

NEW Spirit!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

Dear Members of The Philadelphia Area:

It is with an overwhelming sense of gratefulness, joy, hope, and love that this letter is being sent to you! Barbara and I wish you and your loved ones the most blessed Christmas as you once again pause and remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

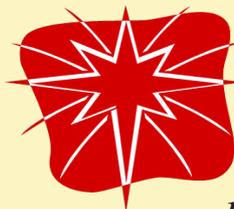


This has been a blessed year for the two of us. It has included a mission trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a team of committed staff and volunteers. It was wonderful to see the spirit of love and unity thriving among the people which is an awesome testimony to the power of God. With them we reflected anew on the wonder of God's coming in Christ and gave thanks for the privilege of sharing the joyous news with the world. We are very aware that Jesus Christ offers hope, peace, joy and love to a world filled with brokenness.

We also shared with members of the Area in a visit to Birmingham, United Kingdom and surrounding areas for the 300th anniversary celebration of Charles Wesley. The fellowship, as well as the historic nature of the trip, was enjoyed by all.

We look forward with great anticipation to 2008 as we continue our journey together working to impact congregations, communities and the world with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

We thank GOD for you, our friends. Barbara and I love EACH and EVERY one of you!



We wish you a
Merry Christmas 2007
and a very blessed New Year!

Marcus and Barbara Matthews

What's Inside....

*Bishop's Advent Day
Apart*

Page 3

*Celebrate our United
Methodist Connection*

Pages 6 & 11

2008 Annual Conference

Page 15

Calendar

DECEMBER 7, 2007

First Suburbs Summit: Harnessing Community Leadership for Community Change at Bryn Mawr College; 9 am - 3 pm; Continental Breakfast Begins at 8 AM. Registration Fee: \$30. Over 600,000 households reside in the older, developed suburbs of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. These communities are now confronting challenges—struggling school districts, declining infrastructures, increased crime rates, aging populations. The First Suburbs Project organizers have come together to harness their communities' power by directly engaging citizens to affect policies and practices that will lead to the stabilization and revitalization of their communities. Two national experts, David Rusk and Professor John A. Powell, will speak about the challenges facing older suburban communities. Break-out sessions will be for participants to strengthening and revitalizing communities. Organized by Good Schools Pennsylvania and others. Contact Julie Petrella at 215.332.2700 or julie@goodschoolspa.org.

DECEMBER 8, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The Power of Small Group Ministry. LOCATION: Wescosville: Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA 18106. COST: \$10 per person, includes resources. REGISTRATION: 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. SESSION: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Training will be led by Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship, United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. Registration Deadline is December 5 at 3 p.m.

DECEMBER 15, 2007

The King is Born—"A Celebration of the birth of our Savior" with V.I.V.E. (Voces Inspiradas Viviendo en el Espiritu) Join us as we gather with friends and family to share the love, remember the traditions and enjoy the rhythms of Caribbean V.I.V.E., the worship team of El Redentor United Methodist Church, is joining other local musicians in a one-time performance to celebrate this special time of the year. When: Saturday, December 15, 2007 Where: Lancaster Mennonite High School at 2176 Lincoln Highway East in Lancaster, PA; Time: 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$15, Children 10 and under are free. For more information or tickets, please call 717-394-1168. This is a benefit concert for the Expansion Project of El Redentor UMC.

DECEMBER 15, 2007

"Growing In Your Relationship With God" A Spiritual Direction Workshop EPA Leadership Resource Team & Grace Community UMC

8:30 am - 12:00 Noon at Grace Community United Methodist Church (\$10.00 per church). Join us for a morning of learning and spiritual renewal.

Workshop Leader - Rev. Susan Cole, Spiritual Director - Spiritual Direction Ministries, EPA. 8:30 am - 9:00 am Gathering & Registration, 9:15 am -11:45 am "Growing in Your Relationship with God." This workshop will show how spiritual direction helps to clarify what it means to have a deeper relationship with God. RSVP by December 1, 2007. Call, mail or e-mail your registration to: Grace Community UMC Church; 1213 Central Avenue, Chester, PA 19013 or pastorfosster@comcast.net

DECEMBER 28-30, 2007

Gretna Glen Youth Winter Blast (grades 6-12) God's purpose for your nose...and the rest of you, too. Cost \$80.00. Join us for two days to get away and have a blast. Meet up with some "old" camp friends and be ready to make some new ones. Worship, games & food are just the start of the fun we have planned for you. Call the camp at 717-273-6525, email: coordinator@gret-naglen.org or visit our website www.gret-naglen.org to register.

JANUARY 17-19, 2008

The Touch Experience - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 7.

JANUARY 26, 2008

Tools for Ministry - The trainings will be held at the following places:

Central District: Lansdale: Christ UMC, East District: Hatboro: Lehman Memorial UMC, Northeast District: Quakertown UMC, Northwest District: Schuylkill Haven: First UMC, Southeast District: West Grove UMC, Southwest District: Lancaster: Hempfield UMC. See page 8.

JANUARY 11-13 (February 15-17, March 7-9, April 11-13, October 17-19), 2008

Gretna Glen Confirmation Camp 2008. Confirmation Camp offers a chance for confirmands to come with their church leaders and learn how to identify and use their gifts for the body of Christ. Special emphasis will be given to missions and connectionalism within the United Methodist Church. Call the camp at 717-273-6525, email coordinator@gretnaglen.org or visit our website www.gretnaglen.org to register.

FEBRUARY 15-16, 2008

Invitational Preaching, Worship and Evangelism in the 21st Century - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 9.

MARCH 15, 2008

Global Praise - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 9.

APRIL 19, 2008

Hot Metal Bridge - Part of the Making

Disciples Series. See page 9.

APRIL 23 - MAY 2, 2008

General Conference 2008 - Ft. Worth Convention Center, Ft. Worth, TX. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. Six clergy and six lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will attend. More info: www.umc.org.

MAY 29, 2008

Engage Arts in Worship - Part of the Making Disciples Series. At Annual Conference. See page 9.

MAY 29 - 30, 2008

Annual Conference 2008. Reserve these dates now!

JUNE 14, 2008

Lord Teach us to Pray - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 10.

JULY 14 - 18, 2008

Jurisdictional Conference. Harrisburg, PA. Twelve clergy and twelve lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Confer-

ence, plus three clergy and three lay alternates will attend the NEJ Conference. Thirteen annual conferences make up the Northeast Jurisdiction, and bishops for the jurisdiction will be elected at this meeting. More info: www.nejumc.org.

JULY 18-20, 2008

2008 Conference School of Mission. The Courses are: "I Believe in Jesus" (Taken by All) "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" (Elective) "Israel and Palestine" (Elective) The tentative location is The Inn at Reading. For additional information contact: Dick Howarth rwhjwh@earthlink.net.

AUGUST 8-10, 2008

Growing Sharing and Living Our Faith. The 25th Anniversary of the Academy for Laity at the Sheraton Park Ridge, King of Prussia. Guest Preachers: Rev. Zan Holmes and Rev. Chuck Yrigoyen. Special Anniversary Banquet, New Workshops and More. Stay tuned for more information!



The Newspaper of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Philadelphia Area Bishop

Suzy Keenan
Director of Communications

Ileana Rivera
Graphic Design and Layout

One year subscription only \$12!

Subscribe Today!

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$12.00 for my one year subscription to NEWSpirit.

Make check payable to: EPA CONFERENCE and mail to: NEWSpirit, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482



The wilderness cries out for a voice

by Suzy Keenan

Bishop Marcus Matthews welcomed the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems as speaker and preacher for the Bishop's Advent Day Apart for clergy of The Philadelphia Area.

Weems, director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary spoke on "Leadership Challenge." "Leaders don't have to have the right answers," Weems said, "they need the right questions." The questions start with, "Who are we?" Church renewal and

church leadership on the mission with the two most important words: "so that." In discussing work of and activities within the church, they should be followed with the words "so that" in order to find the purposeful outcomes related to the mission of the church.

"John Wesley looked at the world as his parish rather than the parish as his world," Weems said on the question of "Who are the people?" He added, "People are not represented in the United Methodist Church in ways they are in the general population." He urged church leaders to look at their church in relation to their community examining five points: 1) Metropolitan population centers; 2) diverse racial population; 3) younger people; 4) poor people; 5) fewer married households. "If your church is looking for married couples with children or married people, then you are limiting yourself in the population," Weems commented.

The last question, "Who are our neighbors and what are their needs?" He urged churches to do a mission audit by asking, "If our church closed today, who would miss it other than our members?"

Weems told of his ministry in a church where he focused on the problems and fixing them, only to discover a whole other list of problems. Instead of focusing on problems, leaders "need to be thinking, 'where is something positive to build on?'" Building on our positive DNA leads churches where they have not gone before.

In a moment of celebration, Rev. Dale Brown presented both Bishop Matthews and Dr. Weems with prayer shawls. These shawls came from a celebration of the re-



change comes not from abandoning who we are and what we value, but "from renewed appreciation of who we are."

Weems added to the questions: "What is our mission? For what purpose has God raised up the people called United Methodist?" He urged church leaders to pray every day and fast once a week, centering



lief efforts and were given by the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama-West Florida Conferences at a dinner in New Orleans in September. Rev. Brown recognized that the largest number of persons to go to be in ministry in the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina came from the Philadelphia Area. During worship, Dr. Weems preached, "You have heard of a voice crying out in the wilderness. I'd like to say we have a wilderness crying out for a voice! And Advent is the time to find our voice!" He related, "It's a time to change your mind, and it's a

time to change your ways. It's a test of our integrity to examine are we willing to live what we believe." He added, "A promise comes in advent - of hope and joy - I'd call it subversive joy or hope. When you have every reason for bitterness or despair, there is the subversive joy or hope that comes in the Christ who always comes unpredictably." He urged listeners to be bearers of hope, and when people come to us to send them out with hope. "From the steeple ring out faith, hope, and courage: 'Behold, the Christ Child is coming again!'"

In Memoriam

The Rev. Paul L. Austin, retired elder, on October 21, 2007. Rev. Austin resided at Penney Farms Retirement Community in Florida. Rev. Austin served appointments in the Central Pennsylvania and New England Conferences, and served the following appointments in Eastern Pennsylvania: Parkside; Grove; Extension Ministry (Professor, Haverford School, Head, History Dept.). He retired in 1980. A Memorial Service was held on October 24 at Penney Farms Retirement Community. He is survived by a daughter, Susan. Condolences may be sent to Susan Austin, 1544 Carmack Road, West Chester, PA 19382.

The Rev. Dr. Marion O. Ballard, retired elder, who passed on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the age of 104. Rev. Dr. Ballard served the following appointments: Phila: Mother African Zoar; Extension Ministry as Superintendent of the Dover District (Delaware Conference); Phila: Camphor Memorial; Phila: Tindley Temple; Phila: Spring Garden. His Funeral was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Clara, who died in 1997. He is survived by a niece, Rita Jones. Condolences should be sent to: Rev. Frank Tyson, 525 W. Sedgwick Street, Phila-

delphia, PA 19119.

The Rev. Val Hastings, Sr., retired elder, on October 31, 2007. Rev. Hastings served the following appointments: Phila.: Orthodox Street; Chapman Quarries; Bushkill; Phila.: Wissahickon; Bird-in-Hand; Bensalem; and Millersville: Grace. On November 4, 2007, a viewing was held at 2:00 pm and a Memorial Service was held at 3:00 pm at Lancaster: Covenant UMC, 110 North Mulberry Street, Lancaster, PA. Rev. Hastings is survived by his wife, Audrey, a son, The Rev. Val Hastings, Jr., and two daughters, Maria Jane and Carol Ann. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Audrey Hastings, 340 Valley Road, Millersville, PA 17551.

Miss Elizabeth W. Miller (Betty), retired Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries. She died on Thursday, November 8, 2007 in the Health Center at Cornwall Manor. Miss Miller served for over 40 years as a missionary in Peru. She was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lebanon, PA. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, November 17, 2007. Condolences may be sent to her nephew, Mr. David Miller, 153 East 9th Avenue, Conshohocken, PA 19428.



Bishop's Lenten Day Apart

with the Bishop Jeremiah Park from the New York Episcopal Area

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, 52, was born in Korea, and received a bachelor of divinity degree from Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul in 1973. He was coordinator of World Vision of Korea and assistant to the pastor at First Methodist Church in Seoul during the 1970s.

He earned a master of divinity degree in 1979 and doctor of ministry degree in 1990, both from Drew University, The Theological School. Ordained as a deacon in what was then the Northern New Jersey Conference and as an elder in the Western New York Conference, he served as a pastor at the Rochester (NY) Korean United Methodist Church in 1979-85 before returning to a pastorate in New Jersey.

He was a General Conference delegate in 2000 and 2004. Park also served as a district superintendent, council director and associate council director for Northern New Jersey as well as associate director of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry.

Bishop Park provides leadership for the Northeast Jurisdictional Korean Mission and National Korean Council.

Park and his wife, Lisa, have a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Cathy Wang.

Hispanic church offers alternative to street gangs

In the Nation

by John Gordon*

When Pastor Frank Gomez first arrived at his church on the central California coast, he was sometimes afraid to stay in the building alone. "(Salinas was) a hotbed of gang activity - many shootings," he says.

While counseling an imprisoned gang member, Gomez learned the young man once used the church parking lot to stake out a nearby business that he planned to rob.

Eight years later, the environment has changed dramatically at the La Sagrada Familia United Methodist Church of Salinas. The church is now a safe haven for children seeking help with their homework after school. In the process, they learn about alternatives to joining street gangs.

The ministry began after an 8-year-old boy asked Gomez' wife, Sandra, for help with his homework.

"His parents couldn't speak English and they weren't able to help him at all," recalls Mrs. Gomez. "So I told him to come and bring it and I would help him."

Word quickly spread through the neighborhood. Soon, about 10 children were showing up at the church for tutoring. The resulting after-school ministry, aimed at students in the second through eighth grades, has grown to an enrollment today of more than 50 students - and a waiting list.

A Christian alternative

Students come to the church for help from volunteer tutors and Mrs. Gomez,

who serves as site director for the program. There's also time for outdoor activities.

The church project became part of the non-profit LIFE (Life is for Everyone Inc.) after-school program in Salinas.

Besides offering homework help, it is recognized locally for steering children away from street gangs.

"I believe that if the community, and especially the faith community, gets involved in working to prevent gang membership and gang violence and addiction to drugs and alcohol, I think we can make a huge dent in the problem," says Pastor Gomez. "Prevention is much easier and much cheaper than intervention, and certainly more than incarceration."

Pressure to join gangs comes at an early age. Children as young as age 9 are recruited by local groups.

Sixth-grader Dan Chavez, 11, says he's felt the pressure, but that being at church after school has helped. "Its helped me do the right things because, before, I used to be in the streets hanging out with way bigger guys than me in the park," he says. "One time, they were inviting me to do drugs."

Armando, a former gang member, asked to be identified only by his first name. He says gangs offer youth acceptance that "perhaps you don't get it at home." Now 43, Armando has spent nearly half of his life in jail, prison and youth facilities.

"The average individual don't know nothing about gangs until maybe their house is burglarized, maybe they're carjacked, or maybe the bank that they worked at



Third-grader Desire Flores works on her homework with help from volunteer Marlene Vanzant at an after-school tutoring ministry at La Sagrada Familia United Methodist Church in Salinas, Calif. UMNS photos by John Gordon.

was robbed and it was robbed by a gang or something like that," he says. "But it's something that, unfortunately, is getting out of hand."

Mrs. Gomez says the church's ministry offers a different kind of acceptance from the gang-land style.

"Here they know they're loved," she says. "My husband and I are like the father and mother. We've been called their second mother or second father. We provide love. No matter what, they know they're loved." Making a difference

Also part of the curriculum is learning respect for others.

"The things that I've learned here is to behave and not be bullying people in here," says Mariela Raya, 9.

Stefany Delgado, 8, enjoys the healthy

snacks and homework encouragement. "They show us manners. We don't speak when other people are talking," she says.

Pastor Gomez, who serves on a citizens' committee that is making recommendations on reducing violence in Salinas, says it is difficult to predict how many children in the after-school ministry might have drifted toward gangs. But he says he can measure success.

"What we can say is that of all the children that have passed through this program, none of the children that we know of have gotten involved in gangs or into trouble with the law," he says. "It definitely makes every effort and every hour worthwhile."

*Gordon is a freelance writer and producer in Marshall, Texas.

The Nation in Brief

Iowa Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer was elected Nov. 8 to lead the worldwide Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. He will begin his two-year term as the council's president in May 2008. Palmer will succeed Bishop Janice Riggle Huie of Houston. A native of Philadelphia, Palmer has presided over the United Methodist Iowa Annual (regional) Conference since 2000, when he was elected to the episcopacy. The Council of Bishops represents 11.5 million United Methodists in the United States, Africa, Europe and the Philippines. It includes 69 active and 98 retired bishops.

United Methodist Bishop Violet Fisher took a leap of faith off the Kwarau Bridge in Queenstown, Australia, when she bungee jumped 130 feet. On a vacation in August before attending the World Methodist executive board meeting in Sydney, Fisher decided to take the plunge from the first bungee jumping location in the world. Fisher, 68, battled cancer in the

months leading up to the trip but said all her fears dissipated after she took the leap. "I didn't have to be in control," she said. "I discovered the ability to let go."

An irritating human-sized mosquito **plays it for laughs** to highlight a serious issue in a new public service announcement created by VH1 for Nothing But Nets, a global, grassroots campaign that provides insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria in Africa. The announcement premiered Nov. 5 on VH1, VH1 Classic, VH1 Soul and VH1.com. The people of The United Methodist Church are among founding partners of the Nets campaign.

While homeowners affected by October wildfires in California are receiving much attention, others suffering different losses are getting less notice. Those secondary victims will be the main focus of the United Methodist response to the fires, according to the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, head of domestic disaster response

for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Many of the homeowners were covered by insurance. "Primarily, our response work is going to be in the San Diego area," Hazelwood told United Methodist News Service after his Oct. 29-31 assessment visit to Southern California. UMCOR already has given a \$10,000 emergency grant to the denomination's California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Starting in January, the Drew University Theological School in Madison, N.J., will be the new home base for Communities of Shalom, a United Methodist ministry engaging congregations and communities to work together for community development, peace and wholeness. The new partnership was announced jointly by United Methodist Bishop John Schol of Washington, chairman of the National Shalom Committee, and the Rev. Maxine Beach, vice president and dean of Drew Theological School. For the past 15 years, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has administered the Shalom

Initiative in collaboration with the National Shalom Committee. Drew will support and develop Shalom as a national network, and Global Ministries will continue as a partner, providing significant funding for the next two years.

Northern Michigan United Methodists are being honored in the November 2007 issue of Lake Superior Magazine for their work to protect the environment. The Rev. Grant Lobb, Marquette district superintendent, recently accepted the magazine's award on behalf of the leaders of nine faith traditions who make up the Earth Keeper Initiative based in Marquette, Mich. The impact of numerous environmental projects created by the northern Michigan Earth Keepers over the past few years is measured in the hundreds of tons. More than 15,000 residents have turned in hazardous waste, teens are restoring wild rice beds, businesses and homes are reducing power consumption and thousands of dollars are being invested to protect Lake Superior.

Convocation focuses on living 'the United Methodist way'



United Methodist Bishop Violet Fisher addresses nearly 1,000 participants at the "Convocation of Extended Cabinets" Nov. 9 at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

by Linda Green*

Nearly 1,000 United Methodists from throughout the world learned those three simple rules Nov. 9-11 and committed to teach them to others as they extend the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The occasion was the first joint meeting in almost 40 years of the United Methodist bishops and their cabinets. Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living, a new book by Bishop Rueben Job, was one of the convocation's guides.

In the book's preface, the retired bishop writes that in the fast-paced and complex world of the 21st century, people of faith are ready for a more faithful way of living and discipleship. Methodism founder John Wesley articulated how to live faithfully and then practiced and taught those prin-

ciples.

"And now it is up to us to see if we will take it, teach it and practice it until it becomes our natural way of living - a way of living that will mark our life together and our lives as individual Christians," Job said.

Throughout the convocation, the bishops emphasized a commitment to teaching the rules of United Methodist living in order that people and congregations may be strengthened and grow in faith.

The convocation brought together district superintendents and others charged with leading their annual (regional) conferences to develop clarity around the church's purpose, mission and identity and to prepare to lead the church in new ways.

"If our church is going to reach its potential, we have to lead the church differently," said Kansas Area Bishop Scott Jones. While bishops and their cabinets are not

The World in Brief

Declaring war "incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ," the bishops of The United Methodist Church called on leaders of all nations to begin an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. The bishops also urged against deploying additional troops to Iraq and against establishing permanent military bases in the Middle Eastern country. The action came Nov. 9 during the council's semi-annual meeting at a United Methodist retreat center in western North Carolina. The council represents 11.5 million United Methodists in the United States, Africa, Europe and the Philippines.

While guns are viewed as anything but beautiful, a group of artists in Mozambique is turning artillery into art and, in the process, teaching others to "beat their swords into ploughshares." Based on Isaiah 2:4, "Turning Weapons into Ploughshares" is a collaborative effort between a local artist collective and the Christian Council of Mozambique. The council col-

lects caches of weapons left behind by Mozambique's 16-year civil war, renders them unusable and gives them to local artists to be transformed into sculptures. The gun parts have been transformed into musicians, birds, even chairs and tables. Fiel dos Santos, a United Methodist who is an artist in the Núcleo de Arte collective, seeks peaceful images in his work.

Since opening in 1992, Africa University has grown at an astounding rate, with 1,300 students now enrolled at the United Methodist-related school in Zimbabwe. Today, education and church leaders agree the university is too big to be contained in one country. In 2008, Africa University's first satellite campus will open in Maputo, Mozambique. The project is a collaborative effort with the Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil, and the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Funding comes from the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development. Maputo is the

the only denominational leaders, Jones said they are crucial to moving the church into the future.

"We are people who, through our offices and through our full-time service, shape the lives of annual conferences in significant ways, and we wanted to have a conversation together to move the church forward in effectiveness of living the United Methodist way," he said.

Missouri Area Bishop Robert Schnase, presenting from his book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, described how effective congregations engage in radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity.

The convocation was the first gathering of bishops and cabinets since 1969, just after the merger of the former Methodist Church and the former Evangelical United Brethren Church to form The United Methodist Church.

Jones hopes that holding the gathering six months before the 2008 General Conference will build momentum toward understanding God's calling for the church.

Rediscovering identity

The Rev. Veronica Palmer, a New Jersey district superintendent, called the event long overdue. "It is about time we get on board and start turning our church around," she said.

New York West Area Bishop Violet Fisher agreed and delivered a sermon called "We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For," using the title of a song by the African-American group Sweet Honey in the Rock. She said United Methodist lead-

In the World

ers live in God's world as God's co-workers to enhance the welfare of people.

"We are called out of our insulated individualism into solidarity with the other people, not only at home but also around the world," said Fisher. "The world is waiting for us."

Iowa Bishop Gregory Palmer, president-elect of the Council of Bishops, told the convocation that United Methodists "must rediscover the vocation of being full-time Christians."

The church and all Christians must breathe in the spirit of God, and then breathe out in service to the world, said the Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. The church thrives, she said, when it offers hope and love not only to those inside but to the wider world.

"Imagine what could happen if all of us, by the grace of God and prepared by the Holy Spirit, start to move in the same direction," said Houston Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, president of the Council of Bishops.

The United Methodist Church in Africa and the Philippines know how to make disciples of Jesus Christ while the church in the United States is losing members. Huie said United Methodists in the United States need to stop bickering among themselves and focus on spirituality, their identity as United Methodists and what God is calling them to be and do.

The gathering, she said, "was a time to rethink who we are as United Methodists and how we live into, lean into, step forward and move into this mission that God has given us."

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

weapons. On Sept. 26, 2005, they verified the conclusion of John de Chastelain, a retired Canadian general, that the IRA's weapons had been destroyed.

A task force revising a 1986 United Methodist statement opposing the use of nuclear weapons hosted a two-day hearing focusing on nuclear proliferation, poverty and environmental concerns. The Council of Bishops task force to update the "In Defense of Creation" document convened Oct. 23-24 to allow United Methodists, people of other faiths and experts to provide testimony on nuclear weapons and global security, pandemic poverty and disease. The document revision, authorized by the 2004 General Conference, is the denomination's attempt to seriously engage public policy on issues that most affect the human race, according to Florida Conference Bishop Timothy Whitaker, task force chairman.

Celebrate our United Methodist Connection

Urban Ministry

by Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem

We celebrate the churches of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference which made it possible for over one hundred children and youth in the urban areas of Lancaster, Reading, Chester, and Philadelphia to have a summer (2007) busy with learning and fun through their giving in apportionments. Local church contributions enabled these young people to maintain and gain proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics during the summer months. Neighborhood summer camps as well as time at the conference campsites, Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp, Gretna Glen, Innabah, and Pocono Plateau gave the youth the opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and learn new skills. The apportionment giving by local churches enabled the making of connections into the community and across multicultural lines underscoring the Wesleyan belief that the world is indeed our parish. Apportionment dollars gave positive alternatives to children and youth in urban areas and bridged differences among peoples. Local church giving made all the difference in the lives of children, youth and outreach to community. The Office of Urban and Global Ministries wishes to thank you.

The mission of the Johnson-UGO Foundation Library is to assist individuals, community and faith-based organizations with fulfilling their missions by delivering free community workshops on

fundraising, and nonprofit management, providing free access to print and online foundation resources, and making referrals to individuals and agencies. To date the Library has conducted 16 free community workshops. The topics covered are grant seeking basics, proposal writing basics, how to search the Foundation Directory Online Professional, how to approach a foundation, and introduction to corporate giving. The average attendance at these workshops was 10.

A total of 40 orientations (29 individual and 11 group) have been conducted. As of August 2007, there were 98 visits by individuals and representatives of organizations who used the library approximately 413 hours. The average library visit is 3.5 hours. Four churches have organized grant proposal writing teams.

There were two major events in 2007. The Grand Opening and Consecration of the Johnson-UGO Foundation Library occurred on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The Keynote Speakers were Bishop Marcus Matthews, resident bishop of the Philadelphia Area and Rep. Alyson Y. Schwartz, 13th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives.

The second major event was a foundation and federal funding workshop in June that was sponsored by Rep. Alyson Y. Schwartz and hosted by the Johnson-UGO Foundation Library. The Office of Urban and Global Ministries thanks the local congregations of the EPA for this critical ministry of the twenty-first century.

Apportionment giving is making possible the 2008 Urban Academy for the over 120 congregations in the 18 urban areas of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Training empowers the local congregation. The Office of Urban and Global Ministries expresses its appreciation to local churches for making this training event possible through your apportionment giving.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR
THE 2008 URBAN
ACADEMY:

February 2, 2008
May 16,17, 2008
September 19,20, 2008
November 14,15, 2008



Healthcare – A Basic Human Right

According to The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, “We encourage individuals to pursue a healthy lifestyle and affirm the importance of preventive health care, health education, environmental and occupational safety, good nutrition . . .”

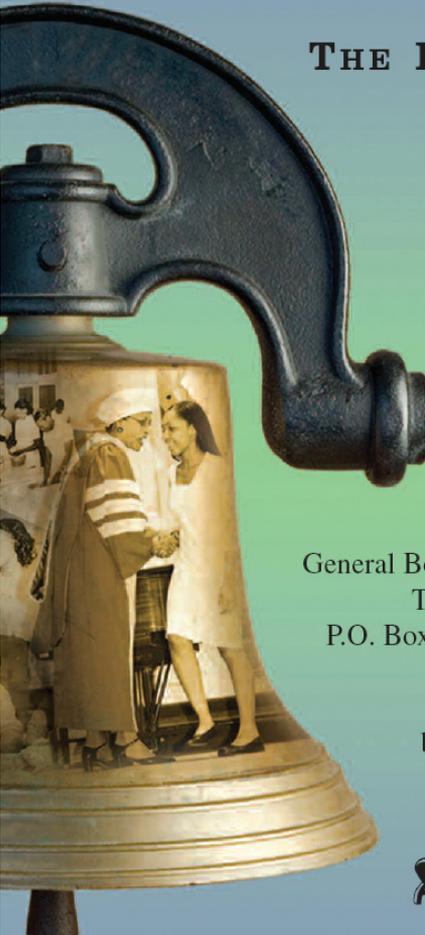
A United Methodist Witness in PA and Church and Society Work Team responded to a unique request last summer - help congregations become empowered to take the first steps in congregational care. The request was to teach a course at the annual EPA Laity Academy entitled Health Ministries: How congregations can focus on H-E-A-L-T-H. The focus of the course was encouraging congregations to engage in programs of preventive medicine and relationship nurturing between healthcare workers and those in their congregations in

need of healthcare information and referrals. For Witness and Church and Society this is just a first step in addressing the need for healthcare, especially in the critical areas of delivery to our seniors and our children – the most vulnerable among us.

In Harrisburg, Witness is lobbying for healthcare reform in meetings with United Methodist legislators. We are also opposing some new legislation which increases our youth's exposure to alcohol and tobacco – long term health risks. In order to better relay and define your healthcare needs to our legislators, we are in the processing of scheduling healthcare forums. To arrange an information session or a healthcare forum, please send an email to either peggy.wood1@verizon.net or umwitnesspa@epix.net.



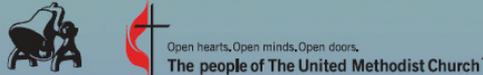
Left to right: Soozung Sa Rankin and Barbara Drake. Photo by Paul C. Davis.



THE BLACK COLLEGE FUND
LEADING THE WAY

Support quality education by your church's 100-percent remittance of the Black College Fund apportionment.

LEARN MORE:
The Black College Fund
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
The United Methodist Church,
P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007
(615) 340-7378 (office)
(615) 340-7379 (fax)
bcfumc@gbhem.org (e-mail)
www.gbhem.org/bcf



Making disciples of Jesus Christ

for the transformation of the world



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Accountable Discipleship: The Power of Small Group Ministry



with The Rev. Dr. Steve Manskar,
Director of Accountable Discipleship, UM General Board of
Discipleship
Saturday, December 8, 2007

The workshop will be a brief introduction to the ministry of Covenant Discipleship groups.

These accountability groups have their roots in the early Methodist class meetings and bands. A Covenant Discipleship group is 5-7 people who agree to meet once a week for one hour. The purpose of the weekly meeting is mutual accountability and support for discipleship. The agenda for the meeting is a covenant written by the group shaped by the General Rule of

Discipleship: To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These small groups, rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, help Christians to grow in loving God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and love their neighbors as themselves. In short, Covenant Discipleship groups are an adaptation of the "method of Methodism."

Steven W. Manskar is a clergy member of the Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He serves at the General Board of Discipleship as Di-

rector of Accountable Discipleship.

Steve helps annual conferences, districts and local congregations develop and support Covenant Discipleship groups for all age groups, Class Leaders, and other small group ministries. He leads workshops and seminars on Covenant Discipleship groups, Small Group Ministry in the Wesleyan Spirit, and Wesleyan theology, spirituality, and practice.

Dr. Manskar holds the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He is the author of Accountable Discipleship: Living in God's Household, A Perfect Love: Understanding John Wesley's "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection", and A Disciple's Journal: Daily Bible Reading and Guidance for Reflection published by Discipleship Resources. Steve

lives in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife, Gina, and son, Noah.

You can learn more about Covenant Discipleship groups at <http://www.gbod.org/smallgroup/cd>.

Location: Wescosville: Bethany UMC,
1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA
18106

Registration: 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Session: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$10 (includes resources)

Register now online: www.epaumc.org
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
DECEMBER 5, 2007 at 3:00 PM

Making Disciples: The Next Level

by Lillian Smith

The year 2007 has been an exciting one. As United Methodist Christians in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, we have leaned into God's call to make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. In January, the General Board of Discipleship began providing intentional support and resourcing to congregations. The ultimate measurable goal is to attain at least a 10% gain in attendance and membership by 2012. Spiritual renewal, active disciple making, education and practical skill training and leader development are all a part of this effort and will move this conference towards achieving plans related to the EPA Strategic Plan.

At the time this article was written, 1,635 people, excluding those in attendance at the Annual Conference session, attended at least one of the 10 sessions of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." One hundred forty eight congregations activated and engaged the Congregational Vitality Indicator Assessment. A number of congregations have created ministry action plans and some re-

ported growth in excitement, church attendance and professions of faith. In 2007, the conference sponsored 10 top quality sessions for lay-clergy teams, within the bounds of the conference, for a significantly subsidized price. These sessions are held so that lay-clergy leaders can be better equipped for the ministry of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

As we approach 2008, we face another wonderful opportunity to live into the move of God to reach and disciple more men, women and children for Jesus Christ in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The year 2007 was exciting. The year 2008 promises even more opportunities and excitement. In 2008, Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World sessions will focus on outreach, evangelism, prayer and worship. Revivals, a day of training for lay leadership and a component targeting urban congregations, will be new additions. Congregational Ministry Teams that have completed their assessment, whether CVI or NCD, and a ministry action plan, will have opportunities for coaching or idea sharing by session leadership.

2008 Making Disciples Trainings will feature the following leadership and topics:

The Touch Experience

LOCATION: in the East District
January 17-19, 2008
with Rudy Rasmus

January 17 & 18, 2008 - (during the day) On-site church assessments of high potential churches identified by the District Superintendents

January 18, 2008 - 7PM The Touch Experience will provide an interactive presentation on ways to engage the community for Christ (Site to be determined)

January 19, 2008 - 9:00AM Congregational Teams from churches that had assessments meet for follow-up with Rudy and Christian.

Rudy Rasmus, Pastor of St. John's Downtown UMC, Houston, TX, and Christian Washington, Real Coaching, Inc. will demonstrate how congregations can touch their communities with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Under the leadership of Pastors Rudy and Juanita Rasmus, St. John's Downtown grew from 9 to 9000 members, out of which 3,000 were formerly or are currently homeless. To learn more about ministries of the church visit www.stjohnsdowntown.org. Videos on the site explain ministries such as the weekly "Foot Washing for the Homeless", Bread of Life, Inc., homeless outreach project, Beyonce's Global Anti-Hunger Drive, and more. Rasmus' book, "Touch" provides insights as to how this congregation reached beyond the church walls to heal hurting persons in their community.

continues on page 8

The Touch Experience

continued from page 7



Pastor Rudy is an urban prophet. For 15 years he has led the St. John's United Methodist Church with his wife Juanita. In this brief span of time the couple has transformed the spiritual landscape and the face of poverty in Downtown Houston. Beginning with 9 existing members in 1992, St. John's has

grown to over 9,000 members (3,000 of the total either are or were formerly homeless) in fifteen years into one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country where every week people of every social and economic background share the same pew. They attribute the success of the church to a compassionate congregation who has embraced the vision of tearing down the walls of classism, sexism, and racism and building the bridges of unconditional love and universal recovery.

Tools for Ministry

LOCATION: in each district

DATE: January 26, 2008

TIME: 8:30 AM-3 PM

Tools for Ministry – The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4: 11-12

United Methodism treasures and empowers lay and clergy in ministry. This day of training will provide lay persons with opportunities to learn more about their ministry so that they can faithfully fulfill God's call in their congregations. Every ministry in the church is to support the effort to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." Workshop topics include: Treasurer/Finances/Stewardship, Trustees, SPRC, Church Council, Lay Leader/Lay Member, Safe Sanctuaries, Youth/Young Adult Ministries, Children's Ministries.

The trainings will be held at the following places:

Central District:

Lansdale: Christ UMC

East District:

Hatboro: Lehman Memorial UMC

Northeast District:

Quakertown UMC

Northwest District:

Schuylkill Haven: First UMC

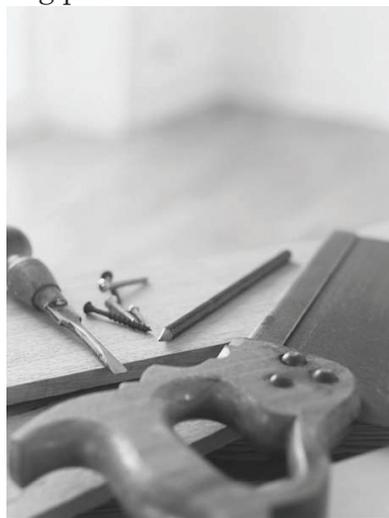
Southeast District:

West Grove UMC

Southwest District:

Lancaster: Hempfield UMC

Register at www.epaumc.org



ORDER NOW!

MAKING DISCIPLES DVDS

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part I
with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part II
with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Acts 29 Prayer Encounter
with the Rev. Terry Teykl

\$10 x ____ = ____

Preparing Your Congregation's Ministry Action Plan
with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Living as Christian Disciples
with the Rev. Tom Albin

\$10 x ____ = ____

Vibrant and Transformative Worship
with Eileen Guenther and Dr. Lucy Hogan

\$10 x ____ = ____

Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance
with the Rev. Rene Perez and the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem

\$10 x ____ = ____

Christian Education and Spiritual Formation
with Carol Krau

\$10 x ____ = ____

Faith Sharing: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church
with the Rev. Larry Homitsky and Suzy Keenan

\$10 x ____ = ____

Stewards of God's Gifts
with the Rev. David S. Bell

\$10 x ____ = ____

Plus Shipping \$4.00 - Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to EPA Conference.
Mail to: Video Order, Communications, P.O. Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

Invitational Preaching, Worship and Evangelism in the 21st Century

LOCATION: Southeast District

DATE: February 15-16, 2008

TIME: February 15 at 7PM - Training Session for All; February 16 at 9AM - Follow-up with Congregational Teams to increase in evangelism and worship/preaching.

Safiyah Fosua, Director, Invitational Preaching, and Kwasi Kena, Director, Evangelism, General Board of Discipleship. This husband-wife team will engage people with the importance and power of invitational preaching, worship and evangelism in reaching people for Christ. Both have resources available on-line. To see Safiyah's resources go to: <http://www.gbod.org/worship/>. To hear Kwasi an audio interview of Kwasi interviewing the new Executive Director, Foundation for Evangelism, visit www.gbod.org/evangelism/articles.asp?item_id=45440. Visit umcevangelism.org for additional written and audio resources.



Global Praise

LOCATION: Southwest District

DATE: March 15, 2008



Jorge Lockward, General Board of Global Ministries, will lead worship incorporating resources and songs from various countries, in various languages. Increasingly, as people move across the globe, we experience the world right in our backyard.

Things get exciting when people of all nations and languages praise the Lord. Visit the following link to hear music clips from various Global Praise CDs and Music Books. You can also listen to various on-line workshops featuring different rhythms and instruments.

Visit <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/resources/globalpraise/>

Hot Metal Bridge

LOCATION: Northwest District

DATE: April 19, 2008

Jim Walker, an ordained elder in The UMC and co-pastor of Hot Metal Bridge, will share with us how this faith community goes about ministry. Birthed out of a tattoo parlor, this is definitely not your grandparents' type of United Methodist congregation. Worship services held in the Goodwill building and Bible studies in the tattoo parlor are only glimpses of how this faith community engages people for Christ in Pittsburgh, PA. This worshipping community uses a narrative style of worship that incorporates drama and the arts, as well as traditional worship styles. Jim has a passion for the church and seeing The UMC reclaiming John Wesley's passionate missiological approach to ministry. To see photos and learn more, go to www.hotmetalbridge.com.



Engage the Arts in Worship

LOCATION: Central District

DATE: May 29 & 30, 2008

at Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA



Marcia McFee, will design and lead various worship experiences at the upcoming annual conference and will invite people to engage the arts in worship. Marcia will also design and lead the worship experiences at the upcoming General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in Ft. Worth, Texas. She has been a worship leader at various United Methodist gatherings around the globe.

To learn more or read resources,
visit: www.marciamcfee.com.



Lord, Teach Us to Pray

LOCATION: Northeast District

DATE: June 14, 2008



Margie Burger, of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, will facilitate this seminar which is designed to “encourage God’s people to become a people of prayer.” The session will include activities and practical applications of teachings on prayer. “More than just a teaching tool, this seminar is an opportunity for all to encounter the Living God!” Aldersgate Renewal Ministries is an affiliate member of the General Board of Discipleship. To learn more about Aldersgate Renewal or to obtain prayer resources, visit www.aldersgaterenewal.org/resources/prayer/index.html.

Highlights for 2008:

REVIVALS: The dates for these revivals are being planned by teams of persons in various locations in the conference.

THE URBAN CONVOCATION. This year, urban congregations that have completed either the Natural Church Development, NCD or Congregational Vitality Indicator, CVI assessment, attended the conference training sessions or demonstrated intentional work on a ministry action plan are invited to go to the next level in ministry. This initiative, done in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, is for congregations ready to go to the next level in ministry, discipleship and membership.

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Friday, Saturday, May 16-17, 2008

Friday, Saturday, September 19-20, 2008

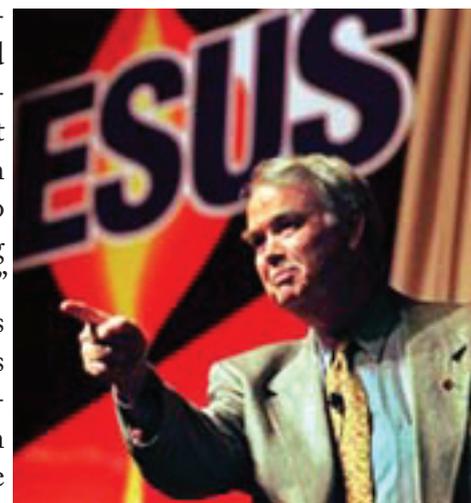
Friday, Saturday, November, 14-15, 2008

Is it too late for congregations that haven’t participated in the 2007 sessions or used the Congregational Vitality Indicator? No. Each 2007 training session is available on DVD and on-line for viewing. The powerpoint and other supportive information are also available on-line or from the conference office. The sessions can be used for leadership development sessions or incorporated into bible studies in local congregations.

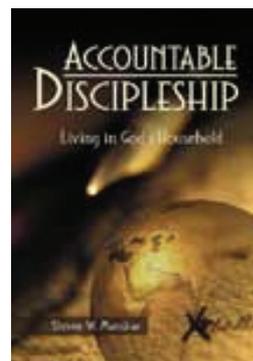
Sharing Your Faith

September or October 2008

Dr. H. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism, World Methodist Council, and Executive Director, World Methodist Evangelism Institute will teach and “encourage lay and clergy to be about the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.” During this session, participants will gain confidence and tools to share their faith and Christian witness with others. To learn more about this, Dr. Fox and the World Methodist Council, visit www.worldmethodist.org/aboutwmc.htm.



Books by Rev. Dr. Steve Manskar

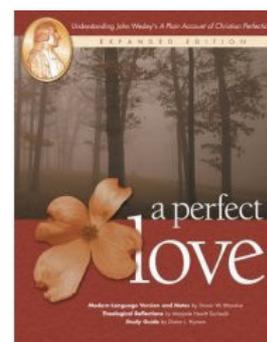


Accountable Discipleship
Living in God’s Household
by Steven Manskar

Accountable Discipleship is the foundational resource for persons involved in Accountable Discipleship ministries. Manskar provides a biblical, theological, and historical under-girding for this work. He explores a systematic approach for undertaking and accepting the challenge of personal discipleship for life. In addition, Manskar outlines a process for developing leadership that could help transform the life of the congregation.
Publisher:

Discipleship Resources

Publication Date: 10/2000
Binding: Paperback
ISBN-10: 0881773395
Retail Price: \$13.00



A Perfect Love: Understanding John Wesley’s A Plain Account of Christian Perfection (Paperback)
by Diana L. Hynson, Steven W. Manskar, Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

A Perfect Love is the full text of Wesley’s book. What makes this version unique is that the author has edited Wesley’s text and updated his language for the contemporary reader. Christian perfection is the doctrine that distinguishes Methodism from other Christian denominations. People who read and study this book will come away with a greater appreciation for this important doctrine. It will change their lives. It may even change their church.

A Perfect Love includes in-text definitions and notes that explain names and terms that may be unfamiliar to the reader. It also includes hymns by Charles Wesley that describe the work of grace in human lives that leads to perfection in love. In addition, Diana Hynson has written a study guide that may be used for individual or small group studies.

Paperback: 144 pages
Publisher: Discipleship Resources (February 28, 2006)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 088177426X

Celebrate our United Methodist Connection

Youth

Over 70 young people and leaders gathered at Gretna Glen during the weekend of November 9-11 for Encounter 2007: Live It Out Loud – One weekend, one passion, one purpose. The youth heard the music of Social Hazzard, STEREOs and Hip-Hop's Michael Fuggit in concert and during worship. They enjoyed the fun of the Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, including hayrides, high and low ropes challenge courses, an evening campfire, games, and great food. They heard inspirational messages from Kim Checkeye, Kris Perry, Peter Clark and Ron Schultz. Most importantly, they had a weekend in a place apart, where they experienced the closeness of God's presence and the invitation for new or renewed life in Jesus Christ.

Youth

The Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) has been busy making plans for the 2008 year. All youth in the conference should mark their calendars for several exciting events. The weekend of April 4-6 will be an EPA Conference Youth Retreat at Gretna Glen. CCYM is planning a weekend of great music, games, speakers, and youth-led worship. They're also promising karaoke! April 11 is United Methodist Night at the 76ers, and CCYM hopes everyone attends. The 76ers make a donation to the Conference youth ministry for every ticket sold. The Northeast Jurisdiction youth event, called the Nor'easter, will be held minutes from our Conference in Hershey, July 10-13. CCYM is making this a part of their calendar, and they hope Eastern PA Conference has a huge representation. It's been a number of years since our Conference has held a major youth conference. That

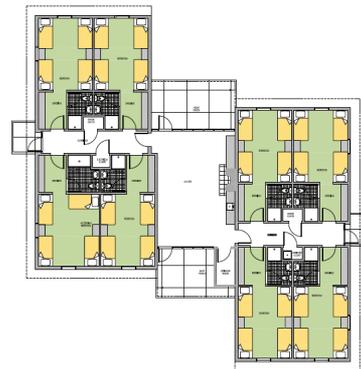


changes in 2008! Mark the weekend of September 26-28 on your calendars right now so that young people in your church don't miss EPA's big youth event!

Camping

Carson Simpson Farm celebrates obtaining approval from the Upper Moreland Zoning Board for the plans that will bring year-round programming to the site for the first time in its history. We are busy moving through the other steps in the permit approval process so that we can begin actual construction. The first phase of the project will include a dining hall/multipurpose building and an overnight facility for 50 young people. This

will provide a retreat facility and meeting space for groups



that is just minutes from the Willow Grove exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It will be a wonderful expansion of the camp and retreat ministry facilities of our Conference. Carson Simpson Farm has been a favorite location for day camp, picnics and other activities. Soon it will join the other three camps in providing a beautiful setting for overnight retreats. Future phases that will follow include overnight lodging designed for adults in motel-style rooms, an activity center, a gymnasium and a chapel.



Christmas Gifts

Looking for ideas for Christmas gifts for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews? We have several ideas for you. A week of summer camp can change a young person's life, and gift certificates that can be used toward the cost of camp are available in any amount.

How about helping a young person who likes basketball to join us on April 11 for United Methodist Night at the 76ers when the team plays the Indiana Pacers? We also have great looking bright red United Methodist Church t-shirts with a cross and flame on the front and the Great Commandment on the back. For more information or to purchase any of these gifts, contact Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries at 610-666-9090 ext. 225 or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.

Camp Innabah "Speaks"

by Mark A. Fox*



George Hollich

The Christ Servant Ministries program of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference conducted an advanced training class on November 9th & 10th at Camp Innabah entitled, You Want Me to Speak (but not from the pulpit)?

The course behind this playful and intentionally descriptive title is explained by George Hollich, Conference Director of Christ Servant Ministries. "During our years of conducting preaching courses for Christ Servants, we learned that there was considerable interest in training for those who wanted to learn more about speaking as part of their service to Christ, but not necessarily from the pulpit. Thus, this advanced course was developed and has been well-attended at every offering since its creation."

The training at Camp Innabah was led by Judy Ehninger, George Hollich, Rev. Allen Jenkins, Rev. Donna Jones, Lenora Thompson, and Rev. Mark Young. Each student presented a 5-minute prepared talk during one session and a 5-minute spontaneous talk in another. Both talks were critiqued by the instructor and the other students.

Other training included such topics as conducting effective meetings and the use of illustrations, visual aids and electronic media in presentations. The course will be repeated in the Fall of 2008.

Said one attendee, "The most important thing I learned this weekend is to speak from that place where Christ resides... your heart."

At the Christ Servant Ministries Conference Work Team Meeting that followed the workshop, these additional opportunities were discussed:

December 15 – "Growing in Your Relationship with God" led by Rev. Susan Cole

Winter 2008 – Basic Course at Trinity UMC, Lebanon

March 2008 – "Delivering the Gospel", Simpson House

Spring 2008 – Basic Course at Grove

UMC, West Chester

Spring 2008 – UMCOR Disaster Response Training

August 8-10 – Laity Academy at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel

September 2008 – Preaching, Level 1, Simpson House

Fall 2008 – Basic Course at Hopewell UMC

November 14-15 – You Want to Speak (but not from the pulpit)?

For more information on any of the above events...or on the Christ Servant Ministries program...visit the CSM website www.gbgm-umc.org/csm or contact George Hollich at 717-838-2812.

* Mark A. Fox is a member of Doylestown United Methodist Church of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Classifieds

FREE: ALLEN ORGAN

Chiques UMC, Mount Joy, has an Allen organ which they are no longer using. They would like to donate it to another UMC church who would have use for it. It would still be functional for a smaller church. Interested party is responsible for hauling the organ. Interested parties should contact Chiques UMC office at 717-563-5175.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation is currently seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director. The duties include: Marketing the investment management and financial services of the Foundation throughout both the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware United Methodist Conferences. Working with financial advisors and Board of Directors to evaluate investments and provide administrative services. Providing education on estate and financial planning and charitable giving at the local church. Planning consultations with church financial committees, trustees, councils and boards. Assisting local churches with development and funding endowments. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree and experience in investment and/or financial sales and services. Knowledge of The United Methodist Church is helpful. The position includes a flexible schedule with evening meetings and travel within the conference areas.

Send resume, including salary requirements by December 7, 2007 to Mary Ann Hoffman, 45 Blackberry Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 or email to hoffman2@dejazzd.com.

com.

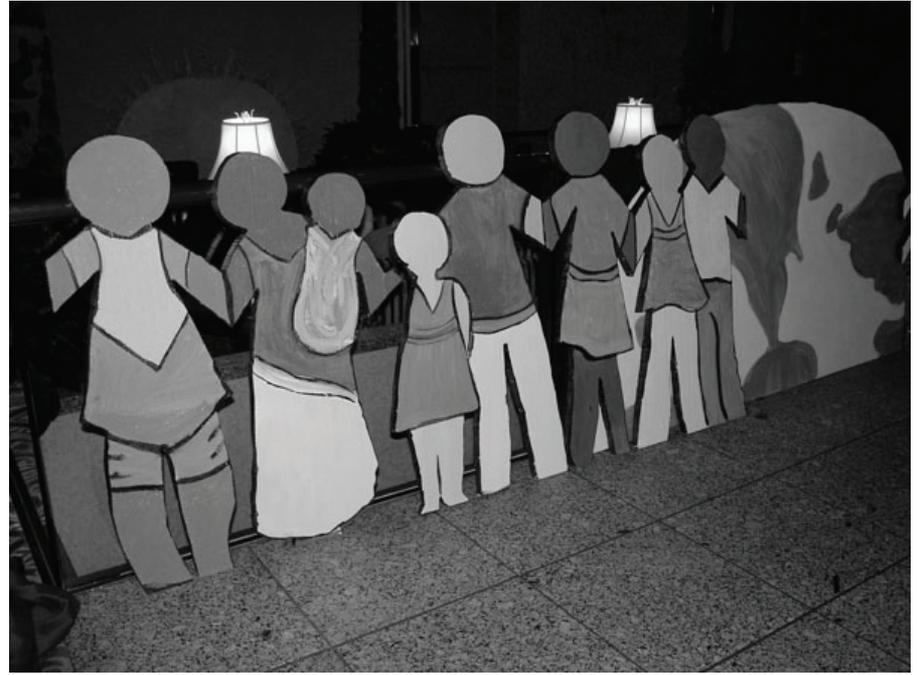
PLAZA DE DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO VACANTE

La Fundación Metodista Unida del Este de Pennsylvania-Península está actualmente buscando candidatos para la posición de Director Ejecutivo. Los deberes incluyen, pero no se limitan a los siguientes: Mercadear el manejo de inversiones y servicios financieros en la Conferencia del Este de Pennsylvania y en la Conferencia Península-Delaware. Evaluar inversiones y proveer servicios administrativos; trabajando en conjunto con asesores y La Junta de Directores. Proveer seminarios y charlas acerca de planes estatales y financieros, y donaciones benéficas a las iglesias locales. Coordinar consultas con el comité financiero, los síndicos, el concilio y las juntas de las iglesias. Asistir las iglesias locales en el desarrollo y creación de fondos. Los requisitos incluyen Bachillerato y experiencia en inversiones y/o ventas y servicios financieros. Conocimiento de la Iglesia Metodista Unida necesario, pero no indispensable. La posición incluye horarios flexibles con reuniones nocturnas y viajes variados en el área de las conferencias.

Favor enviar su resumé, junto con el salario requerido, en o antes de December 7, 2007 a Mary Ann Hoffman, 45 Blackberry Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 o por correo electrónico a hoffman2@dejazzd.com.

HOUSE SHARING-United Methodist Minister has house to share with a student in Philadelphia in exchange for 12 hours of supervision of two adorable adventurous boys, ages 5 and 9. Contact - 215-531-4696.

Living Faith, Seeking Justice



by Peggy Wood

came the challenge.

Earlier this month 14 folks from Eastern Pennsylvania (yes, you read right 14!) joined over 600 other United Methodists in Ft. Worth, TX for the Living Faith, Seeking Justice event which was sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society. Living Faith was designed to help conferences form caring communities, both within congregations or through a wider-ranging natural ministry.

Participants were encouraged and empowered to find ways to provide mercy and justice ministries within an intentional framework. We are used to acts of charity, however, acts of justice that provide solutions that will put an end to the need for charity are more difficult and compelling. Rev. Kerbon Chenell in the opening worship service said "The Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims a love that compels us to act, to transform the world into something holy to the Creator." Understanding the intersections of evangelism and justice be-

Each day's sessions were focused on a word in the conference's title. Worship, fellowship, seeking questions and answers, art, music and recreational activities were the vehicles used to create focus. We became more passionate about the realm of possibilities for justice ministries and better equipped to carry them out. Participants were able to attend a wide variety of workshops and go on site visits. The visits in Dallas and Ft. Worth were to restorative justice ministries with prisoners, ex-offenders and their families; as well as to an assortment of outreach ministries that focus on providing healthcare, food security, shelter and clothing needs; "welcoming the stranger" or addressing violence within communities.

We hope you will take the time to learn more about this event at www.umc-gbcs.org where you will be able to view webcasts and podcasts and other responses to this compelling event.

Safe Sanctuaries

Does your church's Safe Sanctuary policy include guidelines for usage of church computers and wireless networks or for placing photographs for your website? Do you include a check of the Megan's Law website when screening employees and volunteers? Do you do a Google search? These and many other measures can be incorporated into policies to help make your church a truly safe sanctuary for young people.

Training on Safe Sanctuaries will be provided on January 26 at the Tools for Ministry events in several locations in the Conference. The training will prepare persons from your congregation to lead devel-

opment of new policies or reviewing and updating of existing policies. We will explore the realities of child abuse and the steps churches can take to minimize the risk of experiencing an incident. We will review the required elements of church policies and share a wide range of examples of "best practice" that are recommended as further ways to better protect children. Even though you should have an existing Safe Sanctuaries policy, it is recommended that it be reviewed annually. This training will be a great way to begin your review. For more information, contact Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries at 610-666-9090, ext 225 or jim.wilkin@



The KINGSMEN

are coming to
HOPE CHURCH
on
Wednesday, DEC 5th, 7 pm
for a Live Concert!!

A love offering will be taken that evening for them,
but no admission fee
is being charged.

Visit:
<http://viewmorepics.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewAlbums=118366945>





United Theological Seminary

*Invites you to a one-day
Continuing Education event*

“The Holy Spirit and Methodism”



**Dr. Jason Vickers, Assistant
Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies**

Lecture One: "Invoking the Holy Spirit"
Lecture Two: "Avoiding the Spook Factor"
Lecture Three: "Rediscovering the Holy Spirit"

**Monday, January 28, 2008
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

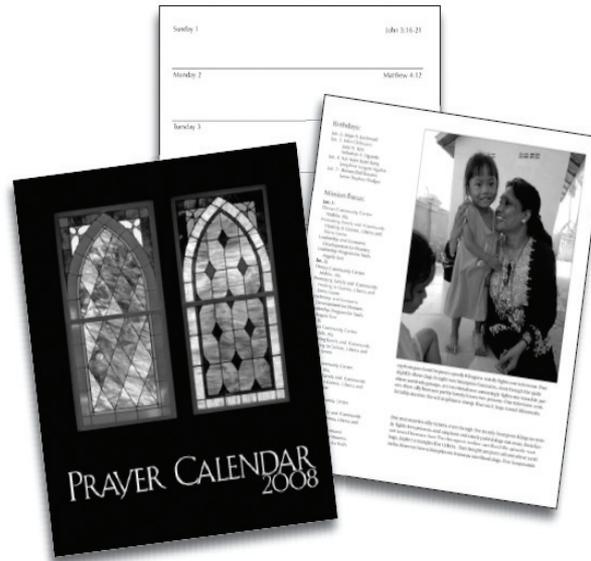
**Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center,
Lancaster, PA**

**For information contact Rev. Timothy Smith,
717-872-5331 or TS3707@aol.com**

Cost: \$25 for Lectures, \$10 for .4 CEUs, meals extra

**United Theological Seminary
Dayton, OH
utscom@united.edu www.united.edu**

The ALL NEW 2008 Prayer Calendar is almost here!



Featuring all the
information you've
grown to love,
in an *all-new* format:

- Full-color photos of mission projects around the world
- Space to write personal appointments and information
- Personal reflections from persons in mission
- Low price of \$11.00!

Reserve your copy today!

**www.missionresourcecenter.org
800-305-9857**

34th Annual Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Women

by Frances J. Rivers

The United Methodist Women of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference held their 34th Annual Meeting on October 20, 2007 at Olivet United Methodist Church in Coatesville. The theme for this year's meeting was "Advocating for Children." The women in attendance were asked to seek opportunities to help children by mentoring, tutoring and praying for them.

Each woman was assigned to one of five small-group meetings. Ethel Hibbs discussed tutoring through Senior Adults for Greater Education. Gladys Hubbard, Social Action Coordinator, discussed public education and health care for children. Althea Harmon discussed the work of Mother's Voice Prison Ministry. Alicia Gardner offered an overview of the work of United Methodist Neighbor-

hood Services. Barbara Drake, vice-president of the UMW Conference Mission Team provided information on the Interfaith Hospitality Network, an agency devoted to helping homeless children. Henrietta Thomas, secretary of the Mission Team, led a large-group discussion in which participants compared information gained in the small-group settings.

Betsy Preston, Mission Coordinator for Social Action for the East District, introduced the guest speaker, Andris Salter, Assistant General Secretary, Administration, of the Women's Division. Ms. Salter defined the needs of children and discussed means of addressing them. She described a violence-free childhood and the opportunity to be children as basic needs for healthy children. She went on to discuss basic ways that United Methodist Women could be in the vanguard for this



Ms. Andris Salter

cause. She called on the assembly to push for affordable health care and court-supported advocacy for children.

Ms. Salter presided over the installation of officers for the EPA UMW Mission Team for 2008.

President: Anna Bickhart; Vice-President: Barbara Drake; Secretary: Henrietta Thomas; Treasurer: Sue Kruse; Communications: Frances J. Rivers; Spiritual Growth: Susan Dziuk; Social Action: Gladys Hubbard; Education and Interpretation: Mary Lou Kerrick; Membership, Nurture and Outreach: Janet Mills; Needlework: Mary Ann Repsher; Permanent Trust Fund Chairperson: Ethel Malone; Nominating Committee Chairperson; Mary Bamford.

United Methodist Neighborhood Services - making a difference

by Mary White*

Recently, on a cold late afternoon a mother and three children showed up at my office with no place to live and no comfortable clothing. I said to her, we are closed for the day. But, when I looked at the children without jackets, I could not turn them away. I invited her inside and asked the intake questions. The mother told me she was put out of her home by her friend. Therefore, she and the children had no place to live, so they were out in the street. The mother told me they slept under the bridge for shelter.

I took the mother and children to get something to eat and started calling places to house them. Thank God, I was able to get housing for them. I told her she needs to be connected to a church. I will continue to work with her and the children to get them a church family.

The contributions of clothes, food and money from people and congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference make this ministry possible. Through this ministry, God's people are fed and loved. Thank you! Through our shared ministry, United Methodist Neighborhood Services cares compassionately for the people of the Philadelphia community.

**Mary White is executive director of United Methodist Neighborhood Services in North Philadelphia.*

**United Methodist
Neighborhood Services
804 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-236-0304**

Developing leaders to
change the face of the world.

The Methodist
GLOBAL
EDUCATION FUND

This bold new initiative by The United Methodist Church promotes global progress and stability by developing principled Christian leaders for the church and for the world.

Contact Ken Yamada at (615) 340-7398
or visit www.gbhem.org/mgef

GENERAL BOARD OF
Higher Education & Ministry

New Website Launched to Promote Missionary Support

by Ben Hartley*



A new website - <http://www.epamissions.org> - has been launched by the EPA Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP). The CCMP's stated purpose is "to encourage individuals and local congregations in the EPA Conference to get more involved in Christian mission through The United Methodist Church - both locally and globally."

The new website is part of a "pilot" effort of the General Board of Global Ministries to increase missionary support in our Annual Conference. Nine missionaries are identified on the website who have been chosen as particular persons in need of support by our Conference, but persons and churches may choose to enter into a "Covenant Relationship" with any GBGM missionary working in many different countries - including the U.S.

There are three possible ways to begin a "Covenant Relationship" with a missionary. Individual churches can do so for \$5 per member per year with an expectation that the church commit for at least three years. Clusters of local churches can also choose to be in covenant relationship with a missionary together.

Individual members of United Method-

ist churches can also get involved in this important ministry of Covenant Relationships with missionaries by committing just \$500 per year. This would make a fine end-of-year gift as a family! Simple forms to download, fill out, and send in to GBGM are available on the new website.

In addition to missionary support, the website also offers links to other United Methodist-related websites and non-denominational sites to educate congregations about world mission. The Volunteers in Mission program of the EPA Conference also has a page containing basic information about its work.

One of the links featured on the website is the Dictionary for African Christian Biography. The DACB contains brief biographies of hundreds of African Christian leaders over the past two thousand years. Check it out and expand your horizons about African Christianity - the new center of world Christianity-and bring a fresh perspective to your congregation for Black History month in February as well! It is just a click away - <http://www.epamissions.org>

** Ben Hartley is a member of the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel*

Free Interfaith Disaster Preparedness Conference

When disaster strikes, will you be ready? Will you know how to protect your family and community and continue to serve your congregation? Find out on Wednesday, December 12 in a free Disaster Preparedness Conference.

The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter and Chester County Department of Emergency Services are joining with Southeastern Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD) to train Chester County faith-based organizations in the critical skills necessary to prepare for disaster. Because you are an important community leader, you are invited to learn how to better prepare yourself, your staff, and your congregation for an emergency. You will hear from three speakers presenting on important preparedness topics: Dr. John P. Maher, director of the Chester County Health Department, will provide an overview of public health preparedness with a focus on pandemic flu. Learn about the prevailing threats and what is being done to address them.

Alex Agosti, Director of Preparedness at the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania, will present on personal disaster preparedness. Learn the three steps you can take to make yourself and your family safer before a disaster strikes.

Julia Menzo of Liberty Lutheran Services will present on congregational

preparedness. Learn how to prepare your congregation for disaster so you can continue to offer vital services to your community with minimal interruption.

This informative conference will include lunch and a free disaster preparedness gift for those who fill out an agency survey. By collecting a survey from each agency, SEPA VOAD will be able to assess all the community resources available in Chester County should a large-scale disaster occur. These surveys will be crucial in helping provide quality service during times of need.

We look forward to having you join us for this important community event. You may reserve seats for up to two representatives from your organization since space is limited. If you are unable to attend, we would appreciate it if you could send another representative from your organization. Please RSVP by December 6th to attend.

We encourage you to forward this information and attached flyer to any of your partner agencies or any organizations that might be interested in attending this conference.

To register contact: Christie Eastburn VOAD Coordinator, American Red Cross 23rd & Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19103; 215-299-4218; eastbuc@redcross-philly.org

The 2008 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel



When: May 29-30, 2008

Where: Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel
17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia

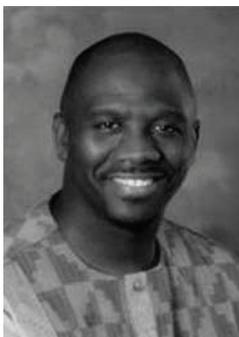
Bus transportation will be available.

Clergy Session will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at 9:30 a.m. at Hempfield UMC in Lancaster.

The Service of Ordination will be conducted at First United Methodist Church in Lancaster on June 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.



Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey will preach for Opening Worship and the Memorial Service. In addition to being resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, McCleskey represents the Council of Bishops on the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He is vice-president of that board and chair of its Division of Higher Education. He is vice-president of the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. Bishop McCleskey also served as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops (2003-2004), and he is a member of the Board of Trustees of Duke University.



The Rev. Kelvin Sauls will lead the Bible Studies. He was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. Currently he leads the Office of Congregational Development of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, with a passion for congregational revitalization and community organizing in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and The United Methodist Church in the U.S. Rev Sauls currently serves on the national planning team for the Convocation of Pastors of African American Churches (General Board of Discipleship) and on the National Policy Committee of the Community Developers Program (General Board of Global Ministries).

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

DEADLINES:

IF YOU ARE REQUESTING CONSIDERATION FOR TIME ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, THE DEADLINE IS February 15, 2008.

- All requests for consideration MUST be submitted in writing to Mrs. Amy Botti, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820 or by email: amy.botti@epaumc.org. Late requests cannot be accommodated.
- Presenters will be asked to submit detailed scripts accompanied by the name(s) of the actual presenter(s) and the estimated presentation time by March 21, 2008. If a script is not received by the deadline, the presenter will lose presentation privileges.

IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT, THE DEADLINE IS February 15, 2008.

- Resolutions are to be submitted to the Conference Secretary: The Rev. Charles E. Weigel, Jr., 751 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335; Direct your questions to: (O) 610-269-1496, (H) 610-269-0629; email: Weigel4@aol.com. The name of the actual presenter must accompany each resolution.
- Resolutions, in portrait format, may be sent by email or on a CD. Below is a sample of the format for setting up your document.
- Resolutions submitted after the February 15, 2008 deadline will be referred to the Agenda Review Committee in accordance with the rules of the Annual Conference. Copies cannot be made by the office staff at the Conference Office and will not be published in "NewSpirit."

FORMAT FOR SETTING UP YOUR DOCUMENT

Please use Microsoft Word and submit your resolution on a CD or you may email it as an MS Word attachment. Please use the following specifications.

1. Paper Size: 8.5" by 11"
2. Font: Arial 12 pt.
3. Justification: Full
4. Left/Right Margins: 1"/1"
- Top/Bottom Margins: 1"/1"
5. Portrait

Please send your information to and direct your questions to:

The Rev. Charles E. Weigel, Jr.
751 E. Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
(O) 610-269-1496
email: Weigel4@aol.com

SAMPLE RESOLUTION FORMAT

RESOLUTION # (We will fill in the number)

RESOLUTION TO 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Resolution Relating to Housing Allowance for Retired Clergy (Title)

Presented by The Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Organization/group/agency)

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and WHEREAS, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

WHEREAS, pension paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, etc., etc., etc.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: (Name of Presenter)

Back to the Basics:



Vibrant, Passionate Ministry

Back to the Basics: Vibrant, Passionate Ministry

*Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat - January 15-17, 2008
With guest speaker, The Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon
at the Clarion Resort Fountainebleau Hotel in Ocean City,
MD*

Paul Nixon is pastor of Epicenter DC, a new church being launched in the greater Washington DC area, a multi-site project focused on serving the people in emerging urban neighborhoods of high density housing along the subway lines. He is a member of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Until 2007, he served on the extended cabinet of Alabama-West Florida Conference, overseeing congregational development. For nine years, he served on the pastoral team of the 4000 member Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church near Pensacola. Paul was founding pastor of the Community Life Center, the east campus of Gulf Breeze, overseeing it from its conception to 650 in worship attendance.

Paul consults with churches and conferences all across North America, with a special passion for coaching church planters and churches with initiatives to reach new demographic groups in their communities. He is author of three books, Fling Open the Doors, 2002, Healing Spiritual Amnesia, 2004 and I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church, 2007. You may purchase a copy of his latest book when you register for the retreat.

Schedule Overview - (detailed schedule available at the retreat)

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Noon—2 p.m.: Registration
Bishop's Welcome/Worship
Speaker—Dr. Paul Nixon
Dinner

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Breakfast
Worship
Speaker—Dr. Paul Nixon
Free Time
Dinner
Entertainment

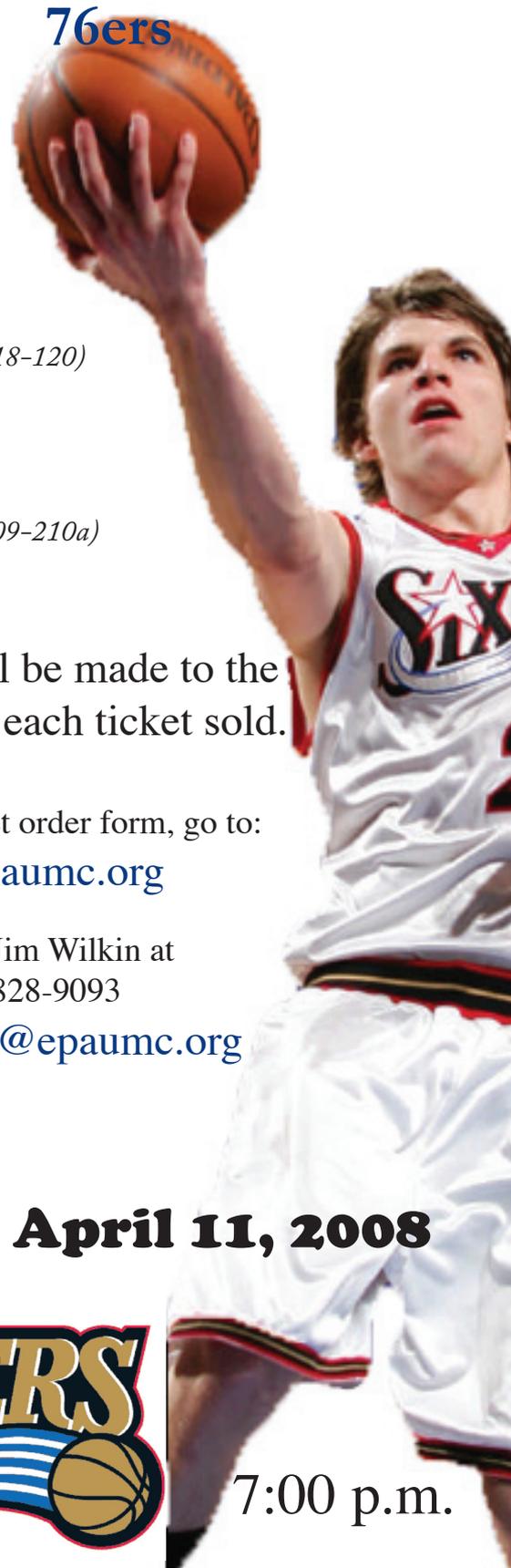
Thursday, January 17, 2008

Breakfast
Closing Worship/Communion



**Contact information: Amy Botti, Registrar,
1-800-828-9093, ext. 233 or email at
amy.botti@epaumc.org**

United Methodist Night at the 76ers



Lower Level Ends
(Sections 106-108 and 118-120)
UM Cost - \$31.00
Box Office - \$52.00

Mezzanine Corners
(Sections 204-205 and 209-210a)
UM Cost - \$20.00
Box Office - \$30.00

A donation will be made to the Conference for each ticket sold.

To download a ticket order form, go to:

www.epaumc.org

or contact Jim Wilkin at
1-800-828-9093

or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org

Friday, April 11, 2008



7:00 p.m.

VS

