. Andrew's mission project package, the children learn that there are people who go hungry, even in their own town, and they are given the opportunity to actually help feed their hungry neighbors through donations of their nickels and dimes.

The Society of St. Andrew's (Advance #801600) very popular, effective, and free annual VBS mission project package is now available. This year's program, "Truckin' to End Hunger," is a fun way to involve VBS in feeding the hungry right here in America. "Truckin' to End Hunger" is designed to supplement any VBS program and help students learn about hunger in America and how Jesus wants us to help. Student sheets, containing a short scripture story, facts about hunger and the Society of St. Andrew's hunger-relief ministry,

potato trivia, and a pencil activity, are included for each day.

The mission project title plays off of the Society of St. Andrew's (SoSA) national hunger-relief program, the *Potato Project*, which salvages potatoes that are perfectly good and nutritious, but can't be sold because of market factors. The spuds are either too big, too small, or there are simply too many of them. Instead of letting them go to waste, SoSA trucks these donated white and sweet potatoes in tractor-trailer loads to agencies feeding the hungry throughout the nation, and at a cost of just over five cents a pound! It's a simple and effective way to obey Jesus' commands to feed the hungry, while also being good stewards of our nation's abundance.

Along with teaching children about hunger and helping those in need, the goal is for each VBS to raise enough through offerings for 1,000 pounds of potatoes that will end up on the plates of hungry people right here in America. At a nickel and pound, that's a goal of \$50.

Last year 175 churches used the Society of St. Andrew's VBS program. The children attending VBS enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating \$40,123 – enough to provide more than two million servings of food to hungry men, women and children! On average, each participating VBS raised four and half times the goal of \$50.

"Truckin' to End Hunger" is free and there is no obligation. Order a free sample kit today. Call Susan Allen

at the Society of St. Andrew, 800-333-4597; email church@endhunger.org; fax your request to 434-299-5949; or order on line at www.endhunger.org/order_material.htm. Materials should arrive within two weeks of ordering.

More information about the Society of St. Andrew and its hunger relief ministry, including the *Potato Project*, *Gleaning Network*, *Harvest of Hope*, and *Hunger Relief Advocate* programs, is available at www.endhunger.org.

Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
www.endhunger.org

Academy for Laity features new courses and young adult conference

By Verna Colliver*

The 24th Annual Academy for Laity at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center, August 3-5, 2007, offers new courses and a special Saturday session for young adults in the EPA Conference.

A new initiative this year is an invitation to young adults to come together at the Academy for a one-day session led by the Rev. Chris Brady. Brady is commissioned toward Elders Orders in the EPA Conference, and is currently serving as Special Assistant to the Dean at Duke Divinity School. The young adults will dialogue on issues of faith and develop initiatives toward engaging in a renewed vision of ministry for the young adults of the Conference.

The weekend program of the Academy will offer the Basic Course, taught by the Rev. J. Dennis Williams and Advanced Courses in the three areas of certification for Christ Servant Ministers.

Advanced Course offerings include "Dancing with Words: Sharing God's Word and Witness through Story," taught by the Rev. Alfred T. Day, III, for the ministry of communication/preaching. Two courses for caring ministry are "Health Ministries: How Congregations can Focus on H-E-A-L-T-H," taught by Barbara E. Drake, RN, MSN, and Soozung S. Rankin, Exec. Dir. UM Witness in PA, and "Grief: God's Gift for Healing," taught by the Rev. Dr. Anita Powell. In the area of leadership ministry is "Spiritual Leadership in the 21st Century," taught by the Rev. Dr. Alfred S. Maloney.

"Expanding the Kingdom," a course that focuses on faith sharing and evangelism, covers both caring and leading, will be taught by the Rev. Drena Miller.

Laypersons who want to begin the journey to be a Christ Servant Minister should register for the Basic Course. Those who want to be certified as a Christ Servant Minister, as well as any laypersons who want to grow spiritually and strengthen their faith commitment may register for the Advanced Courses.

featuring a sermon by the Rev. Dr. N. Lynne Westfield, associate professor of Religious Education at Drew University and an ordained elder in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

The Academy for Laity, sponsored by the Board of Lay Ministry, has been training and equipping lay persons in the Conference for more than twenty years. Hundreds of Christ Servant Ministers have taken courses that enable them to do ministry in the local church in a variety of ways.



(L. to R.) Valerie T. Quiles and Yvette Davis-Trotman, both from Johnson-Memorial UMC, and Georgeanne Toner, from Scottsville UMC, participate in an advanced course on Bible Study at the Academy in 2006.

The weekend program begins on Friday evening with a worship service

In partnership with clergy, Christ Servant Ministers lead worship services and preach when needed. Small struggling churches begin to grow under the leadership of Christ Servant Ministers. They demonstrate caring skills as they visit the sick and those in life care facilities. Their leadership in administration, stewardship and finance fills a vital role in the life of the local congregation. In small groups, in Christian education, and in outreach into the community, they carry out the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

The Academy for Laity is just one of the many opportunities for spiritual growth and the development of skills that strengthen the local church and the conference in its mission to nur-



Dr. N. Lynne Westfield, preacher for Laity Academy worship on August 5, is Associate Professor of Religious Education at Drew University in Madison, NJ with a joint appointment in the Casperson Graduate School and The Theological School. She has been a consultant, preacher, teacher and poet on issues of African-American women, religion, spirituality and education for more than fifteen years in the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Ghana, Israel and Cuba. Dr. Westfield is the author of *Dear Sisters: A Womanist Practice of Hospitality*. Her most recent work focuses on prayer as African American religious phenomena and the teaching practices and role of Africa American professors in theological education. Dr. Westfield is the former Minister of Christian Education at The Riverside Church in New York City.

ture and teach and to spread the good news of the Gospel. The weekend at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center offers courses and instructors as well as fellowship and interaction that will move us forward— "Sharing Our Faith in the local church, in the community, and in the world."

*Contact information: Verna Colliver, Dean of the Academy, at vcolliver@comcast.net (215 855 0797). Registration information: CSM website: www.gbgm-umc.org/csm.

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A Young Adult's Perspective on Our Future Church

By Coryn Beck*

In the media, I am always hearing that the young adults and youth of today are lost. They have been lost to the chaos of society today. They have no sense of who God is anymore and no longer feel connected to the Church. The media and the Church are constantly wondering how to reach these lost generations and are constantly worrying about the future. The Church especially is worried about its own future. Where is the Church going to be if the young adults and youth of today do not step into the leadership positions that are slowly becoming vacant? Where is the Church going to be if the young adults and youth of today don't embrace its traditions? Where is the Church going to be if the young adults and youth of today don't seem to care about the Church?

Recently, I had the chance to travel to the United Methodist Global Convocation of Youth and Young Adults in South Africa and I am not worried about any of these questions because of what I saw. I went as a young adult clergy representative from our conference. I had the chance to meet many other young adults from all over the world who love the United Methodist Church. Many of these young adults that I met are already stepping up as leaders in their own conferences and jurisdictions either by serving on committees or by becoming clergy. These are youth and young adults who are passionate about the future of the United Methodist Church. They want to see it grow and flourish.

They want to be leaders within their denomination. They want to have a voice in making the policies of their church. They want to know what is going on at General Conference. They want to connect to each other on a global level. They care about what is going on in the church in Africa, the Philippines, Germany, Austria, and the United States. There was no lobbying. No trying to make sure everyone agreed. Everyone's point was heard and respected.

One moment that really stands out to me occurred when we had separated out into subgroups to talk about various hot button issues. There were many people sitting around the table at which I sat, from all over the world. Each had an opinion on the issue and wanted to be heard. We started to talk. I have been to General Conference and I saw what goes on there. There is a lot of lobbying. People with a certain viewpoint almost manipulate others in order to get legislation passed. It is the ugly side of General Conference. At General Conference there seems to be a lot of talking, but very little listening. Not here. Everyone was afforded an opportunity to speak. Even those who were afraid that their opinion would be different than the majorities were encouraged to speak because differing opinions were valued! We even took the time to make sure everyone understood how to find the relevant Book of Discipline paragraphs and how to write legislation. There was a level of respect amongst these young adults and youths that is often missing between "adults."

I am thankful to this conference for giving me the chance to go. I have never been to Africa and feel blessed to have gone to South Africa. It was amazing to meet people from all over the world. I had the chance to talk with people from Austria. My roommate was from the Philippines and we talked about the difference between the ways our churches did ministry with young adults. Our group from EPA grew close in that short time and share memories of seeing children in an AIDS orphanage, of driving through Soweto, and of standing in the home of Nelson Mandela. We also came away with an urge to do more. Many of in our delegation did not know how the legislative process worked in the United Methodist Church. Now that they know how it works, they want their voices heard.

What did I take with me from the Global Convocation? Young Adults and Youth are not the future of the Church. We are the present. We are leaders in the Church now. But we are often ignored. We want to know more about our denomination and we want to be involved. We already are.



Rev. Coryn Beck (right) and Rev. Beauty Maenzanise, Dean of Theology at Africa University, reunite at the Global Convocation. Rev. Maenzanise was a professor of Rev. Beck's in Seminary.

We have opinions about what is going on in our church. Ask us what we think. We will tell you. We want our denomination to continue and to grow because we love the United Methodist Church. There is no need to worry about the "future" of the church. The young adults and youth of the United Methodist Church are already stepping up and taking leadership positions at a global level. The young adults and youth of this church care deeply about the issues that our church is facing and are writing legislation to affect change. We want our voices to be heard. It is up to the United Methodist Church to listen.

*The Rev. Coryn Beck is pastor of Miller's Crossroads United Methodist Church.

Upcoming District Conferences

Southwest District

Friday, April 27, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Lititz UMC, 201 E. Market Street, Lititz, PA

Northeast District

Saturday, April 28, Continental Breakfast 8:30 am,
Meeting: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Quakertown UMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA

Northwest District

Saturday, April 28
Registration: 1:00 pm, Meeting: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Schuylkill Haven: First UMC, 420 Saylor Street,
Schuylkill Haven, PA

East, Central and Southeast Districts

Sunday, April 29
Registration: 2:30 pm, Meeting: 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Tindley Temple UMC, 750 - 762 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA

Bishop's Hope for the Children Award

The Bishop's Award for ministry with children in poverty was established through the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's Hope for the Children Ministry. Its purpose is to recognize excellence in church programs that benefit children in poverty as well as to encourage churches to develop such programs. During the 2000-2004 quadrennium, The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference raised \$230,000 for children in Nigeria and raised more than \$100,000 for the children in Eastern Pennsylvania. The funds raised for Eastern Pennsylvania's children are for churches that are in ministry with children that live in poverty. There are two types of awards: up to six awards (one per district) of \$5,000; and one \$10,000 award for one church in the conference. The church may determine the use of the funds for the best way to serve children in poverty.

Criteria for selection:

- A ministry of a church (not an agency) that has been in existence at least one year and impacts children (birth through age eighteen) that live in poverty.
- The ministry serves children in the community.
- The ministry must have a Christ-centered approach, providing an intentional spiritual witness.
- The church must be willing to share with other congregations through written materials and/or consultations. The church will commit to go to at least one other church to share the vision of ministry with children in poverty.

- The church will develop a display for Annual Conference explaining their ministry.

Application Process

There is no application form. Materials for the award submission should be presented as a packet.

1. The packet is to be submitted by a lay person.

2. The packet must include a letter of support from a child or parent of a child that has benefited from the ministry.

3. Each packet must include the following:

- **Description of the ministry** (how it operates, who provides leadership, when it operates, the number and ages of the children served, and how the ministry will benefit children in poverty).
- **Why the church is conducting the ministry.**
- **How the laity of the church are involved** in planning, organizing, and carrying out the ministry.
- **How the ministry provides outreach to the community.**
- **How the ministry provides a Christ-centered approach with children.**
- **The annual budget for the ministry.**

Each church that applies is to submit a cover letter that includes: the name of the church, the name of the ministry, contact person, address, phone number and email address.

All materials are to be **sent to the church's district superintendent** and must be received by **May 1**. Awards will be made at the June Annual Conference session.

Upcoming Camping Events

- April 13-15**
Boys Fishing Weekend (Age 11 —Grade 12)
Camp Innabah
- April 20-21**
Spring Fun & Work Weekend
Cretna Glen
- April 20-21**
Spring Blast Weekend (Grades 1-6)
Cretna Glen
- April 29**
Open House
Carson-Simpson Farm
- May 5**
Flea Market at *Carson-Simpson Farm*
- May 11**
Golf Tournament
Camp Innabah
- May 20**
Open House
Pocono Plateau
- June 3**
Open House
Camp Innabah
- June 17**
SUMMER CAMP BEGINS!!
- June 19**
Day at *Camp Pocono Plateau*

Matching Grants offered for advertising

United Methodist Communications offers \$1 million in matching funds annually to local churches, districts and conferences to help establish an advertising presence in their community. Matching funds can be used for placing television, radio, cinema, outdoor media or a combination of these media types.

Grant applications are accepted three times a year for media placed in coordination with the national cable TV schedule: Lent, Back-to-school and Advent.

Next Application Period
• May 1 through June 1 for Back-To-School and/or Advent 2007

FREE MEDIA SERVICES

Through Igniting Ministry Media Services, a local church can access the expertise of Igniting Ministry's full-service advertising agency for all their media strategies, solutions, buying and placement requests at no charge. This service is available to anyone placing any type of media — Matching Grant and non-Matching Grant alike.

APPLY ONLINE

A convenient online application form is available during each application period. Once an online

application is started, it cannot be saved for later completion.

APPLY OFFLINE

If you prefer to work from a hard copy, an application form is available with full application instructions.

AWARD PROCESS

Grants are awarded, to the extent of available funds, based on optimum media coverage, giving the best reach and frequency throughout the United States. We encourage applicants to cluster with other churches in your media market to pool resources and make an effective buy with a single application. A list of churches, districts or conferences in your media market is available upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact the Media Grants and Services office at 877-281-6535 or IMmediaservices@umcom.org. To apply, go to: www.ignitingministry.org.



Hope for the Future

By The Rev. Andrew L. Foster, III*

I recently attended a meeting that will forever change my view of The United Methodist Church. The occasion was the 40th Anniversary of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. (BMCR) held in Cleveland Ohio, March 21-24, 2007. Ebony Bishops, District Superintendents, Clergy and Laity from the North, the South, the East and the West, traveled to the same state that birthed this great organization forty years ago. This year's theme was: "If We Build It, They Will Come: Advocacy and Empowerment." History records that it was in Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 6-9, 1968 that the National Conference of Negro Methodists convened with 259 registered delegates from every geographical jurisdiction in Methodism to address racism and the issues that affected black Methodists.

I am personally grateful for the contributions BMCR has made in the life of The United Methodist Church since its inception forty years ago. It is because of BMCR that we have Ebony Bishops and District Superintendents; it is because of BMCR that we have Africa University (15 years in higher education); it is because of BMCR that we have blacks on our Commissions, Boards and Agencies. It is because of BMCR that we have Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. It is because of

BMCR that we have a voice to speak up about issues that affect black Methodists and a vote that can help to shape and re-shape the policies within our denomination at the local, conference, jurisdiction and general levels of the church. It is my hope and prayer that those that know the story will continue to tell the story, the whole story; I know I will.

The Rev. Dr. Earnest A. Smith declared the following in a document called *Findings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal*: "From this day forward our dedication must be deep, our commitment sure and our action certain. God's work and way are contemporary in every age. There is no waiting for tomorrow — it is blasphemous to shunt the expectations from our time to another — it is cowardly and without faith to cry that the situation will adjust itself. Our time under God is now!"

So my brothers and sisters, if you've ever questioned the relevance of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, think about what the prophet Micah recorded in chapter 6, verse 8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. This organization is not "just for us", it is about "justice."

* Andrew L. Foster, III is Senior Pastor, Grace Community UMC and Chair, Philadelphia Caucus, BMCR.



Embracing Life



When my friend told me how happy she was at Simpson House, I knew I could make it my home. Now we have lunch together everyday.

Simpson Senior Services is a not for profit family of services including Simpson House, Simpson Meadows, Jenner's Pond, Simpson Gardens and Simpson Mid-Town.

Simpson Senior Services is committed to providing communities that promote independence and are warm, caring, and secure.

As America ages, Simpson Senior Services is poised to provide a variety of retirement living options for seniors in a spiritually enriching environment.

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25 Years of Mission

continued from page 1

court was pressure washed and new stripes were painted on it. We completed installation of safety rails and ladders on bunk beds in the cabins. At the manger's house we installed a mirror and ground fault protection in the bathroom. We repaired roof leaks and installed a concrete drainage diversion ditch at the walkway and restoned the walkway."

In addition to work at Campamento Corson, the team also did extensive repairs to the church in the nearby Mameyes Barrio and to Casa Betsan, a small nursing home. From the water supply to the roof, from refrigeration to laundry facilities, the team fixed, repaired, and installed many items of both safety and comfort at the nursing home.

Reaching into the physical health of the community in the Mameyes Barrio has been a focus of the team's work from the beginning. On this trip, Dr. William Lovett (of Jonestown UMC) and Dr. Denyse Allen (of Lebanon, Pa) attended to many patients while team nurses and assistants filled many prescriptions. Maria Serrano, a medical office assistant just out of school, shared her medical skills and her Spanish. The medical clinic has continued to evolve over the years, and the goal is to establish a cooperative health ministry that will grow in the barrio.

Dr. Marie Scott (of Covenant UMC in Springfield, Pa) attended to 87 patients with the assistance of Ann Marie Park and Rev. Ramon Martinez, also known as "Padre" (retired EPA pastor). Rev. Troester recalled the history of the dental clinic, "It has been an amazing path from the sturdy wooden chair, hand held Mag-Lites and a bucket full of pulled teeth that was our first experience. It's amazing how an intact full blown smile raises you up." This year, despite serious problems with the dental vacuum pump, the dental *clinica* saved not just teeth, but also self esteem.

The mission work of Dr. Darrell Hoffman, a veterinarian, and his wife/assistant, Ann (of Crossroads UMC), included seeing 147 "patients," performing 47 operations, and administering 90 inoculations. The extensive parade of cherished pets and other animals and the work of the Hoffmans was observed by High School students who were taking an agricultural class. Rev. Troester observed, "As each creature was finished being cared for, hands were extended, a simple, heart felt "thank you" was shared - even through tears when the news was very bad. Yes, veterinary work is part of the mission."

According to Mrs. Funk, Bishop Skeete's message was this: "The important thing is not the building. The important thing is to introduce mission team members to Puerto Rican culture and make sure that they learn to understand and love the Puerto Rican people."

Introducing the Puerto Rican culture is her job: "At Campamento Corson, I hire a Puerto Rican cook, who is a local church member. She has cooked for us every time we are there, and is a member of our team. Food is a most important part of any culture, so we eat Puerto Rican food. I arrange for tours to the school, a farm, visit to

a local home, we have the opportunity to hike the mountains with a local friend. Then we give people a choice of weekend activities such as going to the beach, a Taino Indian ancient "ball park" and museum, the Areciebo Observatory, the Camuy Cave complex, a coffee processing plant, or Old San Juan."

Mrs. Funk also organizes the children and youth. "They all get jobs. The children help in the kitchen. The cook teaches them to make pastelillos, a turnover made with corn meal filled with meat or cheese. They bake cakes for birthdays, help cut up fruit, serve, etc. This year the children also painted."

Paul Douglas, director of Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, and his son, Ben, were team members. About his mission team experience, Ben said, "I liked flying on the plane, hearing the Coquis [tree frogs], eating rice & beans, hanging out with two other second graders, seeing the chickens, mixing concrete, picking bananas, writing in my journal, visiting the school, snorkeling in the ocean, and singing in a church service." He added, "I didn't like leaving my sisters and mom at home, still having to do my homework, or leaving 91 degrees to return home to 21 degrees!"

Looking back over twenty-five years, Mr. Funk said, "Two things stand out as key ingredients to success in getting the work done: First, recruit volunteers by principle and example, showing them how fulfilling the donation of their time and money would be. Second, I've always tried to set an example of leadership. This has led to the development of new volunteer leaders. This multiplies exponentially, creating a volunteer work force able to achieve much more than I could ever accomplish by myself."

He added, "During my 80 years, I've had the opportunity to work with many fine people. I'm blessed to have lived long enough to enjoy not only seeing the many people touched by the works I've been involved with, but by the many more touched and healed by those who followed me. I think this quote by Arthur Ashe says it best: 'From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life.'"

Annual Conference 2007 Living Connected as God's People: Nurturing the Connection

ART EXHIBIT

All churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference are encouraged to submit a piece of collaborative artwork from both your children's and youth ministries that captures the theme: *Living as God's People: Nurturing the Connection*. Individuals and groups of adults may also send a piece of artwork from your church representing the theme for Annual Conference 2007.

BISHOP'S AWARD 2007:

"NURTURING THE CONNECTION, SUPPORTING THE ARTS" will be given to every church with full participation from the children, youth and adults in their church.

MEDIA:

1. Oils/Acrylic/Oil Pastels; 2. Watercolor; 3. Drawing; 4. Printmaking; 5. Photography; 6. Computer Art; 7. Fiber Art/ Textiles/ Quilts (must be able to be hang these items); 8. Mixed Media

REQUIREMENTS:

All works should be LESS than 4' X 4'; Including frame. Artwork must be light. Attach picture hangers with eyelets or hooks in each upper corners on the back, or large hole-punch both upper corners to make ready for hanging. Rather than canvas, it is preferred that oils and acrylics are painted on Gesso-ed poster board. Works that are fragile or unmanageable will not be accepted. All works must be dry! Works must be flat. The following information needs to be clearly written and attached on the back of every piece submitted:

1. Artist's name(s); 2. Name of Art Work; 3. Church; 4. Address; 5. Phone Number

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Art will be received June 4 to June 8, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

No art will be accepted after June 8 unless delivered on site at the Conference Hotel Tuesday, June 12. *Call to confirm before delivering artwork to the locations specified below.* Please ensure that all artwork is packaged in a sturdy and stable box or framed and shrink-wrapped.

Artwork may be delivered to the following locations:

In the CENTRAL DISTRICT:

Tindley Temple UMC
Pastor, Thomas Jackmon

750-762 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146; Ph: 215 735 0442 - Central District Office: Jennifer Smith, DRA Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2531, Ph: 215 878 4607

In the EAST DISTRICT:

East District Office; c/o Huntingdon Valley UMC, 3740 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006; Ph: 215 914 2130

In the NORTHEAST DISTRICT:

Bangor First UMC
Pastor: Gary Nicholson; 5 North Third Street, Bangor, PA 18013-1907; Ph: 610 588 4673; Conyngham UMC; Pastor: Lorelei Krall Toombs; 411 Main Street, Conyngham, PA 18219; Ph: 570 788 3960; (MUST call first before delivering art to arrange time with church staff)

In the NORTHWEST DISTRICT:

Fredericksburg UMC
Pastor: Kenneth Bell; *Deliver to:* (Shirksville Road at Route 343) 460 Shirksville Road, Jonestown, PA 17038
Or Mail to: PO Box 7, Fredericksburg, PA 17026; Ph: 717 865 6062; Schuylkill Haven First UMC
Pastor: Christopher Fisher; 420 Saylor Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972; Ph: 570 385 3941

In the SOUTHEAST DISTRICT:

Downingtown UMC
Pastor: Charles Weigel; 750 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335; Ph: 610 269 1496; Drexel Hill UMC

Pastor: Paul Gutknecht; (Burmound Road & Bloomfield Avenue) 600 Burmound Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026
Ph: 610 259 2104

In the SOUTHWEST DISTRICT:

Southwest District Office
c/o Bird-In-Hand UMC; *Deliver to:* Second Floor, 2620 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505-0408
Or Mail to: PO Box 271, Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505-0270; Ph: 717 569 9673

AFTER CONFERENCE PICK-UP: It is the responsibility of each church to pick-up the artwork. All Artwork needs to be picked up by a person representing your church on the last day of Annual Conference. Any artwork left at the close of Conference will be discarded at the discretion of the hotel.

LIABILITY

Insurance is the sole responsibility of the artist. The Eastern Pa. Annual Conference nor anyone handling or hanging the artwork, including the hotel, are not responsible for damage or loss due to unforeseen accidents. All art will be hung carefully for the enjoyment of all participants at the Annual Conference. Any artwork left after the conclusion of conference will be discarded at the discretion of the hotel.

Contact for questions on ART, materials, or theme:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Barley
Phone: 717-285-5020
Email: Tecartimagez@aol.com

Imagine a space filled with images and metaphors representing the symbolic core of *Living Connected as God's People, Nurturing the Connection*. What better way to express this holy conferencing than to allow our hands to join together in making art to nurture our connection as United Methodists.

Classifieds

Annual Giving Coordinator for senior living communities in Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties. Duties include data base management, support of the annual giving program, submission of grant proposals, maintenance of the foundation calendar and assistance with public relations and fundraising events. The successful candidate will have a valid driver's license and access to a car. Submit resume to Allison Boyle, Simpson Senior Services, 150 Monument Avenue, Suite 105, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004-1725, (610) 660-0112 X107,

aboyle@simpsonsenior.org,

www.simpsonsenior.org

Church musician wanted - for Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in West Philadelphia. Skills to include directing choirs ranging from youth to adult, organ and keyboard experience, knowledge of hymns, gospel music, and contemporary Christian. Contact lladylaurie@aol.com. Visit www.CamphorMemorialUMC.org.
Director of Student Ministries - East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church is seeking a person to direct the Middle and High School youth ministries. We want someone with previous youth ministry experience, preferably with an undergraduate degree in a related field. We are a 1,000 member church in a university town in the recreational area of the Pocono region of Pennsylvania. Salary is \$30,000+ plus housing and benefits available. **Contact:** Pastor Ed Kimes; **Email:** edckimes@ptd.net 570-421-3280 x14 **Fax:** 570-421-0778.

YOUTH 2007



Youth '07
July 11-15, 2007

Greensboro, North Carolina

Join the 10,000 United Methodist youth and Youth Workers in Greensboro for a "Total Youth Experience." The week will include "Rock the House" Praise and Worship, splatshops, and more. A bus will be leaving from each district. The costs associated with the event are as follows:

Youth - Costs: \$200 - Registration for the event; \$ 99 - Hotel (four to a room); \$ 60 - Lunch and dinner (for youth); *Breakfast will be provided each morning, at the hotel; \$ 75 - Transportation on a coach bus; \$434 - Total amount

Adult Chaperones - Costs: \$200 - Registration for the event; \$ 99 - Hotel (four to a room); \$ 110 - Lunch and dinner; *Breakfast will be provided each morning, at the hotel; \$ 75 - Transportation on a coach bus; \$484 - Total amount

For Youth Leaders:

Step one: Register your youth group for the event. www.youth07.org. Click on Register and pay on-line

Step two: Reserve your hotel rooms at 1-336-434-5200. Please indicate that you are with the Eastern Pennsylvania Group.

Step three: Contact Jim Wilkin, at the EPA Conference Office, at 1-800-828-9093 to reserve space on the bus.

For Congregations:

Pray for the event and all of the participants. Help financially sponsor youth from your congregation on this trip.

Sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship, this event is held once every four years.

For more information about the event visit the website at www.youth2007.org. For more information about the bus trip, contact Jim Wilkin at jim.wilkin@epaumc.org or 610-666-9090, ext. 225.

****Costs for the trip have been greatly subsidized by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.*

Wesley Heritage Tour

9 Exciting and Educational Days



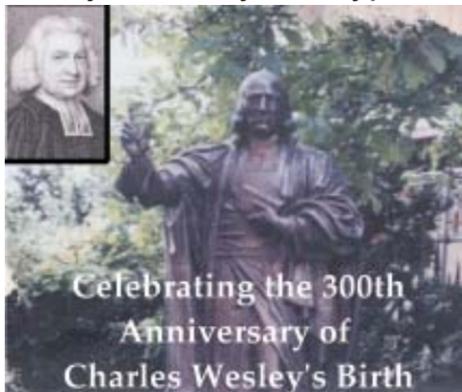
Join Bishop and Mrs. Matthews and the Philadelphia Conference Depart on August 6, 2007 Philadelphia or Baltimore from \$2298*
*Plus taxes, tips, fees, etc.

Your Journey of a Lifetime Includes:

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

Educational Program:

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



For brochure contact the conference office at 1-800-828-9093 or e-mail Amy Botti at amy.botti@epaumc.org.

Field of Flags marks solidarity with suffering

"If one member [of the body of Christ] suffers, all suffer together with it; If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." I Corinthians 12:26.

On Sunday, March 25, 2007 the Conyngham United Methodist Church dedicated the *Field of Flags*, a display of support and Christian witness for American soldiers, their families, friends and the greater community. The *Field*, updated weekly, currently includes 3,592 flags, one for each soldier that has lost his or her life in the war with Iraq and Afghanistan. The *Field's* purpose is to witness to the soldiers, their families and friends that they are remembered in prayer. It also acknowledges that we, as the church, live in solidarity with those that are suffering and are called to preach the *hope* of the Gospel.

The display will remain up through Saturday, April 21. During the week, the church will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am-2:00 pm and 4:30-6:30 pm for silent prayer and reflection. The display will end with a Service of Healing held Sunday, April 22, at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to come visit. For more information, please visit the church website at www.conynghamumc.com or call the church office at 570-788-3960.



Tyler Bicking, a member of Conyngham UMC, visits the Field of Flags. Photo by Ellen O'Connell, of Hazleton Standard Speaker

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

JULY 28, 2007
Phillies vs. Pirates
@ 7 p.m.



VS



Look for ticket order forms in your church office early April. A UM Men's Choir will sing the National Anthem.