

What's Inside

Welcome Lydia
Muñoz and new
CCYM Leaders

Page 3

Annual
Conference
Summary and
Display

Pages 6 & 11

Making
Disciples Insert

Pages 7-10

Index

Calendar2
Nation4
World5
Classifieds15

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference: *Nurturing the Connection*

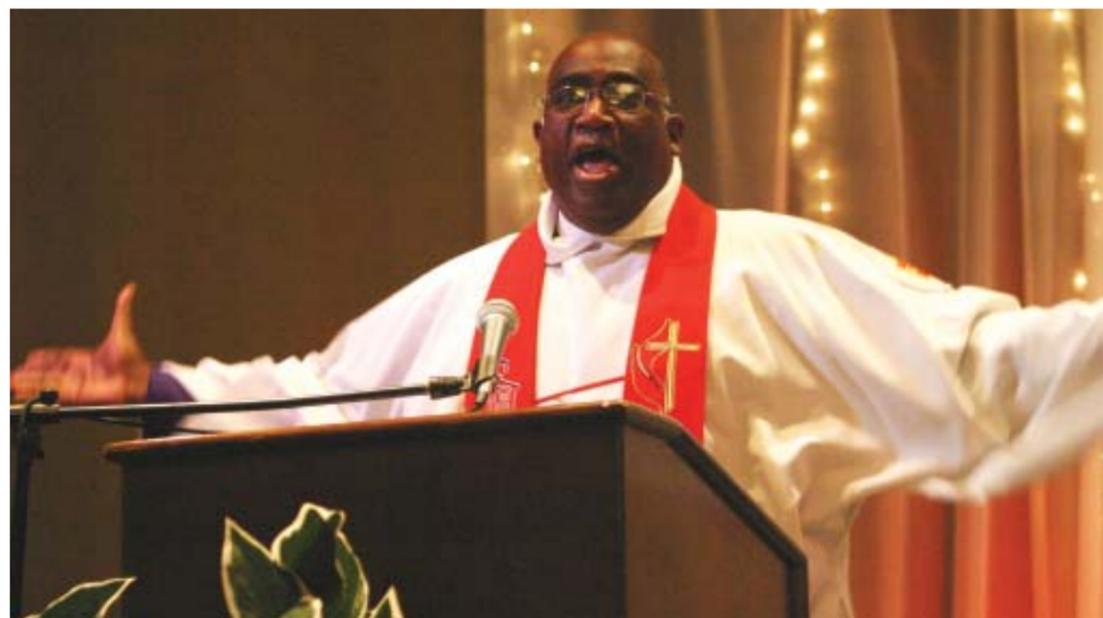
June 13-15, Philadelphia, PA

by Suzy Keenan

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference met in Philadelphia for its 221st session, June 13-15, 2006, with the theme, "Living Connected as God's People: Nurturing the Connection."

Clergy and Laity Sessions took place on the morning of June 13. Dr. Mary White, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed new and veteran members, and introduced Mrs. Sandy Zeigler Jackson, Director of Lay Leadership Development for the General Board of Discipleship. Mrs. Jackson's presentation offered six tools for effective leadership: spiritual preparation, study and renewal, servant leadership, mission and vision, worshipping together, and leading meaningful meetings.

In Opening Worship, Bishop Matthews preached on the conference theme "Nurturing the Connection." He celebrated the spiritual nourishment of the church in which he grew up, and its Sunday School teachers, pastors, and other saints. He emphasized how the United Methodist connection nurtures people in extraordinary ways, transforming lives and the world. The conference received an offering of \$4,238 for scholarships



Bishop Gregory V. Palmer preaches for the Service of Ordination. Bishop Palmer, a native of Philadelphia, is the Resident Bishop of the Iowa Area United Methodist Church. Photo by Paul C. Davis.

for undergraduate students in Eastern Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday evening, the Celebration of Ministries included the presentation of awards: Rev. Jackie Ann Stewart, pastor of Bickley's New Beginnings UMC, a new

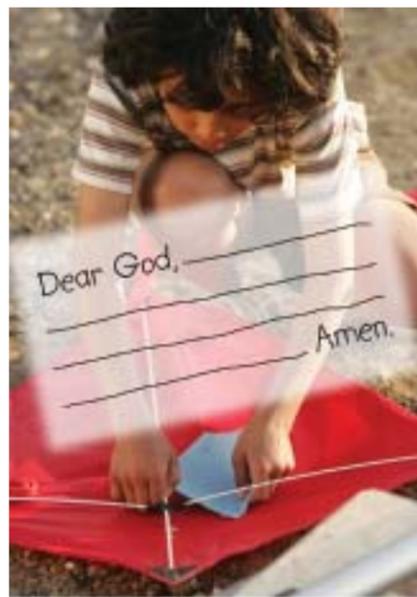
church start, received the Denman Evangelism Award; the Kim Jefferson Award for effective urban ministry was presented to El Redentor United Methodist Church; The Rev. Dr. Michael Roberts, pastor of Tioga United Meth-

odist Church in Philadelphia, and Mr. Rick Hellberg, member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Bryn Mawr, PA, received Healing the

continues on page 6

Reaching millions through advertising during Advent

by Suzy Keenan



As part of our Making Disciples focus, The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will reach out during Advent of 2007 to millions of people not yet in our churches through television, radio, and outdoor advertising.

This advertising campaign, which will total \$44,944, was made possible by an Igniting Ministry matching grant through United Methodist Communications, the national communications agency for the denomination. The United Methodist Church began its "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors" advertising and welcoming campaign in 2001. As part of the campaign, matching grants totaling \$1 million annually are provided to local churches, districts, and conferences for placing television, radio, cinema, and outdoor

advertisements in their communities. This regional advertising will run concurrently with advertising placed nationally by United Methodist Communications, designed to reach 30 million unchurched persons throughout the country.

Every dollar given by United Methodist Communications will be matched by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: \$12,000 from the Dewees Fund and the rest from Connectional Ministry Funds. The Dewees Fund grant has been made possible through the \$1.7 million bequest of Leonard S. Dewees of Berwyn, who passed away in 2005. This is one of the largest funds in the history of the Conference, and is specifically set up for investing in our local churches, district, and

conference new ministry initiatives.

The main target audience for this advertising during Advent 2007 is persons who are not yet disciples of Jesus Christ and who are not yet in our United Methodist churches: people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and economic conditions. The goal of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is to reach several specific target audiences that under-populate our churches: persons under 55, young families, men.

The anticipated number of persons that will see the ads on cable TV is 458,330. The cable TV ads will be placed in regional markets of Lebanon, Lancaster, Ephrata, and Berks County. An additional 1.5

continues on page 12

Conference Calendar

JULY 24, 2007

Cornwall Manor Retirement Community will host an outdoor "Fountain Concert" featuring the Lebanon Big Swing Band on Tuesday, July 24 at 7:00 pm. The 16 member band will also feature two vocalists. The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available before and during the concert. Seating will be provided, however; please feel free to bring your own chair. In the event of rain, the concert will be held in Freeman Auditorium. For more information, please call 717-273-2647 or visit the Cornwall Manor website at www.cornwallmanor.org. Cornwall Manor is a 500-resident, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community that offers diversified and high quality housing, health care and related services for individuals to achieve a retirement and aging lifestyle they find fulfilling in a secure, caring, and Christian environment.

JULY 25-27, 2007

Church and Society Seminar for YOUTH - Washington D.C. Youth in grades 9-12 (or ages 14-19) are invited to join an EPA Conference-sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. to the General Board of Church and Society, located in the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill. Come learn about how violence affects not only your life but that of others around the U.S. and around the world. Come hear about the issues, how to use your voice and

your faith to bring justice to "the least, the last and the lost." You will be inspired and strengthened by this enriching and empowering experience. The seminar will be both discussion and presentation; this is both interactive as well as experiential. In addition, there will be a half-day community-based experience.

Housing will be provided by Trinity Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill. There is no cost to participants other than for their own snacks or souvenirs. Transportation will be provided. Limited to 25 participants. For more detailed information contact Peggy Wood at (610) 524-5935 or Peggy.wood1@verizon.net

JULY 28, 2007

Phillies vs. Pirates @ 7 p.m.

A UM Men's Choir will sing the National Anthem. See page 16.

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

24th Annual Academy for Laity at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center, King of Prussia, PA. The theme for the weekend is "Sharing Our Faith—in the local church, in the community and in the world." The Rev. N. Lynne Westfield, Associate Professor of Religious Education at Drew University and an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker. Mark the date on your calendar and register early for the Academy. Details about courses and registration will be available in March on

the Christ Servant Ministry website: www.gbmg-umc.org/csm or the Conference website: www.epaumc.org. If you have questions, you may contact Verna Colliver, Dean of the Academy for Laity at vcolliver@comcast.net or 215 855 0797.

AUGUST 4, 2007

A Day of Imagination EPA Conference Young Adults Academy - Valley Forge. For more information, go to: www.epaumc.org.

AUGUST 6 - 14, 2007

Wesley Heritage Tour with Bishop and Mrs. Matthews. See page 16.

AUGUST 9 - 10, 2007

The Alpha Training Event. The ALPHA course is a 10 week experience used around the world, in thousands of churches in many different denominations, where people from all backgrounds come together in a welcoming environment to explore what relevance Jesus has for their lives today. The course is running in a number of EPA Conference churches. The ALPHA course both revitalizes believers and sparks interest in not-yet believers and your whole church is changed. Learn how to start this kind of fire—and keep it burning—at an ALPHA training event. One is scheduled for the Philadelphia area August 9-10. For information or to register call 1-866-US-ALPHA or go online at www.alphaconferences.org.

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.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

The "Next Level of African American Church Growth Conference" will focus on strategic ministry planning for African American congregations. The event will be Sept. 13 at the St. Louis Marriott, followed on Sept. 14-15 by the South Central Jurisdiction Urban Network at the same location. UM church leaders will participate in a roundtable discussion and present seven key areas for strategic planning that lead to healthy church growth. For registration and more information, contact Sherry Daniels, pastor of Norfolk UMC in Virginia, at (757) 628-6543 or sltdaniels@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

United Methodist Day at Hershey Park. Christian Music Day at the Park. More information will be forthcoming. Contact James Wilkin at 1-800-828-9093 ext. 225 or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth

See page 15 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

Health & Welfare Sunday

See page 15 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2007

The General Board of Discipleship and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries of Goodlettsville, Tenn., will sponsor "Becoming a People of Prayer." Sept. 21-22, at Brentwood UMC in Tennessee to call the UMC to prayer and to strengthen and empower members to pray as individuals, families, and congregations. Conference participants will be introduced to a variety of new ways to pray as individuals, as families, and as congregations. For more information and to register, contact Becky Caudill at bcaudill@gbod.org.

OCTOBER 13, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Faith Sharing "Igniting Ministries: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church." See page 10.

NOVEMBER 3, 2007

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

NOVEMBER 26, 2007

Bishop's Advent Day Apart - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. will be the speaker.

DECEMBER 8, 2007

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

JANUARY 15 - 17, 2008

Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat - Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Dr. Paul Nixon will be the speaker.

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Bishop's Lenten Day Apart - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE. Bishop Jeremiah J. Park will be the speaker

MAY 29-30, 2008

Annual Conference 2008 will be held May 28-30, 2008. Please reserve the date now!

Annual Conference DVD Order Form

2 Bible Studies - \$ 10.00

-with the Rev. Mary Ann Moman - Thursday and Friday, June 14-15, 2007

3 Sermons - \$ 10.00

-Bishop Marcus Matthews - Opening Worship - Wednesday, June 13, 2007

-Bishop Gregory V. Palmer - Memorial Service and Service of Ordination and Commissioning - Thursday and Friday, June 14-15, 2007

Retiree Service - \$ 10.00

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Memorial Service - \$ 10.00

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Service of Ordination and Commissioning - \$ 10.00

Friday, June 15, 2007

Making Disciples Session - "Living as Christian Disciples: The Means of Grace and Ordinance of God" - \$ 10

- with the Rev. Tom Albin - Celebration of Ministries - Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Plus Shipping \$4.00

Total amount \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make check payable to: EPAUMC and mail with order form to:
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News from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference

by Tamara Ward*

Bishop Marcus Matthews, Episcopal leader of the Philadelphia Area, has announced new appointments for leadership of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, our sister conference in the Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. James T. Seymour retires

The Rev. Dr. J. T. Seymour, Director of Connectional Ministries of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, retired effective July 1, 2007.

Rev. Seymour's journey in the ministry began in August of 1961 when Rev. Seymour encountered God in an unforgettable experience and finally answered "yes" to the call to full-time ministry.

Rev. Seymour graduated Magna cum laude from Union Theological Seminary in Kingston, Jamaica in 1966, and from London University in England in 1967, and received his Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University in 1978.

He was ordained an Elder in the Bahamas in 1969. He served Methodist Circuits in Jamaica and Grand Bahama in the Bahamas from 1967 to 1973 and was Superintendent of the North Eleuthera Circuit (also in the Bahamas) from 1973 to 1976. His first appointment in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference was the Snow Hill-Ebenezer United Methodist Charge where he served from 1976 to 1981. The Peninsula Conference (as it was known then) accepted his credentials in 1980.

In 1981 he served as pastor of Ezion-Mt. Carmel UMC on the Wilmington District and was appointed to the Cabinet as a District Superintendent in 1989 where he served the Wilmington District. In 1995 he was appointed to Hockessin UMC in the Wilmington District and to the position of Council Director (Director of Connectional Ministries) at the Conference Resource Center in 1999.

Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball appointed Director of Connectional Ministries

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball has been appointed Director of Connectional Ministries for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference effective July 1, 2007.

Rev. Ball continues a family tradition of conference leadership. Her father, Mr. Ed Steiner, was the conference treasurer who encouraged the conference to hire a business manager.

Rev. Ball grew up and was active in Avenue UMC in Milford, Delaware. She graduated cum laude in 1984 with a BA in religion studies from Dickenson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She attended Duke Divinity School where she received her Master of Divinity degree in 1987 and in 2002 she was awarded her Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. She has been a member of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference for 21 years where she was ordained a deacon in 1986 and an Elder in 1989.

During her ministry, Rev. Ball has served in three appointments. She served as the first full time associate pastor at Kent Island United Method-

ist Church from 1987 to 1992. Her second appointment was pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in St. Michael's, Maryland where she served from 1993 to 2000. From 2001 to the present, Rev. Ball has served as the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Superintendent, appointed to the Dover District, where she has the distinction of being the first female Dover District Superintendent.

Rev. Charlotte A. Nichols Appointed Dean of the Cabinet

The Rev. Charlotte Nichols, Peninsula-Delaware Conference Superintendent appointed to the Salisbury District, is appointed as Dean of the Cabinet, effective July 1, 2007. Rev. Nichols brings much experience, deep spirituality and enthusiasm to this position of leadership and responsibility. She will continue her appointment as Salisbury District Superintendent while serving as Dean.

As Dean of the Cabinet she will work closely with Bishop Matthews in providing leadership to the other District Superintendents in the conference, and help order the work of the Superintendency.

In addition, as Dean of the Cabinet she will be working closely with Peninsula-Delaware Conference staff and will be providing leadership to assist with the Healthy Churches Initiative.

Rev. Nichols is serving as a District Superintendent for the second time in her career. She first served from 1990 to 1996 as a District Superintendent assigned to the Easton District. She has the distinction of being the first female District Superintendent in the

Peninsula-Delaware Conference as well as the first African-American woman to be appointed to this position in the United Methodist Church. She was appointed to the Salisbury District as Superintendent in 2005.

She has served the Church in many different capacities during her career. She is a dual degree graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, graduating with Master's Degrees in Divinity and Religious Education. Serving as Education Assistant at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in Washington D.C., Rev. Nichols gained valuable experience as a leader in the church. She was ordained Deacon in 1979, and ordained Elder in

1981. In her undergraduate work, she earned an Associate's Degree in Elementary Education from Wesley College, and then completed her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Salisbury State College (Salisbury University).

Prior to entering the ministry, she worked as a Press Operator at Maryland Plastic and was a teacher in Dorchester County. She has served in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for 27 years. Her diverse career has included pastoral appointments on the Girdletree Charge on the Salisbury District; the Miles River Charge on the Easton District; and Metropolitan United Methodist Church on the Salisbury District.

While at Metropolitan she was also the Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

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

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome Lydia Esther Muñoz as the new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Coordinator of Young People's Ministry. Lydia is returning to Eastern Pennsylvania from Florida where she has been on the staff of the Seminole United Methodist Church. She is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania of Puerto Rican decent. Her parents were missionary/church planters throughout Central America with the Mennonite

Central Committee. And in her experience living and traveling with her parents, Lydia developed a strong love for children and youth especially young people struggling with the effects of abuse, neglect, poverty and social unrest.

Since that time God has placed a special call upon her life to be in ministry with young people and has been working with young people over the past 20 years. Lydia is also a candi-

date for ordained ministry and has a bachelor's degree from Penn State and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Her vision is to help foster an environment within the ministries of local congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference where young people are given the opportunity to respond to the call of the Spirit and be transformed into dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lydia begins her role by leading two busloads of youth and adult workers to Youth '07 in Greensboro, NC. In the fall she will provide leadership and support for the Conference Council on Youth Ministry as it plans events and activities for the coming year. In addition, she will be organizing the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry. We are blessed to have Lydia join our conference staff in this important ministry of making disciples with young people.



Lydia Muñoz (second from left) meets with the CCYM officers: Nicolas Benson, Ann Jacob, and Kristin Todd.

In Memoriam

Rev. William E. Harner on June 10, 2007, at St. Joe's Hospital in Reading, PA. Rev. Harner served the following appointments beginning in 1951: Belmont Hills: Ashland Ave.; Tower City Methodist; Wiconisco; Salunga; Mount Joy; Strasburg: Wesley; Mt. Pocono; Former Wadesville; St. Clair-Wade; Cochranville; Bainbridge; Ludwig; Marietta; Peach Bottom: Mt. Zion, Pleasant Grove; Summit Hill; Willistown; Llewellyn; Minersville; Lebanon; Bethany; Terre Hill: St. Paul's; Newtown; Bethlehem: St. John's; Chapman Quarries; and Bushkill. He retired in 1986.

A memorial service was held on July 14 at Cornwall Manor. Condolences may be sent to the Rev. A. Jane

Harner, Cornwall Manor, Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016.

Rev. Robert L. Jones early on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at his home in Lancaster. Rev. Jones served the following appointments beginning in 1963: Leola; Hatboro: Lehman Memorial; Jenkintown; Grove; Drexel Hill; Newtown. He retired in 1991, and had his Charge Conference relationship at Lancaster: First UMC. Services held Sunday, June 24, 2007, were at First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA. Bob is survived by his wife, Beulah, her three daughters and families, and Bob's two sons and families. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Beulah Jones, 966 Skyline Drive, Lancaster PA 17601.

In The Nation

United Methodist plan emphasizes new church starts

By Linda Green*

Since the most effective evangelism is through new churches, The United Methodist Church wants to start 650 new congregations with 63,000 members by 2012 as part of a new emphasis on church growth in the United States.

Eventually, the shrinking denomination wants to return to its evangelistic heyday of planting a new U.S. church every day. It also wants to reach untapped frontiers such as western states where the church historically has not followed population growth.

The strategy is all part of the aggressive vision of "Path One," the newly organized strategy team on new congregational development coordinated by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

"We believe it's one of the most needed and time-sensitive national efforts in the denomination's recent history," said the Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, top executive of the Board of Discipleship. "This is a new and bold vision of church planting that has been formed out of the work of many partners."

The initiative will be headed by the Rev. Thomas G. Butcher, who on July 1

became executive secretary of the newly created office of new congregational development for the United States.

Butcher will work to foster a new wave of United Methodist evangelism by developing and coordinating training for 1,000 new church "planters." He will collaborate with representatives from churchwide boards, agencies, networks and racial and ethnic plans to align resources to help and encourage annual conferences in their common goal of serving people and inviting them to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This is also the mission of The United Methodist Church.

A clear priority

"Path One" is named for the first of the "seven vision pathways" for church growth from the Council of Bishops. As part of the strategy, Path One will:

- Create a national assessment tool for use with church planters;
- Support new church pastors through regional training, internships, mentoring and Web material;
- Build a system for orienting and training bishops and district superintendents to support new congregational starts;
- Create a database and decision-making calculators that allow conference leaders to make effective decisions for church plantings and closures; and
- Develop modular curriculum for starting congregations that is biblically based and helps congregations prepare for their role in new church starts.



"We believe it's one of the most needed and time-sensitive national efforts in the denomination's recent history."—The Rev. Karen Greenwaldt

The Path One team comprises members of the Council of Bishops; Connectional Table; the boards of Global Ministries, Communications, Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry; racial ethnic national plans; the Network for Congregational Developers and congregational church planters.

"Path One is the formalized commitment ... to collaborate in meaningful and faithful ways," Greenwaldt said.

Butcher, who leaves his job as a district superintendent in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, says the time has come for a new United Methodist approach to evangelism.

Currently in the United States, the denomination averages one church start every 7.6 days, according to statistics from the United Methodist Council on Finance and Administration. That compares with the 50-year period beginning in 1870 when Butcher says Methodists "were at our best" and started one new church a day.

"I think we want to try to get back to that," he said. "It is going to take a couple quadrennia to do that, (but) the goal is to eventually start 350 new churches a year across the country in our denomination."

Initial strategies call for the new "planters pool" to begin approximately 137 new churches a year during 2009-2012. Within the same period, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries will help plant 400 new churches outside the United States.

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



Organizers break ground in August 2006 for Lighthouse: A United Methodist Faith Community in Ooltewah, Tenn. The United Methodist Church wants to start 650 new congregations by 2012. A UMNS photo by Barry Dilgard.

The Nation in Brief

•Harriett Jane Olson, senior vice president with The United Methodist Publishing House, has been nominated as deputy general secretary for the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. If elected, Olson would join the division in the fall, succeeding Jan Love, who left the post at the end of 2006 to become dean of the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Kyung Za Yim, division president and chairperson of its search committee, said Olson is "the closest match for our unique needs at this time in our history" and noted that she was one of eight candidates initially interviewed and among the three finalists. With the approval of directors, the committee had started a second search process for the position last year to expand the field of candidates. Division directors will vote on the search committee's recommendation in August and share that information with the personnel committee of GBGM. The full board is scheduled to vote on the matter during its annual meeting in October.

•Fire and flood continue to challenge disaster workers in the West and

Southwest. Local United Methodist churches in the Lake Tahoe community are addressing the needs of residents displaced by the Angora fire. Many of the displaced are service workers in the region and are without insurance. An UMCOR grant will assist with emergency shelter, food, clothing and transportation. In north Texas UMCOR is providing emergency funds to assist with temporary shelter, supplies, and expenses for scores of persons displaced in recent floods that killed five and damaged homes and roads in Gainesville, Valley View and Sherman. Continuous rains complicated the initial response.

•Now in its seventh year, the "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors" campaign of The United Methodist Church is reaching more "seekers" each year, according to new research. Thirty percent of those surveyed in 2006 were aware of the campaign, up from 27 percent the previous year and 14 percent in 2001 when the campaign began. "The impact of the advertising is that awareness is growing from year to year," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United

Methodist Communications. "The research also indicates that our messages continue to be believable and important to the audience and they are effectively shifting people's attitudes about the denomination in a very favorable way."

•A United Methodist agency has awarded \$120,590 to 15 projects and organizations serving racial-ethnic groups. The governing members of the Board of Discipleship approved funding for United Methodist-sponsored projects ranging from a 20-hour marriage enrichment workshop to a camp that helps African-American students in personal growth, spiritual formation and cultural enrichment.

•Batavia United Methodist is a church on the move-literally. The thriving downtown congregation in Batavia, Ill., 45 miles west of Chicago, has outgrown its historic building and 11 parking spaces. So, out of sheer necessity, the 850-member church has embraced a unique community outreach concept called "church in a box." Each Sunday, in addition to holding three worship services in

Batavia, the congregation sends a missions team with a 24-foot trailer to the nearby family-oriented community of Aurora. Inside the trailer are wheeled containers filled with an altar, hymnals, musical instruments, audio and video equipment, signs and even a coffeemaker-everything needed to provide a worship service, Sunday school classes and a nursery.

•Edgehill United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., has always been involved in feeding ministries for the community. Now members of the congregation have found a way to feed themselves and support community-based agriculture that keeps family farms in business. Through a farm cooperative that began with 30 Edgehill families, Avalon Acres in Hohenwald, Tenn., now feeds nearly 400 families from at least a dozen churches and businesses. The growth is a blessing to the eight full-time workers who run the farm, as well as for people who live miles away and can own shares in a working farm, in addition to reaping the rewards at harvest time.

In The World

Church leaders urge G8 to fully fund AIDS pledges

By United Methodist News Service*

Pledges by the world's major economic powers to commit \$60 billion to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are commendable, but they must be translated into action, say United Methodist executives.

"The AIDS virus continues to affect millions of people who won't receive services or preventable education in spite of this funding," said Linda Bales, staff executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

"The AIDS pandemic grows steadily worse," said the Rev. R. Randy Day, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. "Pledges need to be translated into action, promises into funds by the G8 nations and all other responsible countries and organizations."

Diseases kill 16,000 daily

The \$60 billion total will still be only one-third of what the United Nations says is needed over the next five years to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Together, the diseases kill about 16,000 people each day.

U.N. estimates show that \$192 billion is needed to address AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria from 2008 to 2012, and even more would be needed to improve health systems, according to a report from the Global AIDS Alliance. Of this \$192 billion, \$134 billion is needed for AIDS, \$37 billion to fight TB (including extremely drug-resistant TB), and \$21 billion to address malaria, a major killer of children and expectant mothers.

Representatives of United Methodist agencies attended the G8 summit

June 6-8 in Germany. Members of the summit are Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, the United States, Canada and Russia.

The \$60 billion pledged represents "wonderful promises," Day said. "However, we cannot help but notice how slowly the eight major economic powers are moving in honoring their AIDS commitment, repeated over a number of years."

Day said he was glad the G8 continues to keep the issue of AIDS, particularly in Africa, before the world community. However, he said the G8 Summit of 2005 pledged \$50 billion, or \$12 billion per year, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and nothing near that has been made available.

The Bush administration has asked for \$300 million from Congress for 2008 for the global fund for AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. This amount, along with \$850 million approved by a House of Representatives committee, doesn't come close to the U.S. share based on the 2005 commitment, Day said.

President George W. Bush formally announced he is asking Congress for a \$30 billion, five-year extension of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The request doubles the amount previously pledged and will be spread over five years to assist impoverished countries, mainly in Africa, beginning in 2009.

"According to UNAIDS, currently 8,000 people die of the AIDS virus, while 12,000 acquire the virus every day worldwide," Bales said.

The president's plan will provide treatment to only 2.5 million people, or about 20 percent of the 12 million



Dozens of fresh graves crowd the Granville Cemetery in Harare, Zimbabwe, a grim reminder of the AIDS epidemic that grips the African continent. United Methodist leaders are commending the G8 leaders' \$60 billion pledge to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, but they say action must follow promises. A UMNS file photo by Mike DuBose.

people expected to need treatment in 2013, Bales said.

Full amount needed

The Global AIDS Alliance, a partner organization with the church's social action agency, said the increase proposed by Bush is a misconception, since current levels of AIDS funding from the United States have been steadily increasing and would already reach \$30 billion.

"A plan to really defeat AIDS, TB and malaria is still missing, yet that's what we must keep demanding of these leaders," said Dr. Paul Zeitz, executive director of the Global AIDS Alliance. "This is not an issue of 'more money is always needed when it comes to poverty.' Rather, the full amount is needed so that we can actually get ahead of these health crises, which pose a global threat."

For fiscal year 2008, Bush requested \$5.4 billion for AIDS, which Congress seems likely to approve, Bales said. If

the next phase of the U.S. global AIDS response simply held to this 2008 level over a five-year period, it would cost \$27 billion, or nearly what the president proposed, she said.

"Of course, we welcome the president's support for action to address HIV/AIDS," Zeitz said June 8. "The U.S. program has done a lot of good, primarily in care for orphans and AIDS treatment, and today the president reaffirmed its continuation."

Contributions to the Global HIV/AIDS Program may be sent through a local United Methodist church, annual conference or by mailing a check to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. Checks should be made to "Advance GCFA" and designated in the memo for Global HIV/AIDS Program, Advance #982345. Call (888) 252-6174 to give by credit card.

The World in Brief

•**INDONESIA:** One of the largest primary schools built in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, since the 2004 tsunami was dedicated June 30. Using United Methodist donations to the South Asia Advance, UMCOR constructed the state-of-the-art facility that is both earthquake and flood-resistant, and furnished it with school kits for students and school equipment, educational materials, and sports and playground equipment. Terming the school "a significant contribution to the people," Banda Aceh officials said the new school and the previous building were like night and day. "The new building is like the day, which gives hope to students, teachers, and the people," they said.

•**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs was so impressed with UMCOR agriculture development programs in Pweto and Kamina on a recent visit that he surprised the Head of Mission with gifts of tractors and other farming tools. The tools will augment UMCOR's food security programs in these territories of Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of Congo. Besides two tractors and

accessories, the gifts included 2,000 machetes, 2,000 axes, and 1,000 hoes.

•**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Jeffrey, a 13-year-old in a barrio on the outskirts of Santiago, Dominican Republic, eagerly awaits the weekly visits of his community rehabilitation worker. Plagued with developmental difficulties that left him with the mental capacity of a child ten years younger, Jeffrey has flourished with his new at-home training. He no longer hides when visitors come to the house, and asks permission before joining playmates. UMCOR partners with International Child Care to offer the program that lets Jeffrey and children like him develop their full potential in a community whose public schools are not equipped to accept them.

•**SWAZILAND:** Poor rainfall during the past four years has led to drought in the tiny country of Swaziland in southern Africa. Adding to the people's woes are severe economic conditions and the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS. UMCOR is working with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to distribute emergency food to school children.

•**SOUTH AFRICA:** "The church is doing what it's really supposed to do," says Bishop Paul Verryn, whose Central Methodist Mission in the heart of Johannesburg is hosting some 900 Zimbabwean refugees. "We're speaking grace rather than judgment on a busy street corner of a big city." With funding from UMCOR Bishop Verryn and the Mission's "Ray of Hope" program are offering preschool, infant care, legal aid, literacy classes and a free health clinic to refugees. In addition, the temporary residents have a safe place to stay while they search for permanent housing and work.

•**Religious leaders, diplomats, British government ministers and members of Parliament are praising the new partnership between United Methodist and Muslim relief agencies as "bold," "significant" and one that "confounds stereotypes."** The New York-based United Methodist Committee on Relief signed a partnership agreement with the London-based global relief and development agency Muslim Aid on June 26 at the House of Commons. Stephen Timms, the

British government minister who hosted the event, said UMCOR and Muslim Aid both were formed out of an "ambition to relieve suffering." The new partnership agreement could result in as much as \$15 million more to combat the effects of disaster, war and poverty around the world.

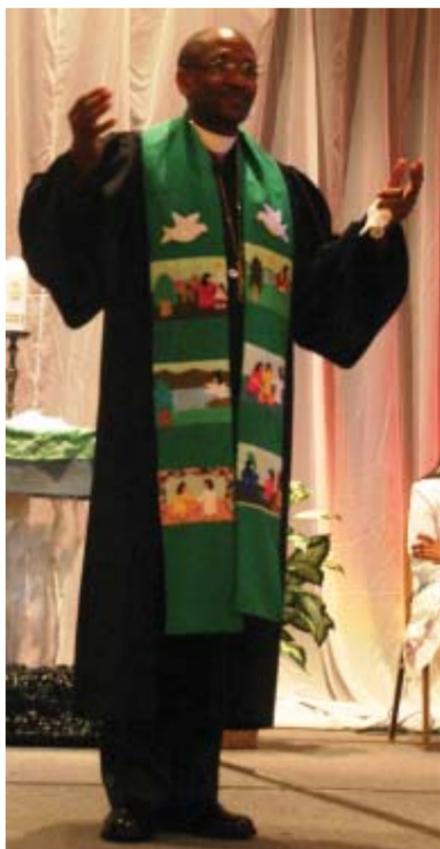
•**A partnership with a university in Costa Rica to train Hispanic United Methodist pastors in the United States addresses a critical new building block in efforts to develop educated leaders for The United Methodist Church.** Under an agreement between Latin American Biblical University and the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, a pilot program will launch in August with an initial enrollment of about 15 students. The agreement, signed in May, will allow U.S. pastors to complete a bachelor of theology degree at a Spanish-speaking university by receiving credits through several avenues, including online courses, on-campus classes, College Level Examination Program tests and credit for previous academic work and course-of-study classes.



Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference: *Nurturing the Connection*

June 13-15, Philadelphia, PA

continued from page 1



Bishop Marcus Matthews

Wounds of Racism Transformation Awards for creating "Beloved Community." Lynda and Anthony Commale, and their daughter, Katherine, age 6, received a standing ovation for having raised \$27,000 for Nothing But Nets. Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of the Upper Room Chapel, spoke on "Living as Christian Disciples: The Means of Grace and the Ordinances of God." During his message, Dr. Albin said, "God, who is love, is the center of the universe. As we are moving toward God, we are also moving toward one another."

Rev. Mary Ann Moman, Associate General Secretary, Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, led two Bible studies. Using texts from



Rev. Mary Ann Moman

Ezra and Nehemiah, she recalled how their task was to rebuild the people of God as they returned from exile. She compared their tasks to ours today: to rebuild the kingdom of God using the resources of our people, keeping stories of faith alive, and finding ways to bring us away from competing culture and back home to God and the saving story of Jesus Christ.



Sixteen retirees, representing 423 years of ministry, were recognized in a worship service. Rev. Scott McDermott, pastor of Washington's Crossing UMC preached, recalling how Moses passed the mantle of leadership to Joshua. Symbolically, Rev. Ron Bickhart passed the mantle of leadership to the shoulders of Rev. Shawn Wilson, an ordinand.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference welcomed home to Philadelphia Bishop Gregory V. Palmer. Bishop Palmer, resident bishop of the Iowa Area, preached for the Memorial Ser-



vice on Thursday evening. His encouraging message was that we are never alone, based on Hebrews 12: 1-2 and John 14, and that we remember the "therefore" – those saints who came before us and who we will someday "join in the house of many rooms" that Jesus has prepared for us.

The conference affirmed support of its partnership with the Annual Conference in Nigeria in providing 31 dental units to dental schools in Northern Nigeria, and in continuing



Barbara Matthews and Rev. Dr. Jonathan Baker, co-chair of the Episcopacy Committee of the Philadelphia Area

work in physical, dental, and behavioral health in the area. Nurture Ministries celebrated ministry with older adults, Christian Education, Young People, and the camping and retreat program, which had more than 5,000 participants last year. Four churches received Hope for the Children Awards to support children's ministry: Ross Street UMC in Lancaster received the \$10,000 award;



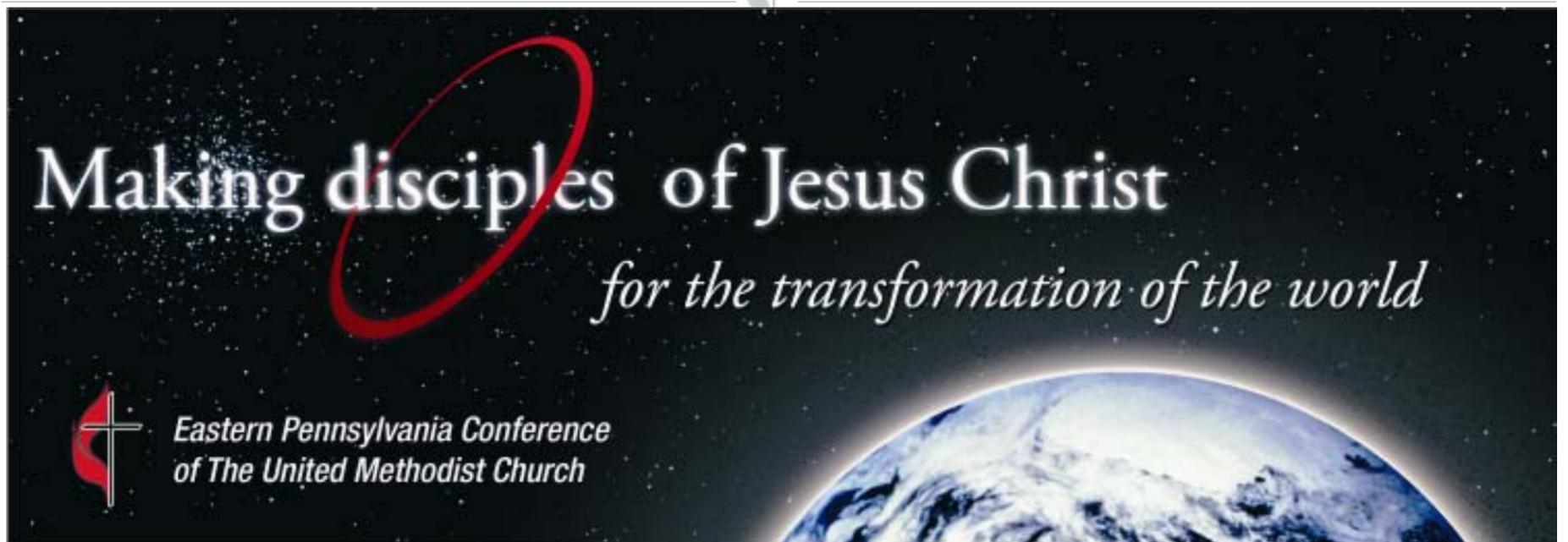
Rev. Tom Albin

Eastwick UMC in Philadelphia, St. John's UMC in Tremont, and First United Methodist Church of Bristol each received \$5,000 awards.

continues on page 11



The Commale family - Anthony and Lynda and six-year old Katherine - greet Bishop Matthews and celebrate the ministry of Nothing but Nets.



Ways to Increase your Church Attendance

Saturday August 18th

9:00am to 12:00noon

Learn how you can grow your church through:

An inspiring worship experience, an environment and ministry of hospitality, small groups, teaching your congregation principles of stewardship, getting your congregation involved with community outreach ministries, working with other neighborhood churches, allowing God to lead you in leading change, learning practical ways of managing conflict, marketing your church, and implementing changes in the pastoral role to promote growth.

Training will be presented by the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem and the Rev. Rene A. Perez.

Bring your leaders, inspire new people to get involved in this exciting ministry.

Space is limited to 60 people. This program is offered free of charge and funded by your church's connectional ministry dollars. Lunch is available at cost of \$5.00

Location: EPA Conference Office
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

Cost: \$5.00

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Session: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 NOON

WEBCAST TRAINING: If you are unable to be present at the EPA Conference office, you can log onto <http://proclaim.netbriefings.com/v/?rf=co5x5>

and experience a live presentation and participation.

To register online go to:
www.epaumc.org



The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem



The Rev. Rene A. Perez

Practical aids for small, medium, large and new congregations.

Christian Education and Spiritual Formation

Saturday, September 8

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carol F. Krau will lead this training focusing on the role of teaching and learning in the formation of Christian faith and discipleship, the importance of relationships, and new models for Christian education and formation.

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

Cost: \$10 per person, includes lunch

Registration: 10:30 am to 11:00 am

Session: 11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Carol F. Krau is a staff member of The General Board of Discipleship, working to develop spiritual leadership for Christian education and formation. She also serves as team leader for the Congregational Leaders Team.

Prior to coming to the board Carol served as director of Christian education in several local churches and as an editor in Church School Publications. Carol is the author of *Keeping in*

Touch: Christian Formation and Teaching and is one of the writers of *A Faithful Future: Teaching and Learning for Discipleship, What Every*

Teacher Needs to Know About . . . series, *Making God Real for a New Generation, The Ministry of Christian Education and Formation, and Leading with Purpose.*

Carol is a diaconal minister in the Tennessee Conference. She has an M.A. in Christian education from Scarritt College for Christian Workers and an M.T.S. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She lives with her husband, Steve; they are the parents of three young adult children: Vanessa, 26; Jeremy, 25; and Timothy, 22. Carol is an active participant in Blakemore United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN.

To register go to: www.epaumc.org.



Carol F. Krau

Traditional worship takes a vacation: Caribbean Style!

by Valerie Haring*

Many were delighted to discover a Caribbean themed service of worship recently hosted by Christ United Methodist Church, located in Easton, PA. Those who attended on June 10th, 2007, enjoyed the exciting upbeat sounds performed by the newly formed steel band orchestra in our debut appearance featuring hymns Caribbean style.

Supporting the tropical scene, Pastor Joseph Grasser encouraged participation of the entire congregation,



Pastor Joseph Grasser (right) dances to the singing of Pierre Salandy (left), a native of Trinidad. Salandy created steel drum arrangements for traditional hymns, including "Here I am Lord." Photo by by Midic Castelletti.

inspiring the style of dress to match the occasion. Members arrived in clothes displaying loud bright colors adding to the fun atmosphere. Though there were some black shoes in sight, the majority of both the younger and older members wore stylish sandals complementing their Caribbean island outfits. Everyone looked liked they just stepped off a distant island, enjoying the exciting worship experience.

Youth enjoyed participating by dancing to rhythmic beat of the islands.

Just how did this unique and intriguing steel band orchestra come to be? It all began shortly after Easter, when two members Selwin and his brother Dennis Salandy, had the opportunity to obtain steel drum instruments directly from their homeland of Trinidad.

Although most of the newly recruited drum players faced such challenges as an inability to read music, they did not allow this or anything else to prevent them from demonstrating their enthusiastic dedicated attitudes, rehearsing consistently for three hours a night, four nights a week.

Selwyn's son Pierre Salandy creatively arranged hymns "In the Garden" and "What a Friend We have in Jesus", and also exercised his talents creating beautiful blended renditions using both Caribbean and Reggae influences.

Steel drums or "pans" were invented on the island of Trinidad in the late 1930's. They can be thought of as a piano built in a circle, containing all of the notes of a piano keyboard. They are made by skillfully hammering a 55-gallon oil drum, which is then



Members of Christ United Methodist play in the steel drum band. From left to right: Gillian Salandy, Charlene Aldrin, Valerie Haring, Debra Chunko, Robert Troxell and Dawn Purcell. Photo by by Midic Castelletti.

carefully tuned to produce exact tones depending which part of the drum is played. These instruments can produce just about any type of music that can be played on a piano.

Currently Christ UMC's steel band orchestra consists of two single pan tenor drums (for melody), a double set of tenor drums (for melody), a set of double seconds drums (for contra melody), a set of double guitar drums (for harmony), a set of four cello drums (for harmony) and a set of six bass drums (for harmony).

Members of the congregation, who missed hearing the steel drum orchestra on June 10th, had another opportunity to hear them along with other members of the community at our Southside Festival on Saturday June 16th.

Future plans include learning the Star Spangled Banner for local sport-

ing events, and there are even plans in the works for backing up a local quartet "The Inner Light Quartet" who have their own radio spot on a local Christian radio station WJCS 89.3.

Be assured that there are many opportunities God is providing for our steel band orchestra, using this as an outreach ministry to our community. We are all excited to experience this extraordinary journey and growth of this musical collaboration, and all the monumental events that lie ahead for us. We are thankful that God has given us this opportunity to share his message through these striking sounds from Trinidad. For updates visit our website at <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/christeaston/index.html>.

*Valerie Haring is a Lay Leader of Christ United Methodist Church in Easton, PA.

Are you ready for the revolution?

By Matt Carlisle*

A Web site can create a spark leading people to communities of faith, where nurturing relationships lead to healing and spiritual growth. The grassroots revolution happens when congregations of people step outside the walls of their church buildings and offer hope to those who are ignored by society.

As for creating a Web site that impacts new generations, I will share with you what I've learned and hopefully spark ideas about how to be in ministry with the Y and New Silent generations.

Here are the facts:

- There are more than 211 million Internet users in the United States, or 69.9 percent of the population. (InternetWorldStats.com, March 2007)

- There are more than 1 billion Internet users worldwide, or 16.9 percent of the world's population. That percentage has increased 208.7 percent since the year 2000. (InternetWorldStats.com, March 2007)

- Forty-five percent of U.S. Internet users "say the Internet helped them make big decisions or negotiate their way through major episodes in their lives." (Pew Internet and Life Project, 2006)

Nearly two-thirds of online Americans use the Internet for faith-related reasons. The 64 percent of Internet users who perform spiritual

and religious activities online represent nearly 82 million Americans. (Pew Internet and Life Project, 2004)

The number of teenagers using the Internet has grown 24 percent in the past four years, and 87 percent of those between the ages of 12 and 17 are online. (Pew Internet and Life Project, 2005)

In focus groups, teens described their new environment. To them, e-mail is increasingly seen as a tool for communicating with 'adults' such as teachers, institutions like schools, and as a way to convey lengthy and detailed information to large groups. Meanwhile, IM (instant messaging) is used for everyday conversations with multiple friends that range from casual to more serious and private exchanges. (Pew Internet and Life Project, 2005)

More than half (55 percent) of all online American youths ages 12-17 use online social networking sites such as MySpace.com and Facebook.com. (Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2007)

- Technorati.com (the Google search of blogs) now tracks more than 70 million weblogs and sees about 120,000 new weblogs created worldwide each day. (Technorati.com, April 2007)

Today, the Internet is impacting religion as Johannes Gutenberg did with his invention of movable type



printing and the publication of the Gutenberg Bible in the 15th century.

I shared some of the above statistics in a recent workshop with a group of United Methodist pastors, and it became suddenly clear to everyone in the room that pastors will need to be well-versed in the use of new technologies in the coming years.

The advent of the Internet, video/audio streaming and social networking means that a congregation's active and tithing members may not solely live in the local community, but reside two states or a country away. This means that our traditional forms of being in ministry may occur online, through blogs, instant messages and more.

As I explained to that group of pastors, this isn't something that you can stop or curtail. The train has left the station. The question is: How will you and your church equip yourselves to be relevant in the lives of the Y and New Silent generations?

Churches that have embraced new technologies and are successful in

using them see these tools as an extension of their ministry. It enhances our traditional definition of being in ministry. A church Web site ought to be considered a virtual meeting space for your congregation. Many congregations spend millions of dollars to start a satellite church or build a new wing. Imagine the impact on the lives of young people by using just 20 percent of that amount to create a dynamic Web site.

All the tools and resources you will ever need to start the revolution are ready and available online. Many of the annual conferences and general agencies have created valuable resources to get you started. Are you equipped? Are you ready for the revolution?

*Carlisle is the former director of Web Ministry at United Methodist Communications and recently launched Big Heart Design.com, partnering with organizations to develop Web sites and online applications focused on advocacy, benevolence and spirituality.

What is Web Ministry 101?

Web Ministry 101 introduces the basic steps you can take to get your local church on the Internet and establish a dynamic Web ministry. It is presented in four 30-minute online, self-directed (on-demand) training sessions.

Session Components:

Part One: Accessing the Power of the Internet for Effective Web Ministry

- Why Should Your Church Have a Web Presence?
- Step #1: Form a Web Ministry Team
- Step #2: Secure Buy-In from Key People and Groups
- Step #3: Browse Websites
- Step #4: Develop a Purpose and Goals
- Step #5: Identify Your Target Audiences and Their Needs
- Step #6: Choose a Web Presence Type

· Step #7: Utilize Find-A-Church

Part Two: Selecting the Right Tools to Meet Your Web Ministry Goals

- Step #8: Acquire Basic Technology Resources
- Step #9: Select and Register a Domain Name
- Step #10: Choose Website Design and Hosting Services
- Step #11: Choose Human Resources
- Step #12: Consider Budgetary Components

Part Three: Developing a User-Centered Website

- What is User-Centered Design?
- Step #13: Create a Unique Image and Design
- Step #14: Create a Welcoming Home Page
- Step #15: Create a Site Map and Navigation Tools

· Step #16: Create Main Sections and Subpages

- Step #17: Populate Your Website with Engaging Content
- Step #18: Develop Content Protocols
- Step #19: Add Photographs and Graphics to Enhance Content
- Step #20: Protect Users and Members Privacy

Part Four: Maintaining a Fresh and Dynamic Web Ministry

- Step #21: Develop a Schedule for Maintaining Your Website
- Step #22: Use Really Simple Syncation (RSS)
- Step #23: Develop Strategies for Marketing Your Website
- Step #24: Launch Your Website
- Step #25: Conduct Website Reviews and Evaluations
- Seven Phases of Web Ministry Planning and Implementation

To register for Web Ministry 101, go to <http://web.umcom.org>. You will be asked to create a username and password to log into the registration center. Then, you will be able to select the Web Ministry 101 (Web101) training option to register. Web Ministry 101 is offered free.

Web Ministry 101 is an online training developed by United Methodist Communications, and is made possible by our churches' apportionment giving.

If you have questions, contact, webtraining@umcom.org, or call toll-free 1-888-346-3862.

Become a Welcoming Congregation

What Is Igniting Youth?

Igniting Youth, the teen welcoming program of Igniting Ministry, has been designed to help local churches offer a teen-relevant United Methodist welcome that, in context, shares the values and inclusiveness of The United Methodist faith community, and actively invites seeker teens to journey into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Newly developed evangelism tools include insightful teen research, teen welcoming training, teen-to-teen community outreach materials, and a new teen online welcoming experience. **All these materials are available free on MediaWarehouse.** There are many ways UM teens and youth groups can participate ongoing. (Visit Discover.UMC.org).

“Open House” Month - Are You Ready?

Churches all over the country have embraced Open House Month as a time to especially reach out to their communities. Check out our free tips, bulletins, Web graphics on MediaWarehouse, or get a complete theme of resources in the Journey Expression Package. United Methodist Open House Month is coinciding with the airing of the Back-to-school flight of national TV commercials. Now's the time to make sure your church is ready.

Recursos en español

“No Estas Obligado” (“You Don't Have To”)

Publicidad para distribución en la comunidad: Enseñe a sus niños el amor de Jesucristo. *Dos versiones* — versión a color con trasfondo verde, versión a color con trasfondo blanco y la versión en blanco y negro. Esta promoción ofrece espacio en la portada para personalizar con información de su iglesia y para describir el evento y puede incluir información adicional sobre su iglesia en la parte posterior; el CD contiene dos archivos diferentes (uno para la parte delantera/portada) y otro con el diseño de la parte posterior). Si tiene alguna pregunta, se puede comunicar con Igniting Ministry al 877-281-6535.

Tambien: Boletín para servicio de adoración, Anuncio para radio, Anuncio para periódico, Material para Adoración, Gráfica para la página de Internet.

Get certified as a Welcoming Congregation

To qualify as a Welcoming Congregation, you must achieve a minimum of 100 points per year, as shown the Certification worksheet. Each welcoming and inviting effort on the worksheet is assigned a point value. Use this worksheet as a guide to select those tasks or functions you would like to achieve this year (or already have in place).

Once your worksheet is complete and your district superintendent has validated the worksheet, submit it to the Igniting Ministry office along with documentation (photos, copies and/or samples) for each category checked. You will receive your plaque and Find-a-Church designation within three weeks after the worksheet is submitted to the Igniting Ministry office. If you have any questions, please call 877-281-6535.

How does the handbook help?

The Igniting Ministry Handbook supports welcoming efforts by providing training, ways to gauge your current efforts, hospitality tips and event ideas.

More information and resources: www.ignitingministry.org.

Order now!

Making Disciples DVDs

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part I with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part II with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Acts 29 Prayer Encounter with the Rev. Terry Teykl

\$10 x ____ = ____

Preparing Your Congregation's Ministry Action Plan

with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ____ = ____

Living as Christian Disciples (available after July 30) with the Rev. Tom Albin

\$10 x ____ = ____

Plus Shipping \$ 4.00 - TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Making Disciples Training Schedule

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 - *Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance*

LOCATION: Valley Forge Conference Office, 980 Madison Ave., Norristown, PA and WEBCAST TRAINING

COST: \$5 per person

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

SESSION: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Rev. Rene Perez and Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem. Participants can attend the live presentation at the Conference Office or by webcast. Live presentation limited to 60 participants.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - *Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*

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

COST: \$10 per person, includes lunch
REGISTRATION: 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

SESSION: 11:00 AM-3:30 PM - This session will be led by Carol Krau, Congregational Leaders Team, United Methodist General Board of Discipleship

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 - *Faith Sharing "Igniting Ministries: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church"*

LOCATION: TBD

COST: \$10 per person, includes lunch

REGISTRATION: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM

SESSION: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Training by Rev. Larry Homitsky, Director of Connectional Ministries from the Western PA Conference, and Suzy Keenan, EPA Director of Communications

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- *Stewards of God's Gifts*

LOCATION: Washington's Crossing UMC, 1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington's Crossing, PA 18977

COST: \$5 per person

REGISTRATION: 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM

SESSION: 6:30 PM- 8:15 PM - Training by the Rev. David Bell, Direc-

tor of the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- *Accountable Discipleship: The Power of Small Group Ministry*

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

COST: \$10 per person, includes book/resource

REGISTRATION: 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

SESSION: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm - Training by Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship, UM General Board of Discipleship

50 Ways to Build Strength

Need practical, actionable strategies to reach people more effectively? The Lewis Center for Church Leadership's popular "50 Ways to Build Strength" series provides tips for building strength in areas of ministry that are vital to church growth.

- 50 Ways to Build Strength Caring for Children
- 50 Ways to Build Strength Caring for Youth
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Participation
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Welcoming New Members
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Adult Education
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Communication
- 50 Ways to Build Strength Church Finances
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Encouraging Faithful Giving
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in your Annual Stewardship Campaign

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership seeks to advance the understanding of Christian leadership and promote the effective and faithful practice of Christian leadership in the church and the world.

The center is building a new vision for church leadership grounded in faith, informed by knowledge, and exercised in effective practice. The center seeks a holistic understanding of leadership that brings together theology and management, scholarship and practice, research and application.

The Lewis Center serves as a resource for clergy and lay leaders, congregations, and denominational leaders. Through teaching, research, publications, and resources, the Lewis Center supports visionary spiritual leaders and addresses those key leadership issues so crucial to the church's faithful witness.

For more information about the Lewis Center, go to: <http://www.churchleadership.com> or call 202-885-8757.

GBOD Publishes Prison Ministry Tool Box

The UM General Board of Discipleship's "Discipleship Resources" imprint has published a new prison ministry tool box to help congregations address the alarming increase in the U. S. prison population.

The "Congregational Tool Box for Prison Ministry" was created in response to a 2004 General Conference action related to providing restorative justice materials for United Methodist churches.

"The tool box encourages people to look at the whole criminal justice system, while providing practical, hands-on suggestions for ministry in the reality of our current prison system," says Betsey Heavner, the publication's author and compiler.

The "Congregational Tool Box for Prison Ministry" (\$8.00) is available for download at http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=456465.

"By engaging in and expanding our work in prison ministry, we are reclaiming that part of our Methodist heritage inspired by John Wesley's passion for those in prison," says GBOD top executive Karen Greenwaldt.

Churches that are serious about beginning restorative justice ministries or in re-tooling prison ministries will find helpful ways to care for those incarcerated and their families, provide for children, visit in prisons and bring justice and reconciliation in their communities.

The publication, which updates the "Prison Ministry Guide" published in 1996, targets Christian communities and individuals who recognize God's call to be involved in ministries of justice and mercy.

"The '1996 Prison Ministry Guide' was out of date. Yet we were getting requests for the guide on a weekly basis," says Heavner.

The "Congregational Toolbox for Prison Ministry" overviews criminal justice issues and presents some possible ways for churches to engage in prison ministry.

Justice Department statistics indicate that one in every 136 U. S. residents was behind bars in the summer of 2005.

Though more prisons are being built, they cannot keep up with the dramatic increase in the number of persons being incarcerated.

"Congregational Tool Box for Prison Ministry" content was compiled by Betsey Heavner and edited by George Donigian. Content reviewers and contributors included prison chaplains and restorative justice practitioners Pat Dunbar, Harmon Wray, Tom Porter, Cynthia Peters, Rich Stoglin, Mark Hicks, Ann Edgefield and Holly Hickson.

The 26-page resource includes the following chapters:

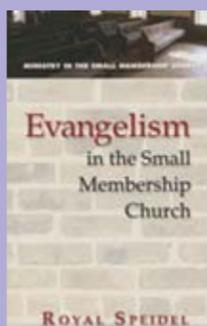
- Introduction to the Problem of a Growing Prison Population
- Raising Congregational Awareness for Ministering with Those in Prison
- Getting Started with Prison Ministry
- Seven Ways to Engage in Criminal Justice Work and Prison Ministry.

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 (www.gbod.org) is located at 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, TN. For more information, call the Media Relations Office toll free at (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7017.

Evangelism in the Small Membership Church

Evangelism is about introducing people to Jesus but also helping them to grow in Christ. Evangelism has nothing to do with church size, but everything to do with making disciples. Making disciples is a call from God for all churches whether that church is in a declining rural community, in a teaming inter-city, or a sprawling suburb. In fact, small membership congregations are often more effective in evangelism than their sister megachurches. This book will help pastors have "God eyes" for big possibilities in their churches by focusing on visualizing your goals; worship; creating a loving environment; passion and commitment; prayer; witness; time management; leadership recruitment; hospitality; assimilation of new members; and managing change and conflict.

Rev. Royal Speidel is the Distinguished Evangelist in Residence for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Recently retired from the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, he is a recipient of the Denman Award for Evangelism and was recently named the "Pastor of the Year" by the Greater Chicago Sunday School Association.





Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference: *Nurturing the Connection*

June 13-15, Philadelphia, PA

continued from page 6



Mary White and Sandy Z. Jackson

Bishop Palmer preached for the Service of Ordination. His message was that “we never rise higher than the waters of our baptism.” “The most radical act of our lives is that we presented ourselves or someone presented us for baptism,” he said. “Everything else is an add-on!” One person was ordained as deacon, six persons were ordained as elders, the orders of one elder were recognized, nine were commissioned toward elders orders, and one was commissioned toward deacons orders. The conference received \$77,661 in an offering for Youth Service Fund and the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal.

In business, the conference:

- Approved a budget of more than \$3.8 million for Eastern Pennsylvania ministries and more than \$2.8 million for the General Church and World Service, totaling \$6.7 million, after approving transfer of \$30,000 from a pool of program ministry funds to new church starts
- Approved fifteen resolutions, including two designating Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia and First United Methodist Church in Lancaster as historical sites
- Approved a resolution approving fourteen Conference Advance Special for second-mile giving
- Received a check in the amount of \$11,891 from the Cokesbury Store, which will be contributed to the Central Conference Pension Fund.

Lay delegates elected to General Conference: Mary White, Lenora Thompson, George J. Hollich, Thomas D.



2007 Class of Ordinands: (left to right) Susan Worrell, Shawn Wilson, Joan H. Trout, Lorelei Krall Toombs, Andrew Krpata, Amy Emmett-Rardin and Christine Croxall.

Gibson, Ruth Daugherty, Judith Ehninger.

Clergy delegates elected to General Conference: Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., Dorothy Watson Tatem, Alfred Maloney, Larry D. Leister, Michele Wright Bartlow, Rene Perez Avalos.

Lay delegates elected to Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference: Candace Carter, Robert Ladd, Verna Collier, Marcus Simmons, Rebecca Parsons, Elizabeth Fisher, Mary Ann Repsher (Alt.), Debbie Wilcock Kenworthy (Alt.), Brenda Tildon (Alt.).

Clergy delegates elected to Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference: Melinda McKonly, William Gary George, Rodney Shearer, James Todd, Joseph DiPaolo, Christopher Kurien, Robin Hynicka (Alt.), Susan May (Alt.), Alfred T. Day III (Alt.).

Membership stands at 124,814, down 1,088 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 47,953, down 2,810. Church school attendance stands at 32,509, up 3,030. *Photos courtesy of Paul C. Davis.*



Commissioned: (left to right) Denita Connor, Susan J. Roehs, Wendy Orzolek, Mary Catherine Miller, Carlotta Madison, Susan Ketterer, William Storm Hutchinson III, BumKoo Chung, Dong-Jin Choi, and Samuel Derick Kofi Ashley.



Recognition of orders: Quentin Wallace



Elected delegates to 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conference.

Youth Day at the 2007 Annual Conference

by Elsen and Ann Jacob*



From left to right: Elsen Jacob and Ann Jacob.

Youth Day at Annual Conference was held on June 15th, which was the last day of Annual Conference. The main speaker for youth day was Rev. Andrew Zirschky, a graduate student at Princeton Theological Seminary. He spoke to a group of thirty youth from different churches across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. His message to the youth was entitled, "Missed Opportunities- Partnership in the Gospel."

Based on Paul's letter to the Philippians, Rev. Zirschky explained to the youth that the "Philippians dealt with two overarching issues, one of which was the advancement of the gospel." He spoke of the Apostle Paul congratulating the church for not missing out on "the opportunity to use their lives as partners in the gospel". He explained that we are all living "once-in-a-lifetime, lifetimes" and like the Philippians we should

ask ourselves, "what am I going to do with my once-in-a-lifetime, lifetime?" "The Gospel" he explained is "God's hope breaking into a world of despair", and "despair" he said "can take hold in the human heart where hope had been extinguished, and in physical locations." He added however, "no matter how dark the world looks—there is Hope." and "we can bring hope by being partners in the Gospel." He went on to say that the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we should not miss is this fellowship in the Gospel of using our lives to testify that there is hope."

Rev. Zirschky challenged the youth to seize our once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. He said "every decision that we make comes with a radical choice to be witnesses of the hope of Jesus Christ or just consumers of the despair around us." Our decisions he said could start with five minute and five dollar decisions such as choosing between buying something that is not exactly needed and contributing to a worthy cause like the Nothing But Nets Campaign. He explained that we are the "threads of hope; it is not about how big or memorable a difference you can make, it is about whether you are using your witness to hope." Rev. Zirschky concluded his message by saying that "you must go—as partners of the gospel—proclaiming in words and deeds that hope is alive!"

Throughout the day the youth participated in several games that Rev. Zirschky organized that tied-in with his message of hope, unity and inclu-



Elected officers of CCYM: Gabe Bedell, Kristin Todd, Ann Jacob, and Nicolas Benson.

siveness. Also, Mr. James Wilkin, the Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries, led a very informative workshop on the Robert's Rules of Order and a time of praise and worship. The youth watched a video on the Youth Service Fund, and listened to Ms. Joan Shumate, the Assistant Vice President and Director of Administrative Services for the Methodist Home for Children, on her presentation of the services rendered by the Methodist Home for Children and the Methodist Family Services of Philadelphia.

The youth also elected their officers for the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM): Ann Jacob, President; Kristin Todd, Vice-President; Nicholas Benson, Secretary; and Gabe Bedell, Jurisdictional Representative. All in all, the Youth Day at Annual Conference was a wonderful day of celebration, community building, and learning.

* Elsen Jacob will be a third year pharmacy student at St. John's University, Queens NY. Ann Jacob will be a sophomore at Blue Mountain Senior High School, Orwigsburg PA.

Reaching millions through advertising during Advent

continued from page 1



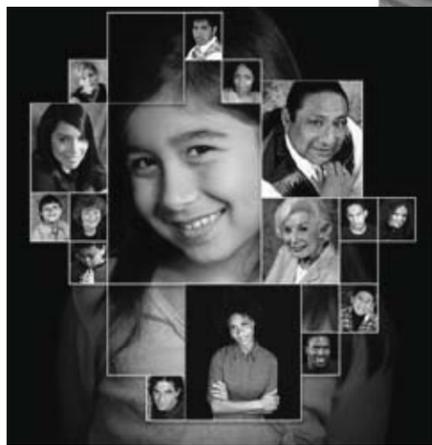
million people will be reached through radio advertising on KYW News Radio, broadcast in the Philadelphia area and throughout the tri-state region. All churches throughout the entire conference – not just in the areas where

develop new hospitality skills to help bring people through their church doors and give them a reason to stay. The certification worksheet is available on www.ignitingministry.org. The checklist as well as a Mystery Guest Audit, are part of a 153-page downloadable "Handbook," filled with ideas on how to train your congregation to be more welcoming and inviting. The "Handbook" is available on the Igniting Ministry website.

All churches will be also encouraged to participate in the Welcoming and Inviting Training, a part of the Making Disciples training series, which will be held this October.

The tallest mountains aren't the ones you climb with your feet.

For more information, contact Suzy Keenan, director of communications at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 227 or communications@epaumc.org.



cable TV ads will be placed - will be encouraged to work together in regional clusters to place space ads in local and regional newspapers. Churches will be encouraged to advertise individually through cinema ads, classified ads, postcards, and doorhangers.

Additionally, each church is asked to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation. By using the certification checklist, churches can prepare actively and intentionally to receive newcomers. This helps churches to



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Good Schools Talking Points

by Rev. Andrea Brown*

Remind me again, what exactly is wrong with Pennsylvania's system of educational funding?

Pennsylvania's system is one of only a handful in the nation that relies heavily on local property taxes. That means there are more dollars available in school districts that already have significant advantages and fewer for districts where students are struggling most. It's fundamentally unfair. Increasingly, this is a problem not only for rural districts (with lots of farm and forest land) and urban districts (with lots of non-taxable, non-profit properties) but for aging suburbs that have little industry. To create a level playing field, the vast majority of educational funding should come from the state, not the local system.

Won't school tax reform cost me more money?

There is good evidence that our state coffers have been under funding public education or a long time. One way or another, Pennsylvanians are making up the difference – either through high local property taxes or the cost of a mis-education. If a greater share of school funding came

from a state source of revenue, the tax burden would be distributed more fairly. There would be fewer “winners” and “losers,” and more “winners” all around.

As a school board member in a suburban district, shouldn't I oppose this concept because it will mean less money for my district?

No one is proposing that revenue be taken away from any school district. However, under a new school funding formula, some school districts might not continue to receive the guaranteed minimum 2% increase if they do not actually need the money. It would be a mistake to assume that all suburban school districts fall into this category. Additionally, school districts that want to spend more than the level identified as linked to success will likely continue to have that option through local taxes.

Finally, all of us must come to see that a fairer educational system benefits everyone. When all children receive a better education, crime goes down, our workforce is better prepared, people are healthier—I could go on and on! Our school districts are too close together for us to be unaffected by what happens in the neighboring schools. This is not just a mat-

ter of justice; it's a matter of what's in our own self interest.

I own a business. I'm concerned that what you're talking about will cost me more.

As a business owner, you know how important it is to have workers who are reliable and skilled. We want to make sure all children receive an education that will help them have what they need to succeed. This is a small investment that will reap great rewards. It's fairer, and it's good for us all.

I don't trust the government to straighten this out without messing it up even further.

That's why ordinary citizens like us have to get involved. We need to hold our legislators and our governor accountable to create a system for funding schools that is adequate, predictable, equitable, and efficient. We know it can be done because nearly every other state already has a fairer system; there is no reason why Pennsylvania should be the last.

But you can't just throw money at the problem!

I couldn't agree more. It is so important that all schools use money wisely.

One of the reasons Good Schools supports a “costing out” study is to nail down exactly what it takes to provide an adequate, equitable, efficient education. We want schools to know how to plan their budgets and spend each dollar to its best advantage.

What's a “costing out” study?

It's an analysis of exactly what it costs to educate all students adequately—to make sure everyone has a chance to meet basic standards. This data is needed to reform our broken system. Business leaders in Allentown backed such a study there last year, and business leaders throughout the state support the statewide effort. The study itself is pretty cheap—about \$650,000 for the state—and it answers what we need to know to inject enough (but not too many) dollars into educational reform.

For more information on how to advocate for educational justice in Pennsylvania, go to: www.goodschoolspa.org.

*Rev Andrea Brown Brown is the Associate Pastor at Grandview United Methodist Church.

Making a Difference in Chester

by Dave Martin

The history of Chester Upland School District (CUSD) is as sad as it is convoluted. After years of crisis and failure the School District was taken over by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1994 with the appointment of a control board. Also during this process a brief foray was made with having a for-profit company, Edison Schools, operate most of the schools under the CUSD. Overall, these efforts have resulted in years of litigation, administrative chaos and the diversion and waste of resources ultimately impacting the students of CUSD. This is clearly evident in the continued low test scores and the academic proficiency of these students.

Chester Upland - with about 4,800 mostly impoverished African American students in District run schools and 2,400 in charter schools – is a District where just 7% of the 11th grade students are performing at standards for math and less than 20% of these same 11th grade students read at grade level. On average, the middle school students of the District did not perform much better with only 22% performing at grade level in both reading and math. Sadly, according to the most recently available test results, the average elementary students perform only slightly better with 31% reading at grade level and 43% performing at standards for math.

Partnership

This need was initially addressed by several churches in the community, including Grace Community United Methodist Church (UMC), by offering after school programs with homework help or assistance. Unfortunately, because of the extraordinary level of academic deficiency of these students, this type of program was not produc-

ing acceptable results. In order to make a greater impact with the Chester students, Grace Community UMC, in collaboration with other local community groups, partnered with KnowledgePoints® in December 2004. KnowledgePoints® is a nationally based company which provides basic academic skills tutoring in reading and math as well as writing and study skills serving students in grades K through 12. This high quality program provides both excellence in the form of significant gains for students, as well as equity, which ensures that no group of students is left out of these gains. Grace Community UMC has provided dedicated space within their Church to offer the KnowledgePoints® Program as well as leadership and support in the community.

Program

The KnowledgePoints® Program consisted of an initial diagnostic assessment, forty hours (40) of tutoring and a progress test at the conclusion. Each student receives individualized instruction that is specific to their academic strengths and weaknesses as shown through a series of diagnostic tests. Based on the testing results, a unique academic “prescription” is written for each student. Instruction is provided on an individualized basis while maintaining a student/instructor ratio of 3:1 or less. In addition, the program offers a unique motivational system, which is designed to make sure that all students experience rapid success and positive reinforcement.

Initial Assessment

A total of fifty four (54) students completed the initial assessment. With the exception of two students, each student was tested in both math and reading. Based on the initial assessment results a student is placed in either a reading or math program.

Generally, when both reading and math test results are materially below standards, a reading program is initially recommended. However, at the request of the parents, a student can begin with a math program. As part of the initial assessment, the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test is administered to students to measure their receptive vocabulary. A score of 50% is considered normal and a score below 50% can be indicative of a learning disability or English as a second language. The average score of the students tested was only about 20% which is significantly below the benchmark of 50%. In fact, only seven (7) of the fifty four (54) students initially tested scored above 50%.

The primary component of the initial assessment is the California Achievement Test version 5, which determines a student's functional ability. Based on this test, an average grade equivalent is calculated for both reading and math. On average the students tested were 2.8 grade levels below standards in reading and 2.0 grade levels below standards in math. It should also be noted that the average grade equivalency appeared to plateau or level, once the students reached middle school. In fact, the highest average grade equivalency attained for a grade level was 6.4.

Results

Once the student completes 40 hours in the Program, a progress test (similar to the initial assessment) is administered. This is measured against the initial assessment or benchmark to determine academic improvement or growth. To date, twenty seven (27) students completed this progress test; twenty four (24) reading assessments and three (3) math assessments. Of the twenty four (24) progress tests administered in reading, nine (9) were elementary students, eleven (11) were middle

school students and four (4) were high school students. Based on the reading progress test results, students gained an average of 1.1 grade levels of functional vocabulary and 1.3 grade levels of overall comprehension skills for an overall weighted average grade level improvement of almost 1.2 grade levels.

Although only three (3) students completed a progress test in math, these students gained an average of 1.8 grade levels in computation and 1.4 grade levels in concepts and applications for an overall weighted average grade level improvement of 1.4 grade levels.

Conclusion

Based on the results, the students did a great job! This program was extremely successful in helping the students perform closer to grade level in just forty (40) hours of tutoring. These results are even more remarkable given the student's initial test scores on the PPVT which averaged only 20%. (As noted previously, a score below 50% can be indicative of a learning disability or English as a second language.) In addition, KnowledgePoints® has been offering this Program to students for the past three (3) school years with consistent success. Overall, the Program has materially impacted the academic performance of the participating students. Their performance reflects the quality of the program as well as the skills of their instructors. However, the students also contribute to their own academic achievement through regular attendance and the willingness to learn. Moreover, teamwork by the classroom teachers in the School District, the parents, Grace Community UMC, the community and KnowledgePoints® is another essential element of a successful program.

Older Adult Ministry retreat

by A. Richard Erisman

On Thursday, April 19, 2007, forty five older adults gathered at the National Christian Retreat Center in Valley Forge to enjoy a day of personal renewal with the theme, **Keeping the Sabbath When Life Is a Whirl of Activities**. The one-day event was sponsored by the Older Adult Ministry committee of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Our retreat leader, Rev. Dr. J. Dennis Williams, challenged each with unique ways to emphasize and realize a personal Sabbath. We were reminded that Sabbath and Sunday are NOT synonymous and Dennis shared his experiences in committing the time and place for observing his Sabbath.

There were periods of lecture, small group sharing and personal quiet time to respond to the challenges of the day and the promptings of God's Holy Spirit. Each participant had time to listen and respond to those "promptings" as we developed the first rudiments of an action plan for starting our "personal Sabbath plan."

Personal plans could set aside one day for Sabbath or a few hours a week

for listening to our "living Lord." The discipline of writing - committing to a plan - was emphasized although each person was encouraged to be creative in quiet time reading and responding as we listen to a creative God.

The Older Adult Ministry committee attempts to serve the EPA Conference by providing opportunities annually for persons who are aging faithfully. We encourage each church and parish to listen to our Senior Saints and take advantage of their skills and experience.

The committee will provide resources and respond to questions or suggestions from persons in all geographic areas of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Another planned event took place at 2007 Annual Conference on Thursday, June 14, when a noontime seminar titled, **Guiding Seniors and Their Families through the Decision Maze** was presented. This workshop helped church leaders assist seniors and their families as we choose life-care options. Presenters include Jon Gruber, ESQ., Rev Glen Esler, Katie Beckhardt of Cornwall Manor and David Adam from Simpson House.

New archivist serves Old St. George's

Historic St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia welcomes its new archivist and administrator, Donna Miller, who began in April, succeeding Brian McCloskey.

Ms. Miller's experience includes 25 years in the desktop publishing and software marketing field before coming to St. George's.

"I am excited to be here at St. George's, where I hope to use my graphic and marketing skills to draw folks to the church and museum," she said. "I am an avid fan of storytelling, so the opportunity to give tours at the ring of a bell is a real plus. We are working on organizing the exhibits to enhance the flow of the story we have to share, and are also looking for ways to let the wider community of Methodist scholars know how we can assist them in any research they might be conducting."

Ms. Miller grew up in Jenkintown, PA, and has a BA from Temple University in political science, earned over a stretch of years while working and raising her two daughters. One is now a ranger for the Fish & Wildlife service amidst the alligators and birds in Brazoria, Texas and the other is an artist/housepainter in West Philadelphia. She has been a long-time volunteer in the arts



Donna Miller

community in Philadelphia, and for ten years has been involved with mentoring students from Germantown High.

As well as being the oldest Methodist Church building in America and the site of the extensive historical archives of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, St. George's UMC is a thriving church in the heart of Philadelphia's Olde City. For more information or to arrange a tour, go to: www.historicstgeorges.org or call 215-925-7788.

Charles Wesley Celebration

On Sunday July 29, 2007 at 7:30 pm, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, Ocean Grove, NJ, will present a special musical event in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Methodism's hymn-writer, **Charles Wesley (1707-1788)**. This Sunday evening event in the historic 6,000-seat auditorium will be a joyful concert of praise and thanksgiving through the hymns of Wesley. Choirs and individuals are invited to participate in this "Wesley Sing-In" as part of the choir or part of the congregation.

Paul Leddington Wright, of Coventry Cathedral, England, a well-known conductor, composer, and Methodist has produced a compilation of Charles Wesley hymns, which includes a wide variety of musical styles. This music, called *Praise the Lord!* premiered in the New Room in Bristol (also known as John Wesley's Chapel) in March of 2007. It contains some of Wesley's greatest hymns, in traditional and contemporary styles.

Wright is currently director of BBC Television's longest running weekly religious program *Songs of Praise*. He is conductor of the St. Michael's Singers of Coventry Cathedral, Artistic Director of the International Church Music Festival, and internationally known for his choral compositions, arrangements, and conducting. He will be present at the Ocean Grove

Wesley Festival to lead the music, along with Ocean Grove's Choral Director, Dr. Jason Tramm. Auditorium Organist, Dr. Gordon Turk will be accompanying the concert on the world-famous Ocean Grove Auditorium pipe organ.

On Sunday July 29th, there will be a rehearsal with the singers, and instruments in the auditorium from 2:00 - 4:30 pm (beginning promptly). Copies of the music, **Praise the Lord!** by Paul Leddington Wright are available through Young's Music Store, Reading, PA. They will take phone, fax, and email orders. The cost is approximately \$25. per copy, including shipping. There are 58 pages of music, which includes hymns for congregation, and arrangements for choirs, instruments and soloists. Much of this music will be sung at the festival service, and the specific titles for performance, will be listed on the Ocean Grove website at

www.oceangrove.org. This music can be an ongoing resource of hymns and anthems for churches and choirs as well as for this special event. Order music from Young's Music Store by telephone, 610-437-5881, Fax - 610-437-3763, or email accts@youngsmusic.com

Ocean Grove can be reached by taking NJTPK to exit 7A, Rt.195 East to Rt 18 North, Rt 33 East (Neptune), which terminates at the entrance to Ocean Grove.

Generations of Caring

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

John Wesley

Health & Welfare Sunday

(formerly Golden Cross Sunday)

September 16, 2007



Benefiting the Health and Welfare providers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church which provide benevolent care for all God's people:

Cornwall Manor Retirement Community
Methodist Home for Children
Methodist Hospital
Simpson Senior Services
Wesley Enhanced Living

Classifieds

DIRECTOR YOUTH MINISTRIES - Langhorne UMC is seeking a Director Youth Ministries for immediate hire. Position will focus on solid biblical teachings, social activities and missions that will strengthen and encourage youth to become devoted and passionate followers of Jesus Christ, with some separate and some joint activities between junior and senior high. 10-15 hours/week. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact Pete Curtin: (215) 364-8885 or physed7383@comcast.net.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - 25 hours/week. Currently 40 youth involved in the ministry having small groups and strong mission emphasis, plus weekly middle school and high school meetings. Qualifications include desire to connect youth with God and an ability to develop and oversee a staff of adult and youth leaders. Experience preferable. Contact Rev. Jim Heath at Cornwall UMC, Route 419, Cornwall, Penna. 17016; 717-272-0148; jimheath76@comcast.net.

PART TIME CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR - 10 hours/week providing administrative leadership to children's ministry. Qualifications include a love of children and visionary leadership. Contact Rev. Jim Heath at Cornwall UMC, Route 419, Cornwall, Penna. 17016; 717-272-0148; jimheath76@comcast.net.

PART TIME PASTORAL ASSISTANT - 10 hours/week position to supplement the visitation currently being done by the Share Ministry Team (Laity) and the pastor. Visitation will include homebound, hospital, and follow up visitation. Additional help in church administration is a plus. Qualifications include experience in pastoral visitation and church leadership. Contact Rev. Jim Heath at Cornwall UMC, Route 419, Cornwall, Penna. 17016; 717-272-0148; jimheath76@comcast.net.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY - (ordination preferred, but not required) full-time position to administer, coordinate and foster established music program, including two children's choirs, youth choir, adult choir, men's choir, praise band, three hand bell choirs and melody chime choir, with potential for expansion. Duties include planning music for two

Sunday morning services with the possible addition of a third contemporary service and other special services; choral directing including choosing music, rehearsing, and leading adult choir in three to four Sunday services/month, and Youth Choir (grades 7-12) in two Sunday worship services/month. Person will be expected to contribute to overall administration and ministry of church. Formal education in music conducting and vocal music education, keyboard skills, and at least five years experience the area of church music. Send resumes to Rev. Gary Knerr, Christ United Methodist Church, 1020 Valley Forge Road, Lansdale, PA 19446; Christ.church@netzero.net.

YOUTH MINISTER - Large (700+) member suburban church seeks a person to inspire and mentor youth as disciples of Christ. Responsibilities include working with lay volunteers and paid staff, leading regular meetings, events and annual mission trips. Can be either part or full time; salary commensurate with education and experience. Please contact Pastor Joe DiPaolo or Mr. Scott McElwee at Wayne United Methodist Church, at 610-688-5650, or through our website, at <http://www.wayneumc.org/>.

PART-TIME SECRETARY - to provide clerical and administrative support to clergy and church members. Work will involve preparing the Sunday bulletin and other printed material in addition to maintaining computer files. Looking for someone who is organized and can work well with others. Applicants should have at least two years of clerical experience and be proficient in Microsoft Word. Experience in Excel or Access is also desired. Contact info@camphormemorial.org; fax 215-747-3954; or mail resume and/or a letter of interest describing relevant experience to: Camphor Memorial UMC, 5620 Wyalusing Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131, attention: F. Broomfield.

FREE: Pitney Bowes Folding Machine, Model # 1861 Foldamax. Pick up only: Conference office in Valley Forge. Call Madeline Gonzalez-Lopez, 800-828-9093 or email madeline.gonzalez-lopez@epaumc.org.

Celebrate the Tercentenary of Charles Wesley's Birth at Historic St. George's

October 14, 2007 at 4 PM
ST Kimbrough, acclaimed actor, singer, and President of the Charles Wesley Society, brings his 2007 tour to St. George's in Philadelphia.

Sweet Singer, a musical performance and play, brings Charles Wesley to life and provides a moving experience that will bring a new depth to your spiritual journey. The audience will experience the drama and pertinent message behind one of the most prolific poets and writers of the Christian church. The issues Charles faced still speak loudly to our contemporary congregations: his struggle against poverty, courage in the face of violence, emphasis on inward spirituality, and social outreach ... these are the themes that ran through his life and his words. We will have a unique opportunity to explore the creativity that brought us universally loved hymns such as "O

for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." The play is the creation of ST Kimbrough, a New York based baritone who is also an internationally known scholar. Kimbrough has taught in leading theological and university faculties in the USA and abroad and is a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, NJ. Kimbrough has also served churches in both the United States and Germany; and as Associate General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and founding director of its Global Praise Program. Join us for this inspiring event to celebrate the tercentenary of Charles Wesley's birth, in the cradle of America's Methodist movement. Co-sponsored by St. George's and The Conference Commission on History and Archives.

Health and Welfare Ministry Sunday

The Methodist Home for Children, Cornwall Manor, Simpson Senior Services, Wesley Enhanced Living and Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia - the five Health and Welfare mission agencies of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference - have been providing a ministry of caring to children, older adults, and the sick for more than a century.

Last year these five organizations provided over **\$5 million** in benevolent care to those who could not afford the services they received. To help to support this ministry of caring, an annual conference-wide offering, "Health and Welfare Sunday", (formerly known as "Golden Cross Sunday"), will take place on Sunday, September 16, 2006 in churches throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Health and Welfare Sunday will celebrate the ministry of the five

Health & Welfare Providers and illustrate how that ministry impacts individuals in all congregations.

As the needs of those the Health and Welfare Providers serve have increased (more than one million children in Pennsylvania live in poverty, and one in seven Pennsylvanians receive Medicaid), our organizations have worked to meet those needs. Now more than ever we need to partner with each other and the churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to extend our healing ministry to all who need it.

A package with a five-minute audiovisual presentation on DVD entitled "Generations of Caring" as well as suggested hymns, scripture readings and information about the healing ministries of the Health and Welfare Providers is available by contacting the Conference Office: 1-800-828-9093.

4TH ANNUAL PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH 2007

Saturday, September 15th, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



with Special Guest Speaker
Bishop Marcus Matthews

OTHER WORKSHOPS:

- Spiritual Growth
- Evangelism
- Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Missions
- Worship
- Lay Empowerment



Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Dean & Professor of Theology at Duke University will lead workshop: "Resurrecting the Local Church: Strategies for Excellence."

.2 CEU available for clergy

To register, go to: www.hopewellumc.org

Methodist Community Night

at the Camden River Sharks

With Special Pre-game Message from Pastor Douglas Goldsborough of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church of Lawnside

Saturday, July 21, 2007 at 7:05pm

Visit Campbell's Field for a community night with family, friends and your congregation while watching the Riversharks take on the Road Warriors.



Group tickets are available for field box seats and upper box seats. Your group can have a 2hr all-you-can-eat catered group outing by purchasing picnic pavilion tickets or upper club picnic tickets for groups of 20 or more. Tickets to the Fun Zone are also available.

For ticket order form go to: www.epaumc.org

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*

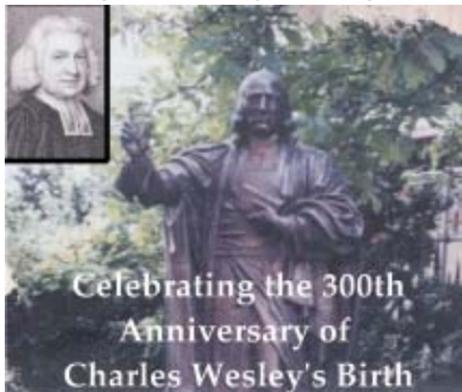
*Plus taxes, tips, fees, etc.

Your Journey of a Lifetime Includes:

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

Educational Program:

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



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

Summer Camp 2007

Cross Walk

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

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

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

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



VS



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