From Hopewell United Methodist Church

On January 4, 2007, the Commale family was in the Big Apple, New York City, to share their story about how 6-year-old, Katherine and her mother, Lynda, from Hopewell United Methodist Church in Downingtown, PA, are fighting malaria in Africa, One Bed Net At A Time.

That afternoon, Katherine and Lynda were honored for raising over $10,000 for NothingButNets, a global grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria in Africa. Inspired by Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly, the campaign is now partnered with The People of the United Methodist Church, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The United Nations Foundation, NBA Cares, UNICEF, and the Mark J. Gordon Foundation. At Hopewell Church and in the surrounding community, it has been a stirring experience of congregational transformation and spiritual renewal - demonstrating yet again the power of ONE (in this case, one CHILD).

There are few occasions in life when you truly feel called to take action, when things hit you and you have to do something. For Lynda, this happened when she watched the PBS program, Malaria: Fever Wars. It was then that she learned the devastating effects of malaria in Africa, especially on the children. Lynda says, "I couldn't get this program out of my head, it haunted me and I knew I had to respond." Six-year-old daughter Katherine shared her mother's passion, and with dad, Anthony, and little brother, Joseph, they have resolved to address the problem of malaria in Africa.

After months of research, Lynda brought the issue to the attention of Patty Wiehler, Director of Children's Ministry at Hopewell UMC. Lynda and Katherine passionately wanted to educate the church members about the effects of this deadly disease. Patty completely embraced the idea, and said, “One of our passions in Children's Ministries is having our kids leading the way in missions - hands-on -

Bishop Bickerton to speak at Lenten Day Apart

By Tamara Ward*

Bishop Matthews’ Lenten Day Apart for clergy will be held on Tuesday, February 20th, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Bishop Matthews’ guest speaker for the Lenten Day Apart will be Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, Episcopal leader of the Western Pennsylvania Conference and president of United Methodist Communications.

Bishop Bickerton became the spiritual leader of the almost 900 United Methodist congregations on September 1, 2004, having been elected the previous June in Syracuse, New York during the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He is one
MARCH 2, 2007
Community Summit on HIV/AIDS
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, At West Chester United Methodist Church, 10 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19382. Pursue the vision to create diverse faith communities to gather together geographically focused areas to inform them about the medical, social, economic and spiritual impact of HIV/AIDS to facilitate mobilization of faith communities to respond to the needs of those infected and affected. For all leaders of faith communities such as clergy, staff members, counselors, parish nurses, outreach ministry directors and other interested leaders. 0.6 CEU's available through RPUMC. Registration Fee: $35.00. Make check payable to RPUMC. Mail Registration & Fee to: Church of the Open Door; HUB of Hope, 110 E. State Street, Suite 10, Kennett Square, PA 19348. R.S.V.P. by February 23, 2007. For MAP and DIRECTIONS: www.westcheyrtenbaumc.org

MARCH 9-12, 2007
Ecclesiastical Advocacy Days, Washington D.C.
"And how are the Children?" will be the theme of the Ecclesiastical Advocacy Days for 2007. Available study tracks are Domestic, Middle East, Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Eco-Jus- tice, Global Security and Jubilee and Economics. Registration is due by February 15. The cost is $300. For more information contact the Cornwall Public Relations Office at 1-800-222-2476 or info@cornwallmanor.org or visit the Cornwall Manor web site at www.cornwallmanor.org

MAY 10, 2007
Making Disciples Training Series - Living as Christians Disciples: The Means of Grace and Ordinances of the Church, in the Community, and in Worship Spaces in St. Louis, and fellowship with all those gathered. Registration is open now along with web registration. See page 10.

JUNE 26-30, 2007

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

OCTOBER 13, 2006

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

DECEMBER 12, 2007
Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry for all ages. See page 10.

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

Worship Center UMC 600 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153

APRIL 13-15, 2007
Bishop King inspires clergy and spouses at Mid-Winter Retreat

By Robert Shank*

Along the way, he also shared some of his feelings and beliefs regarding the appointment-making process, saying, “You have to get home. Sometimes home is a physical place and sometimes it is a spiritual place. You have to feel at home in an appointment.”

The second day of the retreat, Bishop King began by saying, “Good morning beautiful people!” Then in his introductory words he said, “There should be something burning in you, so brightly and so strongly that wherever you are, people can see it... you are not bound by your present moment or situation... you are looking beyond those walls to God’s vision.”

We have two arms, he said, and we should use them both. One arm to love the people you’re with and the other arm to reach out beyond your status quo and to the people outside the church. And if those we love say, “Why do we have to reach out to others,” you can say, “It hurts me that you don’t understand why we have to love them.”

Throughout the presentations, Bishop King challenged the listeners and encouraged them at the same time. His highly motivating and engaging tone was well received by the clergy and their spouses. “You are no accident,” he said. “This is your moment! What are you going to do with it?”

Then he introduced his acronym for this process is a flywheel that someone is trying to push. “It takes a great deal of energy to push it, but it doesn’t budge. So you push it again and you push it again. You don’t give up, you keep pushing. You push it again and it finally moves an inch. You don’t stop. You push it again and keep pushing and push until the flywheel takes on its own and flies into the future.”

The message was clear: what are you going to do with your moment?

*The Rev. Robert Shank is the pastor of Stroudsburg United Methodist Church.

In Memoriam

Rev. David Seymour, on Thursday, December 21, 85 years old and is survived by two daughters, Nancy and Susan.

Rev. Seymour served the following appointments: Broomall: St. Mark’s; Philadelphia: Grace; To: Central District Superintendent; his father, David Seymour; Bishop at the time. His highly motivating and engaging tone was well received by the clergy and their spouses. “You are no accident,” he said. “This is your moment! What are you going to do with it?”

Rev. Seymour is survived by two daughters, Nancy and Susan.

Mrs. Gladys Gould, widow of the Rev. Benjamin O. Gould. She passed away on Dec. 26, 2006. She was 94 years old, and had been in the Alzheimer’s Unit at Ware Presbyterian Village in Oxford PA.

Mrs. Gladys Gould was predeceased by a daughter, Judith Spahr, in 1968.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Beverly Henry at 168 Blackburn Drive, Nottingham PA 19062.

Rev. Wayne Rothwell, who passed away yesterday afternoon, January 15, 2007. Rev. Rothwell was 80 years old.


He is survived by his wife, Edith, and two daughters and a son.

The address for condolences is: Mrs. Edith Rothwell, P.O. Box 250, Apt. 202, Sybertsville PA 18251.

Rev. Priscilla Maxham (formerly Wooters). She died of cancer on December 24, 2006, at the age of 66.

She served in this conference in the following appointments: as Associate Pastor at Lancaster: First from 7/1/94-6/30/99, and as Pastor at Lebanon: Ebenezer from 7/1/94-6/30/99. She retired as an elder from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference in 2005, where she had served as Associate Pastor of Avenue UMC in Milford, De.

Mrs. Elsie Hewitt, wife of retired elder, the Rev. George Hewitt, on January 21, 2007. She was 82 years old.

Rev. Hewitt served the following appointments beginning in 1942: Gradyville, Mount Pleasant, Georgetown, Former Tremont First, Jolieti First, Donaldson, Phila., S.D. Cooper, Haverton: Union, and Drexel Hill UMC (1986 to 1984); then he went into Extension Ministry as director of Pastoral Care Services at Delaware County Memorial Hospital until his retirement in 1987.

Condolences may be sent to Rev. Hewitt at: 415 Olympic Avenue, Haverton PA 19063-5105.

Rev. Marcus Matthews

Appointment Announcement from Bishop Marcus Matthews

William Gary George - From: Philadelphia: Grace; To: Central District Superintendent
Church offers financial counseling for families

By John Gordon*

Custer Road United Methodist Church lies in the middle of one of the most prosperous areas of the country, home to high-tech companies and upscale restaurants and retailers near Dallas.

But something not reflected in the Census Bureau’s household-income figures is families living beyond their means.

“We have a lot of people that have high salaries, but they spend more each year than what they make,” said the Rev. Rick Enns, associate minister at Custer Road.

Under his guidance, the church offers a 10-week Bible study on finances. The course covers not just giving to the church, but overall financial planning and dealing with credit cards and other debts.

“Collin County has a large debt ratio,” said Enns.

“So I see that come in that are upside down in their rent. They’re struggling with what they’re going to do each month and each week — not enough paycheck at the end of the month.”

The area also faced an economic downturn around 2000, when many high-tech companies were laying off employees. Enns said the dip forced some families to adjust their lifestyles.

Difficult decisions

Tony McIntyre and his wife, Toni, eliminated more than $60,000 in debt since taking the course two years ago.

“It’s been a huge change, a big difference,” said Toni McIntyre, a court reporter who works part-time from her home. “We tried for 10 years by ourselves to get our debt under control, and we could not do it.”

Part of the adjustment for her husband, a software engineer for Microsoft, was making fewer trips to his favorite electronics store.

“I do a lot more window shopping now,” he said.

Another difficult decision was selling his prized pickup. That saved more than $500 a month in payments and reduced a $300 monthly gasoline bill for his commute to work. He now drives his wife’s eight-year-old car.

“It’s nice to have that truck, but it’s nicer not having a car payment,” he said.

The McIntyres still allow themselves an occasional luxury, such as a portable GPS navigation unit. They bought it with cash and points accumulated on a credit card.

“Toni wanted a GPS because, like some guys, I’m directionally challenged,” Tony McIntyre said. “So we can still get nice, cool things, it’s just that we don’t get them as often.”

The McIntyres now help teach the financial course at Custer Road United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Rick Enns leads the financial-counseling Bible study at Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. A UMNS photo by John Gordon.

One of their children, Scott, 8, asked for a football jersey for Christmas — unlike other neighborhood children whose lists were much longer.

“They’re greedy ‘cause they have a bunch of stuff on their lists,” he said.

Jeff Trautman, an important part of the course is developing a budget and tracking where money is spent.

“Most people don’t like to budget or look, keep track of the expenses,” he said. “And it’s very surprising at times to see how much you’re spending on what.”

He said credit-card debt is a common cause of problems for families.

“A lot of people think the minimum payment will eventually pay it off in five to seven years,” he said. “When, in reality, the minimum payment is set up so that you never pay it off.”

New way to live

The church started offering the financial course three years ago and classes have remained full. The Bible study is based on a course developed by the non-denominational Crown Financial Ministries.

Enns said the experience has been life-changing for church members.

“It’s just to neat to see that light turn on in their head when, for the first time, they understand, ‘You know what, I don’t have to live this way.’”

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

The Nation in Brief

• United Methodist Communications has redesigned UMC.org, the denomination’s Web site, to become the “front door” to the online faith community. The new site will be launched in early January and will feature the first large-scale social networking site developed by a mainline denomination. UMC.org’s online community is designed to foster relationships within the global church community. It will enable people to access the church’s resources, find a church in any community in the United States, identify personal spiritual gifts and share prayer concerns with others.

• Retiring to Port Charlotte, Fla., after Army careers, Paul and Linda Lawrence were looking for a place to “fit in” at their church. They found it by repairing bicycles for children, the homeless and others struggling with transportation. Now, the Lawrences spend four hours a day, five weeks a day repairing bicycles at Edgewater United Methodist Church.

• Some of the bikes are donated, but most are abandoned and given to the church by area police departments. The couple took over the ministry three years ago with the help of another church member, Lawrence Lee, who used to work in a bicycle shop and is homeless. The three refurbished more than 700 bikes in 2006 — a record number for the outreach.

• A United Methodist related concert at New York’s Lincoln Center will honor hymn writer Charles Wesley as it raises funds for relief work. The 2007 Wesley Choral Festival, presented by Music Celebrations International, commemorates the 300th anniversary of Wesley’s birth. Events will begin with a Feb. 15 gala dinner in Little Italy and culminate with a concert at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 18. All proceeds from the $5 to $55 ticket sales will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s landmine removal program in Angola. To order tickets, visit http://www.lincocncenter.org/; phone events list, event code: 13723 online or call Center Charge at (212) 721-6500.

• The Rev. Peggy Johnson, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf and several parishioners will appear in the upcoming PBS documentary, History Through Deaf Eyes. The two-hour documentary covers nearly 200 years of American history. History Through Deaf Eyes will be nationally broadcast on March 21, check your local listings for times.

• United Methodist Deaf Ministry is an important part of United Methodist work and outreach. You can support this program by giving to UMCOR Advance #982562, Deaf Ministry.

• Three United Methodists - Leonard Sweet, professor at Drew Theological University in Madison, N.J., U.S. President George Bush and the Rev. Michael Slaughter of Ginghamsburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio - are listed as 8th, 11th and 45th, respectively, among the 50 most influential Christians in the United States in a recent survey conducted by The Church Report, a national business news magazine distributed to more than 40,000 senior pastors and Christian leaders in the United States. The list, published Jan. 7, is the result of more than 200,000 nominations from readers. Other influential Christians nominated for the list included authors and pastors Joel Osteen of Lakewood Church in Houston, Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and the Rev. Billy Graham. Visit www.thecurchreport.com for full details.

www.epaumc.org
Communications agency pledges bed nets for Mutare mission

By Linda Green*

A tour of a hospital, children's homes, a maternity ward and a school for deaf children led the governing members of United Methodist Communications to pledge 170 bed nets for people using these facilities around Mutare. The action comes as part of the agency's involvement in a global campaign to raise funds to eradicate malaria in Africa, where the mosquito-borne disease causes the death of one-fifth of all children under 5 years old. The Commission on Communications made the pledge for the Old Mutare Mission Center and a deaf school in Mutumbara during a Jan. 4-11 meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, and Mutare.

Commission members also provided communications training to pastors and lay people from across Zimbabwe at United Methodist-related Africa University in Mutare. The meeting was the commission's first outside the continental United States. “We are in partnership...to cover the continent of Africa with life-saving bed nets to halt the death of a child every 30 seconds from malaria,” said the Rev. Larry Holton, top executive at United Methodist Communications, at the meeting.

Nothing But Nets assists parents in Africa in hanging insecticide-drenched nets over children while they sleep, to keep mosquitoes from biting. In Africa, about 800,000 children die every year of malaria, according to the United Nations Foundation. “The fact that the United Methodist Church is taking on the particular fight against malaria is a special thrill for me,” said Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Millennium Development Goals and special adviser to Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations. Speaking to the commission by video, Sachs said malaria is a “pervasive tragedy of life” in Africa. The disease is “a victimizer of the poor and a creator of extreme poverty,” and those living in malaria zones are burdened by disastrous costs of poor health, by children who are ill and dying, and by the inability to attract foreign investors, the commissioner said. He said, “We have to break that vicious circle.” He added Sachs, also the director of the earth institute at Columbia University in New York, said malaria is “utterly controllable and largely preventable” by insecticide-treated bed nets, and it is treatable if proper medicine is provided before the onset of serious complications.

Malaria particularly affects children because of the lack of bed nets and the lack of access to emergency health care facilities and treatment, he said. “We are losing millions of children for want of the most basic, straightforward, proven interventions,” Sachs said. A bed net, which can last up to five years, “provides children from this scourge, this scourge that has been with us for hundreds of years, this mosquito-borne disease,” he said.

A $10 contribution will cover the cost of providing a bed net to a family. The first $7 purchases and distributes the nets, which can cover up to four family members in bed. The last $2 pays for community workers to educate families on how to use the nets. “ Losing children who are so precious is shocking and unbelievable,” Sachs said. He said this time is his time to educating people about malaria and getting them involved in the fight against it. “When people are aware, people are filled with generosity,” he said. While there has been progress in fighting HIV/AIDS because of enhanced public awareness, he said, the problem of malaria is not as widely understood in the United States because the disease primarily affects poor people in tropical countries.

Donations to anti-malaria efforts “remain pitifully small compared to what is so achievable and what is so urgently needed,” he noted. To date, Nothing But Nets has raised more than $1.7 million with average donations of $82, but $6 million to $8 million more is needed, he said. Sachs hailed the church for its role in

“While I was kidnapped, you were in captivity here praying for me until my release,” Lunkim, the Rev. Cynthia Harvey talks with a child in one of the family homes at the Fairfield orphanage at the Old Mutare Mission. A UMNS photo by Bill Norton.

UMCOR just sent 20 boxes to help six health institutions and three school health facilities in Sierrra Leone. These health facilities struggle to provide basic medicines to the people they serve. This shipment of Medicines will provide all nine clinics and health institutions enough supplies and medications to last an entire year. Each Medicine Box contains 18 essential drugs and medical supplies. The box contents are sufficient to provide a community of 2,000 people with basic medicines and supplies for three months. It provides necessary items for day-to-day treatment of common ailments, which plague people of all ages, from infants to adults. To learn more, go to www.umcor.org

Nothing But Nets—“You are not waiting for anyone. You are just doing it,” he said. He sees a need for 300 million bed nets or one net per person in America— for people in Africa with strength in numbers and conviction, the denomination can turn the tide of malaria, he said. “If bringing malaria under control, you can save billions of lives,” and help Africa break the cycle of poverty and development. “Africa wants help out of extreme poverty,” said Domingos Antonio, a member of the communications commission and the father of eight children in Angola. Nothing But Nets include the people of The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, Nothing But Nets. Africa’s capital, and Mutare. Nothing But Nets includes the people of The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, Nothing But Nets. The first distribution of 150,000 nets was made in Nigeria in October, and Nothing But Nets and its partners will distribute more nets throughout countries in Africa in 2007 and 2008.

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

• While I was kidnapped, you were in captivity here praying for me until my release. Because of your tears and prayers, the Lord has brought me captivity here praying for me until my release. Lunkim, the father of eight children in Angola, said Africans have so many children because the sorrowfulness of losing kids kills many of them. Every day, more than 20 children die. “The problem is severe among the children,” the Rev. Cynthia Harvey, the Rev. Cynthia Harvey, head of the communications commission and the father of eight children in Angola, said. While people are aware, people are filled with generosity, he said. While there has been progress in fighting HIV/AIDS because of enhanced public awareness, he said, the problem of malaria is not as widely understood in the United States because the disease primarily affects poor people in tropical countries. Donations to anti-malaria efforts “remain pitifully small compared to what is so achievable and what is so urgently needed,” he noted. To date, Nothing But Nets has raised more than $1.7 million with average donations of $82, but $6 million to $8 million more is needed, he said. Sachs hailed the church for its role in..."}

*Green is a United Methodist News Service writer based in Nashville, Tenn.
Summertime Camp 2007

Cross Walk

And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8

Carson-Simpson Farm • Gretna Glen • Innabah • Pocono Plateau

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference • The United Methodist Church
CALL US (TOLL FREE) 1-877-UMC-CAMP
VISIT US ON-LINE www.epaumc.org/camping
By Lovett H. Weems, Jr.*

Have you ever said, “It’s not about the numbers” or “We don’t want just numbers”? I have. But not anymore. I have decided it is about the numbers. A pastor’s tongue-in-cheek parody helped me see the point.

Pastor Tim Stevens tells about going on vacation when his three children were quite young. The entire family was standing in a crowded hotel lobby in a big city when, to his surprise, he saw one of their children, a three-year old, in an elevator going skyward, her nose pressed to the glass with fright on her face. “What am I to do?” the pastor thought. “Nothing,” was his reply. After all, two out of the three children were still there. And, after all, there were many things he and his wife had not yet done with the remaining two children. Maybe they should focus more on having a deeper relationship with the two remaining children. In fact, this pastor had never really been a numbers person. He was not the kind of pastor who, if he came to the end of a vacation with fewer children than at the beginning of the vacation, would feel guilty about the negative numbers. “I’m just not into the numbers game,” the pastor insisted.

As I thought about this story, it struck me that when we end a year with two children fewer on our Sunday School roles, those are someone’s children. Or when a campus ministry adds numbers to its participants, each of those students is someone’s child. The world is full of children alone on elevators. They are the numbers we seek.

It’s Not about the Numbers . . . Actually It is about the Numbers

By Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

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Truth be told, in many instances we are missing out on opportunities to facilitate encounters with Jesus Christ and people in our neighborhoods, families and jobs. We can reach more youth and young adults for Jesus Christ. We can engage more young people in ministry with their peers. We can reach more people for Christ in our neighborhoods. New housing communities are being built all over our region. Growth is happening in the area! Jesus told the disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Being faithful to God’s call

By Lillian Smith*

By now you have heard about the annual conference’s emphasis on “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” Whether or not you were among the more than 1,500 people who attended one of the January trainings, you may still question - what is this all about? Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World is not a new program of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. It is a special emphasis designed to further equip congregations in their call to make disciples.

“The Great Commission is not an option,” explained the Rev. Kelvin Sauls. “It is an obligation.” Sauls, the presenter for last’s month’s session on “Transformational Spiritual Leadership, Part 1,” serves in the Office of Congregational Development, at the General Board of Discipleship. The emphasis on “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ” is an attempt to ensure that even more congregations reach more people for Jesus Christ. Is this initiative just about numbers? No and yes. This emphasis is not about increasing apportionments or even raising membership. It is not about institutional survival. It is about being faithful to God’s call on each UM Christian and congregation. Yes, it is about numbers. Through this emphasis we expect to increase worship attendance by at least 10% by 2012. The goal is to increase the numbers of people who come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Truth be told, in many instances we are missing out on opportunities to facilitate encounters with Jesus Christ and people in our neighborhoods, families and jobs. We can reach more youth and young adults for Jesus Christ. We can engage more young people in ministry with their peers. We can reach more people for Christ in our neighborhoods. New housing communities are being built all over our region. Growth is happening in the area! Jesus told the disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Making Disciples Insert - FEBRUARY 2007

www.epaumc.org
For youth disciples: Devozine celebrates a new year with a new look

Upper Room Ministries has given its devotional lifestyle magazine for teens a new look. Devozine is a devotional lifestyle magazine for teens by teens. The magazine is devoted to encouraging young people to develop a regular practice of spending time with God and offering youth a place to express their faith and to hear the voices of their peers.

“We gave our young people the chance to completely redesign Devo zine,” said the Rev. Karen Greenewalt, top executive for the General Board of Discipleship.

“Several editors and staff really listened to what young people had to say about the magazine and made the needed design changes. We are very pleased with the response to the new look and depth of content.”

“Hundreds of readers told us what they wanted in a teen devotional magazine,” said Editor Sandy Miller.

“It was both fun and inspiring to listen to young people and to think about how to redesign Devo Zine. We received a clear message that the magazine is important to their life and faith.

Devozine encourages and challenges young people to develop a lifestyle of devotion to God, to be in community with Christian young people around the world, and find new ways to express and live out their faith,” says Miller.

The remix includes fun and edgy content that makes teens think and practices and rituals that “help them find a real God in the down and dirty of life.”

The lifestyle section features reviews of music, movies, books, gear, fashion and gadgets as well as profiles of teens and celebrities dealing with life and faith.

Among the suggestions incorporated in the new design features are: A catchy cover that’s more like a magazine. Fresh logo that says it’s for teens. Same solid devotional content. Something to read each day. More scripture—longer passages. More hands-on ways for teens to engage in a more open and inviting design. Cleaner, simpler layout but with variation. Articles that deal honestly with tough issues youth face. More teen faces and diversity of teen culture. An index with teen-friendly categories.

The re-design took effect with the January-February 2007 issue.

A ministry of The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, Upper Room Ministries is an ecumenical organization that produces resources for encouraging deeper spiritual formation, including The Upper Room daily devotional guide, five other virtual formation, including The Upper Room, and a line of books and programs for youth and adults. More information about devozine and other Upper Room products can be found online at www.devozine.org.

New Book Explores Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith

By Jeannette Pinkston*

Discipleship Resources announces the publication of Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Power, Jr.

In Transforming Evangelism, Discipleship Resources, (ISBN: 978-0-88177-485-6, 112 pages, paperback, $12.00) authors Knight and Power help readers re-connect with a Wesleyan understanding of evangelism. They write, as did John Wesley, about evangelism as a way to share with other people the good news of God’s love and salvation.

Knight and Power describe evangelism or sharing faith as a means of grace that reflects profoundly upon those who share the good news as well as on those who receive it.

According to the authors, “The Wesleyan way of evangelism is relational. It is about loving God and neighbor and the transformation that is possible when we are truly loving. It is about encouraging people to become whole and to be renewed into the image of God. It is about understanding the power of our testimony and how they can encourage others. It is about understanding God will accept us no matter what our situation.”

Perhaps Charles [Wesley] said it best in his hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” “The words to his hymn should inspire us to love God and neighbor—the Wesleyan way of evangelism…”

By Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

“Transforming Evangelism is the first book to read about the Wesleyan way of evangelism. Discover the profound and practical process of Wesleyan evangelism: Love God and neighbor; relate to others, and talk about the ongoing transformation of your life,” says Kwasi Kena, director of evangelism for the United Method- istic General Board of Discipleship.

Written in a very user-friendly fashion, the book especially targets clergy, local pastors, lay speakers, and lay leadership in evangelism ministries. Each chapter includes questions for individual and group reflection.

Chapter 1 A Message We Live
Chapter 2 A Message We Share
Chapter 3 A Community We Build
Chapter 4 A God, We Know
Chapter 5 A Word We Proclaim
Chapter 6 The Wesleyan Way of Evangelism
Chapter 7 Relational Evangelism

Henry H. Knight III is the Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Mission Studies at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo. F. Douglas Power, Jr. is Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

* Jeannette Pinkston is director of media relations for the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tenn. Kwasi Kena and George Donigian also contributed to this story.
Equitable Compensation assists in making disciples

By Lester Groves*

Prior to 1999 Ludwig United Methodist Church in Bainbridge, Pennsylvania and Falmouth United Methodist Church in Falmouth, Pennsylvania were part-time churches. The churches are in villages about four miles apart in Conoy Township, Lancaster County along the Susquehanna River, south of the Dauphin County line.

In 1999, a charge was created and Rev. Chuck Marshall was appointed as a full-time pastor to these two churches. The charge received Equitable Compensation funds from 1999 through 2003 to support the pastor in this new relationship.

This is what happened in the Bainbridge-Falmouth Charge from 1999 through 2006, according to Pastor Chuck. He is quick to remind anyone reading this article that the praise goes to God! Some of God’s help came through the United Methodist connectional system in the form of assistance from the Eastern Pennsylvania Commission on Equitable Compensation. As a result of the support from CEC for full-time pastoral ministry, the average attendance at worship grew from 83 to 104, a 25% increase. The weekly offerings increased 66%, from $61,093 to $101,188. The charge received 64 new members, 42 by profession or reaffirmation of faith.

The Bainbridge-Falmouth Charge now supports a full-time pastor at the salary level which includes the years of service increments. The church is involved in some 53 mission and ministry efforts beyond the local church includ- ing an annual youth mission trip to South Carolina.

A partial list of these efforts include an ecumenical youth ministry program for an average of thirty-two middle and high school age young people, an annual block party in the community, an annual Christmas Dinner Theater that is free to the public. The church honors active duty military personnel and their families with a special service before Veteran’s Day with luncheon following the service. They also honor first responders in their community with special recognition and a luncheon. The folks of the Bainbridge-Falmouth United Methodist Charge fill shoe boxes for children in need in the Samaritan’s Purse. They also have a history of CROP Walk participation with six to ten walkers each year.

Equitable Compensation funds are available to churches struggling with financial issues, but which have a vision for mission and ministry in their local community and in the world at large.

Being faithful to God’s call

continued from page 7

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

God continues to call us to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In this conference many congregations are living this commandment out as evidenced by growth in church attendance, membership, professions of faith, and baptisms. Many congregations are thriving. Some congregations had one or less than one person by profession of faith. That means that 102 out of 441 congregations had no one come to Christ by profession of faith. 44% of the congregations had one or less professions of faith.

Other demographics indicate that in the US, the United Methodist Church is “not effectively reaching youth and young adults.” United Methodists under age 18 account for 4.6% of church membership. The average United Methodist is 57 years old. We have a unique opportunity to minister in our communities and world.

The monthly trainings represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference’s commitment to further equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ in their communities.

The trainings are for congregations of all sizes, settings and cultures that model intentional disciple-forming congregations. The trainings are for congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ in their communities. The trainings are for congregations of all sizes, settings and cultures that model intentional disciple-forming congregations. The trainings are for congregations of all sizes, settings and cultures that model intentional disciple-forming congregations.

All congregations can benefit from and share experiences and past learnings in this journey.

Please plan to attend the monthly trainings. During each session we will worship and pray together. We will also be coached on ways to increase our ministry in the church. The participants of the training, church congregations, and congregation leaders will work together to create and implement a strategic vision for their church. Church leaders are encouraged to use the Congregational Vitality Indicator Congregations that have used Natural Church Development or another assessment tool, are the ones that bring their work to the March meeting, when ministry action plans will be addressed.

While not mandatory, participation in the trainings is highly encouraged. All congregations, participating and non-participating alike, are expected to grow by at least 10% in worship attendance.

By Lester Groves* Rev. Lillian C. Smith is the Executive Director of Conference Resourcing and Connectional Ministries of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

*Rev. Lillian C. Smith is the Executive Director of Conference Resourcing and Connectional Ministries of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Agency Steps Up Efforts to Revitalize UMC Congregations

The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) is initiating a year-long project, which involves exploring best practices in United Methodist congregations to mine ideas, concepts, practices and principles that help form vital churches.

Through a new initiative called the “Romans 12 Project,” the agency is seeking help in identifying exemplary congregations that represent the Wesleyan movement of forming discipled.

“This is a practical, spirit-led quest to find stories that hold clues to increasing the health and vitality of our churches. We are looking for churches of all sizes, settings and cultures that model intentional disciple-forming systems,” says the Rev. Karen Greenwald, top executive for GBOD.

The Romans 12 Project is designed to study vital UMC churches around the U.S. with the ultimate goal of revitalizing the Church and expanding its effectiveness in equipping world-changing disciples for the transformation of the world.

GBOD will glean information from vital, disciple-forming churches and share what is learned with the whole Church in practical, meaningful ways.

What is exciting about the Romans 12 Project is its intention to identify congregations based on impact and integrity, rather than size. We want to lift up what is working in a variety of contexts in ways that might be unique to the United Methodist movement,” said Greenwald.

“Many places and spaces in our denomination are experiencing inevitable decline. This can become a self-fulfilling prophecy unless we, with equal focus and fervor, start celebrating and studying communities of faith that are working,” said the Rev. Vance Ross, associate general secretary of GBOD’s Discipleship Ministries Division.

To learn more about the Romans 12 Project and to make nominations, visit www.gbd.org/congregational/romans 12. You will need the name of the congregation, phone number and pastor’s name to complete the nomination form. The deadline for making nominations is February 1, 2007. There is no limit on the number of nominations that individuals or conferences can make. Churches must be in the U.S. and local church leaders for their task of making disciples.

“Do not think that God is finished with the UMC. We are at the tipping point of where we are going in terms of whether to reverse the decline or let it happen.” The Romans 12 Project will help us reverse the trend,” said Ross.

The General Board of Discipleship’s mission is to support annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of The United Methodist Church, The General Board of Discipleship is located at 1900 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tenn. For more information, call the Membership Relations Office toll free at (877) 899- 2700, Ext. 7017.
Making Disciples on New Year's Day

By Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem*

Seeds for making disciples were planted on this day. At 8:00 am on January 1, 2007, a little over 100 clerics gathered at the banquet facility of the Greater Exodus Baptist Church and People for People, Inc Center where Dr. Herbert H. Lusk is the pastor. The church is located at Broad Street and Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. Most of the pastors had been up during the wee hours of the morning because of New Year’s Eve (Watch Meeting) services; however, in the pouring rain they gathered to share breakfast, be inspired by the mayor of Philadelphia, The Honorable John F. Street, and to be a messengers of encouragement and God’s love to the inmates of the five correctional facilities within the Philadelphia Prisons System complex.

The group was ecumenical in con- stituent – the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths were represented. Asian, European and Black Americans were present. Males and females were in attendance. All were clergy who had gathered early on a wet, pewter-gray first day of the year to offer hope to the prisoners who were incarcerated. The Rev Marguerite E. Handy, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Faith-Based Initiatives was the facilitator at the breakfast and was one of those facilitating at the prison sites. The 2007 breakfast was made possible by the combined spon- sorship of the Mayor’s Office of Re- entry for ex-offenders, the Center for Urban Theological Studies, the Metropoli- tan Christian Council of Philadel- phia and the Archdiocese of Philadel- phia.

Mayor Street had initiated this New Year’s Day service to those imprisoned when he took office seven years ago. In his speech to the clergy early on New Year’s Day, he declared passio- nately that though next year would be his last formal participation as mayor of the city, he would continue this New Year’s Day ministry beyond his term of office.

After the breakfast gathering, the group of clerypersons was trans- ported to the correctional facilities by charter shuttles that were courtesy of SEPTA, Philadelphia’s transportation authority. At each of the five prison facilities, an assigned clergy group shared in- spired homilies, testimonies, songs, prayers, and gifts. Choirs comprised of inmates shared in songs of worship. Perhaps some of the most powerful testimonies came from clergy who had been previously incarcerated and were now living productive lives. Other clergy modeled additional possi- bilities for those incarcerated.

Simultaneously, inspirational pro- grams were going on at each of the five sites. The mayor would visit each site, move among the inmates to greet them and then offer words of hope, encouragement and challenge for a newness of life. This year from each of the prisons, a portrait of Mayor Street was done by an artist who was as inmate in the particular facility. At each site he was presented with the original portrait and the artist was publicly acknowledged and praised. The artwork was excellent.

By the mid-afternoon conclusion, there was the sense that though clergy had come to bless, they were returning home with the realization that they, too, had wondrously experi- enced God’s grace. Seeds of making disciples had been planted; God would give the increase.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Confer- ence was represented by Rev. Tho- mas Jackson, pastor; Tindley Temple UM Church and Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem, Director of the Office of Urban and Global Ministries.

The Mayor’s Office for the Reentry of Ex-Offenders planned and imple- mented this program. If your church is interested in participating in efforts that would promote the successful reintegration of adjudicated offenders into the community, contact Ms. Harriet T. Spencer, Director, at 215 685 3652.

*Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem is the Executive Director of the Urban and Global Ministries of the Eastern Penn- sylvania Conference.

Making Disciples Schedule for 2007

FEBRUARY 17, 2007
Transformational Spiritual Leader- ship Part 2: What Kind of Lead- ership Does God Demand? Imp- lementation for the Ministry Plan - (Saturday – three sessions in three locations) Childcare will be provided.

Site 1 Ruhl’s in Manheim 8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast 9:00 - 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 - 11:00 AM Session

Site 2 Tindley Temple in Philadel- phia 1:00 - 2:00 PM Registration and snacks/beverages 2:00 - 2:30 PM Worship 2:30 - 4:00 PM Session

Site 3 Asbury in Allentown 3:00 - 4:00 PM Registration and snacks/beverages 4:00 - 5:00 PM Worship 5:00 - 6:00 PM Session

MARCH 14,15,16, 2007
Preparing your Congregation’s Ministry Plan - (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday in three different locations) Childcare will be provided.

MARCH 2,3,4, 2007
Faith Sharing and Evangelical Recruitment - During Annual Conference with streaming video/audio to people not attending annual conference – sug- gested through plenaries Section 6 and Session 7

JUNE 13-15, 2007
Faith Sharing and Evangelical Recruitment - During Annual Conference with streaming video/audio to people not attending annual conference – sug- gested through plenaries Section 6 and Session 7

“Celebrate successes 6-month check in for the Making Disciples Initiative

JULY 21, 2007
Vibrant and Transformative Wor- ship - Saturday – one location, 1:00 PM - Session 8

AUGUST 18, 2007
Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance - (Webcast) Small Congregations 6:00-7:00 PM Medium Congregations 7:00-8:00 PM Large Churches 8:00-9:00 PM

Training by Rev. Rene Perez and Rev. Dorothy Watson Tatem

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007
Christian Education and Spiritual Formation - Saturday, one location, Congregational Leaders Team 10:00-11:00 AM - Small Groups 11:00 AM - Plenary GROD - Carol Krau Noon-1:00 PM - Lunch 1:00-4:00 PM - (Age level, youth, young adult, college/campus ministry, family, single, etc.)

OCTOBER 13, 2006
Faith Sharing - Saturday, one location. “Using Com- munications in Evangelism Recruit- ment” - web cast, satellite training three locations 9:30AM-4:00PM - Training by Rev. Larry Hamitksky, Director of Connectional Ministries, Western PA Conference, UM and Stay Keenan, EPA Director of Communications Worship

Horizon Ministries Training”

NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Stewards of God’s Gifts 6:45-7:15PM - Worship 7:15-8:45PM - Training by Stacy Martin, Executive Director, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Foundation and GROD Staff

DECEMBER 13, 2007
Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry for all ages 6:45-7:15PM - Worship 7:15-8:45PM - Training by Steve Manskar, GROD

A Passion for Making Disciples

By Dr. Roger K. Swanson*

Evangelization Several years ago at Williams College, playwright Neil Simon gave the commencement address in which he described what best expressed the theme of his own life. He concluded that it was best de- scribed by one word: passion. He said, “Passion is the force that has gov- erned and motivated all my energies. Without it my life seems to me rather bleak and dismal.” Neil Simon, of course, is in the arts, but the simple truth pertains to all fields of human endeavor, including religion and par- ticularly the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The one essential ingredient of that mis- sion is passion. Passion for what Christ means to you and how your life was going before you met him. Passion for your friends and your family that they be included in the fellowship of Christ’s disciples. Pas- sion for Christ himself. In short, to be in love with God is such passion that makes disciples and grows churches. It is more important than any evangelism strategy or initiative. Passion is like a magnet; it attracts others. Passion invites, welcomes and fol- lows up on persons. Passion, also, in the sense of not being afraid of rejection and compassion. I have always felt that to be a Christian evangelist is to be passionate about Jesus and his king- dom. Whatever a person is passionate about, she or he evangelizes, whether chrysanthemums, or music, or automobiles Jesus was passionate about the coming of God’s kingdom. “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God,” he said (Mark 9:62). For Jesus there was no greater claim upon a person’s life than the will of God. All of the skills and gifts God gives to the church for the work of mission and ministry none is as indispensable as a sense of passion or urgency. And passion is not taught but caught as a sense of passion and urgency. It is a sense of passion and urgency that makes disciples and grows churches. It is more important than any evangelism strategy or initiative. Passion is like a magnet; it attracts others. Passion invites, welcomes and fol- lows up on persons. Passion, also, in the sense of not being afraid of rejection and compassion. I have always felt that to be a Christian evangelist is to be passionate about Jesus and his king- dom. Whatever a person is passionate about, she or he evangelizes, whether chrysanthemums, or music, or automobiles Jesus was passionate about the coming of God’s kingdom. “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God,” he said (Mark 9:62). For Jesus there was no greater claim upon a person’s life than the will of God.

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By Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem*
Kedron Recreation Center at Camp Innabah

On Sunday evening, November 5, at its annual Celebration Banquet, Camp Innabah formally renamed and dedicated its gym as the Kedron Recreation Center. The renaming was in recognition of a large gift that followed the sale of the Kedron UMC property following its closing. While the closing of the church is a sad event, the funds will provide Innabah with significant relief in its debt service, thereby strengthening its ability to carry on the camping and retreat ministry in the future. We are so thankful to the members of Kedron UMC for their vision that the use of funds from the sale of the church property would strengthen Camp Innabah’s ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

A portion of the Kedron funds will also be used to replace one of the cabins on Sky Hill. The original Innabah cabins were built in the twenties and have been home-for-a-week to many children. The original Innabah also be used to replace one of the cabins that have been purchased as their age. We have begun to replace cabins were built in the twenties and have been home-for-a-week to many children. The terminology of Innabah also be used to replace one of the cabins that have been purchased as their age.

A group of Meth- odist ministers and laymen held summer Bible conferences for senior high and older youth for many years in the Poconos, then using the facilities of Blair Academy in New Jersey. As the program grew, this group began looking for property to house it. In December 1944, ministers and laymen from this program bandied together to form the Pocono Plateau Christian Association to purchase for $30,000 approximately 750 acres in the Poconos as a site “for a complete program of summer religious conferences.” In 1966, the current Pocono Plateau site hosted a summer camp program for the first time.

Through the years a close relationship developed with the Conference. In 1962, the Conference was given the right to operate summer camping programs at the Plateau in return for funding that enabled the development and construction of the Adventure Site, Moore Lodge, and the wastewater treatment plant. In 1966, for the first time, the Plateau was put in the conference budget to receive appropriation money. In 1971, the property became the possession of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and a full time resident Director was hired.

A week of overnight camp at our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camps in 2007 will cost an average of about $300. We are asking individuals, groups and churches to prayerfully consider sponsoring a child, or several children, as you are led. Contact Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries, 610-666-9090 ext 226, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.**

Scholarship Fund

Our camps have been honoring the conference philosophy that no child be denied a week of camp due to their inability to pay. Unfortunately, there is a significant difference between the amount in reduced camper fees provided based on need and the amount of scholarship funds available. As a result, we have initiated a new conference-wide Scholarship Fund to support children and youth who could otherwise not afford a week of camp.

Christmas with Jesus comes to the Lebanon community

By Ileana Rivera*

Every year Nuevo Nacimiento (New Birth) Church in Lebanon tries to bring joy to the children in the community by sharing the meaning of Christmas with them. On December 16th they did it again! With the help of United Methodist Churches from the area including Church of the Good Shepherd, Cornwall, Campbellsport, Trinity, Bethany, Annville and Kochenderfer, about 300 children received gifts and a balloon with a special message form the churches. Also Jonestown and Omo UMC donated financially.

This year members form Cornwall UMC dedicated their time to spend it with the children by cooking for them and playing with them. Deborah Clarke, a member of Cornwall UMC, was taken by one of the girls there, Alyn H. Chavez. She had a Santa outfit on and Deborah was dressed as an elf.

What a perfect combination! Alyn was also presented to God that same day. The event was one for the kids and by the kids. Everyone participated. Children sang songs in Spanish and English, others were part of the dramatization of the nativity story, played instruments, Pastor Jose “Ricky” Ayala of Conshohocken UMC accompanied his three children, Natanel, Janinieris and Italina Ayala, with his guitar and even Rev. Elena Ortiz, pastor of Nuevo Nacimiento, dressed as a clown and sang to the children in a Latin rhythm.

Truly breaking the barriers of language, race, and music, young and old getting together for one goal, one thought, one heart for the children so they would enjoy a Christmas with Jesus.

**Ileana Rivera is the Desktop Publisher for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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www.epaumc.org
Military Chaplains, God’s Call – A Special Passion For Ministry

By Tamara Ward*

This past summer, following the World Methodist Council Meeting, Bishops Gregory Palmer and Marcus Matthews along with Dr. Mary Ann Moman, Associate General Secretary of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and their spouses visited chaplains in Korea and Hawaii representing the Endorsing Agency. The Endorsing Agency for the United Methodist Church is part of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and their spouses visited chaplains in Korea and Hawaii representing the Endorsing Agency. The Endorsing Agency for the United Methodist Church is part of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Lt. Col. Michael Charles is a chaplain in forces. His primary role is to minister to the emotional and spiritual needs of service members in war and in peace. The chaplain serves units that not only prepare for war but a number of other deployments as well. The military services are involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations both domestic and international. Counseling takes place on flight lines, in mortar pools, aboard ships, and in field positions. In addition, worship services are conducted in beautifully appointed chapels on military posts and bases in the United States and overseas. Programs of religious education and youth ministry are provided for the service member and his/her family.

In Korea the visiting team met with a Rear Admiral, two Major Generals, and several Colonels both United Methodist as well as other denominations and visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), an ancient Buddha atop a mountain with a view of the East Sea (a very old and well preserved and meaningful place to the culture and history of Korea), and attended two changes of Command (one chaplain shares that these were big events with many of soldiers and military history and tradition). Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Charles, Command Chaplain for the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Taegu, Korea commented after the trip that he thought that they “truly showed the breadth and depth of the Republic of Korea, a fascinating country with many layers of being.”

In Hawaii they met with Chaplain Nester Nazario who was, at the time, serving at the Kanehoe Marine Base. They also met with Chaplain Stephen Linehan, Command Chaplain at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Chapel and received a tour of the brand new facility including a PowerPoint brief on the Command Religious Program. They also met with Chaplain Michael Schutz who gave them a brief on the submarine community and a tour on a Japanese submarine at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor. They also received a personalized historical boat tour by the Commanding Officer, Navy Region Hawaii, on the Admiral’s barge as they toured Pearl Harbor and visited Arizona Memorial.

On both visits, the Endorsing representatives and their guests were invited to share in the history and culture that the military chaplains live in while they are stationed at the bases. This was the purpose of Bishop Matthews stated that “traveling with these chaplains gave all of us a reality check as to how similar yet different the ministry within the military community and civilian community are.” He went on to say that they (Endorsing Team) “especially appreciate the unique nature of chaplain ministry. It is a rare breed. One wonders why they chose this vocation. But as I listened to the chaplains that represent our United Methodist Church and other faith groups with the special love for God in extreme life and death situations, as well as in times of an uneasy peace.” Lt. Col. Michael Charles also told me that it “is definitely a calling, serving as a military chaplain, but if it truly is your calling, it is the best job that a person can have.”

Bishop Matthews commented “how many of us even think of military chaplains? If we think of them, what is the image that comes to mind?” Naiveté before this visit was an image of Father Mulcahy from the television series, ‘M.A.S.H.’ Chaplains are vital to the success of any mission. The more dangerous the mission, the more they are needed. These men and women live through traumas that few civilians will ever experience, including preparing soldiers to fight in wars and other conditions without losing their souls. Helping families left behind get through emotional and financial hardships and helping men and women re-enter the lives of their families after serving in unfriendly hostile situations. They see a side of humanity that bishops and pastors serving in appointed conferences and churches never see. They not only serve the soldiers and sailors but commanding officers as well.”

For more about the ministry of chaplaincy, go to: www.gbhem.org/chaplains

*Tamara Ward is coordinator of communications for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church.
ORIGINS: Amazing Grace

It would not be too much of a risk to speculate that the favorite hymn of most Methodists is John Newton’s Amazing Grace. The hymn’s comforting words and simple tune have found their way into the heart of Christians (and non-Christs) all over the world. Surely, the author of this great hymn must have been a revered, beloved and spiritual leader of some great congregation.

Well, that is not exactly correct.

When Newton used the phrase “…that saved a wretch like me!” he was not exaggerating at all. So much of his life was indeed wretched and deplorable.

One historian has described him as “a moral pariah.” John Newton had commanded an English slave ship. He would anchor his ship off the African coast where tribal chiefs would deliver to him stockades full of men and women, cuffed in chains and ears against other tribes. The finest human specimens would be selected, and trades would be arranged for weapons, ammunition, metal, liquor, trinkets and cloth. The captives would be loaded aboard, packed for sailing, chained below decks, laid side by side to make it more difficult for another, until the vessel was laden with as many as “600 units of human cargo.”

The writer of Amazing Grace, transported many shiploads of the six million African slaves brought to the Americas in the 18th century. It would not be unusual for these ships to lose 20’s or more of their human cargo due to suicide, smallpox or dysentery.

Commanding a slave vessel seems like a strange place to find a new Christian. Newton, however, would take quite some time for the inhuman aspects of the slave business to get to him, but when it did he left the sea for good. On one occasion, Newton was watching the loading of his cargo off to gal-lows, and he declared, “There goes John Newton, had it not been for the grace of God.”

For the last 41 years of his life, John Newton preached the gospel in Olney and London. He had been ordained by Methodist and had grown to be aast and insightful servant of the church under his years of a Minister as a Methodist minister. At the age of 82, he said, “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember several things, that I am a great sinner, and that Jesus loves a Saviour” Clearly, John Newton ultimately understood the meaning of “grace” as Methodists understand it, as a gift, a good reason for his so understanding the meaning of grace.

John Newton was a friend of John Wesley’s. Although they did disagree, they developed a great friendship. Bishop White, president of the Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA. Over the years as a Methodist minister, Newton had been ordained by Wesleyan doctrine and church polity.

Upon his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Bickerton became the leader of United Methodist Communications and is very active with all aspects of this mission. He is ordained a deacon when he was in New York for the global launch of the “Nothing But Nets” malaria prevention campaign. He joined with NBA legend Sam Perkins, Sports illustrated columnist Rich Reilly, Hopewell UMC members Katherine and Lynda Comeale, and others partnering in the “Nothing But Nets” campaign at the NBA store on Fifth Avenue in New York. The launch also included activities at the New Jersey Nets Chicago Bulls basketball game the following day.

The Lenten Day Apart will begin with a fellowship time and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and will continue with a presentation and time for questions/answers with Bishop Bickerton, followed by worship and communion which will end the service.

For an additional six clergy and six laity will be elected to serve on the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegation. These additional 12 persons will serve

Understanding the soul of a people

By Dr. A.D. Mosley*

Retired United Methodist Bishop Woodie W. White has crafted a wonderfully perceptive and insightful work for African American History Month, The African American History Month Daily Devotions, recently released by Abingdon Press, is a collection of reflections and moving stories gleaned from Bishop White’s life-long journey in a racially charged church and world.

At the core of each devotion in this compilation is the sense that we are all indeed on a journey, regardless of the type of race, class, or gender label that we carry on this journey. Thankfully it is a journey that is not travelled alone. God, in a decidedly benevolent manner, traverses all of life’s journeys with each of us. The guide we follow is the daily devotion, a spiritual truth for all of God’s children, but especially for those of African descent in this land.

Of the daily devotion, White offers keen the reader in a man what he puts for- ter to his letter to his Jabez King. Jr. devotional is written African American and even though his written specifically birth, the each trau- tim in their offer- trut. For example, notes that African month “is not just a historical facts, as are” Beyond acquir- ing knowledge, understanding opportunity to un- derstand the soul of a people.”

As an invitation to all, Bishop White reminds us that: “The journey we have climbed high mountains and crossed deep rivers. Most devotional writing is deeply inspired by some incident or a series of events in a life. This certainly true for Bishop White. He attributes the source his inspiration for this devotional to be life itself – a journey that has taken him many different places. Bishop White indicates “I have a deep sense of gratitude for the way” and by writing this devotional he hopes to “chart a more appropriate course” for those who follow on this journey.

Copies of Bishop White’s African American History Month 2007 Daily Devotions are available at the Cokesbury Store or from www.cokesbury.com and would be a great resource for students and bible study.

* The Rev. Dr. A.D. Mosley is pastor of James Memorial United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.
First United Methodist Church, Lancaster to host Wesley Cantata

First United Methodist Church of Lancaster, PA has commissioned Joseph Martin to write a cantata to celebrate the church’s bicentennial and to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley. “Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith” uses texts by Charles Wesley including “Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above,” “Sing with Glad Anticipation,” “King of Kings,” “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” “Thankful for Our Every Blessing,” “A Call to Serve,” “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” and “And Can It Be?” First United Methodist has commissioned a number of composers to write new anthems and cantatas. In each case the goal was to create a new work that was unique and powerful, and hopefully would become a significant contribution to the repertoire of the church. Joseph M. Martin was chosen as the composer for this commissioning project for his significant compositions during the cantata along with some responsive readings and litanies. Joseph Martin also recommends the use of banners combined with the 50-voice First United Methodist Church Cantata under the direction of Charles Wesley.

“Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith” has six movements, with narration between each movement. It has also been designed to have congregational hymns presented during the cantata along with some responsive readings and litanies. Joseph Martin also recommends the use of banners designed to visually capture the content of each movement (worship, love, thanksgiving, service, life and grace). The music itself is about 25 minutes long. With the additional worship elements the entire presentation is about 45 minutes.

The standard orchestration for the ‘Testament of Praise’ includes six parts: 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, 6 horns, 1 clarinet, 1 oboe, 1 bassoon, 1 French horn, 1 trumpet, 1 French horn, 1 trombone, 1 tuba, 2 percussion (snare drums, bass drum, held cymbal, high hat), 1 piano, and 1 organ. The work was premiered on Sunday, February 11, during the 8:15 am and 11:00 am services with a number of publishing companies and his ability to understand the concept of writing a work that could be presented in worship. The cantata is a mixture of original hymn tunes by Martin, combined with arrangements of well-known, popular hymn tunes. The presentation includes readings, congregational hymns, and original choral elements.

“Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith” has six movements, with narration between each movement. It has also been designed to have congregational hymns presented during the cantata along with some responsive readings and litanies. Joseph Martin also recommends the use of banners designed to visually capture the content of each movement (worship, love, thanksgiving, service, life and grace). The music itself is about 25 minutes long. With the additional worship elements the entire presentation is about 45 minutes.

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NORTHEAST DISTRICT - February 6, 2007
Bethany UMC, 1288 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA 18106. Go to http://bethanyumchurch.com/ or call 717-385-3613 for directions.

Clergy Session - All clergy are expected to attend. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Time With Bishop Matthews, Approximately Noon to 3 p.m.

Laity Session - Time with District Superintendent Rodney Shearer and Bishop Matthews, Opportunity for Q&A! Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Session from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Dr. Rodney Shearer hopes that as many laity as possible will be able to attend. RSVP by e-mail at bishop@rcm.org or phone at 610-385-6661 by Monday, January 21, 2007.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT - February 22, 2007
Wesley UMC, 40 West Main Street, Strasburg, PA 17579. Telephone: 717-687-6382 strasburgwesleyumc@yahoo.com

Clergy Session - All clergy are expected to attend. Lunch and Time with Bishop Matthews, Noon to 3 p.m. (approximately). Cost for lunch $5.00. Register by emailing or calling the Southwest District Office: Swdistrict@comcast.net or call 717-569-9673 on or before February 16.

Laity Session - All laity are invited to spend time with Bishop Matthews. 7:00 p.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m. More details will be coming directly from the District Office.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT - March 1, 2007
Lancaster Trinity UMC, 96 Fisher Avenue, Jonestown, PA 17038

Clergy Session - All clergy are expected to attend. Lunch & Time With Bishop Matthews, Approximately Noon to 3 p.m. Cost for Lunch to be announced. Check please register with Montene Wagner by February 15., 2007 at 570-366-1470 or northwest@vierzon.net

Laity Session - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Rev. Kurien hopes that as many laity as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to be with Bishop Matthews.

Good Schools Pennsylvania has an exciting opportunity for committed education advocates to join our staff. We are seeking candidates based in the Western and Central/Southern Alleghenies regions of the state, and are considering both full- and part-time staff. The organizers will be responsible for working with stakeholders in an effort to expand the network of citizens who are informed and engaged around the issues of equitable and adequate school funding, quality education principles, and accountability through high-quality public schools for all of Pennsylvania’s children. Go to: www.epaumc.org

ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANYER
Lansdale United Methodist Church 300 N Broad St. Lansdale, PA 19446-3412 2 Sunday Services. One weeknight choir rehearsal; 3-manual Allen organ; Salary $12,000-15,000, depending on experience; Sunday office duties; Contact Pastor Max Jaouen at the church, Phone 215-855-8364. Fax resume to 215-855-1534 or email: luncmail@vierzon.net

WANTED: PART TIME COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES for Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Approximately 10 hours per week. Participate with Conference Council on Youth Ministry efforts to plan and run activities and events for conference youth, coordinate sharing of information about youth ministries with district offices and local congregations, provide resource information and support to adult workers in youth ministry. Please send resume to Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482; jim.wilkin@epaumc.org

East Pennsylvanin Peninsula
United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

By Stacy J. Martin

Nearly 2006 the Foundation expanded our equity product offered to clients by adding two new asset classes, international and small cap, to further diversify the equity product. I am pleased to report that both investments beat their benchmarks for the year! Given this success, I thought it a good time to share the purpose of the Foundation along with our investment process.

Purpose

The investment mission of the Foundation is to “manage assets for local churches and conference agencies to maintain the value of the assets and extend their use while remaining faithful to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Book of Discipline”. The Board of Directors views its primary responsibility to provide sound investment solutions in accordance with its fiduciary responsibility to the Foundation’s donors.

To fulfill this goal, the Board seeks investments that 1) are diversified and risk controlled, 2) provide sound investment performance against appropriate benchmarks, 3) have affordable fees and 4) are in compliance with the Board’s asset allocation policy. The Board directs its investment process to arrange a time convenient to meet with you and your committee to review how the Foundation can best meet goals for your church. Please call or email me to arrange a time convenient to meet with your committee.

Thank you for your support of the Foundation and we look forward to continuing to serve you.

**Stacy J. Martin is the Executive Director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Indiana United Methodist Foundation. 800-828-9063 x247 stacy.martin@epaumc.org**

The key is to work together to ensure a holy conferencing experience!

www.epaumc.org

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**Time Line for 2007 Annual Conference**

The following dates provide you with a schedule for deadlines. They are extremely important for the smooth running of this year’s Annual Conference. Please mark these dates on your calendar!

**Deadlines will be enforced.**

Chairpersons: Please notify your team members regarding these dates and their responsibilities.

March 16: Resolutions must be submitted to Conference Secretary, The Rev. Charles Weigel, Jr., 751 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335. Direct your questions to: (610) 369-1496, (610) 369-0626; email: weigel14@csol.com

March 17: Reports from committees, agencies, work teams must be submitted to the Conference Secretary, The Rev. Charles Weigel, Jr., 751 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335. Direct your questions to: (610) 369-1496, (610) 369-0626; email: weigel14@csol.com

March 18: Responses to the conference agenda MUST submit the request in writing to Mrs. Amy Botti, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820, or by email: amy.botti@epaumc.org

April 2: Materials for inclusion in the Annual Conference notebook must be submitted to the Conference Office. Copy rights or originals must be sent. For more information, please contact Mrs. Evangeline Johnson at 610-666-9090, ext. 215 or 608-288-9093; email: evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org

May 1: Presenters of reports MUST submit a detailed script accompanied by the name(s) of presenters who will be at the podium and the projected presentation time to Amy Botti, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820, or by email: amy.botti@epaumc.org. If a detailed script is not received by this deadline, the presenter will lose presentation privileges.

May 1: All registration materials for Annual Conference clergy and lay delegates must be returned by this date or completed on the website. (They will be mailed out in March.)

May 1: Media Specification Submittal form due to the Conference Office. Any posters planning to have a media presentation must submit ALL materials by this deadline or lose presentation privileges.

May 1: Vendor Reservations for display tables must be submitted and pay ment received.

The key is to work together to ensure a holy conferencing experience!
United Methodist Night
As a member of the United Methodist Church, we would love for your church to be a part of our 4th annual United Methodist Church Night with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Friday, April 6 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
76ERS vs. Toronto Raptors

If you have any questions, please call
UM Representative
Jim Wilkin @ 610-666-9090

**For Each Ticket Sold a donation will be made to your 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 to amy.botti@epaumc.org.