Women who tithe

by Suzy Keenan*

Growing up during the depression in Virginia, Ruth Daugherty and her five siblings watched their mother and their father, a United Brethren pastor, model tithing. “Even during the depression, my father took 10% from his pay each week and put it in a black box in my parents’ dresser drawer,” she said. “On Sunday, they took it out of the box and went to church to place it in the offering plate. We had one pair of shoes and one Sunday dress, and even though giving was a sacrifice, we weren’t without the basics of life that we needed.”

Ruth gives out of the joy of giving, “not out of obligation. It is one way that I can share what I have, to do the ministry of Jesus. My gifts are the part of my hands reaching out in ministry where I can’t be, and help to do what I cannot personally do.”

Tithes and offerings are not the end of her financial giving. That

Violent crime plagues our communities—urban, suburban, and rural alike. Children going back to school are no longer assured of a safe place, as seen in the Amish school house and Virginia Tech shootings, and the recent murder in Kutztown, PA. Murder rates are the highest ever seen in Philadelphia.

Issues such as poverty, inequitable education, proliferation of handguns, drugs, and gambling all contribute to the increase in violent crime. It is time for the Body of Christ to make a transforming difference in the world!

We, United Methodists—nearly 225,000 of us in about 1,000 churches in The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church—are called to be a prophetic voice for God’s Kingdom. And we are called to be Christ’s hands and feet that help to make God’s will a reality.

I ask that each of you, pastors and laypersons alike, join me to pray, act, and advocate on behalf of the least, the last, the lost—especially for the innocent children of our neighborhoods.

PRAY
Please pray daily with me, now through the end of October, specifically for peace in our communities.
• Pray for our young people.
• Pray for the victims of crime and violence.
• Pray for those caught in a cycle of poverty, crime, and prison.
• Pray for our elected officials, peacekeepers, and workers in the justice system.
• Pray that God will speak to us and through us to be His witness in a hurting world.
• Put the power of prayer to work, that lasting change will transform our world. Remember when you pray: “All things are possible with God.”

ACT
Find creative ways to be in ministry in the heart of your neighborhood that will help love your community into life!

• Identify and form a partnership with a school in your area to help children improve reading and math skills, to connect, and to mentor children into a healthy life.
• Create a safe place for peace in your community by offering activi

continues on page 9

Women who tithe

Praveena Balasundaram teaches Sunday School at Solebury UMC in New Hope, PA, where her husband is the pastor. For Praveena, giving a tithe includes not only financial giving, but also giving of time and talents.

continues on page 9
OCTOBER 6, 2007
Terry Teykl will be leading a seminar on Saturday, October 6th, at Washington Crossing UMC. The seminar is open to all pastors and laity in our conference. The topics include prayer, strategic partners, prayer strategies, and reaching your community through prayer. Dr. Teykl, who recently spoke to our entire conference during the CV process, has an incredible platform and personality and will be able to help us understand the power of prayer. He will also be able to help us to understand the power of the Holy Spirit within us. The registration fee includes a book, workbook, and other relevant materials. For more information click on the following link; see page 12 for more information. For more information: Bishop Markus Matthews, Director of Communications, at EPA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge Corporate Center, 980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

November Calendar

NOVEMBER 1-4, 2007
Bishop’s Lenten Day Apart - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE. Bishop Jeremiah J. Park will be the speaker. See page 12.

NOVEMBER 3, 2007

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007
Encounter Youth Event

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2007
The Pennsylvania State Pastor’s Conference

 Parsley’s” Day Apart - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE. The theme is “Being Christian in a Hi-Tech Culture.” The cost is $125 if your registration is postmarked by Sept. 30, 2007. 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 the PA Conference office at 717-273-2647, ext. 8237 or coordinator@gretnaglen.org. See you there!

NOVEMBER 25, 2007
United Methodist Student Day For more information and to order resources, go to www.umcig.org

NOVEMBER 26, 2007
Bishop’s Advent Day Apart - Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. will be the speaker.

DECEMBER 7, 2007
Making Disciples Training Series - Accountable Discipleship: The power of small groups. See page 8.

JANUARY 5, 7, 10, 12, 2008
Bishop’s Mid-Winter Retreat - Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Dr. Paul Nixon will be the speaker. See page 12.

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 subscription $12
Published 10 times per year by The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, Valley Forge Corporate Center, 980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

NOVEMBER 4, 2007
Living Faith, Seeking Justice Join other United Methodists from our area attending this event. For more information and to order resources, go to www.umcig.org

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2007
Confirmation Camp For Junior and Senior High youth who are involved in confirmation training in their local church. Confirmants come with their church leaders and learn about faith, and use their gifts for the body of Christ. Special emphasis on missions and United Methodist connectionalism. For more information and to order resources, go to www.umcig.org

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2007
The Pennsylvania State Pastor’s Conference - Staged at Lebanon UMC in Lebanon PA 17584. Enjoy apple dumplings, bingo, do crafts, or walk in the beauty of Autumn Leaves. There are also a variety of anthems and hymns, accompanied by organ and a seven-piece instrumental ensemble. Directed by Harrischee Durante Miles, the choir has performed at Annual Conference, recorded several CD’s, and is heard on family radio stations worldwide. Refreshments served after the service. For more information and to order resources, go to www.umcig.org
Welcome

We are happy to welcome Christine Eddy, the new District Resource Assistant for the Northwest District Office.

Prior to coming to the Northwest District, Christine was the Administrative Assistant at Salem United Methodist Church in Orwigsburg for three years. Previously, she worked in sales and customer service at a local hardware store, where she met Salem UMC’s pastor, Rev. Tim Patterson. “Tim, during his weekly ‘walk about town,’ visits local businesses, handing out a ‘God loves you’ card along with a piece of chocolate. It was during one of these weekly visits that Tim and Christine talked about her applying for the assistant’s position at Salem UMC.

Christine has lived in the Orwigsburg area for the past twenty years with her husband, Gene. They have two grown daughters, Alison and Jennifer. Her “new kids” are her dog, Piper, and a cat, Haven. She and her husband attend St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in Schuylkill Haven. In her spare time she enjoys collecting orchids, gardening, and scrapbooking.

In Memoriam

The Rev. G. Edgar Hertzler, who passed away Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at the age of 99. He was currently residing at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown. He was born in Lancaster and attended Lebanon Valley College where he also served as a trustee for 24 years. He also received degrees from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, and also from Gettysburg Seminary.

During his ministry, he served the Lebanon Circuit, the 29th Street UB Church in Harrisburg, St. Paul’s UMC in Elizabethtown, and Ottoneum Church in Harrisburg. After the merger of the EUB and Methodist Churches, he stayed in the Central PA Conference.

He is survived by his two children, Georgia Ann Bartholomew of Mechanicsburg and Dr. Paul Hertzler of Leesburg, Florida and two step-children, Carol Fleisher of Imperial, PA, and Paul Mickey of Florida.

Condolences may be sent to Georgia Ann Bartholomew, 8017 William Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

Peru Relief Rally:

OCTOBER 14, 2007

Peru Relief Rally: Raise aid for the victims of the earthquakes in Peru, at West Chester United Methodist Church, 129 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19382. Sponsored by the Eastern PA Conference Commission on Latino Ministries and Iglesia El Buen Samaritano. For more information please contact Rev. Evodia Villalva at 610-792-1990 or contact her at esvillalva@hotmail.com.

Memorial contributions may be sent to United Methodist Church, 750 S. 29th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

The Rev. Robert H. Wright

The Rev. Robert H. Wright, retired elder, who died early in the morning on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, VA. At the moment of his death, he was in the company of his wife, Mamie, and more than a dozen family and friends.

Rev. Wright served the following appointments beginning in 1959: Springfield, Covenant; Havertown, Supt. Andrews, Extension Ministry; Conference Consultant and Program Director, Extension Ministry; Supt. Lancaster District; Allen town: Asbury. He retired in 2000.

Rev. Wright is survived by his wife, Marianne, and two daughters, Elizabeth W. Jae and Marian W. Sade.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Marianne L. Wright, 901 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Hi111, Willow Street, PA 17564-9663. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Memorial Fund of First United Methodist Church, 29 East Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

The Rev. Raymond P. Poorstra

The Rev. Raymond P. Poorstra, who died Friday, September 14, 2007 at the age of 99.

Rev. Poorstra served in Portland for seven years, has lived in the White Gap for 27 years, and was on the staff at East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church for 27 years.

Surviving are daughters, Jeanne and Deitra, surviving spouse and 10 grand-children.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Kathleen Connelly, RR 3 Box 3165, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, 80 S. Court House St., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.
**The Nation in Brief**

- **On summer weekdays, interns from all over the United States flood Capitol Hill in Washington on their way to government buildings. Once on the Hill, many of the interns head for congressional offices. But this past summer, like many others, 14 interns departed from the group and reported to the United Methodist building just across the street from the Supreme Court. These are the Ethnic Young Adult interns, selected by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society to spend two months interning at places all over the District of Columbia. Susan Jacob, an Indian American and student at St. John’s University in Queens, N.Y., appreciated the chance to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. “Jesus worked for justice, he cared for the poor, sick, hungry and dying, and it is important for the church to stand for those issues,” she said. (Grace Susan is the daughter of The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien and his wife, Christy Jacob.)**

- **The United Methodist Church is facing the “very hard, very painful” work of cutting ministries and shifting resources while building its denominational budget around four newly named areas of focus. After months of reviewing a proposed budget that does not keep pace with inflation, the chief executives of the denomination’s program agencies pledged to preserve ministries that address those four areas—leadership development, congregational growth, global health and poverty. However, programs and ministries outside those initiatives will be reviewed for possible adjustments and cuts if the church’s top legislative assembly approves the $642 million four-year spending plan next spring, the executives said. The General Conference, which meets every four years, will gather in Fort Worth, Texas. Agency leaders reported on their budget work Sept. 7 in Nashville, Tenn., during a joint meeting of the Connectional Table and the governing board of the General Council on Finance and Administration.**

- **United Methodist volunteers from across the United States were welcomed, thanked and challenged to keep coming to the Gulf Coast at a Katrina Summit in New Orleans to honor the work and workers of the past two years. More than 63,000 United Methodist volunteers from 42 states, 46 foreign countries and 46 annual (regional) conferences have come to the aid of the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina stormed ashore on Aug. 29, 2005. The Sept. 6-7 summit was organized to thank and recruit more volunteers, find new church partnerships and encourage more donations to the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal, a special fund established by the United Methodist Council of Bishops to help rebuild churches, pay salaries and restore other ministries. Annual conferences from Alaska to Arkansas sent more than 200 representatives from volun- teer mission teams to the event hosted by annual conferences in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama-West Florida.**

> “We thought it was a good place to reach young adults, reach the counter-culture, reach poor people,” Walker said. “We started meeting people on the street who were different from us. They had orange hair, purple hair, blue hair and we just loved them as Jesus would love them.”

> Attendance at Sunday worship in the cafeteria has tripled in the past two years. Eddings and Walker look out over a congregation that includes, among others, senior citizens holding their grandchildren, young adult devotees of body piercing, and families from some of Pittsburgh’s wealthier suburbs. Each week, at least four or five worshippers come from the South Side’s homeless community.

> “Melchiorre is a freelance producer based in New York City.”

The EPA Conference will be featured as part of Making Disciples training in the EPA Conference in 2008.
From communication centers in Africa to training programs in the Philippines, United Methodists are making strides in becoming more digitally connected around the world.

Much of that progress has occurred in the last four years, as The United Methodist Church’s communications agency has focused on leading the denomination into the digital age.

**Helping in times of need**
Commissioners affirmed United Methodist Communications’ work in helping the denomination offer messages of comfort and hope during times of disaster, such as the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and 2005 hurricanes Katrina on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Through the denomination’s Work at www.umcom.org, the commission enabled people to respond in new and different ways.

“The church rushed into the media maelstrom and was present,” said the Rev. Larry Hollon, top staff executive of United Methodist Communications. “If the church is not present in public ways in times of (disaster), our absence is noticed. Absence leaves an impression of detachment and lack of concern.”

The commission also heard updates on the agency’s work with organizers of the 2008 General Conference, the denomination’s legislative assembly, which meets next spring in Fort Worth, Texas. United Methodist Communications staff members are using different forms of media and technology to help link the episcopal, laity and young people’s addresses as well as other key presentations during the opening days of the gathering.

“It will be more than people standing at the podium and speaking,” said Ginny Underwood, executive director of strategic programming at the United Methodist Communications Foundation, the agency has established 15 communication centers in Africa, and it has trained and equipped people in Africa, Europe and the Philippines to tell the stories of the church in their areas.

More training is planned for Europe in November.

**Connecting schools**
In an effort to foster leadership development, one of the denomination’s four Areas of Focus for 2009-2012, the commission approved a partnership agreement between the agency and the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry to establish an online distance-learning infrastructure in Africa. The network will connect colleges and universities across the continent with others in Asia, Latin America and the United States.

“Partnership in online learning has the potential to make very real and concrete the wiring of the global church,” said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, president of the commission.

**Training for Europe**
Training is planned for Europe, the United States and elsewhere. In addition, a radio station has been launched in Liberia and 80 hand-cranked radios have been distributed to people who have no access to computers or live in areas with limited resources.

“Through the initiative, the church is taking its global nature seriously and doing something about it,” said Andreas Elving of Finland, chairman of the commission’s central communication committee. “It is one of the greatest things that has happened in a long time. It has the possibility to change the church on so many levels and has the potential to change negatives into positives.”

“From Nicaragua and Honduras about damage from Hurricane Felix, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is preparing to respond. But donations are needed to provide relief both for victims of Felix and others needing assistance during the 2007 hurricane season, according to the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, UMCOM’s domestic disaster coordinator. Felix pummeled the coastlines of northern Nicaragua and southern Honduras, Sept. 4 with 160 mph winds and drenching rains. Checks for Hurricanes 2007 can be dropped in church collection plates or mailed directly to UMCOM at P.O. Box 9098, New York, NY 10008. Write “UMCOM Advance #982511, Hurricanes 2007” on the memo line of the check. Credit card donations: (800) 554-8533.

*United Methodists celebrated the commissioning of a Uganda school serving orphans and vulnerable children, and expressed hope it will serve as a prototype for schools in other East African countries. Humble United Methodist School in Mukono was commissioned in August by Bishop Michael Watson of Macon, Ga. Part of the United Methodist Church’s 2006-2012, the commission approved the denomination’s first ever meeting outside the United States — in Zimbabwe and southern Honduras Sept. 4 with 160 mph winds and drenching rains. Checks for Hurricanes 2007 can be dropped in church collection plates or mailed directly to UMCOM at P.O. Box 9098, New York, NY 10008. Write “UMCOM Advance #982511, Hurricanes 2007” on the memo line of the check. Credit card donations: (800) 554-8533.

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CrossWalk - 2007 Summer Camp in Eastern Pennsylvania

by Jim Wilkin*

Young people of all ages came to Carson Simpson Farm, Camp Innabah, Gretna Glen and Pocono Plateau to play, grow, make new friends, and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This year’s theme was CrossWalk, and over 5,000 campers learned to follow God’s call “to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). The crosswalk isn’t easy. Yet we can trust in God to go with us always, helping us to stand up for what is right as we reach out to serve and to care for others.

CrossWalk 2007 started with a surprise. The discovery of alligators kept kids on their toes! The Plateau was equally blessed as always, and the number of children accepted at CSF. 1,053 campers were processed. The 1,053 campers were provided with encouragement, spiritual renewal, and fun as they experience God in a personal way—sometimes encountering Jesus Christ for the very first time.

Children campers (grades 1-6) totaled 506 while youth campers (grades 7-12) totaled 547. There were the traditional camps for children and youth at the Adventure and Main Sites, as well as, the specialty camps that experienced tremendous growth! Many additional camps attended programs like Mission Possible (learning about various aspects of church missions), After Hours (featuring a rotating schedule that allowed for late nights ... and late mornings!), Youth Adventure (offering adventures like Whitewater Rafting) and Youth Blast (just plain old “fun!”). Our children’s programs were popular, as always, and the number of children attending Day Camp grew, especially in the specialty camps like Wet & Wild and Puddle Jumpers. A wonderful summer staff included many returning members and some excellent new folks, all who joined together to make our Crosswalk memorable. Having veterans helps to keep alive the traditions that our summer program has enjoyed for many years. Our new friends, coming from places like Indiana, Iowa, Burkina Faso and even California, shared fresh ideas that strengthened our programs! All in all, 2007 offered a great chance to focus on God’s word through Micah. We all learned to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God!!

Summer camp at Pocono Plateau had a huge impact on the lives of campers. The summer theme, Crosswalk, was taught through Bible studies, evening chapels & campfires, and throughout the day in teachable moments. The 1,053 campers were provided with encouragement, spiritual renewal, and fun as they experience God in a personal way—sometimes encountering Jesus Christ for the very first time.

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*Pocono Plateau
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Children campers (grades 1-6) totaled 506 while youth campers (grades 7-12) totaled 547. There were the traditional camps for children and youth at the Adventure and Main Sites, as well as, the specialty camps that experienced rock-climbing, rafting, water sports, horseback riding, sports, crafts, and nature studies. Our backpacking trip traveled to Yellowstone National Park.

Pocono Plateau was equally blessed with volunteers who gave of their time and energy to share their love of Christ with the campers. We could not have done it without them! Most important of all was the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with campers. Whether they were familiar with the Plateau or new in 2007, lives were touched and changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. And let’s face it, that’s what summer camp is truly all about!

Camp Innabah - If you build it, they will come!

We enjoyed sharing our faith journey with campers and staff as we experienced our Crosswalk this summer. We were excited to see over 1200 campers, an increase of 103 from last year! Praise God!

We are pleased by the growth of our Day Camp over the past several years. Day campers enjoy all the activities at Innabah, enjoying hayrides, archery, the challenge course, boating, nature activities, Bible studies, arts and crafts, and so much more.

Grandparents and Me half week events have become one of our most popular camps. Grandparents really enjoy this time with their grandchildren and take advantage of all of the amenities of camp. If you are interested in 2008, sign up early!

New camps that were added this year included Jr. High Sports, Wet-n-Wild, Real to Real, Theatre Arts Camp, and Nature Expression. Some of the camps were so successful that parents were trying to sign their children up for next year already!

The summer was so successful because God truly blessed us with an additional Jesus Christ camper. The challenge course, boating, nature activities, Bible studies, arts and crafts, and so much more.

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Going away to college is a significant and overwhelming moment in many young people’s lives, especially if leaving for college coincides with “graduating out” of their church’s youth ministry. Keeping in touch with college students who were once part of your youth ministry reminds these young people that they are part of a faith community that loves and supports them. While no gift can take the place of a thoughtful letter, e-mail message, or phone call, giving these students something to help them through this challenging time in their life is a nice gesture of Christian love.

One of the biggest challenges for a young Christian living away from home for the first time is staying connected to God. Soul Tending (gift edition) is a companion for older youth and young adults who seek to mature in their faith and develop holy habits for spiritual growth. The goal is that Christ will be formed in each young person as he or she intentionally seeks encounters with God. Its elegant look and feel make this edition of Soul Tending an excellent gift, and its compact size makes it the perfect fit for a backpack full of larger and more intimidating books.

A young Christian living away from home should be prepared to find a church home, stay focused on what is truly important, take care of your body, not doing too much, and keeping God first. Go to www.Cokesbury.com to order and view the books.

Abingdon Youth is your source for youth ministry resources that unleash vital faith in your youth and help them find their place in God’s story. Visit YouthYouth.com. Abingdon Youth resources are distributed by Cokesbury, a company with over 200 years of experience in Christian publishing and retailing. You may contact us at youth@abingdonyouth.com or call toll free: 1-800-672-1789

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You can now download free samples of Claim the Life, e|Merge, and Veracity Video Vignettes at www.Cokesbury.com. You can also watch sample videos from our DVD products at YouTube: www.youtube.com
Resources for Disciple Making Churches

Books by Paul Nixon
guest speaker at the Bishop’s Mid-Winter Retreat on January 15-17, 2008

Healing Spiritual Amnesia
Remembering What It Means to be the Church
By Paul Nixon and Tony Campolo

There are no end to clichés and easy assumptions about congregational health and vitality. It’s much easier to start a new church than turn around an old one; non-denominational churches are growing, while denominational churches are dying; small-member churches are concerned only with survival; suburban churches care only about endless programming and “spiritual entertainment”; downtown churches are doomed to decay. Whatever kernel of truth such analyses might contain, they miss the actual point. Churches stagnate, decline, and die for a number of reasons, but principally because they have forgotten who they are. They have forgotten their mission to reach out to those who do not know God in Christ. They have forgotten that we worship, not to feel comfortable and safe, but to come into the presence of a God who leads us out into the world. They have forgotten the “cloud of witnesses” who have gone before us in the Christian faith, providing models for how we can proclaim the message of the gospel in ways that new generations can hear it. Paul Nixon calls this failure of memory “spiritual amnesia.” Concerned with institutional survival and personal comfort, congregations have forgotten what previous generations of Christians have learned time and again: that the church’s great challenge is to make the gospel available in new and compelling ways to those who need most to hear it. In a series of sweeping insights into congregational life and contemporary culture, Nixon maps a course that will help churches remember who they are and for whom they exist.

Paperback: 144 pages
Publisher: Abingdon Press
Cost: $17 (on www.amazon.com)
Available as electronic download in Microsoft and Adobe ebook formats ($10.00 on www.cokesbury.com).

Fling Open the Doors
By Paul Nixon

The temptation to focus only on their own internal problems and issues is powerful for congregations. Without realizing it, even churches that have a long tradition of outreach and social involvement become centered on issues of institutional survival and preservation. Worst of all, congregations that adopt a “fortress mentality” address the larger community rarely, and only in the “language of Zion” when they do. This tendency to isolation and insularity flies directly in the face of the gospel imperative to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian congregations exist as God’s redeeming presence in the communities in which they are located. If churches are to live as though they take that seriously, they must learn to give themselves away to the community. The focus of every ministry and program must be to reach and make disciples of theunchurched. In this book, Paul Nixon paints a picture of what community based ministry is all about. Drawing on his experiences within a congregation that has seen twenty-five years of increased worship attendance, he lays out practical steps that churches can take to plant themselves firmly within the lives of the communities they serve. He demonstrates how churches can organize their facilities to become community centers, establish multiple locations for ministry throughout the community, and empower every member to become a minister of the congregation. Written with an infectious sense of hope, this book will become a critical tool for church leaders seeking to transform their congregations into outward-looking bodies of witness.

Paperback: 248 pages
Publisher: Abingdon Press
Cost: $16 (discounted price on www.cokesbury.com)
Available as electronic download in Microsoft and Adobe ebook formats ($11.20).

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 Telik
  $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 ___ = ___

Plus Shipping $ 4.00 - TOTAL $ _______

E-mail: ______________________ (optional)
Phone: ______________________

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

Making Disciples Series Training Schedule

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
- Faith Sharing: “Igniting Ministries: Becoming a Welcoming and Inviting Church”
  LOCATION: West Chester UMC, 129 S High Street, West Chester, PA 19382
  COST: $10 per person, includes lunch
  REGISTRATION: 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
  SESSION: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Training will be led by the Rev. Larry Homitsky, Director of Connectional Ministries from the Western Pennsylvania Conference, and Suzy Keenan, Director of Communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Registration Deadline is October 10 at 3:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
- Stewardship of God’s Gifts
  LOCATION: Washington Crossing UMC, 1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977
  COST: $10 per person, includes materials
  REGISTRATION: OCTOBER 28 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 Telik
  $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 ___ = ___

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Women who tithe

dr. mary white grew up in the boston area in a methodist family. while growing up, she watched her grandmother model giving and devotion to the church. mary, who has belonged to african-american and integrated churches, witnessed a uniqueness to the african-american tradition, where giving and tithing, as well as giving of one's time, labor, and talents centered around the church community. "our lives on sundays were centered around the church. through the week, families also devoted their labor and time to the church, even to tending church gardens. we always prepared them on saturday night, ready for our sunday offering. even with as busy as i am today, i still keep that discipline," said dr. white.

"my philosophy of life is that i need to give of my time and my talents, too," explained ruth, who is a united methodist pastor in delhi, india. "i ask myself, 'can i say no?' when i am asked to give of my time and my talents, i don't ask if i can say yes, i ask myself, 'can i say no?'

ruth's giving of her time and talents began with the otterbein guild girls at age ten. she served as conference president in eastern pennsylvania for the women's society of world service in the united brethren church, served as national president of united methodist women from 1980 to 1984, and has been a delegate to jurisdictional and general conferences. she continues giving of herself through teaching, counseling, and singing in the choir at grandview united methodist church in lancaster, pa, teaching in regional schools of christian mission, and serving as secretary for the denominational jurisdiction.

Dr. White grew up in the Boston area in a Methodist family. While growing up, she watched her grandmother model giving and devotion to the church. Mary, who has belonged to African-American and integrated churches, witnessed a uniqueness to the African-American tradition, where giving and tithing, as well as giving of one's time, labor, and talents centered around the church community. "Our lives on Sundays were centered around the church. Through the week, families also devoted their labor and time to the church, even to tending church gardens. We always prepared them on Saturday night, ready for our Sunday offering. Even with as busy as I am today, I still keep that discipline," said Dr. White.

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Leadership Summit 2007 – Developing Strong Leaders

by Thomas Hall*

For the past three summers I have religiously observed three new holy days that I’ve added to my calendar year: the Willow Creek Association’s Leadership Summit. The summit gathers over 100,000 Christian leaders from around the world at over 100 sites to consider specific ways that they can grow in their God-given leadership abilities.

The mantra for the two and a half day summit centers in a high ecclesiology: the conviction that the Church is God’s plan to redeem the world and that strong pastoral leadership makes strong churches.

Over the past three Augusts I’ve listened to John Ortberg (If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat), President Jimmy Carter, William Bennis, Jim Collins (Good to Great and Great to Walk on Water), You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat), President Jimmy Carter, William Bennis, Jim Collins (From Good to Great), Carly Fiorina (Tough Choices), successfully led one of the world’s largest technology companies through severe industry downturn, Michael Porter (author of 17 books; foremost authority of competitive strategy; professor at Harvard University), Marcus Buckingham (trilogy, First, Break All The Rules, then, Now Discover Your Strengths, and finally, Go Put Your Strengths to Use), and Bill Hybels, to name a few.

What makes the summit so impactful for me is the cross-fertilization of ideas and inspiration that come from a variety of places. Try sitting across the table from turned-on Lutherans or Episcopalians, then throw in a few Pentecostals for inspiration and spice it up with a few Episcopalians for balance, and you have lively discussions about leadership that follow the main presentations.

This year we brought about 30 folks from Crossroads because the principles of leadership are easily caught and easily appropriated. Each day during lunch we met together to compare what we learned and then later we debriefed as a group, resolving to act on at least three things that we had learned at the summit. There’s just a thumbnail version of what one summit leader brought to the table this year . . . You’ll grow most by focusing on your strengths. According to Marcus Buckingham, Very few people play to their strengths even 12% of the time. So the rest of the session provided an excellent exercise not only to discover our personal strengths, but how to change the work or ministry climate so that we can begin to leverage our strengths to help the team move forward. What would happen if our church moved to a strengths-based economy? At Crossroads, we’ve already shifted and reallocated volunteers and staff to draw on strengths—and with amazing results! Michael Porter raised the question, How do you do well at doing good? He then urged church leaders to ask strategic questions when doing mission. Porter acknowledged the altruism of churches and applauded their efforts. Yet, too often we hit the comparison button and turn the strategic button off so that the deliverables we bring may make us feel good, but in fact, do little to change the problem. At the end of the day, he challenged the leaders, “you’ve got to ask the painful strategic question: ‘Have we really made a difference, have we done deep surgery, or have we been putting Band-Aids over wounds?’” The rest of his session included powerful strategic questions (How do we define clearly what our goals are? What set of services are we going to address?—more is not better! How do we align our congregations to become more effective? Who can we partner or network with within the larger neighbor to accomplish more effectiveness?)

Consider attending next year’s Leadership Summit (held at Church of the Savior, Wayne), August 7-9, 2008, (www.willowcreek.com/summit for more information) and personally explore how this event could strengthen you as a leader and in turn, help you to develop a stronger church. Who knows? Maybe you too will decide to include some new holy days on your calendar during the dog days of August.

* The Rev. Thomas Hall is pastor of Crossroads United Methodist Church.

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**Attention**

All Pastors in Cross Cultural Appointments

The Racial Ethnic Ministry Work Team is sending out a survey to you, in the hope that you will supply us with information in regard to your cross cultural appointment (CCA). Your experiences both positive and negative will be helpful in making future CCAs effective. We are also setting up workshops for pastors in and/or going to a CCA. The first one will be held on April 9, 2008. Please return your surveys by October 28, 2007. Thank you for your support.

For more information, contact the Rev. Rene Perez, rene.perez@epaumc.org or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 218.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

Your voice can be heard at the General Conference through petitioning! The General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation wishes to remind the Annual Conference that the deadline of October 26, 2007 for petitioning the 2008 General Conference is quickly approaching. The Book of Discipline provides that, “Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference . . .” The procedure for doing so is found in the Book of Discipline, paragraphs 507.1 through 507.9. The form of petitioning described there is very important and must be followed. All petitions may have a 50-word rationale (petition introduction) accompanying them. Every petition is read, studied, and voted upon at the General Conference.

Petitions may be sent by email to petitions@umc.org, or by regular US mail to: Gary W. Graves, UM General Conference, P.O. Box 188, Beaver Dam, KY 42320-0187. Please note again the deadline for submitting them, October 26, 2007.

Every UM (and others interested) can access important information in regard to your cross cultural appointment (explanation) accompanying them. Every petition is read, studied, and voted upon at the General Conference.

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United Methodist Student Day

November 25, 2007

For more information go to: www.umcgiving.org

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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 Ordinances of God” - $ 10
  - with the Rev. Tom Albin - Celebration of Ministries - Wednesday, June 13, 2007

**Plus Shipping $4.00**

**Total amount $__________________________**

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**Name:** ____________________________________________

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Missionary in Sierra Leone Needs Covenant Support

“Missionary” is one of the oldest and most honored offices of the Christian church with origins in the New Testament. The letters of Paul are those of a missionary called and commissioned to Jesus Christ. Missionaries witness and serve in dramatically different locations and cultures and engage in a range of professions and activities. They come from many places and backgrounds.

Onema L. Ombaku, a United Methodist missionary, serves as the Area Missionary in Sierra Leone. Mr. Ombaku and his wife, Henriette, have three sons. The family holds membership at the Bethanie UMC in the Central Congo Area Conference. The Ombakus first came to the United States in 1984, and he has been serving in Sierra Leone since 1994. Mr. Ombaku received his diploma in commerce and graduated with degrees in education, political science and administration. He received his diploma in computer accounting from Universal College in Nairobi, Kenya. His preparation to serve as AFE in Sierra Leone began when he was assigned to be assistant to the AFE in the GBGM office in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1994. Mr. Ombaku has been in Sierra Leone since December 2006.

“I know my God will help at any level of problem or situation. I keep my discipline in my life according to the word of God, to his rules, the Ten Commandments, and with the help of his Holy Spirit in all areas.”

He attended university in the Congo and graduated with degrees in education, political science and administration. He received his diploma in computer accounting from Universal College in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Ombaku served as assistant to the AFE in the GBGM office in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2006. “I know my God will help at any level of problem or situation. I keep my discipline in my life according to the word of God, to his rules, the Ten Commandments, and with the help of his Holy Spirit in all areas.”

Mr. Ombaku is requested by the GBGM to serve for many years. His passion is teaching and missions. He feels the strong presence of God in his life. He believes God has been preparing him to serve for many years. He attended university in the Congo and graduation with degrees in education, political science and administration. He received his diploma in computer and accounting from Universal College in Nairobi, Kenya. His preparation to serve as AFE in Sierra Leone began when he was assigned to be assistant to the AFE in the GBGM office in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2006. “I know my God will help at any level of problem or situation. I keep my discipline in my life according to the word of God, to his rules, the Ten Commandments, and with the help of his Holy Spirit in all areas.”

Now that we know why and which one, the last suggestion I have is timing. If you want to shake things up, do your campaign in the spring. March and April are good months because families have just reviewed their investments, prepared their tax returns and know where they stand financially. They are also in the season of celebrating God’s greatest gift to us.

For additional information about the Foundation’s investment and stewardship services or to make an appointment for a meeting, please call the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation at 800-828-8903 to request or email us at stcymartin@epaumc.org.

The Foundation, in a joint effort with the Making Disciples Team is sponsoring a stewardship training event being held on Saturday, November 3 at Washington Crossing UMC. Please see page 7 for more information, or go to www.epaumc.org to register.

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Classifieds

P/T CHOIR DIRECTOR AND/OR PRAYERS ENDORSED FOR Elverson UMC. 10-20 hrs per week. Call 610-796-9460. M-Th 9-3.

PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY needed immediately. Messiah UMC. Duties include answer phone, mail, and accounting. Salary negotiable based on skills and experience. Please respond to: Messiahchurch@verizon.net.

FOUNDATION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Part-time to support the Foundation’s Executive Director in all aspects of account administration. Duties include include opening accounts, receiving accounts transactions, updating client information, and handling external mailings and projects. Correspond with clients and coordinate work with an outside custodian. Applications will be received by the Foundation. Please submit resume to: Peninsula United Methodist Foundation, 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 Fio, CPA at (610) 457-1486 or e-mail at BF3Firon@comcast.net. Inquiries available upon request.

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Annual Campaigns – which ones, why and when

by Stacy J. Martin

Those two words, “Annual Campaign”, said in a church setting provoke more fear and negative feelings than “Internal Revenue Service” spoken in a secular setting! Like the IRS, annual campaigns are necessary. Unlike the IRS, they can be wonderfully rewarding.

Herb Miller, author of “Consecration Sunday”, has evaluated and summarized five different campaigns. Some of you may know him or recognize his name. He has been teaching congregations how to respond to the call to be a generous giver for decades.

His article begins with the question “How can we get clergy and lay leaders to move beyond stewardship education methods controlled by (a) “the way we’ve always done it” and (b) a short list of influential layperson who blurt out their opinion of what effective stewardship methods should be?”

He answers with nine principles that churches can use to see significant annual increases in their total offerings. I provide the ideas below; the article contains the rationale and reasons:

- Conduct an effective campaign every year
- Talk about the need of the giver to give for their spiritual benefit, not the need for the church to receive
- Instead of “what do we need to balance the budget” rather “what is God calling you to give”
- Talk about percentage giving not as a fundamentalist statement but as an agreement the giver has with God.
- Complete the campaign first, then create and publish the church budget
- Talk about time and talent stewardship during a different month “Recognize that congregation’s ‘what I will contribute’ in terms of giving is not a must, it is a choice”
- Create an ‘apportionment in full are encouraged’ appeal plan.  Fax resumes to 610-666-9093 or email to rwhjwh@earthlink.net. Also contact Dick for a complete Ombaku’s first missionary letter.
- Recognizing that it is more cost effective and efficient to train and support persons from the same continent to serve in mission in mission-related roles, the GBGM requests Covenant.jpg
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.


**Schedule Overview**  
(detailed schedule 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](http://www.epaumc.org)

**Deadline to register is November 30, 2007**

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

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**Gretta Glen Camp & Retreat Center**  
87 Old Mine Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
Contact: Rev. Kris Perry at (570) 383-3941 or revkrisperry@yahoo.com.