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Summer Camp
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Saving lives one bed net at a time

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, VH1 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

Bishop Bickerton to speak at Lenten Day Apart



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

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 mind, out of my heart; it haunted me and I knew I had to respond.” Six-year-old daughter Katherine shared her mother’s passion, and since then, along 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



Anthony, Katherine, Lynda and Joseph Commale at the NJ Nets game spreading the news about malaria and bed nets.

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 -

continues on page 14

Rev. William Gary George appointed



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

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Conference Calendar

FEBRUARY 10, 2007

Valentine's Day Tea, 1:00 pm - Tindley Temple UMC 170th Anniversary

Tindley Temple (750-762 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.) is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Tea as part of our 170th Anniversary/Unity Day celebration. Join us for a luncheon and wonderful musical concert provided by Master Thomas Jordan, harpist. Donation is \$10. For more information, call 215.735.0442.

FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Premier of cantata in honor of Charles Wesley - See page 14.

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

Transformational Spiritual Leadership, Part 2 - with The Rev. Kelvin Sauls of the UM General Board of Discipleship - See page 7. For 2007 Making Disciples Training Schedule see page 10.

MARCH 2, 2007

Community Summit on HIV/AIDS

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM, At West Chester United Methodist Church, 129 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19382. Purpose: to invite leaders of diverse faith communities to gather within geographically focused areas to inform them about the medical, social, economic and spiritual impact of HIV/AIDS; to further facilitate mobilization of faith communities to respond to the needs of those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

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 EPAUMC. Registration FEE: \$35.00 Make check payable to EPAUMC. 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.westchesterumc.com

MARCH 9-12, 2007

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington D.C.

"and How are the Children?" will be the focus of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days for 2007. Available study tracks are Domestic, Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Eco-Justice, Global Security and Jubilee and Economic Justice. Each area will discuss the challenges faced by parents and/or caregivers in ensuring the future for their children. The final day will be spent as a "Lobby Day" visiting members of Congress to share ideas and needs and discuss their position on issues important to our children's futures. For more information about the conference or costs please contact Peggy Wood at (610) 524-5935. Partial scholarships are available from Church and Society of the Eastern Pa. Conference as well as a roommate sharing bank.

MARCH 14,15,16, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Preparing your congregation's Ministry Action Plan. See page 10.

MARCH 23-25, 2007

United Methodist Men Northeast Regional Event, at the Pocono Manor in Pocono Manor, Pa. the theme "Getting Into the Word, Getting Into the World." This event is centered around men making Jesus Christ the center of their lives. For more information contact Mary White, Conference Lay Leader, at 610-519-9812 or 215-429-1680 or by email: MWhite9891@aol.com

Conference Lay Leader, at 610-519-9812 or 215-429-1680 or by email: MWhite9891@aol.com

MARCH 24, 2007

Responding with Faith to Immigration Workshop: How we got to where we are today - and what we can do for tomorrow

A workshop on Responding with Faith to Immigration will be held on March 24 at Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, offering a brief history of immigration and discussing the current status of immigration and immigration law. Hear first-hand stories from immigrants and refugees, and hear information on how we can work for justice for immigrants. Registration and coffee at 9:30 am and the speakers will begin at 10 am, at Arch Street UMC, Broad and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA. (Please note: Discounted parking vouchers are available if requested in advance by calling the church at 215-568-6250.)

MARCH 31, 2007

Lincoln University Choir Concert, 4:00 pm - Tindley Temple UMC 170th Anniversary

The stellar Lincoln University Choir, led by Dr. William Garcia, will perform a concert at Tindley Temple (750-762 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.) as part of our year-long 170th Anniversary celebration. Come out and enjoy excellent musicianship and singing in the great Charles Albert Tindley tradition! For more information, call 215.735.0442.

APRIL 6, 2007

United Methodist Night at the 76ers. See page 12.

APRIL 10-22, 2007

Katrina Relief trip to the Gulf, with The Garden Church, a United Methodist Community - Staying at the Carrollton United Methodist Church in New Orleans, coordinated through Episcopal Community Services with opportunities to either do "gutting" or "rehab". Cost for the trip is \$200, plus plane ticket and some meals out. The \$200 will cover food, lodging & transportation in the city. Participate in part or all of the 12 day trip. Free time on the weekend of April 14 & 15 for New Orleans' "Quarterfest", a music festival in the French Quarter. For more details, call (610)623-1645, email: connect@thegardenchurch.org, or Rev. Timothy Thomson-Hohl, 610-446-6250 or thomhaht@aol.com.

APRIL 13TH - 15TH, 2007

City-Wide Alabaster Box Women's Conference 2007 - Eastwick Worship Center UMC

Conference Facilitators: Dr. Rita L. Twigg, Asst. Pastor, Potter's House Bishop T.D. Jakes Bishop Violet L. Fisher Resident Bishop, New York West Area UMC
Presenters: Minister Madelyn Best, Chester Pa Evangelist Elaine C. Saunders, ECS Ministries and others
V.I.P Registration: V.I.P Seating \$55.00 Before March 2, 2007: Early Bird General Registration \$35.00;p. Deadline April 1, 2007: General registration \$45.00

Group Rates Available. NO REGISTRATION AT DOOR. Limited Seating. To register, call 215-365-1810. Eastwick

Worship Center UMC, 6630 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153

APRIL 14, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Prayer. See page 10.

APRIL 19, 2007

Spiritual retreat for older adults titled "KEEPING THE SABBATH WHEN LIFE IS A WHIRL OF ACTIVITIES" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Christian Conference Center in Valley Forge. The retreat will be led by the Rev. Dr. J. Dennis Williams, former District Superintendent and Dean of Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. "Keeping the Sabbath" is a day-long experience for older adults that is meant to refresh a person's faith. The cost for the session, including lunch, is \$35 per person. To register contact Mrs. Georgiann Parks at ghpns1119@verizon.net. Deadline for registration is March 30. Directions to the National Christian Conference Center can be found on their web site www.nc3.org. Sponsored by The EPA Conference Older Adult Ministry Committee.

APRIL 28, 2007

Voices for AIDS: A LifeCycle benefit - The Garden Church, Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne, PA 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Local singer-songwriters Christine Havrilla & Kelly Ricketts perform to raise funds to support a local resident who is riding 545 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the 2007 AIDS LifeCycle. Donation: \$20.00 at the door. Contact: Laurie Temple 610-212-6970 or naturechick_99@yahoo.com

MAY 2, 2007

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

MAY 10, 2007

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

JUNE 13-15, 2007

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

JULY 21, 2007

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

JULY 16-19, 2007

Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts Convocation - Remember and reclaim the call of God to ministries of music, preaching, and worship arts at the Biennial National Convocation of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts July 16-19, 2007, in St. Louis, MO. Speakers and leaders include outstanding resources in the areas of dance, congregational singing, preaching, visuals for worship, choral music, organ music, age level music, handbells, contemporary worship, and more. In addition, experience multi-sensory worship, concerts, music reading sessions, dynamic worship spaces in St. Louis, and fellowship with all those gathered. Registration is open now along with details at www.fummwaconvo.org.

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

24th Annual Academy for Laity - Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia PA - "Sharing our Faith—in the Church, in the Community, and in the World" - Offering the Basic Course for beginning Christ Servant Ministers, Advanced Courses for Certification in Leading, Communicating and Caring; additional courses to be announced. Open to all laity in Eastern PA Conference. The Academy for Laity is sponsored by the Conference Board of Lay Ministry. NOTE THE DATE AND LOCATION. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

AUGUST 18, 2007

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

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

OCTOBER 13, 2006

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

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

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

DECEMBER 13, 2007

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

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Bishop King inspires clergy and spouses at Mid-Winter Retreat

By Robert Shank*

With just one word, Bishop James R. King, Jr. engaged clergy and their spouses gathered for the Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat in Ocean City, Maryland. With this one word, clergy were engaged and empowered to continue in ministry and both clergy and their spouses were encouraged to take better care for themselves.

"The ocean is not standing still; it flows. The waves come in, one after the other, and the ocean is flowing," Bishop King continued. Then he mapped out the acronym:

- F – Flow
- L – Love
- O – Outreach
- W – Worship

"God created the world, and God created you!" Bishop King said about the first letter of the acronym. He clearly explained that the Spirit is flowing, just like the ocean it is not standing still but is flowing. "Blood can flow anywhere, but if it doesn't flow through the heart it won't do any good. It'll just be flowing and you'll bleed to death." And with that, the second point was well made. Outreach is the flowing of the Spirit from inside the church to the community in which the church ministers. Worship is the place where we meet God. God created the world and God created you; the Spirit flows through you!

Throughout his presentation Bishop King also spoke directly to pastors and their spouses about taking care of themselves, suggesting that overworking is not scriptural. God created the Sabbath and rested on the seventh day. He also said, "Take care of your body and watch what you eat—and don't eat it!"

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 the day by forewarning us that he doesn't spell p-p-push the same way we do.

- P – Purpose
- P – Passion
- P – Persistence
- U – Unconditional Love
- S – Student for Life



Bishop James R. King, Jr. (left) was the featured guest speaker at Bishop Matthews' (right) Mid-Winter Retreat for clergy and spouses.

H – Harvest (with a "D" for Discipline)

The metaphor Bishop King provided for this process is a flywheel that someone is trying to p-p-p-ush. "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 you keep pushing and pushing until the flywheel takes off on its own and flies into the future."

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

"If you think you're too old, just ask Abraham and Sarah. If you think you're too young, just ask Jeremiah..."

You need to push, push!

And from the reaction of participants to hearing the highly motivational Bishop King speaking at this year's Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat, there will be a lot of flowing and pushing going on!

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

In Memoriam

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

Rev. Seymour served the following appointments: Broomall: St. Mark's; Phila: Germantown First; associate pastor Extension Ministry, Director of Wesley Foundation, Univ. of PA; Fallsington; William Penn. In retirement, he has been serving Shenandoah: First.

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. Rev. Gould died on September 6, 2006.

Rev. Gould served the following appointments beginning in 1945: Paoli; Philadelphia: Fletcher; Phila.: Germantown, First; Lima; Reading: Holy Cross; Paoli; Phoenixville: First. He retired in 1982 and in retirement served Hopewell and Lafayette Hill: Messiah. In retirement, he also served as visitation pastor at Paoli Presbyterian Church.

A service was held on Dec. 30, 2006 at the Paoli Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by a son, Stephen Gould, and a daughter, Beverly Henry. She was predeceased by a daughter, Judith Spahr, in 1968.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Beverly Henry at 168 Blackburn Drive, Nottingham PA 19362.

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

He served the following appointments in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Phila.: Belfield Ave.; Hazleton; Hazleton: Salem. Rev. Rothwell moved to the Western PA Conference, and retired from there in 1992.

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

The address for condolences is: Mrs. Edith Rothwell, P O Box 335, 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 Assoc. Pastor at Lancaster: First from 7/1/94-6/30/97, and as Pastor at Lebanon: Ebenezer from 7/1/97-6/30/99. 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, Joliett-First, Donaldson, Phila.: S.D. Cooper, Havertown: Union, and Drexel Hill UMC (1966 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, Havertown PA 19083-5105.

Appointment Announcement from Bishop Marcus Matthews

William Gary George - From: Philadelphia: Grace; To: Central District Superintendent

Upcoming Events at the Camps

February 9-11
Camp Innabah
Youth Ski Retreat (grades 8-12)

March 9-11
Gretna Glen
Confirmation Camp

March 16-18
Gretna Glen
Confirmation Camp

March 16-18
Pocono Plateau
Children's Retreat

March 23-25
Gretna Glen
Confirmation Camp

April 29
Carson Simpson Farm
Open House

May 5
Carson Simpson Farm
Flea Market

May 20
Pocono Plateau
Open House

In The Nation

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 people 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.

"I've 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 said 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."



Toni McIntyre and her husband, Tony, reduced their household debts by \$60,000 in two years. A UMNS photo by John Gordon.

Tracking expenses

Others who have taken the course, and now volunteer to teach, include Jeff and Kendra Trautman — both certified public accountants. Jeff Trautman is an accountant for a large information-technology company, and his wife works part-time at the church.

Even though they have three children, the Trautmans will not be struggling this year with after-Christmas bills.

"I think sometimes the adults and the grownups start kind of trying to compete with each other on who's getting the best and who's getting the most, and we try really hard not to fall into that trap," Kendra Trautman said.

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 so 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.



Kendra Trautman plays a game with her son, Scott, 8. A UMNS photo by John Gordon.

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. The site was designed to meet the needs of a large, diverse audience and to make people feel welcome.

•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 without transportation. Now, the Lawrences spend four hours a day, five days a week 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 bicycles 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 Lin-

coln Center's Avery Fisher Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 18. All proceeds from the \$35 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.lincolncenter.org/show_events_list.asp?eventcode=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 two centuries 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 Ginghamburg 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.thechurchreport.com for full details.

In The World

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 175 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 Mutambura 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 Hollon, 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, a simple, inexpensive way to kill mosquitoes or keep them 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 and tourists, 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, "protects children from this scourge, from the transmission of this mosquito-borne disease," he said.

Raising awareness

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 a bed. The last \$3 pays for community workers to educate families on how to use the nets. "Losing children from malaria is shocking and unbelievable," Sachs said. He said he devotes 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 \$62, but \$6 million to \$8 million more is needed, he said. Sachs hailed the church for its role in



The Revs. Lloyd and Tazvionepi Nyarota have a bed net that protects their family from mosquitoes. A UMNS photo by Ginny Underwood.

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 on malaria, he said. "By bringing malaria under control, you can save billions of lives" and help Africa on its path toward development. "Africa wants help out of extreme poverty."

Domingos Antonio, a member of the communications commission and the father of eight children in Angola, said Africans have so many children because the pervasiveness of malaria kills many of them. Every day, more than 20 children die. "The problem is serious," he added. Partners in Nothing But Nets include the people of The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, *Sports Illustrated*, the National Basketball Association's Foundation NBA Cares, Millennium Promise, the Measles Initiative, VH-1 and the Mark J. Gordon Foundation. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Communications are coordinating the denomination's participation in the campaign.

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 communities in Africa in 2007 and 2008.

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



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.

The World in Brief

•"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 back," the Rev. Tongkhojang Lunkim told worshipers in the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 13. Lunkim, publications coordinator for the *Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide* in northeast India, was captured Jan. 16, 2006, by a group of rebels called the Kuki Liberation Army. He was released in mid-March. Lunkim, 87, said when he became downhearted during his captivity, he read Psalm 27.

•UMCOR continues to assist Action by Churches Together partner organizations in their efforts to help people in Lebanon recover from bombings over the summer. ACT partner programs are helping a community near the Israeli border that was particularly hard-hit to remove debris and ensure that the community is safe for the residents to return. They are helping

people return earlier than expected by providing families with heaters, blankets and other necessary items. In other areas, ACT partners are meeting basic needs like food and shelter while helping people gain the skills and materials they need to develop a livelihood. Psychosocial programs are helping children cope with their losses as well. Your gifts to Middle East Emergency, UMCOR Advance #601740, provide for these and many other programs throughout this war-torn region.

•UMCOR continues to help people in Central America recover what they lost in 2005 from Hurricane Stan and subsequent storms. One of UMCOR's partners in the region, Rights Action, is providing for immediate needs for families left homeless and jobless from the storm-triggered mudslides in the region. The organization is also helping them move towards a better, more stable future. Rights Action is working to rebuild, and in some cases relo-

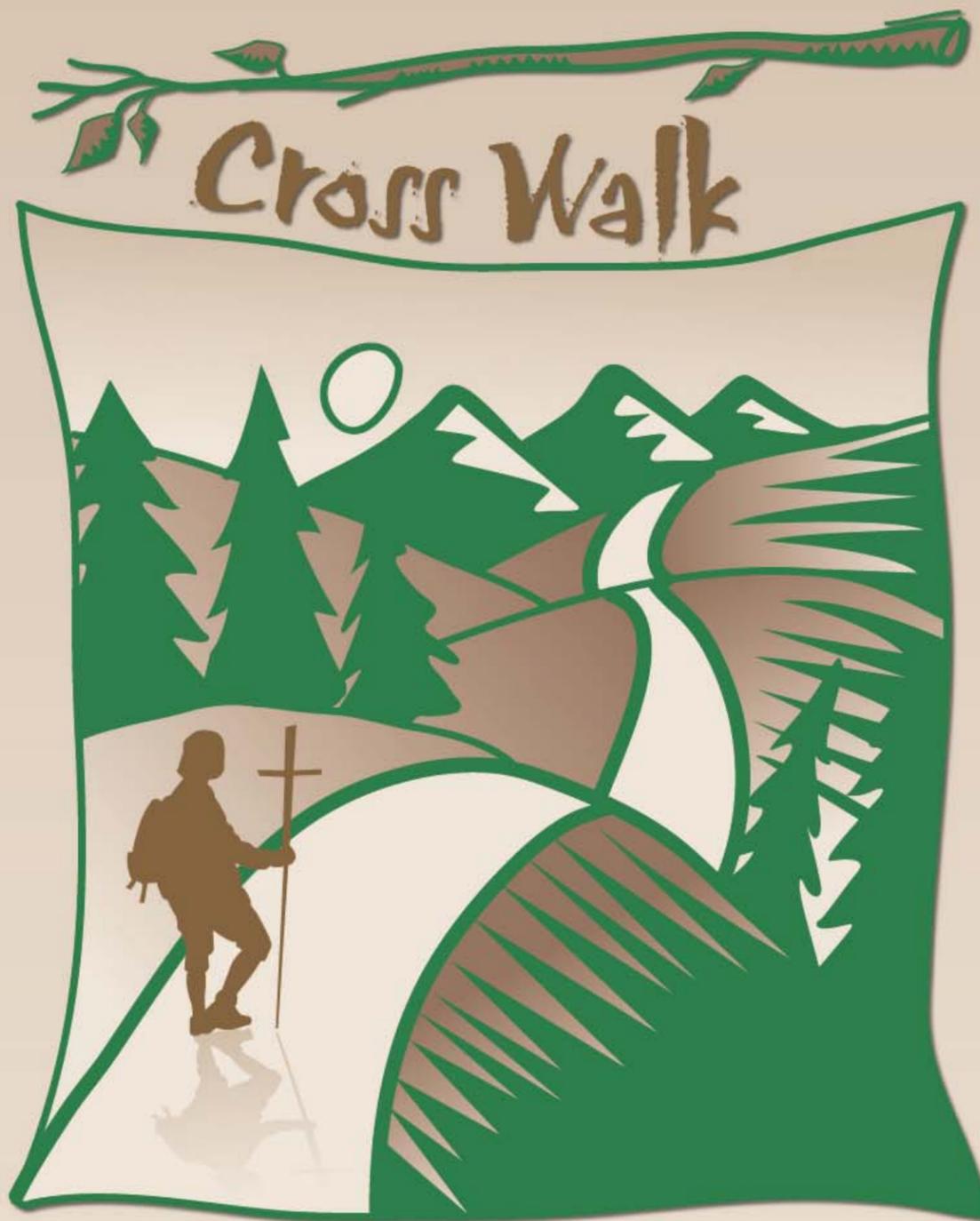
cate families, to foster healthy and safe living communities in the Guatemalan highlands. Support the work of Rights Action and other UMCOR partners in the region by giving to Central America Emergency, UMCOR Advance #501300.

•UMCOR just sent 20 boxes to help six health institutions and three school clinics in Sierra Leone. These health facilities struggle to provide basic medicines to the people they serve. This shipment of Medicine Boxes 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 about 1,000 people with basic medicines and supplies for three months. It provides necessary items for day-to-day treatment of common ailments that plague people of all ages, from infants to adults. To learn more, go to: www.umcor.org.

•It was a difficult New Year and holiday season for many families in Mandailing Natal District, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. An earthquake on December 18, 2006 was followed by torrential rain and deadly landslides. Hundreds of homes were destroyed and about 6,000 people have been displaced, with families now crowded into temporary housing such as tents and public buildings. UMCOR's Indonesia office, in close partnership with the Methodist Church of Indonesia, responded by trucking in 15 tons of rice, the most important daily food for Indonesians. UMCOR's rice will be available to vulnerable families through 26 distribution posts and will feed about 2,500 people for 15 days. When you give to UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response, you help provide for important work such as this rice distribution in Indonesia.



Summer Camp 2007



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Micah 6:8



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Making disciples of Jesus Christ

for the transformation of the world



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
of The United Methodist Church

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

continues on page 9

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

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



Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

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.

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Transformational Spiritual Leadership - Part 2

with The Rev. Kelvin Sauls
of the UM General Board
of Discipleship

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

People should plan to attend only one session that day. Childcare will be provided at each site.

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

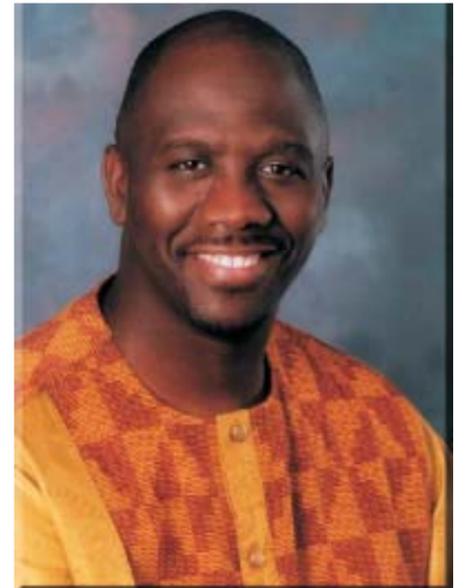
Site 2 Tindley Temple in Philadelphia

1:00 - 2:00 PM Registration and snacks/beverages
2:00 - 2:30 PM Worship
2:20 - 4:00 PM Session

Site 3 Asbury in Allentown

5:30 - 6:30 PM Registration and snack/beverages
6:30 - 7:00 PM Worship
7:00 - 8:30 PM Session

Registration information will be forthcoming.



Rev. Kelvin Sauls

For youth disciples: Devozone celebrates a new year with a new look

Upper Room Ministries has given its devotional lifestyle magazine for teens a new look.

Devozone 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 Greendwalt, top executive for the General Board of Discipleship.

"Our 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," says Editor Sandy Miller.

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

Devozone 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 space to give the magazine 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 magazines, and a line of books and programs for youth and adults. More information about devozone and other Upper Room resources can be found online at www.devozone.org.

New Book Explores Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith

By Jeanette Pinkston*

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

In *Transforming Evangelism*, (Discipleship Resources, ISBN: 978-0-88177-485-6, 112 pages, paperback, \$12.00) authors Knight and Powe 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 Powe 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 Wesley 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 testimonies 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..."

"*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 Methodist 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 Journey We Begin
Chapter 3	A Community We Enter
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 Wesleyan Studies at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

F. Douglas Powe, Jr. is Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

*Jeanette Pinkston is director of media relations for the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tenn. Kwasi Kena and George Donigian also contributed to this story. □

Actually it is about the numbers

continued from page 7

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward gives the number of church members in her conference and then asks, "But, who's counting?" "God is counting, that's who," she answers. "The Bible tells us so." Indeed, numbers show up quite regularly in the Bible. The author of Acts, for example, seems to be interested in numbers. In the first chapter, Peter stands up among the believers, a group numbering about 120 (1.15). In the next chapter, after Peter's sermon at Pentecost, "about three thousand persons were added" (2.41). Day by day the Lord "added to their number those who were being saved" (2.47). By chapter four, the believers "numbered about five thousand" (4.4). And, after Saul's conversion in chapter nine, the author describes a spiritually vital church that "increased in numbers" (9.31). While not everything, numbers do seem to be significant in Acts.

Why, then, do we have to use qualifiers when we talk about persons participating in our ministries? Notice how we say, "We want more members, but we don't just want numbers." We don't say comparable things for priorities we have. We don't say, "We want better salaries, but we don't just want numbers." Actually we do want

the numbers, and we keep track of those numbers. We don't say, "We want diversity, but we don't just want numbers." In fact, we do want numbers, and we normally count them carefully and monitor changes.

Does this mean all churches should be growing? While growth seems to be the movement in the Bible, that is not the only biblical model of churches and numbers. As Pastor Tom Berlin points out, the Bible presents at least one alternative—churches that are persecuted and scatter.

However, it is not necessary to claim that numbers coming to church are everything, a position that virtually no one defends, to recognize that many churches demonstrate little sense of responsibility or accountability for the number of lives left untouched in their communities. Qualitative and quantitative measures of church vitality both have their place together in any useful ministry audit. Leadership that does not insist on careful monitoring of such measures is not adequate for churches in decline. A frequent indicator of ineffective leadership is a tendency either to ignore or to excuse actual outcomes and accountability.

But which comes first - an improved quality of church life that will attract others or numerical goals? Both have their place, and one without the other will not succeed. Conventional wisdom in the last generation has resisted numerical goals and concentrated instead on improving the internal life of the church. However, it may be that we will never make the right and necessary changes needed to attract new people until we first commit ourselves to reach those people.

One of the myths of American industry is that Henry Ford invented the assembly line, which then permitted him to build a car that could be sold for \$500, an amount that large numbers of working people could afford. The reality is just the reverse. Ford determined that \$500 was the most that large numbers of people could pay for a car, and inventing the assembly line was the only way he could devise to accomplish that task.

The same sequence may be necessary in the church. It may be that we first must commit ourselves to reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people; and our very willingness to be accountable for such goals will lead us to discover what we

need to do to accomplish the goals. We will then be forced to engage the people we seek to reach, to learn of their needs, and to understand the nature of their quest for God. In so doing, we will gather the information needed for worship and ministries appropriate for our changed context.

I was struck recently by the bold vision from an unlikely source. Here it is: By the Year 2015 the Virginia wine industry will double its market share within the Commonwealth. No qualifiers. Such a clear goal comes when you are proud of your "product" and want to share it with others. I know of few church groups today taking on such a measurable goal for reaching new disciples for Christ.

Does the church run the risk of being unduly guided by an emphasis on numbers? Not likely, given its record. As Bishop William H. Willimon puts it, after forty years of membership loss without any major changes to address the loss, "we have a long, long way before we are being driven by the numbers."

* Lovett H. Weems, Jr. is Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership and Director, G. Douglass Lewis Center for Church Leadership, at Wesley Theological Seminary.

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 33 mission and ministry efforts beyond the local church includ-

ing an annual youth mission trip to South Carolina.

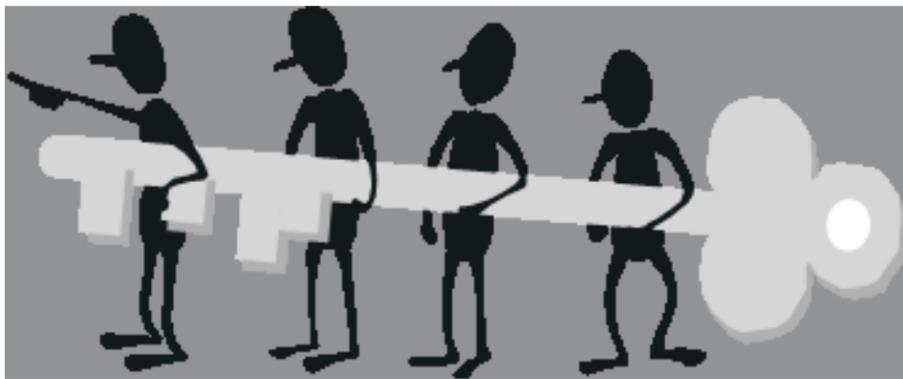
A partial list of these efforts include an ecumenical youth ministry program for an average of thirty-two middle and high school age young people, an annual block party in the community, an annual Christmas Dinner Theater that is free of charge and open to the public. The charge honors active duty military personnel and military veterans with a special service near 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 in the fall for distribution through 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. Begin by talking with your District Superintendent about your church's need. The information about the Equitable Compensation application process is in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Journal. The application forms are on the EPA Annual Conference website at <http://www.epaumc.org/BfForms.asp>.

**The Rev. Lester M. Groves is pastor of Temple United Methodist Church and is a chairperson of the EPA Commission on Equitable Compensation.*



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 model of forming disciples.

"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 Greenwaldt, 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 Greenwaldt.

"Many places and spaces in our denomination focus on the inevitability of 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.gbod.org/congregational/romans12. 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.

"We don't 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," says 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 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tenn. For more information, call the Media Relations Office toll free at (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7017

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 took in 50 or more people by profession of faith. Praise God!!!! Some of our congregations, though committed to Christ, are struggling.

In 2005, 35% of the churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania conference took in no one by profession of faith. That means that 162 out of 463 congregations had no one come to Christ by profession by 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 various settings - large, small, urban, rural, suburban, new church start, multicultural, etc.

We are all in this together! On a team, all members need to be at their best. Prayerfully, these trainings will strengthen the entire team of UMC congregations in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. From growing congregations we have learned that those congregations intentionally strive to learn more to increase ministry efforts. Through these trainings, every congregation is called and invited to prayerfully discern new opportunities for ministry.

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

Please plan to attend the monthly training sessions. During each session we will worship and pray together. We will also be coached on ways to increase our ministry in the community. During the year, congregational ministry teams will work together to create and implement a ministry action plan. Congregations are encouraged to use the Congregational Vitality Indicator. Congregations that have used Natural Church Development or another assessment tool, are encouraged to bring their work to the March meeting, when ministry action plans will be addressed.

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

If you've ever asked yourself, what has the annual conference ever done for us? The trainings represent a tangible, visible manner in which the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is striving to further support and equip each congregation for ministry. This is not an attempt to save the institution, but rather a commitment to faithfully live out God's call to make disciples. Please pray for this endeavor and the ministry of each congregation in this annual conference and Episcopal area.

I hope to see you at the February 17, 2007 training. Please pray for this emphasis. Please that each United Methodist congregation, pastor and lay person in this conference will share the good news with people in their communities. May God enable our congregations to reach more people for Christ! May God bless you in your ministry with God's people! To learn more about the trainings, visit the EPA website at www.epaumc.org.

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

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 constituency—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 those 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 Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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 passionately 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 transported 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 inspired homilies, testimonies, songs, and prayers. 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 highly productive lives. Other clergy modeled additional possibilities for those incarcerated.

Simultaneously, inspirational programs 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 experienced God's grace. Seeds of making disciples had been planted; God would give the increase.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference was represented by The Rev. Thomas Jackmon, 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 implemented 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. Harriett T. Spencer, Director, at 215 685 3652.

***Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem is the Executive Director of the Urban and Global Ministries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conferene*

A Passion for Making Disciples

By Dr. Roger K. Swanson*

EvangelizationSeveral 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 described by one word: passion. He said: "Passion is the force that has governed and motivated all my energies. Without it 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 particularly the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The one essential ingredient of that mission 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. Passion for Christ himself. In short, to be in love with God! It 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 follows up on persons. Passion, also, in the presence of need, becomes compassion. I have always felt that to be a Christian evangelist is to be passionate about Jesus and his kingdom. Whatever a person is passionate about he or she 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.

Of all 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 we personally pursue those means of grace that fuel our passion: prayer and fasting, Scripture, the holy Eucharist, worship, and Christian conferencing. Our continuing spiritual formation in Christ, in other words, is central to our effectiveness as evangelists of Christ.

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Making Disciples Training Schedule for 2007

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part 2: What Kind of Leadership Do We Need for the Implementation 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 Philadelphia

1:00 - 2:00 PM Registration and snacks/beverages
2:00 - 2:30 PM Worship
2:20 - 4:00 PM Session

Site 3 Asbury in Allentown

5:30 - 6:30 PM Registration and snack/beverages
6:30 - 7:00 PM Worship
7:00 - 8:30 PM Session

MARCH 14,15,16, 2007

Preparing your congregation's Ministry Action Plan - (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday in three different locations) Childcare will be provided.

6:00PM - Dinner
6:45-7:15PM - Worship
7:15-8:45PM - Session 3- repeated in different location

APRIL 14, 2007

Prayer - Saturday - one location (Childcare will be provided.)
1:00-2:00PM - Small groups

2:00-2:30PM - Worship
2:45-4:00PM - Session 4

MAY 10, 2007

Living as Christians Disciples: The Means of Grace and Ordinances of God -

Thursday (Three Satellite locations with simultaneous transmission) Childcare will be provided
6:00PM - Dinner
6:45-7:15PM - Worship
7:15-8:45PM - Session 5

JUNE 13-15, 2007

Faith Sharing and Evangelical Recruitment-

During Annual Conference with streaming video/audio to people not attending annual conference - suggested through plenaries
Session 6 and Session 7

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

JULY 21, 2007

Vibrant and Transformative Worship -

Saturday - one location,
1:00-3:30PM - Session 8

AUGUST 18, 2007

Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

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

10:00-11:00AM - Small Groups
11:00AM - Plenary GBOD - Carol Krau

Noon-1:00PM - Lunch
1:00-4:00PM - (Age level, youth, young adult, college/campus ministry, family, single, etc.)

OCTOBER 13, 2006

Faith Sharing -

Saturday, One location: "Using Communications in Evangelism Recruitment" - web cast, /satellite training, three locations

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

Worship
"Igniting Ministries Training"

NOVEMBER 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 GBOD 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, GBOD

Eastern Pennsylvania Camping and Retreat News

by Jim Wilkin

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 family 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 thousands of campers through the years, but they have begun to show their age. We have begun to replace the older structures with new log cabins that have been purchased as kits by churches and assembled on site by the members of the church, other volunteers and camp staff. Innabah plans to continue this process until all the cabins have been

replaced. If your church would like to sponsor a replacement cabin, please contact Christy Heflin, Director at Camp Innabah, 610-469-6111, innabahdirector@aol.com.

Pocono Plateau Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry

In the late 1920's, a group of Methodist 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 group banded 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 1946, 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 apportionment money. In 1971, the property became the possession of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and a full time resident Director was hired.

Since that time thousands of children, youth, and adults have found new and renewed life in Jesus Christ through summer camp and retreats at the Plateau. Four of the retiring clergy last year specifically cited Pocono Plateau as the place where they accepted Jesus as their savior or accepted the call to full time ministry.

On Sunday, November 19, Pocono Plateau celebrated this history at its 60th Anniversary Banquet, and they look forward to the opportunity to serve the EPA Conference through a vibrant camp and retreat ministry.

Plan a Retreat

The Psalmist reminds us, "Be still, and know that I am God!" In our busy world it is critical for all of us find a time and place apart to rest, reflect, study, fellowship, and pray. Our conference camp and retreat centers offer a tremendous resource for churches. Our staff can help your church plan a retreat, identify a speaker or facilitator, and reserve your space. Please consider scheduling a time and place apart for spiritual growth and renewal on a regular basis. For information contact Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries, 610-666-9090 ext.225, 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.

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.225, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.

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, Campbelltown, Trinity, Bethany, Annville and Kochenderfer, about 200 children received gifts and a balloon with a special message from the churches. Also Jonestown and Ono UMC donated financially.

This year members from 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 B. 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, Natanael, Janineris 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.*



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



Lt. Col. Michael Charles is a chaplain in Seoul, Korea.

of Higher Education and Ministry.

Bishop Matthews said, "The visit was primarily a pastoral call to convey our support and appreciation for their ministry, to establish more effective communication and to give testimony of the interest and concern that The United Methodist Church has for chaplains and their presence in the armed forces."

According to the Endorsing Agency's website, "A chaplain's task 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 motor 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 Kaneohe Marine Base. They also met with Chaplain Stephen Linehan, Command Chaplain at the Marine Corp 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



Bishops Gregory Palmer and Marcus Matthews meet with Rupert Goetz, Medical Director of the Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

of the visitors. 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 persons serving in the military. One could see their hunger to be a witness 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 read 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.

Gary George Appointed - jump from page 1

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 endeared it to Christians (and non-Christians) the world over. 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, captured in raids and wars 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 save space, row after row, one after another, until the vessel was laden with as many as "600 units of human cargo." John Newton, 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 the ships to lose 20% 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. Yet, there he was. It took 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 a man being led to the gallows, and he declared, "There goes John Newton, had it not been for the grace of God."

For the last 43 years of his life, John Newton preached the gospel in Olney and London. He had been ordained by Methodists and proudly pointed to his years as a Methodist minister. At the age of 82, he said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour." Clearly, John Newton ultimately understood the meaning of "grace" as Methodists understand it. And there is a very good reason for his so understanding the meaning of grace.

John Newton was a friend of John Wesley's. Although they did disagree on some theological issues, Newton was a supporter of Wesley and carried Wesley's message forward in word and

song. John Wesley and John Newton were friends although Newton was probably more of a disciple of George Whitfield than he was of Wesley. Wesley did support Newton in his efforts to be ordained, although it appeared that privilege may be denied him because he was not a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge.

In 1765 Wesley wrote to Newton and applauded his work by saying, "Your manner of writing needs no excuse. I hope you will always write in the same manner. Love is the plainest thing in the world."

Craven E. Williams, President, Greensboro College, Greensboro, N.C.

Electing Delegates for General Conference 2008

At the 221st Annual Conference Session in June, EPA members will elect six clergy and six laity to attend the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. These twelve persons will also attend the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July 2008.

An additional six clergy and six laity will be elected to complete the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegation. These additional 12 persons will also serve

in order of their election as reserve delegates to the General Conference. Three clergy and three laity will be elected as reserve delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

The formula for determining the number of delegates from each conference is specified in paragraph 502 of The Book of Discipline. According to this formula the total number of delegates is set at 1,000. One clergy delegate and one laity delegate is elected for every 26,000 members of local churches. Over the previous quadrennium the EPA local church membership declined by 7,608 members.

The EPA process for electing delegates is outlined in Article XVI of the EPA Conference Rules of Order printed on page 388 of the 2006 Journal. The Conference Secretary, Rev. Charles Weigel, will send nominating petitions to EPA clergy in full connection and lay members eligible to vote. The Discipline provides that only clergy members in full connection may participate in the election of General and Jurisdictional Conference members.

Nominating petitions allow clergy and laity to nominate a maximum of twelve persons. Persons will be nominated when they have been named on ten nominating petitions. As in the election process, clergy nominate only clergy and laity nominates only laity. Nominees must fulfill the requirements of the Discipline. Each lay nominee must be a member of an EPA local church for at least two years and shall be an active participant in the United Methodist Church for at least four years. Nominating petitions shall be returned to the Conference Secretary by March 10, 2007.

Nominees will be notified after March 10 and asked to complete an acceptance form. Nominees must return the acceptance form as well as biographical information no later than March 31. The complete list of nominees and the biographical information will appear in NewSpirit prior to Annual Conference.

Our rules also provide for nominations of lay persons from the floor at the Laity Session opening Annual Conference. A nomination petition with at least ten persons supporting the nominee must be provided as well as a signed acceptance form. Five hundred copies of biographical information are required for immediate distribution. Clergy nominations from the floor are not permitted.

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 society.

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 has been ascribed to us. Thankfully, it is a journey that is not undertaken alone. God, in a decidedly benevolent manner, traverses all of life's journeys with each of us. Each of the daily devotions in this guide reflects this universal truth for all of God's children, but especially for those of African descent in this land.

In the daily devotion White offers keen the reader in a man-what he puts for letter to his dear Luther King, Jr. devotion is written African American and even though his written specifically birth, they each tran-time in their offer-truth. For example, notes that African Month "is not just a historical facts, as are." Beyond acquir-obtaining knowl-covering untold "opportunity to un-of a people." These an invitation to all to journey with a



The Rev. Albert D. Mosley

climbed high mountains and crossed deep rivers.

Most devotional writing is deeply inspired by some incident or a series of events in life. This is certainly true for Bishop White. He attributes the source of 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 to those who paved 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 study groups and bible study.

* The Rev. Dr. A.D. Mosley is pastor of Janes Memorial United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

tional, Bishop spiritual insight to ner very similar to ward in his annual friend, Dr. Martin Even though the specifically for History Month, annual letter is to honor Dr. King's scend space and ings of prophetic Bishop White American History time to examine important as these ing facts, beyond edge, beyond dis-truths, this is an derstand the soul devotions extend of God's children people who have

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

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of the youngest bishops in active ministry today.

As a student pastor in West Virginia, he served a six-point charge and was appointed to a church with 85 members after being ordained. In the six years he served this church, the membership grew to 225. He then began a nine year ministry at a church with 585 members and when he was appointed District Superintendent in 1998, the membership had grown to 1368.

Bishop Bickerton is a 1980 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College

with a degree in psychology and sociology, he earned his master of divinity degree at Duke Divinity School and his doctor of ministry at United Theological School where he serves as an adjunct faculty member teaching 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 area. Just recently (January 4th) 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 Rick

Reilly, Hopewell UMC members Katherine and Lynda Commale, 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 Holy Communion where he will bring the message.

Bishop Matthews shares, "as you prepare for this Lenten season, re-read those passages recorded of the two disciples and Jesus walking to Emmaus. Hear their conversations. Feel the 'heat' that burned in their hearts. Share the story. The Lord is risen indeed!"

Aldersgate United Methodist Church is located at 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803; (302) 478-2575. For directions, go to: www.aldersgatede.org.

*Tamara Ward is communications coordinator for the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference.

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," "Rejoice the Lord is King," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Thankful for Our Every Blessing," "A Call to Service," "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 for church music.

Joseph M. Martin was chosen as the composer for this commissioning project for his significant connections 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 visual 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 intent 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 35 to 40 minutes.

The standard orchestration for most Joseph Martin cantatas calls for an orchestra of about 20 to 25 players.

"Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith" will be premiered on Sunday, February 11, during the 8:15 am and 10:45 am services. A special presentation of the cantata will also take place that afternoon at 3:00 pm. The presentation will include a full orchestra combined with the 50-voice First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. Brian Norcross.

Joseph M. Martin, composer, a native of North Carolina, earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Subsequently he earned a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at the University of Texas, Austin. Joe taught for five years in the Piano Pedagogy Department of the University of Texas. He is a member of the staff of Shawnee Press, Inc. as Director of Sacred Publications, with responsibilities for overseeing the editorial and creative direction of the company and also coordinating the re-



Charles Wesley

ording and production aspects of future sacred publishing efforts.

Martin has performed solo piano recitals and has been the featured artist with symphony orchestras in the United States and Mexico. As winner of the Nina Plant Wideman Competition, he performed with the Guadalajara Symphony Orchestra. His solo recital in Ex-convento del Carman was broadcast nationally throughout the country. He continues to perform in concert, although now he is devoting his efforts to playing in churches and for conferences of church musicians.

His first solo piano recording, American Tapestry, released by GlorySound, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc., was nominated for a Dove Award. His other albums Songs of the Journey, Celtic Tapestry and A Christmas Tapestry, have been enormously popular in the sacred and secular markets.

Recognized throughout the United States for his many choral compositions, both sacred and secular, Martin's music is published by Shawnee Press; GlorySound and Harold Flammer Music, sacred divisions of Shawnee Press, Inc.; and Mark Foster Music as well as by other publishers. Over 750 compositions are currently in print and the list continues to grow.

All are invited to attend the premier of "Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith" on February 11 at First United Methodist Church, located at the corners of Duke and Walnut Streets in Downtown Lancaster. Off street parking is found off Lemon Street and there is plenty of on street parking found on the surrounding streets. The phone is 717-394-7231 and the web site is

www.fumclancasterpa.org.

One Bed Net at a time

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knowing that they can make a difference in ridding the world of poverty & social injustice. A mission led by a child is a mission led by God. "One Bed Net At A Time" was born guided by the scripture, "Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

At only 5 years old, Katherine teamed with her mother to introduce the 'One Bed Net At A Time' campaign during worship services throughout the 2006 Labor Day weekend. They explained how in Africa, mosquitoes can kill by transmitting malaria, and shared the heart-wrenching fact that every 30 seconds a child dies from this illness. More hopefully, they went on to share the incredible ease by which the disease can be prevented — by sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net. They emphasized malaria's impact on children and its intimate connection with poverty by quoting a grieving mother from Uganda after the loss of her 18-month-old son to malaria, "It was because of poverty that we could not afford a bed net" (NY Times, August 2006). The congregation was challenged. A bed net costs \$10. \$10 saves a life.

In less than 24 hours they had collected \$1,500! Their next step was to educate the children. They displayed actual bed nets, performed a skit and a used a handmade diorama, made by Katherine and her little brother Joseph, to teach the kids how bed nets save lives. Each child then made a bed net bookmark craft to share with their family and friends. Suddenly hundreds of households were learning, through the eyes of children, the many ways a bed net can provide "comfort" (Isaiah 40:1) to the people in Africa.

During the Advent and Christmas season, children from the church and community decorated homemade gift certificates, allowing gift givers to purchase bed nets in honor of a friend, teacher or family member. These were a HUGE hit. Over 500 were sold! "Decorating the gift certificates was so much fun! My little brother and friends helped too," recalls Katherine.

Weekly, the collection totals soared and by the end of 2006, the Commale family raised over \$10,000 with help from Hopewell UMC and the surrounding community, including family, friends, three local newspapers, the local library, Lynda's gym, Katherine's elementary school,

Joseph's pre-school, a local Girl Scout Troop, a home-schooling co-op, and Romansville UMC. The success of this mission sent over 1,000 bed nets to Africa saving thousands of lives.

Back in NYC on January 4, 2007, the Commale family was celebrating Katherine's 6th birthday and the exciting announcement that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has offered to match future donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$3 million! United Methodist Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Episcopal leader of the Western PA Conference and President of United Methodist Communications said it best: "This is a tremendously exciting day for us. We won't stop until the job is done." The whole Commale clan couldn't agree more.

Lynda's thoughts are, "My heart aches for the mothers in Africa who struggle with malaria daily. The death and suffering from this terrible illness is unacceptable! For those mothers who have lost a child I feel deep sadness, frustration and anger because I know we can do better."

"The congregation at Hopewell agrees, and has found great comfort and purpose by sharing in this campaign," said Hopewell UMC's senior pastor, Steve Morton. "It even held its annual Church Conference in a meeting room "decorated" with a huge bed net to remind them of the mission beyond the walls! God has stirred the people in a way that was surely never planned in any strategy session, but rather was a response to the moment...a response to the movement of the Holy Spirit - and the willingness to follow the lead of a little child."

Lynda and Katherine have been an inspiration to many, and their dedica-

tion to this mission is an exciting testimony that local church transformation can be led by one household - even one child - with a dream.

A December 2006 NY Times article gave an incredibly enlightening quote from a doctor in Uganda: "If you get rid of measles, we can close the measles ward. If you get rid of malaria, we can close the hospital." What a powerful thought and hopeful goal.

If a six year-old can do this, so can you and your church! The Commale family invites you to share their story and join

them by supporting NothingButNets. For more information:



Rick Reilly, Katherine and her Dad - Anthony and I having some fun after the press event.

Purpose and Process at the Foundation

by Stacy J. Martin*1

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 this mission to its clients. To fulfill this goal, the Board seeks investments that 1) are diversified and risk controlled, 2) provide sound performance against appropriate benchmarks, 3) have affordable fees and 4) are in compliance with the social principles of the Church.

Process

The Board is committed to its fiduciary responsibility to the Foundation's clients, understanding that our clients are committees comprised of volunteers that have many other demands on their time. Therefore, the Board directs its Investment Committee to oversee the selection of money managers, their compliance with our social principles, and the performance of each of our investment funds. The Investment Committee reviews performance on a monthly basis, and receives comprehensive quarterly reports from all managers. The

Investment Committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board regarding allocations to the different assets classes – how much in bonds, large and mid cap, small cap and interational – as well as the benchmarks used by our managers and the Board. The Board reviews the investment allocation and performance against the benchmarks at each of their meetings.

Diversification/Risk

In today's global business environment, a diversified portfolio should include domestic and international investments. The benefit of having a geographically diversified portfolio is that different economies frequently experience ups and downs at different times. Domestically, the same is true for different sized companies. Diversification, along with high quality investments, is the best way to manage risk while gaining the highest returns.

Your Church

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your committees to review how the Foundation can best meet goals of 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-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation.*

800-828-9093 x247
stacy.martin@epaumc.org



Classifieds

EDUCATION ADVOCATES

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 to achieve high-quality public schools for all of Pennsylvania's children. Go to: www.goodschoolspa.org. **ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANIST**
 Lansdale United Methodist Church
 300 N. Broad St.
 Lansdale, PA 19446-2412
 2 Sunday Services. One weeknight

choir rehearsal; 3-manual Allen organ; Salary \$12,000-15,000, depending on experience; Sunday organ duties; Contact Pastor Max Jaouen at the church, Phone 215-855-8364. Fax resume to 215-855-1534 or email: lumcmail@verizon.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.

Bishop's Day on the Districts

NORTHEAST DISTRICT - February 6, 2007

Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA 18106. Go to <http://bethanyumchurch.com/> or call 610-395-3613 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 Marcus Matthews. Opportunity for Q&A! Registration begins at 6:30 p.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 ghsuper@rcn.com or phone at 610-395-6661 by Monday, January 29, 2007.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT - February 22, 2007

Wesley UMC, 40 West Main Street, Strasburg, PA 17579. Telephone: 717-687-6392 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

Lickdale: Trinity UMC, 98 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. Clergy please register with Montene Wagner by February 15, 2007 at 570-366-1471 or northwest4@verizon.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.

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: (O) 610-269-1496, (H) 610-269-0629; email: Weigel4@aol.com. Resolutions, in portrait format, must be sent on a disk in Microsoft Word, along with a hard copy.

Resolutions submitted *after* the March 16, 2006 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 the NewSpirit.

March 16: 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: (O) 610-269-1496, (H) 610-269-0629; email: Weigel4@aol.com.

March 16: Anyone requesting time on 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-ready originals must be sent. For more information, please contact Mrs. Evangeline Johnson at 610-666-9090, ext. 215 or 800-828-9093, 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, lay and equalizing 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 presenters 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** payment 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



Package Cost	LOCATION
\$52.00	Lower Level Ends (sections 106-108 and 118-120)
\$30.00	Mezzanine Centers (sections 223 – 203 and 211-215)

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.

