

What's Inside

Bishop issues
call to action
Page 2

Go on a
Retreat!
Page 6

Back to the
Basics
Page 12

Index
Calendar2
Nation4
World5
Classifieds.....11

Peace Action leads way to change

by Suzy Keenan*

Violence in its many forms rears its ugly head in the cities and through the countryside of eastern Pennsylvania as well as across the nation. Bishop Marcus Matthews, determined to raise awareness of the situation, has called United Methodists to lead the way toward peace.

In a statement he issued on September 21, Bishop Matthews called for Peace Action: End Violence Now, as a way for persons to pray, act, and advocate for peace on October 6. During Peace Action, held at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Bishop Matthews, pastors, youth, lay persons, and organizers prayed and committed to advocate and act for peace.

During a Peace Fair, out on the street in front of the church, organizations handed out information on aspects of violent crime: handgun proliferation, domestic abuse, drug and gang violence. Organizations like United Methodist Women, the Church and Society Work Team, Women of Strength, and Cease Fire PA made resources available and offered practical action steps. Children made pinwheels and talked about being winds of change, while youth signed a banner with pleas and prayers for peace.

In the sanctuary, "Prayers for Peace" offered moments of quiet and inspiration. Among the speakers was Ann Jacob, a high school student and president of the Conference Council on Youth



The people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference show their support to the "End Violence Now" campaign at the October 6 rally.

Ministries, who offered a prayer for peace. Michael Nutter, democratic candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, urged the crowd to "pay attention to elected officials and make sure they are serving you. If we want to stop or at least lower

the rate of violent crime, focus and be attentive to what your elected officials are doing." He added, "Children need a school program; even more they need adults in their lives. How can we make progress if we are stuck in a world of ignorance, in a world of poverty. Let's take care of our children and we will take care of our future." Among those to offer prayers for peace and for solutions were Dr. Mary White, conference lay leader, Rev. Andrew Foster, Dr. Vivian Nicks-Early, dean of the School for Social Change, Rev. Donna Jones, and Rev. Sandra Steiner-Ball. Shkera Alston and Eastwick "Hands of Praise" offered prayers of dance set to music.

Exiting to the sidewalk in front of the church, speakers and attendees made a public witness. Bryan Miller emphasized the importance of getting stopping the flow of illegal handguns. Founder of Women of Strength Chester Chapter, Nicole Cogdell spoke

of efforts to make peace in the streets, and youth from Cookman and Hancock-St. Johns United Methodist Churches shared the impact of churches ministry on their lives.

Rev. Lillian Smith, coordinator of the event and Conference Director of Connectional Ministries said, "It was an exciting day. People prayed. Individuals danced. Key leaders shared information about how participants could be God's change agents. If you missed the rally, you can still participate in peacemaking.

Every congregation is needed in this effort. Peace begins with you and me and we have as our example the Prince of Peace." She urged all churches to contact legislators and to access resources for churches available from the General Board of Church and Society.

*Suzy Keenan is the Director of Communications of the Easter PA Conference.



Children, youth, lay and clergy stand on the sidewalks of Tindley Temple UMC to advocate against violence in the streets of Philadelphia.

Conference Calendar

NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Stewards of God's Gifts. See page 8.

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007

25th Annual Conference with the Holy Spirit - The EPA Renewal Fellowship will be hosting their annual conference at Refreshing Mountain Camp in Stevens, Pennsylvania (near Lancaster). This year's theme will be "Fresh Manna for Front Line Christians." Opportunities include a main conference for adults, a Youth Retreat and Children's Ministry. Come as many days as you are able to refresh for the work the Lord has called you to. "Saturday Only" pricing is available. For more details, please see our website www.tabor-umc.org/renewalfellowship or call (610) 746-7092.

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007

Encounter 2007 - Youth Conference at Greta Glen Camp & Retreat Center from Friday-Sunday. Cost for this event is only \$65, which includes lodging, meals and all activities. Please note that we are looking for interested adults to serve as chaperones and counselors for Encounter. Please contact Pastor Kris Perry at 570-385-3941 or 570-691-4730 for further information, or for flyers. See page 12 for more information.

NOVEMBER 10, 2007

Start early Christmas shopping - with designer handbag sale. Sale between 2 PM & 5 PM in auditorium. Cash & Carry. Gail Armstrong, 484-680-2837. NEW LIFE UMC, State Road & Sellers Ave., Upper Darby, PA 19082.

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2007

THE 2007 PENNSYLVANIA STATE PASTORS' CONFERENCE - at The Hilton Harrisburg and Towers. The theme is "Being Christian in a Hi-Tech Culture." The registration is \$150, if postmarked beginning October 1, 2007. You can register on line by going to www.pachurches.org. There is also a link on this site to reserve a room at the Harrisburg Hilton. If you have additional questions, please contact Rev. Dennis Keen, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference representative to the PA Council of Church: (215) 355-2474 or pastordgk@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2007

Fall Children's Retreat - for Grades 3-6 - Come to camp for an exciting weekend. The theme is "Go to the Rock" - "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I", Psalm 61.2. Meet up with your friends from summer camp, or make new Plateau friends. For 3-6 graders. Join us for crafts, games, singing, Bible Discovery, and more! Program Director: Matt Klein. Check-in on Friday at 7pm - Check-out is Sunday at 2pm. Cost is \$75/person. Call 570-676-3665 to register or to request a registration form to go to: www.poconoplateau.org

NOVEMBER 17, 2007

2007 Black College Tour to CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY - 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Experience what life is like at America's oldest historically black institution of higher learning at *Fall Open House Day*. Students will receive a welcome from Cheyney's newly-appointed President, tour all of the campus facilities (including dorms

and the recreational center), meet with Academic Department Chairs, receive information about the admissions process, receive financial aid information, and hear from the outstanding Cheyney University Marching Band! Additionally, a FREE buffet lunch is provided. **ALSO: University of Maryland - Eastern Shore Friday, December 14th, 2007, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.** Contact: Janes Memorial United Methodist Church, Dr. A.D. Mosley, Senior Pastor, 215.844.9564; janesmumc@verizon.net

NOVEMBER 17, 2007

Be An Amateur History Detective: Lunch & Learn! - 12 noon - 3 p.m. - The library at Historic St. George's UMC had many eclectic, interesting books that were outside the mission of this institution. Interested bookworms and storytellers are invited to dig through them. Use your new-found knowledge to present a quick tale to the group and you'll earn points towards winning the books of your choice. A professional storyteller will be on hand to give pointers. Go home with new friends, new facts, and old books. Plus, you'll have some good hot soup to start you off. Seminars, history buffs, storytellers and booklovers are all urged to participate. Reservations required. Call 215-925-7788 or email office@historicstgeorges.org. Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, 235 N. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, PA.

NOVEMBER 18, 2007

Bishop F. Herbert Skeete - Janes Memorial United Methodist Church will celebrate its 135th anniversary, and Herbert Skeete, former bishop of the EPA Conference (1980 - 1988) will speak at the 10:45 Worship Service. The theme for this special celebration is "Past Wisdom for Present Challenges." Janes Memorial UMC, 47 E. Haines St., Philadelphia, PA 19144; Dr. A. D. Mosley, Pastor; Clara Harris, Anniversary Chairperson; Church Office: 215-844-9564.

NOVEMBER 25, 2007

United Methodist Student Day - For more information and to order resources, go to: www.umcgiving.org

NOVEMBER 26, 2007

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

DECEMBER 2, 2007

Historic St. George's Candlelight Christmas Musical - 3:30 p.m. The sanctuary decorated in colonial simplicity, the church filled to the rafters with the marvelous music of Advent and Christmas. North Penn High School Chorus and Covenant Ringers bell choir from Springfield, Montgomery County. New: the Conservatory Brass from Curtis Institute, the Select Ensemble from Germantown Academy, the Children's Choir from The Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal in Bryn Mawr, and members of the Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters, who will share the story of Christmas amongst their enslaved ancestors through their songs and handmade quilts. Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, 235 N. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; 215-925-7788.

DECEMBER 7, 2007

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

DECEMBER 8, 2007

Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small group ministry. See page 8.

JANUARY 15 - 17, 2008

Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat - Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Dr. Paul Nixon will be the speaker. See page 12.

JANUARY 21-25, 2008

Large Church Initiative - "Making a World of Difference". The first 300 registrants will save \$50 off the \$300 registration fee. Monday evening, January 21 the conference opens with Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, President of Bethune Cookman University, and the University Chorale Choir. Thursday evening, January 24 the conference closes with a gala event on Stage 5 at Universal Orlando, with Bishop Peter Storey of the South Africa Methodist Church. **To register visit** www.st.lukes.org/LCI.

JANUARY 26, 2008

Tools for Ministry - training for church leaders (Finance, Trustees, SPRC, Church Council, Lay Leader/Member, Safe Sanctuaries, Young

Peoples Ministries, Children's Ministries) will be held on each district: Central District: Lansdale: Christ UMC. East District: Hatboro: Lehman Memorial UMC. Northeast District: Quakertown UMC. Northwest District: Schuylkill Have: First UMC. Southeast District: West Grove UMC. Southwest District: Lancaster: First UMC. *You will be free to choose the training location closest to you. Additional information will be announced soon.*

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

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

MAY 28-30, 2008

Annual Conference 2008. Please reserve the dates now!

AUGUST 8-10, 2008

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

APRIL 23 - MAY 2, 2008

General Conference 2008 - Ft. Worth Convention Center, Ft. Worth, TX. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. Six clergy and six lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will attend. General Conference revises *The Book of Discipline* (book of church law) and Social Principles and adopts resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years. More info: www.umc.org.

JULY 14 - 18, 2008

Jurisdictional Conference - Harrisburg, PA. Twelve clergy and twelve lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, plus three clergy and three lay alternates will attend the NEJ Conference. Thirteen annual conference make up the NEJ, and bishops for the jurisdiction will be elected at this meeting. More info: www.nejumc.org.



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Bishop issues call to action

To the 250,000 United Methodists in The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church from Bishop Marcus Matthews:

The City of Brotherly Love is bleeding. Last year, 406 persons died by homicide in the City of Philadelphia. 317 of those deaths were gun-related. The City of Dover, DE grieves for the lives touched by the campus shooting just two and a half weeks ago. But it's not just the cities that are suffering, as we remember the shootings in the Amish schoolhouse a year ago last week and the recent horrific execution style deaths in NJ. Today violent crime knows no city, county, or state boundary.

The causes of this plague of violent crime are complex and multi-faceted: proliferation of handguns and illegal guns; poverty, especially children growing up in poverty; unemployment; violence in schools; illiteracy.

The solutions will need to be multi-faceted also.

Pray.

Believe in the transforming power of prayer.

Act.

- Be an oasis for change: a safe haven

for children and youth; a place where families can come and find counseling, homework help, and positive hopeful activities; a place where people of all ages can come to find a supportive and loving community and faith in Jesus Christ to guide their hearts, minds, and souls.

- Partner with schools to help children get on track with the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics - skills that will help them get a good job and be a positive contributing member of society.

Advocate. Become informed about issues and where candidates stand on issues and vote. Urge elected officials to take action on these and other issues.

- Fund equitable education so that each child has a chance to have a productive and fruitful life.

(www.goodschoolspa.org)

- Get handguns off the streets. Urge elected officials to pass laws that require the reporting of lost and stolen guns (PA House Bill 29) and that limit qualified individuals to the purchase of no more than One Handgun A Month (PA House Bill 22).

(www.handgunsanity.org)

- Support faith-based funding and partnership for programs like the



Bishop Marcus Matthews closes the peace action rally with prayer.

home schooling program at the North Philadelphia Cluster of United Methodist Churches and the Curfew Program in the Kensington Area Ministry.

Through these actions, we can love life back into our neighborhoods:

"Pay close attention now: I'm creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what

I'm creating: I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I'll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people: No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish." *Isaiah 65: 17-19*

We United Methodists of The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church - 1,000 United Methodist Churches with 250,000 members - can transform the world through prayer, action, and advocacy!

Faith in Action: Stop illegal gun trade in Pennsylvania

By Bryan Miller*

Anyone living in any of the cities and towns across Pennsylvania knows the Keystone State is suffering from a rising tide of gun violence.

Philadelphia lost 400 residents to homicide in 2006 and will exceed that number this year. York endured a week two summers ago when 6 were shot and killed. Harrisburg's *per capita* rate of gun homicide is higher than Philadelphia's. Many of the cities in the state face record rates of handgun homicide.

For every gun death, there are 2 to 4 more wounded.

It doesn't have to be this way. New York City, with five times Philadelphia's population had fewer gun homicides in 2006. New Jersey has among the lowest *per capita* rates of gun violence in the country.

The difference is gun laws. Several states place barriers to the movement of handguns from legal sale at gun shops to illegal street sale. Federal data consistently cites these states as those with the lowest rates of gun violence in the country: NJ, NY, CT, MA, CA, HA.

Simply and sadly, Pennsylvania's weak gun laws fail to impede the flow of illegal handguns into cities and towns. Criminal entrepreneurs - gun traffickers - use this weakness to create and maintain handgun trafficking networks.

Traffickers, recognizing demand on the street for handguns among those who cannot acquire them legally, fulfill it by hiring stand-ins to make purchases at gun stores. These 'straw buyers,' who can pass required federal background checks, are critical to the illegal gun trade, as traffickers cannot pass checks.

In typical straw purchases, the trafficker and his stand-in enter the

gun shop together. The trafficker chooses handguns and the straw buyer fills out the background check form. Then the federal Insta-Check system, based upon incomplete information in the FBI's national database, completes its process. Given no disqualifying information (felony, domestic violence or certain types of mental health records), the straw buyer purchases the chosen guns. Normally, this takes only minutes. The trafficker and straw buyer exit the store, the latter receives a service fee and the trafficker has handguns with no record connecting him to them.

Straw purchases are seldom of single handguns, as traffickers need to sell multiple units to profit. This is enabled by the lack of limitation in Pennsylvania law on the numbers that can be purchased at one time, allowing traffickers to profit from the movement of multiple handguns.

What if police recover a handgun from crime and trace it back to a straw buyer? Typically, straw buyers claim that they either lost the guns or they were stolen from them. In either case, current Pennsylvania law imposes no responsibility or liability.

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) evidence shows clearly how active and menacing this highly efficient illegal business is. It shows that Pennsylvania is an anomaly among major states in the Northeast. Unlike New Jersey, New York, Connecticut or Massachusetts, the vast bulk of crime guns recovered in Pennsylvania were originally purchased in-state. ATF data also demonstrates that, whereas the majority of crime guns recovered and traced in other major Northeast states were originally purchased dozens of miles from their use in crime, those in Pennsylvania were typically recovered

within ten miles of point of purchase - right around the corner.

Pennsylvania's illegal handgun trade fuels the criminal market. These illegal handguns are the ones sold on street corners to gangs, across kitchen tables to drug dealers and their protectors and on playgrounds to violent teens. These are the handguns used to wound and maim and kill.

But, again, it doesn't have to be this way.

So, what can be done?

There are two measures currently being considered by the Pennsylvania General Assembly that can place barriers to the flow of illegal guns: HB-22, a bill to limit individuals to the purchase of no more than a single handgun in any thirty day period, known as One Handgun A Month, and HB-29, a bill to require reporting to law enforcement of lost or stolen firearms.

Neither places an undue burden on law-abiding gun owners. One Handgun A Month allows individuals to buy up to thirteen handguns per year and places no limit on rifles and shotguns.

Currently, a trafficker needs only a single straw purchaser to obtain multiple handguns. Under One Handgun A Month he would need multiple straw buyers to obtain the same number of handguns. This would dramatically increase the time, risk and cost of trafficking and diminish the supply of illegal handguns on the street. Virginia enacted a One Handgun A Month law in the mid-90's and has enjoyed a year-by-year decline in interstate trafficking.

A requirement that lost or stolen firearms be reported to police is common sense. Law enforcers need to know of loose lethal weapons. And,



Bryan Miller

such a requirement will inhibit some straw buyers.

What can you do?

You can talk to church members, family, friends, neighbors and coworkers about the illegal gun trade and strengthening Pennsylvania gun laws to combat it.

You can advocate for justice by going to www.HandgunSanity.org, where you will find multiple ways to act and help, including sample letters to legislators, a petition, and more.

You can contact your legislators to tell them reducing gun violence is a top priority, that you support immediate passage of HB-22 and HB-29, and that you expect her/him to push for passage and to vote for them. Find contact information for legislators at www.legis.state.pa.us.

* Bryan Miller is Executive Director of Ceasefire NJ. He may be contacted at (856) 371-3038 or cfnj@aol.com.

In The Nation

Kiowa United Methodists share culture

by Kathy L. Gilbert*

Caroline Botone Willis interrupted a luncheon of Indian fry bread tacos at Wares Chapel United Methodist Church to teach the hungry group a Native American word.

"We are going to do it in four parts, just like I teach my classes," she said. "Repeat after me: Ok-la-hom-a."

Laughing sheepishly, board members of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race repeated after Willis. Smiling, she said, "That's just what happens when I teach that in my class." The Choctaw word means "people red."

Willis, a 78-year-old member of the Kiowa tribe, teaches her native language at the University of Oklahoma. Her husband, Henry Joseph Willis, also 78 and a member of the Mississippi and Oklahoma Choctaws, taught his native tongue at the university for five years before becoming a consultant to the Choctaw tribe in its language department. He is working on a dictionary and just finished his third grammar book.

Their daughter, the Rev. Julianne Judd, pastor of the Lawrence Indian Charge in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and a member of the commission, helped coordinate a day of immersion in the Kiowa tradition for board members during their meeting Oct. 3-7 in Oklahoma City.

Judd, the first Kiowa clergy woman elder in her tribe, was given the name Tape-pah-tah gohn mah, which means "She speaks of Him woman."

Rare native speaker

Renee Grounds, a commission member, is working with her father to preserve the Euchee (Yu-chi) language. During the commission's meeting, she introduced her father in her native

language.

"Of the 25 indigenous languages spoken, only four are being learned by children. All the rest are only spoken by elders," he said.

Richard Grounds is project director for the Euchee Language Project based in Sapulpa, Okla., working with the five remaining fluent Euchee speakers.

A Kiowa welcome

The Rev. Mike Svitak and several members of Mount Scott United Methodist Church in Lawton, Okla., welcomed the board members to their church, which is more than 100 years old.

Tiffany Quetone, wearing a traditional Kiowa dress made from seven hides, performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language. Her grandparents, the Rev. Charles and Sandra Quetone, shared stories from their tradition.

Bernadine Toyebo Rhodes, a member of the congregation, sang a hymn in Kiowa, and Svitak talked about being pastor of the 129-member church today.

"Since our last charge conference we have a total of eight baptisms — five children, one adult and two youth," he said. "We have had two professions of faith and five new members. At one time it was looking pretty bleak because our elders were dying."

Rev. Quetone said at one time the church had more than 600 members. The next stop was Wares Chapel United Methodist Church, Anadarko, Okla., where the women of the church had been working for days on a traditional meal of Indian fry bread tacos and grape dumplings.

Sand Creek Massacre

In addition to hearing from Caroline and Henry Willis and Richard and Renee Grounds, commission members heard from Homer Flute, director of



The United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race visited a Kiowa Black Leggings Society Dance held in honor of those who are serving or have served in the military.

the Sand Creek Massacre Descendants Trust.

The 1862 Sand Creek Massacre was led by Col. John Chivington, a Methodist layman, who launched a pre-dawn attack on the Black Kettle village, killing and mutilating the Cheyenne and Arapahos at the banks of Sand Creek in the Colorado territory. In the attack, more than 200 Native Americans, mostly women and children were killed. Chivington was hailed as a hero.

The 1996 United Methodist General Conference, the top lawmaking body of the denomination, expressed regret and issued an apology for the "actions of a prominent Methodist."

Flute said the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is sending a resolution to the 2008 General Conference asking for the church to contribute \$50,000 to the development of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Research and Learning Center.

Dorothy Amauty asked the commission members to help support efforts to get retribution for the victims and their families and to get the govern-

ment to honor the treaty signed after the massacre.

Open hearts

The commissioners ended the day by visiting a Kiowa Black Leggings Society Dance held in honor of those who are serving or have served in the military. The ceremony included the presentation of colors, singing and Native American dancing.

"The love and support and willingness on the part of the congregations to share their stories in open and honest ways with commission members was amazing," said Suanne Ware-Diaz, a staff member of the commission. Ware-Diaz is also a member of the Kiowa tribe.

"Commission members were tired after a week of work, but they had open hearts to hear what was being shared with them," she said. "I was very proud of the respect, humility and concern they expressed. Both sides learned from each other."

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

The Nation in Brief

- Directors of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries have abruptly dismissed the mission agency's chief executive. The decision not to re-nominate the Rev. R. Randy Day came Oct. 9 upon recommendation from the board's personnel committee during the board's annual meeting in Stamford. The dismissal was effective that day. Directors then approved the appointment of an interim chief executive, and retired United Methodist Bishop Felton May immediately filled that role. Day, who took office Jan. 1, 2003, had led the Board of Global Ministries for nearly five years. Bishop Joel Martinez, the board's president, said in a statement that the change "does not diminish our appreciation for the many talents and skills of Randy Day but indicates that directors are looking for a different style of administrative leadership to take us into the future."

- Harriett Olson believes personal devotion and a call to action are a good mix. That was one of the reasons

she was attracted to United Methodist Women and the position of chief executive of the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, which serves as UMW's administrative arm. Olson, 49, who was unanimously elected to that position on Aug. 17 by the division's board of directors, began her new job on Sept. 4. She succeeded Jan Love, who is now dean of the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Her election was confirmed by the entire Board of Global Ministries during its Oct. 8-11 annual meeting.

- Youth in Birmingham hope a penny saved is a life saved through their donation of 1 million pennies to Africa University's Faculty of Health Sciences in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The Penny Project, an interfaith effort to collect one penny for each of the 23 million Africans living with HIV/AIDS, was created by the youth of First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, Mich., who decided to try making a difference in Africa's HIV/AIDS

pandemic. "We call it the day God showed up in the dining room," said youth pastor Jeff Nelson, referring to a brainstorming lunch meeting the day the idea was born. Since summer 2005, the youth have sponsored a penne pasta supper, a World AIDS Day dance, a "Cent-O" de Mayo celebration and other events.

- When St. Paul United Methodist Church in Searcy, Ark., became the church home to six families of children with disabilities, the congregation's leaders were determined to make the families' time at church one of renewal, worship and support. The Jonathan's Child ministry has blossomed into a mission supporting the needs of families with disabled children. The ministry's name comes from 2 Samuel 4:4, which describes how Jonathan's small son was left disabled from an injury sustained during a fall. Adult and children's classrooms have been designed so that parents can be in their own class and still view their children

through a one-way glass partition. The children's room is secure and equipped for children with special needs of all ages.

- Young adults, seminarians and pastors with a heart for the Gospel are thinking and talking about new ways to "do church" by transforming churchgoing from the inside out. More than 50 people gathered in Nashville Oct. 4-6 for an "emergingumc" conference on getting back to the roots of church and its mission. The event was sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. The emerging church is a nondenominational grassroots movement that intertwines evangelism and social justice to make the church more relevant to today's culture and to make worship and Christian life authentic, experiential and connected. The concept is about turning the church from a place of ritual worship to one of reclaiming mission as the foundation, said the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources.

In The World

Filipino church ministers to destitute families

by Kathy L. Gilbert*

Philippines (UMNS) Kent and Vince, both age 12, were born in a cemetery in Manila, and until recently lived among the tombs with no hope of a future beyond the mausoleum walls. They were no different than thousands of street children wandering around the 11 million residents of Manila until a United Methodist pastor saw their potential. The boys now live at the Gilead Center, a residential shelter for street children supported by the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The children are grateful for small things: a roof over their heads when it rains, food on the table when they are hungry and a warm bed inside a safe room at night. "I was not afraid there because it was where I was born," Kent said of his life in the cemetery. "I like being clean now; you could never be clean there." The Rev. R. Randy Day, then top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and Rebecca Asdello, also a board staff member and a native of the Philippines, traveled to Manila in July to visit several ministries that care for street children and the poor.

Life in the cemetery

Manila North Cemetery is the city's largest cemetery. It is also where many of the poorest residents live.

Everywhere in the cemetery are signs of life. Scraps of wood and tin become walls and roofs, resting on and between the tombs. Clotheslines heavy with wet jeans, shirts and children's clothes are strung from trees. A basket lined with rags and shaded by a torn umbrella contains a worn child's toy. Dogs and cats weave their way around the tombs sniffing for overlooked bits of food. Men, women and children walk dispassionately among graves. Joseph Saneigo

was washing a few clothes when leaders from the Board of Global Ministries, Bishop Solito K. Toquero of the Manila Area and others from the Philippines Annual (regional) Conference came to see where Kent and Vince's life began. "I make 30 pesos a year to take care of a few of the tombs," Saneigo explained. He was buying water from his neighbors who have built homes on top of the graves. It costs 4 pesos for a bucket of water. Saneigo said he lays a mattress on top of a tomb at night but that "the mosquitoes are very bad."

Ministry among the tombs

The Rev. Allan D. Casuco started Sta. Mesa Heights United Methodist Church outside the walls of the cemetery and has built a congregation among the people of North Manila Cemetery.

"We are a very mission-minded congregation," he said. The 200-plus members sponsor children like Kent and Vince so they can climb out of poverty. One woman who has six children said one of her children is sponsored by the church, which means he gets fed, clothed and can attend school. After seeing where and how the people lived, Asdello said she was touched by the pastor's devotion to the people living among the tombs. "Clearly he cared for them; he wanted them to know Christ and experience his grace," said Asdello. "Besides their spiritual needs, he was eager to provide the people access to resources that the church is able to provide—like making it possible for some of the children to attend the church's day care/nursery/kindergarten school."

A balm for children

The Gilead Center is a calm, clean green space outside the city. Children play on swing sets and eat at long tables inside a warm, tasty-smelling dining room. The center is surrounded



Bishop Solito K. Toquero (far right) visits with some of the young girls living at the Gilead Center, a residential shelter for street children supported by The United Methodist Church.

by mango and citrus trees.

Priscilla R. Atuel, a United Methodist deaconess and director of the center, explains the name Gilead comes from Jeremiah 8:22: "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?" The Gilead Center is a place for healing for children living in especially difficult circumstances, said Atuel. Most of the children in the center came from North Manila Cemetery or from Rizal Park, a large public park inhabited by many homeless people. Local United Methodist churches and the Board of Global Ministries send money to support the children. Currently, 11 girls and 16 boys live in two dormitories. Bright pink walls, bunk beds and bed coverings make the Ethel Lou D. Talbert Shelter for girls a cheerful place to live. The shelter is named for the former wife of retired Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, who wanted to establish a safe haven for girls living on the streets.

The blue walls and bunk beds of the Kapatiran Shelter are just as inviting to boys. Atuel proudly talks about

Jennifer Gamutia, a former shelter resident who received a nursing assistant certificate from Asian College for Science and Technology last March. "It's a dream come true for me," Gamutia said. "Now I can look forward to a better future for me and my mother." Jennifer stayed in Gilead Center for Children and Youth Welfare for three years where she finished her secondary education, Atuel said. "It is truly wonderful when we are given glimpses into the fruits of our labor after these years." The center takes in children ages 7 to 13 until they are ready to be transferred to high schools. Parents visit their children as often as possible, and the church also helps parents develop skills that can provide sustainable incomes. Atuel said graduates of the center are working toward high school diplomas, higher education degrees or certifications. "Isn't it wonderful what the church can do?" she asks.

*Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service writer based in Nashville, Tenn. She compiled this report based on her visit to the Philippines in July.

The World in Brief

- A \$4 million project for continued tsunami recovery work in Indonesia has been approved by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. That and other actions came as UMCOR directors met during the Oct. 8-11 annual meeting of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The "Reconstruction and Development for Aceh and Nias Project" is scheduled to begin in October and continue through March 31, 2010, in the Bireuen, Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar districts, Aceh Province and the South Nias district. UMCOR's \$4 million funding, from the \$42 million it raised for tsunami relief, will be combined with \$1.37 million from the American Red Cross to complete the project.

- A United Methodist leader has called upon the denomination's members and partners in mission to advocate against the use of deadly force by the government of Myanmar. "I urgently call upon all United Methodists and our partners in mission to join in prayer for a just peace and a future of

freedom in the country formerly known as Burma," said the Rev. R. Randy Day in a Sept. 29 statement. "Let us also urge governments that honor human rights to use their influence with Myanmar's government to move toward democratic policies and practices and to refrain from violence in response to the peaceful protesters."

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of Liberia, will speak to the United Methodist General Conference during its meeting next spring in Fort Worth, Texas. Johnson Sirleaf, who is a United Methodist, is scheduled to address the denomination's top legislative body April 28. She accepted the invitation to speak in a Sept. 8 letter to L. Fitzgerald Reist II, secretary of the General Conference. "As a strong and proud Methodist and in recognition of the work that The United Methodist Church has done in Liberia, particularly in providing education and medical services to our rural population, I am pleased to ac-

cept and look forward to joining you in Fort Worth on that day," she wrote. Johnson Sirleaf also will accept the Bishop James K. and Eunice Mathews Bridge-Building Award from the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns on April 29.

- The more than 425 freshmen who began classes at Africa University in August represent the second largest intake in the university's 15-year history. In addition, the United Methodist-related university offered admission to more than 650 people for its graduate and undergraduate programs, and increased its number of international students by 4 percent. The university offers its 1,300 students programs in agriculture, business, education, health sciences, the humanities and social sciences, peace, leadership and governance, and theology. Twenty-six African countries are represented among the student body, giving the school in Mutare, Zimba-

bwe, its highest percentage of international students to date.

- UMCOR continues to support the Central Methodist Mission Ray of Hope ministry in Johannesburg, South Africa by helping approximately 1000 asylum seekers and refugees—mainly from Zimbabwe. UMCOR will help with basic services, food, medical and material support as they settle into permanent homes. UMCOR is helping to provide temporary accommodations until permanent shelter becomes available. The program will provide food, diapers, clothes, and other basic care supplies for infants whose mothers have no financial resources. Medical services will be offered to help those in need and the program will also cover the cost of expensive prescriptions. About 22 residents arrive each day and two to three dozen infants stay there at any one given time. Accommodating the growing number of refugees daily is placing a strain on its available resources and supplies.

Feeling stuck? Clergy coaching can help

by Julia Lendzinski*

In today's world of multi-taking, pastors are often called upon to be all things to all the people of their congregations: pastor, preacher, counselor, administrator, financial wizard, perhaps even plumber.

According to the Rev. J. Val Hastings, Jr., "the same old, same old just doesn't work anymore. In a time when clergy is expected to multi-task, answer phone calls and emails all day, they start to lose focus. They get off the path they are intended to walk on." Rev. Hastings is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference appointed to extension ministry as executive director of Coaching4Clergy.

Whereas a coach is not called upon to solve the problems of a church, they are there to empower pastors and bring out the best of their gifts and talents so they can strive to do God's work.

"What I do is empower pastors so that they can empower others; it's a domino effect," explained Rev. Hastings. When coaching, he asks

questions that encourage clergy to dream and set goals: "What do you really want? What's next, past this problem? What do you want to be able to say about your church three months from now that you can't say today?" The aim of these questions is to shift their thoughts from current challenges to their desired vision.

A coach can be used at any time, such as when a pastor is just starting out, or when a church is going through difficult changes or transition. Even if everything seems to be going well in a church, a pastor might feel like he needs more focus, and so seeks out a coach.

"Many pastors do not have a confidante with whom to share their doubts, worries, and challenges. When they have a coach, they have a trusted advisor, someone who they can talk to about their concerns," Rev. Hastings said.

"Sometimes we feel stuck in a place that won't allow us to do what we need to do," said the Rev. Rene Perez, Director of Outreach and Church Multiplication for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. "At

those times, a clergy coach can help a pastor realize that he or she is able to fulfill his or her purpose, and can help guide them back onto the right path."

"When things are challenging, a coach reminds me of my values and priorities," said Rev. Perez, "I talk to a coach to help get focused, to dig through the mess, and to bring out the answers."

Clergy coaching started in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference about six months ago. Now there are more than fifteen trained coaches working in the conference.

Rev. Perez pointed to the wisdom of Ephesians 4: 11-12: "It was he who 'gave gifts to people,' he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ."

For more information on finding a coach or becoming a clergy coach, contact Rev. Rene Perez, 800-828-9093, ext. 218 or rene.perez@epaumc.org; or contact Rev. J. Val Hastings, Jr. at val@coaching4clergy.com.



The Rev. Val Hastings, Jr.

* Julia Lendzinski, an intern with the Office of Communications, is a student at LaSalle University and a member of Fox Chase United Methodist Church.

GO ON A RETREAT!

Our Eastern Pennsylvania camps are offering an exciting range of retreats for people of all ages this fall and winter. Come to a special place apart for a time of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. Contact the camps for details and to register, or call Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministry (610-666-9090 ext. 225 or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org) for more information.

Adult Retreats

November 9-11, 2007

Camp Innabah - The Pizza Approach to Spiritual Depth

A weekend designed to refresh and refocus your spiritual walk. We will discover together how the simple pizza parallels our journey with Christ, through hands on sessions that are interactive. In these sessions you will become part of the process and grow deeper in your spirituality. A fresh new look at the ingredients needed to have a great spiritual pizza.

Leader: Dorothea Landis; Cost \$90

November 16-18, 2007

Gretna Glen - Baskets and the Bible
Learn to make an egg basket, a weed basket, and other projects while exploring lessons from the weaving and basket stories in the Bible. Cost includes lodging, meals and all materials and supplies.

Leaders: Jim & Diane Wilkin; Cost \$120

January 11-13, 2008

Camp Innabah - Women's Spiritual Renewal Retreat

Calling all women! Come join us for a unique and relaxing weekend at Innabah. Good food, fellowship, health tips, massages, and more! Leader: Christy Heflin; Cost \$120

Young Adult Retreat

January 4-6, 2008

Pocono Plateau

Leave the distractions of the world behind! Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God while experiencing His presence in the beautiful Pocono Mountains! This awesome weekend is intended for adults in their twenties (college-age included) looking for a fun and challenging experience. Discover more about yourself and your

faith through talks, discussions and worship. Cost is \$75

Youth Retreats

December 28-30, 2007

Pocono Plateau - Jr. / Sr. High Winter Retreat (Grades 6 -12)

Get away and experience an amazing two days of fun and excitement! See old friends and make some new ones, play awesome games, enjoy the snow (weather permitting), eat delicious food, delve into discussions and worship God. This winter camp experience will pump you up for the new year. It's a weekend you don't want to miss!

Cost: \$80

December 28-30, 2007

Gretna Glen - Youth Winter Blast (Grades 7 -12)

This is an opportunity for those in grades 6th-12th to fellowship and worship with other Christian youth. Activities will include games, songs, campfires and other camp favorites in the beauty of his creation. Cost: \$75

January 11-13, 2008

Camp Innabah - Youth Winter Blast - 6th-9th graders

Come and enjoy a great retreat with your friends from summer camp. Go snow tubing off site! A truly great time is in store for you! Cost: \$105

January 25-27, 2008

Camp Innabah - Soccer Retreat - 5th-12th graders-

Get a kick out of soccer? This event is for you! Brush up on your skills and learn some new ones. Leader: Jim Stoltzfus Cost \$85

February 8-10, 2008

Camp Innabah - Youth Ski Retreat - 8th-12th graders

A fun-filled weekend is in store. Ski all day Saturday at Blue Mountain Ski Area which is located north of Allentown. Cost Varies -\$115-\$150

Children's Retreats

November 16-18, 2007

Pocono Plateau

Take a break from ordinary life and come to camp for an exciting weekend! Meet up with your friends from summer camp, and make some new Plateau friends at the Fall Children's Retreat



designed especially for 3-6 graders. The Retreat begins on Friday at 7:00 pm and ends Sunday at 2:00 pm. Join us for crafts, games, singing, Bible Discovery and more! Cost \$75

November 30-December 1, 2007

Gretna Glen

Children's Winter Blast overnight is an opportunity for children to experience a bite sized version of camp. Children from 1st - 6th grades will get to play games, craft, sing, and explore in Bible Discovery groups. Cost \$40

January 11-12, 2008

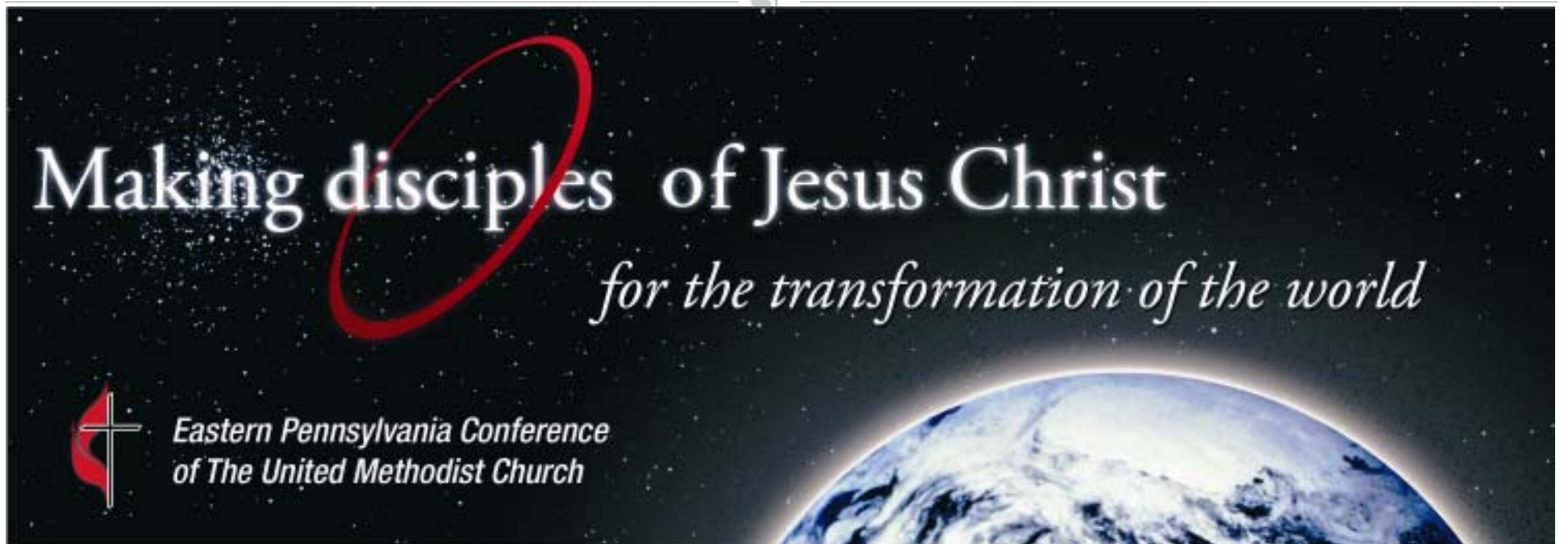
Camp Innabah

Young Children's Retreat 1st-4th graders- Join us for a great one night event! Saturday evening Your family is invited to dinner at Innabah. Cost \$60

January 18-20, 2008

Camp Innabah

Children's Retreat - 4th-6th graders-Join the fun!! Reunite with your friends from the summer and make new friends while enjoying all Innabah has to offer. Cost \$80



DISCIPLE Bible Study transforming lives

By Bishop Richard B. Wilke

Every day, I hear reports about how DISCIPLE Bible Study is being expanded to reach more people. That's exciting, because already nearly 2 million people have graduated from the program since it was released in 1987.

As many United Methodists know, DISCIPLE provides an in-depth study of Scripture designed to transform churches and encourage people to live as disciples of Christ. Many DISCIPLE graduates have even entered the ministry.

The four-part series covers the Old and New Testament, and has been used in more than 10,000 congregations in 30 denominations. It is now available in French, German, Czech, Korean, Spanish and Chinese—both Mandarin and Cantonese dialects.

Here are a few ways DISCIPLE has been reaching even more demograph-

ics:

The two bishops of North Carolina, Bishops Lawrence McCleskey and Alfred Gwinn, are cooperating to ask that every United Methodist church in North Carolina—even tiny churches and ethnic churches—be trained and then offer DISCIPLE Bible study.

This development is significant because both General Conference and the Council of Bishops have adopted goals of “making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” and this strategy puts feet on the vision.

Some 32 training events will be conducted across the state, once every six or eight weeks, over a three-year period. A training event in August in Asheville, N.C., was held at a Southern Baptist church!

Prison outreach

Also in North Carolina, more than 300 mostly lay volunteers have taken DISCIPLE and prison training, and

are leading Bible study groups in 70 prisons throughout the state.

Under the guidance of Dr. Mark Hicks, volunteers with the DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries' youth Bible study curriculum, “Rings of Fellowship,” are leading groups for incarcerated children ages 9 to 14. The Rings program is designed to promote spiritual growth and positive peer dynamics among teens.

It was developed in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, but Rings can be used in local church youth groups, youth Sunday school classes, institutional settings or as a community-based outreach.

In Kansas, laypersons began taking DISCIPLE into a minimum-security prison in Winfield. They are now going into all the prisons—often guided by Nancy Jackson—including maximum-security units. They are cooperative with other prison outreach ministries,

including Kairos Prison Ministry International, Brothers in Blue and InnerChange Freedom Initiative.

Inspired by powerful Christian conversions, Kansas DISCIPLE leaders have launched adult Sunday school classes for work-release and paroled inmates, as well as a halfway house and programs for children of inmates.

In Oklahoma, DISCIPLE volunteers are creating whole new congregations for former inmates. A former inmate is the new chair of DISCIPLE's prison outreach in Oklahoma.

In Western Pennsylvania, pastors and laypeople have gone into the tougher federal prisons, often working in Spanish. Testimony meetings are guided by the chaplain, often half in Spanish, half in English. The chaplain also says that DISCIPLE has helped put an end to intense racial

continues on page 8

Stewards of God's Gifts: Beyond Fundraising

Every Christian is called to be a good steward of everything God has given them. “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.” Acts 4:32 NIV. The November Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World session on stewardship is brought to you in conjunction with the Eastern Pennsylvania-Penninsula United Methodist Foundation.

The Rev. David S. Bell was the speaker for the Foundation's workshop held in March 2006. For those of you that missed the program, this is your opportunity to catch up as the program will continue the conversation around giving and dealing with the obstacles we experience. If you were able to join us for the first workshop, you know how wonderful David's presentations are so please come again and bring fellow church members. The topic this year is “Stewards of God's Gifts: Beyond Fundraising”. In this program you will:

- Gain a deeper, theological understanding of Christian stewardship
- Discover some “best practices” for effective year-round stewardship

· Build on the assets of your congregation to build a positive attitude of generous giving

· Engage in peer learning by discussing various case studies

The date is Saturday, November 3rd and our host is Washington Crossing UMC, 1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977. Registration begins at 5:30pm, worship at 6pm and the session at 6:30. To register, please go to the EPA website www.epaumc.org or call the Conference Office 800-828-9093 or to me at 484-762-8247.

About David Bell

David Bell leads Covenant Quest, a faith-based consulting firm providing services across North America. David's experience includes stewardship consultation, organizational visioning, leadership development, and non-profit fundraising. He creates hope by providing practical consultation and motivational seminars for faith-based organizations. He empowers leaders to discover their vital role in enabling communities of faith to embody a generous culture.

He addresses the often-overlooked spiritual discipline of generosity, the de-

bitating impact of hyperconsumerism on giving, and the positive cycle of abundance-focused communities. The growing demand for his intuitive, strategic vision and passionate leadership is significant. One of David's recognized strengths is his personal understanding of organizations from various perspectives. He gained experience as a pastor, a development director, and a regional and national church executive.

David has a keen understanding of the current economic and consumer trends impacting charitable giving. His dynamic presentations invite participants to learn from one another by engaging in peer learning. His comprehensive consultation is customized to meet the specific needs of a faith-based community.

David currently serves as Vice-President of Stewardship with The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. He is President of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. He is an active member of The Alban Institute, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Christian Stewardship Association, and the National Association of Church Business Administrators.



Rev. David Bell



Technology for Worship

Media Shout

MediaShout 3 transforms your Windows PC into a complete media-for-ministry delivery console. Play any media at any time, in any order. Instantly. MediaShout presentation software has been designed to help your church, youth group, Sunday School class, missions team, or worship team to share life's most important message as effectively as possible.

Features:

- Total control: dual-monitor design ensures that the audience sees only what you want them to see
 - Song lyrics: display the words to any song in any order
 - Bible passages: select and show any passage instantly, in any of 52 versions
 - Text: create and present announcements and message points...or use a virtual background for instant, live text
 - Video: no tapes, play video files, DVD clips and external video feeds on their own or as backgrounds to other cues
 - Graphics: display photos, illustrations, drawings, maps, and more
 - Animations: play Flash files on their own or as motion backgrounds to lyrics, Bible verses and other text screens
 - PowerPoint: play PPT files straight from MediaShout without switching programs
 - Web pages: display web pages full-screen to the audience
 - Sound: play music, sound effects, MP3, MIDI, and more
- When you purchase MediaShout, you automatically receive a license for installation on two computers. For more information, visit the MediaShout homepage: <http://www.mediashout.com/>

EasyWorship 2007

EasyWorship is designed to easily display songs, scriptures, videos, and alerts to your congregation with little or no distractions. This is accomplished by utilizing a video graphics card with two outputs. One video signal is sent from the first SVGA output to the working monitor at the computer. The second SVGA output is sent to the projector and to the congregation. This allows the operator to control all aspects of the service and only show the congregation what they need to see for effective worship.

Features:

- .Display and manage all of your media
- .Integrated Powerpoint 97-2007 support
- .100+ real time video transitions and cross fades
- .Dual monitor display for distraction-free worship and events
- .Overlay anti-aliased text on moving video at 30 fps
- .Integrated support for DVD clip playback
- .Windows 98SE, ME, 2000, XP and Vista supported
- .Site license is standard (purchase one copy for multiple computers)
- .Integrated interface with Song Select Lyric Service (download songs instantly into the EasyWorship song database)
- .Manage your songs, scriptures, videos and backgrounds in an easy to use database
- .Optimal display quality with shadows and outlined text at the same time

For these and other products offered at a discount to United Methodist Communications, go to: www.techshopministry.org.

DISCIPLE Bible Study

continued from page 7

hostility in the prison.

Translations

In Russia, DISCIPLE has begun with an inaugural training, where more than 50 Russian United Methodist pastors were provided with freshly translated DISCIPLE I study material in Russian. The translation was done by a man who is serving a prison term. Funds to publish the material were raised by a lay leader in North Georgia. Now plans are under way for the translation of DISCIPLE II and III, with funds coming from all over, and coordinated by volunteers in the East Ohio Conference.

Indonesia, where the population is about 85 percent Muslim, has had English DISCIPLE material for several years in Jakarta. Now the Bible study is being translated and published in Indonesian.

Other reports

Seminary deans tell me that many of their incoming students, especially

second-career men and women preparing for ministry, testify that DISCIPLE Bible Study was the context for their call.

The program has extended well beyond United Methodism. Over 30 denominations are using DISCIPLE programs, including Roman Catholics, Seventh Day Adventists, Episcopalians and Baptists.

It's gratifying to see that the DISCIPLE Bible Study material is truly living up to its name because its volunteers are helping fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church in making disciples.

Bishop Wilke and his wife, Julia, coordinated, designed and wrote the DISCIPLE Bible study, a training for Christian leaders.

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Making Disciples Series Training Schedule

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - Stewards of God's Gifts

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

COST: \$10 per person, includes materials

REGISTRATION: 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

SESSION: 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM - Training will be led by the Rev. David Bell, Founder and President of Covenant Quest and VP of Stewardship with the UM Foundation of Michigan. "Beyond Money" by Dan Dick available at the training for \$10. **Registration Deadline is October 31 at 3:00 p.m..**

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 resources

REGISTRATION: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

SESSION: 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Training will be led by Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship, United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. **Registration Deadline is December 5 at 3:00 p.m.**

Making Disciples DVDs

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part I
with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ___ = ___

Transformational Spiritual Leadership Part II
with the Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\$10 x ___ = ___

Acts 29 Prayer Encounter
with the Rev. Terry Teykl

\$10 x ___ = ___

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

\$10 x ___ = ___

Living as Christian Disciples
with the Rev. Tom Albin

\$10 x ___ = ___

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

\$10 x ___ = ___

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

\$10 x ___ = ___

Christian Education and Spiritual Formation
with Carol Krau

\$10 x ___ = ___

Faith Sharing Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church

with the Rev. Larry Homitsky and Suzy Keenan

\$10 x ___ = ___

Plus Shipping \$ 4.00 - TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ (optional)

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

United Methodist Church Commissions 13 New Missionaries

In a multilingual, international, and spirit-filled ceremony, 13 people were commissioned on October 9 for United Methodist missionary service in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the United States.

Bishop Joel N. Martinez of San Antonio and Bishop Benjamin A. Justo of the Baguio Episcopal Area in the Philippines, presided at the service that took place during the annual meeting of the directors of the General Board of Global Ministries meeting in Stamford. Bishop Martinez is president and Bishop Justo is a director of the international mission agency.

Three of the new missionaries are assigned through the United Methodist National Plan for Latino and Hispanic Ministries, a special emphasis in the United States.

Of the other nine new missionaries, four are from and will serve in Latin American countries, making the missionary class more than fifty percent Spanish-speaking. Bishop Martinez said this is "the vanguard of the new missionary movement of The United Methodist Church."

Bishop Justo delivered an impassioned sermon, calling upon Christians to purify their motives and strengthen their resolve, based on Matthew 28:18-20, also known as the Great Commission, that calls disciples of Jesus Christ to make other disciples.

"The true followers of Jesus Christ have a common mandate," declared Bishop Justo. "That is, to go and make disciples in all parts of the world.... Tonight's occasion is another affirmation that that missionary spirit is alive."

The bishops were joined in the "laying on of hands," a holy sending forth, by the Rev. Edith Gleaves, head of the mission personnel unit of the mission agency, and directors John Peterson, Joan Johnson, and the Rev. Dr. Maxie Dunham.

In response to their commissioning, the new missionaries spoke in English and Spanish a Covenant Prayer from John Wesley, the 18th century English founder of Methodism. The prayer begins with a commitment to God's will: "I am no longer my own, but thine..."

The October commissioning took place less than four months after 17 young adults were commissioned in July 2007 as US-2 missionaries and international mission interns. It came six months after nine persons were commissioned as Church and



Newly commissioned missionaries and staff at the October 2007 Fall Commissioning Service.

Community Workers, missionaries who work in challenging rural and urban communities in the US.

young adults were commissioned in July 2007 as US-2 missionaries and international mission interns. It came six months after nine persons were commissioned as Church and

World Service Fund supports missionaries

A question which often comes to the staff of the General Board of Global Ministries is: "how much of a local churches contribution through apportionments goes toward the support of missionaries?" While there are several apportioned items which come to each local church, it can be stated that 6% of the total of the World Service Fund apportionment goes toward missionary support. To understand this more fully, we must look at the multiple channels of financial giving in The United Methodist Church.

Missionary support includes much more than salary. It is the total funds needed to financially support a missionary. This includes budgeted amounts for health insurance, pension, housing, travel - both to and from place of assignment and while in the work, itineration expenses educational expenses for children, training expenses, the Wellness Program, and often some other amounts for expenses specific to a place of assignment.

For 2006, the expenditures for missionary support were \$17 million: 1. \$4 million (24%) came from the World Service Fund | 2. \$2 million (12%) came from UMW Undesignated Giving | 3. \$5 million (29%) came from The Advance for Christ and His Church | 4. \$6 million (35%) came from trust, investments, and other income designated for missionary support. Therefore, as the total contributions during 2006 to the World Service Fund for the whole general church was \$69 million, and the amount which went to GBGM in 2006 was \$27 million, of which \$4 million went toward missionary support, when understood as a percentage, this means that 6% of the total World Service Fund went towards missionary support.

Compiled by Financial Services and Mission Personnel Staff of The General Board of Global Ministries

Blown as seeds to minister around the world

by Suzy Keenan*

Teri and Evelyn Erbele have been out of the country for eighteen years. Missionaries, first in Nigeria, and then in Eurasia, they are now assigned as Mission Interpreters in Residence for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

As missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries, they have served on behalf on United Methodists around the world. "We are not missionaries because we leave the U.S.," explained Evelyn, "we are seeds from here, blown by the wind to Nigeria and Eurasia."

Teri served as Area Financial Executive for the North East Central Conference, which covers eleven time zones and eight nations. He made sure gifts of the United Methodist Church were properly allocated to projects and ministries. He then served as district superintendent in Lithuania.

Evelyn, with an undergraduate degree in nursing and a graduate degree in counseling, had been the director of a dental clinic. She also started the Moscow Bible College, which in its ten years has had 60 graduates from its two-year program.

She explained that the church in the former Soviet Union is in its adolescence. "For fifty years there was no Christian church. When everything changed they began kitchen table Bible study, and decided around the table who is going to be pastor, youth director, and music director. Their first experience with the United Methodist Church came from Volunteers in Mission Teams, who shared Bible stories, songs, and liturgy. They never had a Bible or Bible songs." She added, "They are a human as you and I are. They are desperate for a healthy environment in which to live and don't have the means. We have the means."

The Erbeles urge all United Methodists to purchase and use the Women's



Evelyn and Teri Erbele are Mission Interpreters in residence for the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Division Prayer Calendar, which includes mention of every missionary. "We need to know you are supporting us - not financially - supporting what we do. You are in community with me and I with you."

"Often churches think of their apportionment as a chore. It is minis-

try," Evelyn said. "Through it you are in ministry with people around the world. We always think of it as 'a portion meant for others.' It's the beauty of the Methodist system."

*Suzy Keenan is the Director of Communications of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

2008 Prayer Calendar Pre-Order

Taking Pre-Orders Now - All-New — featuring full-color photos of mission projects world-wide; personal reflections from persons in mission; space for personal notations. The Prayer Calendar is a guide to prayer that lists United Methodist mission partners, programs and personnel around the world. Produced by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the resource is used regularly by United Methodist Women and others for programs and individual daily devotions. *Women's Division*. Stock #: M3009\$11.00 <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/>

Mission trip begins new spiritual journey

"Why don't you just ship the stuff out there by truck?" is a question often asked of Prospect United Methodist Church's Missions Team when it explains its annual, two-week trek by RV and trailer to Native American Indian Reservations in South Dakota and Montana. "It would take less time and be less expensive, wouldn't it?"

The point of the trip, though, is not so much the stuff – winter coats, clothing, blankets, and school supplies for Poplar, Montana on the Ft. Peck Reservation and Christmas gifts for the community center in Kyle on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The point of the trip is relationship-building and making connections between people of different cultures and regions yet people who are all a part of the Body of Christ. "Successful missions connect people in relational ways," says Rev. Jim McIntire, Prospect UMC's pastor. This summer's two-week trip with Mission Team Leader Bob Hinderliter and Team member Sabrina Daluisio was McIntire's first and the first time a pastor traveled with the Team.

With a population of nearly 1,000, the City of Poplar faces severe poverty with an estimated 31.5% of residents living below the poverty line and an extremely high crime rate

which has left it with the unflattering nickname of "Stab City." June Greybull Hawk, PUMC's main contact among the Lakota in Poplar knows the reservation's struggles all too well. June is a faith-filled woman who works for the school system as a "home and school coordinator." When a child is missing from school for a prolonged period, June makes contact with the family to investigate. She tells stories of finding unattended children, homes with no furniture, children with little food and no clean clothes, and families faced with the devastation of substance abuse. June is able to identify families in need and provide them with items from the Prospect UMC donation each year.

"We need to make people aware of the poverty on reservations," says Bob Hinderliter whose lifelong passion for Native Americans has been the driving force of this ministry for nearly 20 years. "The unique part of our trip is the personal connection and interaction with native people. Anyone who goes along will become aware of the conditions and the Native Americans' attempt to retain some of their cultural heritage and ways of life."

This ministry is not designed to "drop and run" as could easily happen in a mission project such as this, but rather it is meant to educate Prospect

UMC members and others and to get them involved in the lives of people who are different yet very much the same. Racism, stereotyping, and bias often dominate typical American views of indigenous populations such as the Plains Indians. "I had heard and read of Native American spirituality but never truly understood the depth of belief among the Lakota people until this trip," says McIntire, "and never really recognized how beautifully Native American religious practices and Christian beliefs can interact. It was an enlightening trip and the beginning of a new spiritual journey for me."

A dozen or so members and friends have traveled along on Prospect UMC's Ft. Peck trip these past years and many more have made one of the Missions Team's annual trips to Collins Chapel UMC in Lumberton, North Carolina where Hinderliter has also been developing relationships among Lumbee Indians. This additional part of the congregation's Native American ministry delivers Christmas gifts designated for specific children and youth as determined by Pastor Doug Locklear of Collins Chapel. The congregation's children, in fact, plan their Christmas Pageant around the date of Prospect UMC's trip so they can share that special

moment with their friends from Eastern Pennsylvania. Youth and adults from Prospect UMC and St. Andrew's UMC (Warminster) have also traveled to Lumberton as a work team to help with housing repairs and construction projects.

The impact of Prospect UMC's Native American ministry is widespread as word travels among the networks of those who have participated. "My prayer is that we will be able to continue to grow this ministry and educate many more about the needs and gifts of Native Americans," concludes Bob Hinderliter. To learn more about this mission or to request a group presentation, contact Hinderliter at BrutherBaabHindy@aol.com or Rev. McIntire at PUMCPastor@verizon.net.

The financial cost of Prospect UMC's Native American ministry is funded by gifts from members and friends of the congregation and donated items come from not only individual members but from many others including neighbors, local schools, and businesses. This year's Montana/South Dakota trip was enhanced by a significant grant from the EPA/UMC Native American Ministries Committee.

United Methodist T-shirts

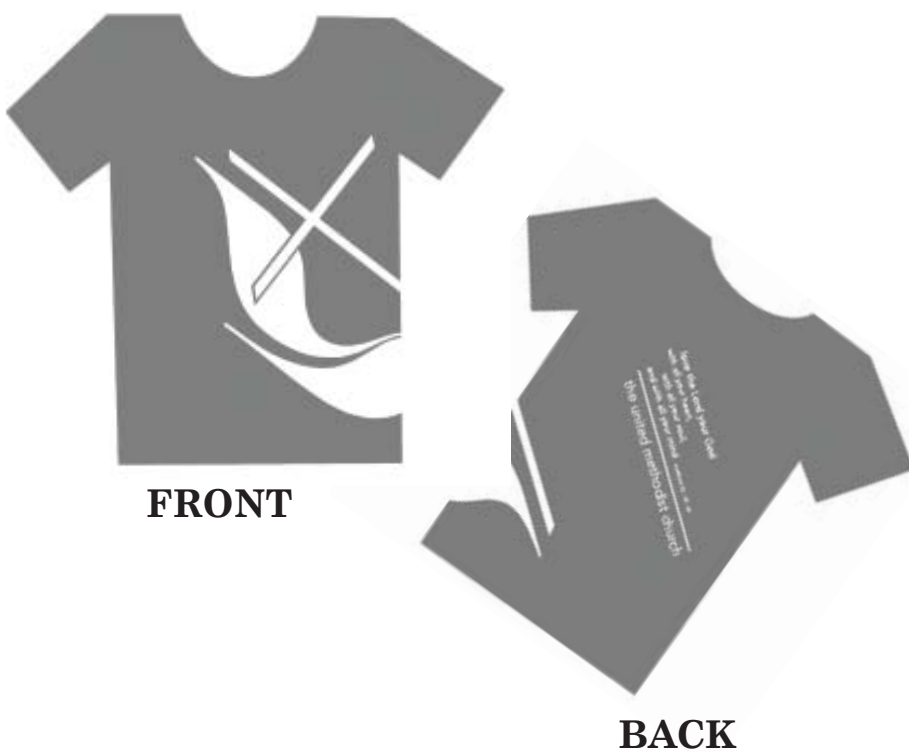
Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL

Cost:

\$10 for shirts picked up in person - at the check-in table at HERSHEY PARK, throughout Annual Conference at the camping table, and at the conference office

\$12 for each shirt sent through the mail.

For more information or to place an order, contact Jim Wilkin, jim.wilkin@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 225.



FRONT

BACK

Christ Servant Ministries

Basic Course*

Asbury UMC (Allentown, PA)

Instructor: Judy Ehninger

Registration Fee: \$30



November 16, 2007: 7– 10 pm – Part 1

November 17, 2007: 8 am – 3 pm–
Parts 2 & 3 (brown bag lunch)

*The *CSM Basic Course* needs between 12 and 20 participants to insure a meaningful experience. Courses not meeting these participation levels may be cancelled or split into multiple courses. Upon completion of the *CSM Basic Course*, an individual is recognized as a **Local Church**

Servant. Completion of an additional 10 hours of approved training is needed for recognition as a **Christ Servant Minister**. Registrations are confirmed based upon the date payment is received. Checks can be made payable to: *George Hollich, CSM Director*. To allow time for mailing of homework materials and adequate time to prepare, completed registrations and checks must be received by November 1.

For more information, contact George Hollich at: 717-838-2812 or Email: hollich@comcast.net.

For registration form, go to: www.epaumc.org

Electronic Funds Transfer: a giving solution

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- No long-term commitment
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Vanco's e.service® **by Web** provides a secure and easy way for people to make recurring and one-time donations via your congregation's website. This giving solution is especially helpful to people who do a lot of traveling, live in another state, or are away for any reason.

Service includes:

- Vanco's standard secure web donation pages that match the look of your congregation's website,
- Hosting of the secure web donation pages, and
- Processing of all web-initiated transactions based on which of the following solutions your congregation utilizes:
 - e.service*® **Electronic Funds Transfer** - Donations transferred via checking and savings accounts
 - e.service*® **Merchant Services** - Donations transferred via credit and/or debit cards

For more information: <http://www.gcfa.org/fundstransfer.html>.



In Memoriam

Rev. William Richard Kunz, Retired Elder, who died on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 91 years of age. Rev. Kunz served the following appointments: Clarksboro: Zion; Phila: Grace; NY Brooklyn, Emanuel; Bethlehem: St. John's; Fairless Hills: First; Slatedale: Salem; Emerald: St. Peter's. He retired in 1982. Services were held at Fairless Hills: Christ UMC. Condolences could be sent to Mrs. Eleanor C. Kunz, his surviving spouse, at 9266 Wheatsheaf Lane, Morrisville, PA 19067-6110

Rev. Claude A. Edmonds, retired elder, on October 4, 2007. Rev. Edmonds served the following appointments: Phila: John Wesley, MD; Aireys Charge; Denton Larger Parish; Phila: Emmanuel; Northwest District Superintendent; and Phila: Tindley Temple. Services were held at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church.

Rev. Edmonds is survived by his wife, Jennie, and a son, Craig. He was predeceased by a son, Claude A. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Jennie A. Edmonds, 7901 Henry Avenue, Apt A311, Philadelphia, PA 19128-2915.

Mrs. Naomi Glick, who died September 21, 2007, age 84. She was the widow of the Rev. H. Harold Glick, who died in 1981. Rev. Glick served the following appointments: Avondale, Chatham, and Green Hill. She is survived by her daughter, Judy Morris. Condolences may be sent to Judy Morris, 988 E. Orange St., Lancaster, PA 07602.

United Methodist Student Day

November 25, 2007

For more information go to: www.umcsgiving.org



United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Scholarship recipient and psychology major Kimberly Brook administers a test for a child-development class at North Central College, Naperville, Ill.

The People of The United Methodist Church

United Methodist

One Great Hour of Sharing
March 2, 2008

Be there. Be hope.



Classifieds

PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR WANTED FOR CAMPUS WORSHIP

Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University, a ministry supported through the Eastern PA Conference, is looking to hire a very part-time music director for a new mid-week worship service on campus. Responsibilities will include: music selection; directing rehearsals with student musicians who will make up the worship band (timing to be negotiated); and music direction during the service itself (Wednesdays, 9 pm). Experience directing a choir/worship band is preferred but not required. Comfortable working with young adults, and an informal, interactive style of worship, and experience and/or comfort with diverse

musical styles preferred. Salary to be negotiated, but competitive. No more than three hours a week. Email resume and cover letter to asbury@drexel.edu. Or contact Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin, 215-895-2522.

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER Cokesbury, a Christian retailer is seeking to better serve our customers by hiring a Key Account Manager in the Philadelphia location. The incumbent will serve the market by developing and strengthening relationships with customers and will assist with the management of the store. Ideal candidate must have retail and leadership experience. Christian Education experience is strongly preferred. Interested persons should submit resume along with salary history to

employment@umpublishing.org, or fax (615) 749-6704, or mail to: Employment Office, 201 8th Avenue South Nashville, TN. 37202.

AUDITOR AVAILABLE

Auditor available for preparing and/or auditing the required Report of the Annual Audit. Experience in providing such in a cost effective manner. Please call George Fieo, CPA at (610) 457-1486 or e-mail to BFGF@rcn.com. References available upon request.

MUSICIAN TO PLAY THE ORGAN AND PIANO

Responsibilities include: provide worship service music on the organ during the Traditional worship service (9:00-10:00 am) and on the piano as part of our Praise band during the Contemporary worship service (10:30-12:00 pm) every Sunday,

accompany choir anthem and/or soloist, participate in bi-weekly choir rehearsals (Thursday evenings 7:30-9:00 pm). Good pay commensurate with experience (negotiable). Contact Scott Santo, Director of Music, Ridge Avenue United Methodist Church: 215-482-2653.

WANTED: Praise Dance Groups from local churches are wanted to take part in a Community Christmas Dinner Theater. Please contact jules648@msn.com.

ORGANIST/KEYBOARD player for medium-sized church with one Sunday morning service. Two manual Teller pipe organ. Send resume with salary requirements to Immanuel UM Church, 29 East Maple St. Cleona, PA 17042.



Vibrant, Passionate Ministry

Back to the Basics: Vibrant, Passionate Ministry

Bishop's Mi-Winter Retreat
January 15-17, 2008

With guest speaker, The Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon
at the Clarion Resort Fountainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, MD

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

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

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

Schedule Overview

(detailed scheduled to be provided at retreat)

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Noon—2 p.m.: Registration

Bishop's Welcome/ Worship

Speaker—Dr. Paul Nixon

Dinner

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Breakfast

Worship

Speaker—Dr. Paul Nixon

Free Time

Dinner

Entertainment

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Breakfast

Closing Worship/ Communion



Online registration: www.epaumc.org

Deadline to register is November 30, 2007

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

The Face of Today's Missionary

Is it yours?

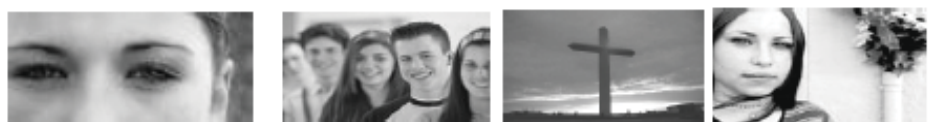
For more information, visit: www.ummissionaries.org

Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

Encounter 2007

One Weekend. One Passion. One Purpose.
"LIVE IT OUT LOUD"

encounter (verb) to come upon face to face



Friday – Sunday, November 9th - 11th

A weekend of Impact and Equipping for Students in Grades 7-12

The Bands: Social Hazzard & STEREO8 in concert and worship. The Speakers: Kim Checkeye, Kris Perry, Peter Clarke & Ron Schultz. The Fun: hayrides, high & low ropes challenge course, evening campfire, games, great food, and most of all – a weekend of drawing closer to God. Don't miss out – reserve your spot today by calling or emailing Rev. Kris Perry at (570)385-3941 or revkrisperry@yahoo.com. Cost is \$65, all meals/lodging are included!

\$25 Deposit due on September 20th. Balance of \$40 due on October 20th



Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center
87 Old Mine Road Lebanon, PA 17042

Contact: Rev. Kris Perry at (570) 385-3941 or revkrisperry@yahoo.com.