

## What's Inside....

Tools for Ministry  
Success

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New Executive  
Director of the  
Eastern PA-Pennin-  
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odist Foundation

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Summer Camp  
2008

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*Bishop Marcus Matthews (right), the Conference Cabinet, and Philadelphia clergy were among the hundreds of people to attend the Interfaith Inaugural Service for Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter (left) on January 3 at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The event was hosted by the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, an organization formed in 2006 to unite religious leaders, to build relationships of mutual support, to offer a moral and spiritual voice, and to take action on issues of critical concern in our region. The Jan. 3 service focused on ending violence in our region, and praying for peace.*

## Conference leads in Theological Training

In 2006 under the leadership of Bishop Marcus Matthews, a team of eight persons met with officials and faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary. The purpose of the conversation was to talk about a partnership between the Eastern Pennsylvania and Asbury Theological Seminary in order to train laity and clergy in theological and ministerial education and practices in Spanish, either through a certification or a degree program.

This past summer the General Board of Global Ministries granted \$10,000 to begin this school, which has as its primary task the development and preparation of the Latino(a) laity and clergy for the work of the kingdom. The School will work with the United Methodist Latino churches and prepare them to face and address community, social, and missional issues in ways that are effective and impacting in their communities.

A team that includes The Rev. Rene Perez, Mrs. Elizabeth Santos Fisher, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher, the Rev. Nicolas Camacho, the Rev. Andrew Foster and the Rev. Armando Iraheta has set the fall of 2008 as the date to start classes.

Other purposes of the school will include helping churches become thriving and vital congregations in areas of evangelization, social and pastoral care, conflict resolution in church and community settings, leadership skills, worship, relevant preaching and music, and other areas of the life of the congregation, inclusive of English and Spanish as a second language classes.

Before this happens, this team is looking for the help of MISSION TEAMS from some of our churches to repair and upgrade the old facilities of Emanuel-Olivet United Methodist Church in

## CELEBRATION MOMENT

### Conference pays full apportionment

*by Suzy Keenan and UMC Giving\**

For the first time in twenty years, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is paying 100% of its World Service and General Church apportionment.

The last year the Conference paid its full share was 1987. The Conference paid its full share of World Service in 1995, although not the full share of General Church funds that year.

Bishop Marcus Matthews celebrated the ministry this makes possible by saying, "Having grown up in a family of seven children, I learned that interdependence was the key to survival. I watched my family and neighbors share the little they had with each other. I saw my mother sharing our food from her pot with neighbors. They each brought to the table what little they had so that out of the gifts of a few, the community made sure everybody had enough. Paul in Corinthians 12:4-7 said, 'There are different kinds of gifts, but they all come from the same spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.'"

"The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has said "YES" to God that it is good to share one another's burden," Bishop Matthews said. "One of the gifts The United Methodist Church is blessed to have is connectionalism. Our response, locally and globally, to persons and situations today that are hurting is the result of the collective faith of God's people and the connectional resources of The United Methodist Church. What one local church cannot do alone, together in 2007 we have done, making a tremendous difference in the world. I praise God for each and every one of you!"

This full payment of the General Church apportionment is made possible by money that local churches gave and also by 2007 savings in three areas:

- record giving towards Direct Billing;

# Calendar

- **FEBRUARY 12, 2008** - Pastoral Care Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry Offers - Clergy Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop | Dealing With Sexual Ethics Across Cultures. First UMC, Lancaster, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. To register contact: Judy Ehninger, at ehninger@ptd.net or 610-965-2290. Cost: \$20 Facilitator: Beverly Andrews. Fulfills quadrennial training requirement. .5 CEUs. Language, approaches and assumptions about aspects of sexual ethics vary, although our Conference and Denominational policies about these issues do not. Every congregation has a culture. Every location has a culture. Every person has a culture, based in their life experience, in addition to the ethnic and national cultures in which we were raised. And every culture deals with sexuality and boundaries in its own way. Explore ways to avoid pitfalls of lack of awareness and false assumptions about yourself and others. Learn questions to ask and clues to notice when dealing with issues of sexuality and boundaries across cultures.
- **FEBRUARY 15-16, 2008** - Invitational Preaching, Worship and Evangelism in the 21st Century - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 9.
- **FEBRUARY 18, 2008** - Palmer Theological Seminary Frank B. Mitchell Lectureship. Guest Lecturer and Preacher, Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr., Senior Pastor, The Church of the Redeemer Baptist Philadelphia, PA. Luncheon Speaker: The Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor, City of Philadelphia. The annual Mitchell Lectureship is the keystone of Palmer Theological Seminary's celebration of African American History Month. It is named in honor of Frank B. Mitchell, Jr., pastor of Pinn Memorial Baptist Church for over 40 years. Mitchell Lecture: no cost, Mitchell Luncheon: \$25.00 per person. Afternoon Worship: no cost, Mail lunch reservations with full payment to: Academic Dean's Office, Palmer Theological Seminary, 6 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096; 484-384-2941; www.palmerseminary.edu.
- **MARCH 7 - 10, 2008** - 2008 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice—consider bringing a friend (or two or three). If you can't make it (or even if you can), please pass this on to others who share your passion for justice and peace and urge them to attend. The event begins on Friday evening, March 7, and wraps up with lobby day visits on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on March 10. It will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, and there are special rates available for conference attendees. To learn more about the program, which includes eight tracks related to the theme, go to <http://www.advocacydays.org>.
- **MARCH 15, 2008** - Global Praise - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 10.
- **APRIL 9, 2008** - Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop. "Beyond Safe Sanctuaries: How to Respond to Sexual Abuse." With all EPA churches now having written Safe Sanctuaries policies, come listen and dialogue about a range of pastoral issues to be dealt with in the event of a sexual abuse incident. April 9 from 9:30-3:30 at Asbury UMC in Allentown. \$25 fee - checks payable to EPAUMC. To register, by March 26, send name, contact info and check to: Covenant UMC, Rev. Amy Emmett-Rardin, 212 W. Springfield Rd., Springfield, PA 19064; or info to amy.emmett.rardin@covumc.com. Please note: This is the last Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop for this quadrennium.
- **APRIL 11, 2008** - United Methodist Night at the 76ers at 7 pm vs Pacers. For more information contact Jim Wilkin at jim.wilkin@epaume.org.
- **APRIL 11-13, 2008** - York Pa. Marriage Encounter Weekend. Marriage is a gift from God. Keeping it well polished reflects God's glow. Clergy couples can do this and also get 1.5 CEU's by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Pa. weekend will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in York. The weekend begins Friday evening and concludes about 4 pm on Sunday. You can use the link on the CPUM conference web to register on line or go to [encounter.org](http://encounter.org). Your nonrefundable registration fee of \$50.00 may be mailed to: Dick & Donna Risinger, 224 Mail Ave. Warren, PA 16365. For more information please call Bernell & Jola Shoff at (717) 244-4848.
- **APRIL 19, 2008** - Hot Metal Bridge - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 10.
- **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. More info: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).
- **MAY 29, 2008** - Engage Arts in Worship - Part of the Making Disciples Series. At Annual Conference. See page 11.
- **MAY 29 - 30, 2008** - Annual Conference 2008. Reserve these dates now!
- **JUNE 1, 2008** - Service of Ordination. First UMC of Lancaster, 29 E. Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602-4936.
- **JUNE 14, 2008** - Lord Teach us to Pray - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 11.
- **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 conferences make up the Northeast Jurisdiction, and bishops for the jurisdiction will be elected at this meeting. More info: [www.nejumc.org](http://www.nejumc.org).
- **JULY 18-20, 2008** - 2008 Conference School of Mission. The Courses are: "I Believe in Jesus" (Taken by All) "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" (Elective) "Israel and Palestine" (Elective). The tentative location is The Inn at Reading. For additional information contact: Dick Howarth [rwhjwh@earthlink.net](mailto:rwhjwh@earthlink.net).
- **JULY 25-26, 2008** - Weaving a Web of Connections. Part of the Making Disciples training series. For more information, see page 11.
- **JULY 26, 2008** - United Methodist Night at the Phillies - Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves at 3:55 pm. Pre-game activities will feature a United Methodist Men's Choir singing the National Anthem plus other events. If we sell over 1,000 tickets, UMM will receive a rebate of \$5 per ticket, which will benefit UMM ministry. If we break 1,500 tickets sold we get \$6 back per ticket. Last year we had one of our biggest church groups ever - over 140 persons came by bus from the Anthracite region, sat in deep center field, and had a ball!!! For more information, contact Ross Brightwell, [rossbrightwell@verizon.net](mailto:rossbrightwell@verizon.net).
- **AUGUST 8-10, 2008** - 25th Annual Academy for Laity. Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel. See page 6 for more information.

## Save these dates!

### BISHOP'S ADVENT DAY APART FOR CLERGY

December 2, 2008

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE

### BISHOP'S MIDWINTER RETREAT FOR CLERGY AND SPOUSES

January 13 - 15, 2009

Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, MD



**Making Disciples**  
of Jesus Christ for the  
Transformation of the World

The Eastern Pennsylvania  
Conference of The United  
Methodist Church  
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

Bishop Marcus Matthews  
*Philadelphia Area Bishop*

Suzy Keenan  
*Director of Communications*

Ileana Rivera  
*Graphic Design and Layout*

**One year subscription only \$12!**

# Vibrant, passionate ministry is theme of Mid-Winter Retreat

by Tamara Ward\*

More than 350 clergy and their spouses shared a time of refreshment and renewal at the Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat in January at the Clarion Resort in Ocean City, Maryland.

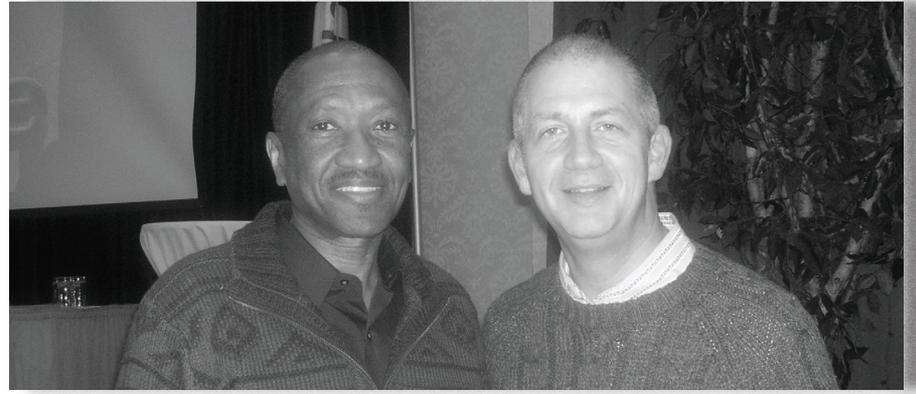
Bishop Marcus Matthews' guest speaker/preacher was Dr. Paul Nixon. Dr. Nixon is the author of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, and pastor of Epicenter DC, a new church being launched in the greater Washington DC area, a multi-site project focused on serving the people in emerging urban neighborhoods of high density housing along the subway lines. He is a member of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Dr. Nixon's presentation was entitled "Why Young Adults Are Choosing To Walk the Dog on Sunday Mornings."

In his years of experience in starting new churches, and especially with his latest charge, Epicenter DC, he shared what he has gathered are the 'realities' of today's young people. For instance, did you know that fewer young people today think of themselves as Christian? Six out of ten young adults in America see themselves as "Christian," down from eight out of ten in 1990, according to a survey conducted by The Barna Group. This shows a doubling in the population of non-Christian young Americans. Along with this decline is

the realization that people are delaying marriage and kids. He shared that, in the last generation, many folks returned to church when they had children and that children were the number one motivation for American adults to return to church. He also pointed out that the longer we wait to return, the less likely we are to do so. Along with this realization, the way membership is viewed is changing. There seems to be a diminishing value for formal membership in any organization, not just in the religious sector and the term 'membership' means different things to different people. Dr. Nixon pointed out four kinds of 'belonging': public, social group, working group, and intimate group. People today can feel a part of a group where they rarely attend - a football game, for example - or Christian young adults may feel like they belong to a church or to a number of churches that they do not attend on a regular basis.

Dr. Nixon went on to share the realities of today's young people's lives, and what their limited 'free time' may consist of. What they are willing to fill that 'free time' with depends on what they perceive as being relevant. It is easy for Christian young adults to perceive Sunday worship as irrelevant. Many have question, when they are considering attending a church. "What does it have to do with my life, with my fears, with my feelings, with my



Bishop Matthews (left) speaks with Dr. Paul Nixon at the Mid-Winter Retreat.

generation?" "Do you coach me on how to follow Jesus?" "Is this church invested in making a tangible difference in my world?"

Although none of us has the 'magic pill' to bring people into our congregations, Dr. Nixon gave suggestions on how to open ourselves and our churches to the possibility of a renewed generation attending church. A primary consideration is that our focus has to be in the right place. Our church building is not the correct focus. The correlation to mega churches and huge church buildings is that mega churches use their buildings as a tool for their true focus: Jesus, and a relationship with Him. We need to be relevant, and to 'be real' in the way we worship. If we want to focus on our young adults, then we need to listen to their life concerns

and study their culture. We need to pay attention to ministry that makes a connection. We need to invite their opinions and their insights. Then... we need to act accordingly. If we ask, "What would it take for church to be something that you would actually invite your friends to" and then not take into consideration their responses and follow through with them, then they won't be back. Let them share in the leadership of the church. Put them in the driver's seat and see where it takes you. Above all, keep the focus on following Jesus and serving others - not on the institutional church and committee work.

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

## A Call from People of Faith to Stop Violence

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia prays fervently for an end to violence in our region. The Council calls on all to work for peace as it leads its constituencies into the ways of peace. The Council allies itself with all who work to eliminate today's culture of violence: its causes, incidents, and tragic consequences. Those who commit acts of violence and their victims need us to be peace-makers. Let us listen to their cries, their hopes and their dreams, and let each of us say:

I pledge as an individual:

- To promote peace
- in my home and community.

I pledge to work with others:

- To eliminate the causes of hatred,
- To honor the dignity of all people,
- To lay down our weapons,
- And to find non-violent solutions
- when tempted to hurt another.

I pledge to be an instrument of God's peace:

- To make my home and neighborhood zones of peace, free from fear, filled with respect,
- and marked by deeds of kindness.

This pledge is an initiative of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, formed in 2006 to unite religious leaders, to build relationships of mutual support, to offer a moral and spiritual voice and to take action on issues of critical concern in our region.



Religious Leaders Council  
of Greater Philadelphia

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Mary Louise Carpenter, widow of The Rev. W. Frank Carpenter. She died Friday, December 14, 2007, at Cornwall Manor. Mary Louise was 97. After Rev. Carpenter's death in 1983, she moved to Cornwall Manor, where she was an outstanding volunteer. A Memorial Service was held at First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA. Rev. Carpenter served the following appointments beginning in 1934: Salunga; Millersville; Parkesburg; Mount Joy and Salunga; Lykens; Mt. Pocono; Easton; Second; Phila: Tioga; North Wales; Lancaster: First (Assoc.); Frackville; Phila: Siloam; Phila: S.D. Cooper Memorial; East Lansdowne. He retired in 1978, and served Lancaster: First (Assoc.) in retirement. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Carpenter's niece: Mrs. Ivan Z (Charlotte M) Eby, 7811 Hayfield Rd., Alexandria, VA 22315-4023.

Bishop Kefas Kane Mavula of The United Methodist Church in Nigeria. With great sorrow, The Philadelphia Area has received word of the death of Bishop Kefas Kane Mavula, Bishop of

The United Methodist Church in Nigeria, who died suddenly yesterday, January 10, 2008, at 4:00 pm. Bishop Mavula was elected March 3, 2007 by a unanimous vote of 74 delegates during a special session of the West Africa Central Conference at S.T. Nagbe United Methodist Church in Monrovia. Bishop Mavula succeeded Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda, who led the Nigeria Annual Conference on an interim basis following the death of Bishop Done Peter Dabale on August 26, 2006. Dabale, who died of cancer, was elected the first United Methodist bishop of Nigeria in 1992. Mavula was ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church's Nigeria Annual Conference in January of 1993, and ordained elder in January of 1995. Mavula is survived by his wife, Jessica, and their six children. We ask that you keep Bishop Mavula's family in your prayers, as well as the ministry of The United Methodist Church in Nigeria and the people of Nigeria. As we receive further information, we will forward it to you. The Eastern PA Conference is in partnership with The United Methodist Church in Nigeria and we send our deepest condolences to them.

# Pastor's hobby raises \$85,000 for Moscow seminary

by John Gordon\*

The Rev. Sam Duree could be enjoying his golden years in an easy chair. Instead, the retired United Methodist pastor came up with an idea that took wing: building birdhouses to support a Moscow seminary. "I build about 35 different kinds," says Duree, 77. "I wake up in the middle of the night and can't go back to sleep, so I design birdhouses."

Duree spends about four hours a day planning, sawing, sanding, drilling, gluing and nailing cedar fence pickets in a workshop in the garage at his home. Then he takes to the road, selling the birdhouses at festivals, farmers' markets and craft shows. Over the past six years, Duree estimates he has built about 3,000 birdhouses, raising \$85,000 for Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary to train pastors in Russia and other nations in the former Soviet Union.

"In 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, there were no Methodist churches in Russia; now there are 120-plus, and they all have pastors," he

says. "We don't start a new church until we have a trained Russian pastor. And so that meant we needed some place to train them."

## Variety of styles

Duree builds birdhouses in a variety of church styles — Gothic, country, Russian Orthodox and chalet churches. He daubs paint on the "windows" to make them look like stained glass. Other favorite designs include a Noah's ark, a bed and breakfast, and a log house. Many of his customers are collectors who never put the birdhouses outside. "I had one man that called up after he'd bought a birdhouse and said, 'I want to complain; there are no birds in my birdhouse,'" Duree says. "Before I could say anything, he said, 'Do you think it's because it's sitting on my mantle?'"

Duree started preaching in 1951 and served churches throughout Texas. He was also one of the founders of the Houston International Seaman's Center, a ministry at the Port of Houston. Later, Duree became a district superintendent in the Houston area before retiring and moving to Brenham in 1996. He saw the need for the Moscow seminary during 14 mission trips to Russia and Siberia.

## The beginning

His birdhouse business began with a hobby of restoring antique furniture. Duree saw the collectors' interest in birdhouses at an antiques auction and started designing and building them. "I built a few and put them on a little parking lot sale up at the church and



During the past six years, Duree estimates he has built about 3,000 birdhouses.

## The Nation in Brief

United Methodists are joining other faith groups to provide relief for hundreds of northern Indiana flood survivors whose homes were heavily damaged by muddy waters. The three northern Indiana communities of Remington, Monticello and Delphi were hard hit by early-morning flood waters on Jan. 8. United Methodist Bishop Mike Coyner of Indianapolis visited with pastors of each community on Jan. 19 and toured flood-ravaged areas in Jasper, White and Carroll counties. As of mid-January, three United Methodist churches in the area had distributed more than 500 flood buckets, received \$10,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief to meet immediate needs of flood survivors, and coordinated help from volunteers across the state.

Mayor Jim Ardis certainly has the community of Peoria talking. Faced with rising statistics of crime and

violence, Ardis called on the community to find its voice through the power of prayer and to engage in 40 days of prayer for the city. Congregations responded with nightly, community-wide prayer services that began on New Year's Eve and continue through Feb. 8.

The United Methodist Board of Discipleship is conducting online hymnal surveys through March 1 to let United Methodists of all ages decide what hymns to include in a new denominational hymnal. Delegates to the United Methodist General Conference are considering the proposed new worship resource. Each survey features a question related to musical or worship content, and participants have approximately two weeks to complete each survey. The current online survey question will be replaced after January 31. To participate, visit [http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=45894](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=45894).

## In the Nation



The Rev. Sam Duree, a retired United Methodist pastor, sets up a display of his hand-crafted birdhouses at a rose festival in Independence, Texas. UMNS photos by John Gordon.

made a little money," he explains. "And, I thought if I do this, I'm going to have to get a tax number and keep records, and I don't want to do that."

His wife, Beverly, suggested giving the money to the seminary. And Duree is quick to explain the importance of the project everywhere he goes to sell his birdhouses. "We have to realize we're a part of a global community and we have a global ministry," he says. "Isolationism is something that not only was out of step in World War II, it's even more out of step now. Somebody in the Middle East does something, and suddenly my car is more expensive to run. It's all intertwined."

Gloria Alvarado of Deer Park, Texas,

bought two birdhouses at a rose festival. "I think they're beautiful. They're going to make wonderful gifts," Alvarado says. "And the fact that it's going to a ministry, it's like a double gift." Duree says he will probably not make any more physically taxing trips to the former Soviet Union, but he figures he can keep building birdhouses for a decade or more, and the money will make a difference for the Russian seminary. "I feel like I'm doing what I'm supposed to do," he says. "The good Lord has plans for us, and I'm doing what I can to carry them out."

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

Participants may suggest up to five titles of hymns or songs from the United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing or other titles.

Over the next two years, both The United Methodist Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will ask its members to approve "full communion" between the two bodies. That step follows an interim agreement and the conclusion, in December, of the last round of dialogue between the two denominations. The vote will take place this spring for United Methodists and in 2009 for Lutherans. According to the Rev. W. Douglas Mills, an executive with the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, full communion essentially means "acknowledging one another's ministries as valid," as well as wanting to be involved in mutual decision-making.

Having seizures but no insurance, Melissa Whaley said seeing a doctor was out of the question until she learned about Shepherd's Hope Health Center in Orlando, Fla. "There was nobody in the world to help me, but this place helped me," said Whaley, who received a free doctor's consultation, free medication and, most importantly, compassionate care. Shepherd's Hope was organized a decade ago by an Orlando United Methodist church and today includes nine health care centers in the Orlando area run by 2,000 volunteers from 20 churches. Just as the Good Shepherd cared for each of his sheep, the center serves people without access to insurance or medical care. The Rev. William S. Barnes, senior pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, said the ministry is simply "caring people caring for other people."

# United Methodists respond to relief needs in Kenya

by Linda Bloom\*

United Methodists were responding to emergency relief needs in Kenya following post-election violence that displaced up to a quarter of a million people.

The violence, which also left hundreds of people dead, occurred after the Dec. 27 re-election of President Mwai Kibaki—a vote disputed by the supporters of opposition leader Raila Odinga. On Jan. 10, The Associated Press reported that former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will lead a panel to mediate between the two political leaders in Kenya. Ghanaian President John Kufuor, president of the African Union, said the rivals also agreed to end the violence.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief was assisting with relief efforts for displaced people. Through the denomination's East Africa Conference, UMCOR was providing food and shelter to Kenyans who have fled to Uganda. Schools, churches and other structures were being used as shelters both in Kenya and Uganda. East African Bishop Daniel Wandabula highlighted the need for assistance. "As a church we empathize with all the people that have suffered from this injustice, violence, loss of lives/property, and the overall disruption of daily lives," he wrote in an open letter sent Jan. 7. "We pray for the return of peace to Kenya, and a more lasting settlement of the conflict." East African United Methodist churches joined churches throughout Kenya in offering prayers for peace and reconciliation during Jan. 6 worship services. The National Council of Churches of Kenya sponsored a peace

march the day before.

UMCOR was working to bring food, water and other necessities directly to the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in Karen where many people sought refuge.

John Makokha, a United Methodist communicator who lives on the campus, helped to provide food and water to those being sheltered as UMCOR dispatched a truckload of supplies there.

Makokha said the violence had prompted hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes. "Hundreds have camped in churches, police stations and provincial administration centers," he wrote.

UMCOR also was in contact with the Methodist Church of Kenya and anticipated assisting Action by Churches Together partners in their response. "We continue to monitor the situation and are working diligently to bring relief and assistance to our sisters and brothers in Kenya," said the Rev. Sam Dixon, UMCOR's chief executive.

While the streets of the capital "are again quiet and peaceful during the day," intercity transport within Kenya was disrupted, increasing the shortages of supplies, according to a Jan. 7 report from the Rev. John Calhoun, a United Methodist missionary based in Nairobi who coordinates humanitarian relief and church development for the Methodist Church of Kenya.

Calhoun, a clergy member of the New York Annual (regional) Conference, is one of seven United Methodist missionaries assigned to Kenya. His wife, Noel Calhoun, works with the United Nations

## The World in Brief

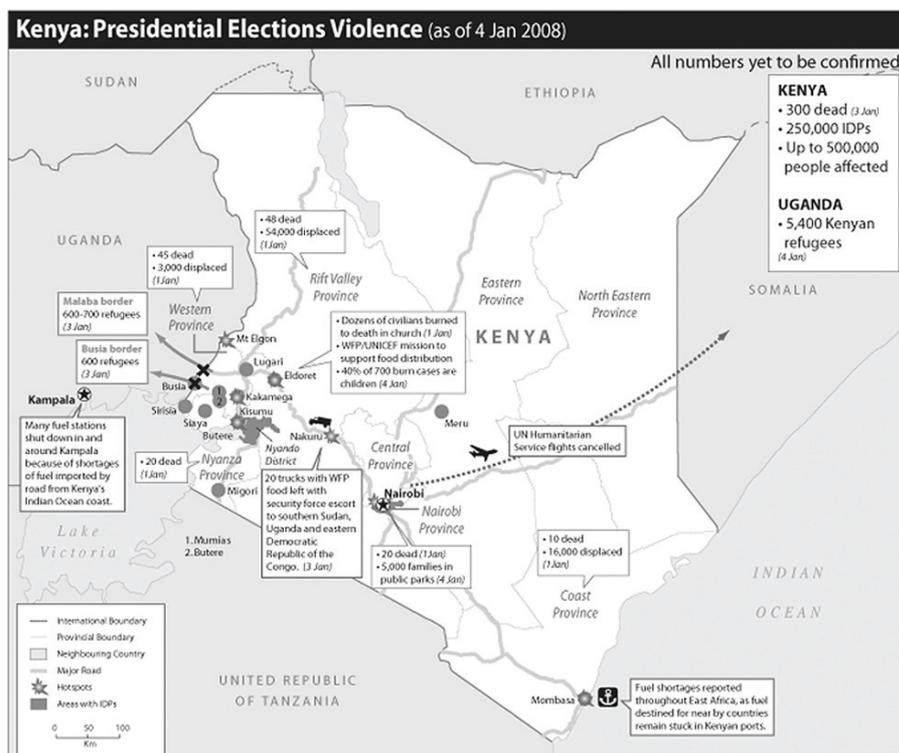
Torrential rains that began Christmas Day in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe continue to force thousands from their homes in southern Africa, according to United Methodist leaders in those areas. Flooding in Mozambique has particularly affected United Methodist churches in Chemba, Buzi, Save and Nova Mambone. The United Methodist Committee for Relief is working with Action by Churches Together and the Mozambique United Methodist Church to assess needs and develop a plan of action. UMCOR will address the immediate humanitarian concerns as well as long-term recovery needs. United Methodists can aid emergency relief efforts by contributing to "Mozambique Emergency," UMCOR Advance #156500.

The head of the mission agency of The United Methodist Church has expressed deep concern about the situation in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza

following incidents in which Israel closed the border to essential supplies of food and fuel. Bishop Felton E. May, interim top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, said the picture is extremely complex but that his main concern is for the welfare of the people in both Gaza and Israel. Israel's border action has been attributed to rockets fired into Israel by the Hamas faction now in control in Gaza, a sliver of land along the Mediterranean Sea. The bishop noted that The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for peace and justice in Israel-Palestine. He urged world political leaders to take action to deal with the current border crisis and United Methodists to pray for protection of the dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians in the troubled Holy Land.

The sewage system is overloaded, buildings are decaying, electricity is unreliable, and economic turmoil in

# In the World



A U.N. map highlights areas of Kenya that have erupted in violence following the African country's disputed presidential election in December. A U.MNS illustration courtesy of the U.N. Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

High Commissioner for Refugees in Kenya, which was among organizations aiding internally displaced persons and those who have fled to neighboring Uganda. Methodist congregations in western Kenya also were trying to provide humanitarian assistance, according to Calhoun. Western Kenya, and in the east along the Kenyan coast, suffered the most violence because Odinga has his strongest support there.

Donations to assist UMCOR's response in Kenya can be dropped in

local church collection plates or mailed to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write "UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response-Kenya" on the memo line of the check. For credit card donations, visit UMCOR's website at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) for online giving information or call (800) 554-8583 to give over the telephone.

\*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York. Michelle Scott, John Calhoun and John Makokha contributed to this report.

Zimbabwe make operating two schools, a hospital, a children's home and church nearly impossible. Yet Old Mutare Mission, a ministry of The United Methodist Church for 110 years, is determined to continue its ministry to the people of Zimbabwe, its leaders say. Located down the road from United Methodist-related Africa University, the mission is supported primarily by student fees from its 1,000-student primary school and 1,050-student high school. However, the school fees are now set by the Zimbabwe government, so the mission is no longer able to charge realistic amounts to satisfy its budget. "We are struggling, but we are making it through, and we are surviving. We are dealing with necessities only," said the Rev. Solomon Mudonhi, mission chairman.

An interfaith letter to Congress is urging a bipartisan diplomatic and political strategy that will lead to the

withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. The letter, sent to every member of Congress on the eve of the national birthday celebration of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was signed by 15 religious leaders, including Jim Winkler, chief executive, United Methodist Board of Church and Society; the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, chief executive, National Council of Churches; and the Rev. Bob Edgar, a United Methodist and president of Common Cause. "Congress has an opportunity to take a step toward realizing Dr. King's vision of a world at peace by mandating a diplomatic surge for Iraq and its neighbors," the letter said. The signers urged members of Congress to co-sponsor legislation (H.R. 3797), which would require President Bush to develop a regional diplomatic plan for the Middle East and urges him to work with the United Nations Security Council to increase U.N. support for the stabilization of Iraq.

## Calvary UMC is highlight of murals in sacred places tour

Vibrant works of art are concealed in sacred places among Philadelphia's renowned exterior murals. To showcase these hidden murals and mosaics, Partners for Sacred Places (Partners) and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program (MAP) hosted the Sacred Sites Mural Arts Tour on January 12.

The sold-out tour integrated two historic religious buildings into the West Philadelphia mural tour. Participants explored Calvary United Methodist Church, which houses dynamic religious and secular murals as well as Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows, and St. Francis de Sales Church, which features a polychromatic Rafael Guastavino tile dome, and stunning mosaics throughout the interior.

This pilot program between Partners and MAP marked the first tour of 2008 for the Mural Arts Program. "Our tour with the Mural Arts Program is truly groundbreaking because it showcases both contemporary and historic cultural treasures in Philadelphia," stated Bob Jaeger, Executive Director of Partners for Sacred Places. "Nowhere else in America has the public been invited to see renowned modern murals and mosaics as well as spectacular, seldom-seen murals and mosaics in historic churches and synagogues."

MAP Director Jane Golden remarks, "I am thrilled to be working with Partners for Sacred Places. It is an honor to be working with an organization that does such wonderful work. I feel there is tremendous power in this collaboration, in that two organizations that are philosophically aligned have the power to reach

more people and tell the stories of the wonderful sacred spaces that exist within Philadelphia."

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, non-sectarian, non-profit organization devoted to helping congregations and their communities sustain and actively use older and historic sacred places. Partners provides assistance to the people who care for sacred places while promoting a new understanding of how these places sustain communities. Founded in 1989, Partners is headquartered in Philadelphia. For more information, please visit: [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org).

Through this, MAP strives to develop sustainable partnerships with community organizations in order to create murals that reflect the community's culture, history, and vision; catalyze community development, neighborhood activism, and civic pride; foster youth development through experiential art education and mentorship with professional artists; support artists and artisans in sharing their talents and experiences with youth and communities in Philadelphia; and use the power of art and the mural design process as tools for community engagement, blight remediation, beautification, demonstration of civic pride, and prevention and rehabilitation of crime.

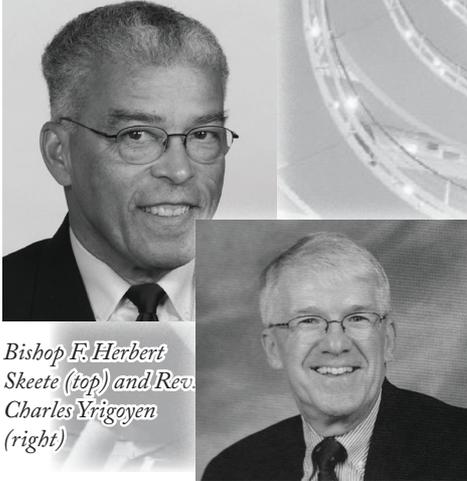
For more information, please visit: [www.muralarts.org](http://www.muralarts.org).



25th Annual Academy for Laity 2008  
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Bishop F. Herbert Skeete (top) and Rev. Charles Yrigoyen (right)

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**Growing, Sharing and Living Our Faith**

## 1200 attend Tools for Ministry

by Suzy Keenan

More than 1,200 church leaders from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference attended the first ever Tools for Ministry training on January 26. Nine different trainings were offered on each of our six districts, and included these topics: church council, Staff Parish Relations, trustees, stewardship/finance/treasurer, youth and young adults, children, safe sanctuaries, United Methodist Men, and lay leader/lay member.

Each district's superintendent presented Staff Parish Relations training. Rev. Jim Todd, superintendent for the Southwest District said, "In the afternoon, we introduced a brand new model on clergy assessments, a responsibility of Staff Parish Relations (SPR). Previously, SPR committees were required to do a clergy evaluation at the end of the year, which often became shocking and hurtful to the pastor, with ranking that was very

subjective and judgmental. In this new model, SPR establishes a covenant with the pastor, which is a whole new way of looking at Staff Parish Relations. They lay out general goals for the church for the coming year. The pastor makes his or her own goals based on what the church goals are, which are specific and measurable. When the SPR committee meets every three months, the committee and the pastor examine where they are in relation to those goals. This is mutual accountability - the pastor has goals, and SPR has goals for laity and on behalf of everyone in church. They hold each other accountable to achieving the goals. At the end of the year, clergy go through a self-assessment, as does the SPR committee, and they get to review and comment on each/other's self-assessments."

He added, "At the end of the day people were very excited about the training, and urged that it be offered every year. People seemed to be hungry for this training, as

they are thrown into these leadership positions without training or guidance. This gives people the training to do their jobs effectively."

At the end of the day, following the training, the districts had commissioning services. Tools for Ministry attendees were commissioned as trained leaders, called to go out and serve the church and to minister to people.

About 50 people from our ten Spanish language churches attended Tools for Ministry training in Spanish. Rev. Rene Perez, director of Latino Ministries said, "People were really glad and excited about the training - not only that it in Spanish, but especially about the quality of the training and the information they received." He added, "We have had other training in Spanish, but this is the first time we have had training on leadership for church committees and teams. People left hopeful and with new ideas, ready to make changes to the way they have been

working."

Rev. Hilda Campbell, director of Human Relations and Leadership for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference said, "We want to extend our thanks to the pastors and staff of our six host churches for all their hard work in preparation, and to the facilitators, including all of the district superintendents, for their excellent leadership. One training attendee said to me that he has been a United Methodist for 58 years, and this is the best training he has ever taken. We even had requests to repeat the training again this summer. It was a success because everyone worked together as a team: our Conference staff worked long hours preparing for the event. Special thanks go to our Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Mary White, as this was a project that she suggested for our conference leadership, and to our district lay leaders who called many of the churches on their districts. Job well done!"

# WELCOME

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula Foundation welcomes Jack Brooks as its new Executive Director, as of January 27, 2008.

In his role as executive director of the Foundation, Jack is responsible for growth and development of the Foundation, a resource and investment vehicle for local churches, individuals, and church projects for the nearly 1,000 churches of both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church. Using the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, the Foundation provides financial leadership and guidance



## Conference pays full apportionment

*continued from page 1*

- savings in pension administrative costs and retiree medical costs;
- from the Conference Connectional Ministries Fund budget, \$25,000 was applied to General Church apportionment;
- reduced premiums for many churches for property and liability insurance, realized at the end of 2007 - many churches paid at the required rate, which then resulted in excess funds; and
- administrative savings which came from reduced printing costs because we are no longer outsourcing the Journal and training materials, instead printing in house, and additional savings which resulted by using in house technology support, only outsourcing one quarter of network needs.

Prior to 2007, the Conference used an apportionment system based on commitment by the churches; 288 of 463 churches paid below 9.5% in 2006. In 2007, a new apportionment system was used, assessing a 9.5% apportionment. These 288 churches saw an increase in their conference ministry portion; Out of these 288 churches, 70% were able to pay 100% of apportioned amount. The other 30%, even though they were not able to meet their 100% apportionment in 2007, still gave more over 2006.

"Please convey this to the people in the pew," said Conference Treasurer, Moses Kumar. "This is where lives have been touched and transformed. We have all made possible the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church both

to assist our churches and members in understanding the complexities of investing and the responsibility of investment management. The Foundation strives to be the resource of choice for our community's socially responsible investment needs, and is well versed in creation of planned giving programs, endowment funds, and the education of stewardship.

Jack comes to the Foundation with 20 years of experience in investment management. For many years, Jack worked for Morgan Stanley and most recently with the investment advisory firm Borer Denton. He brings to our Foundation knowledge of both investments and non-profit organizations. Jack has been Chairman of the Board of The Corporation for Community Television and Radnor Community Television. Additionally, he has served on the board of athletic, educational, and alumni organizations. He is a graduate of James Madison University, with a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Additionally, he attended the Pennington School, a

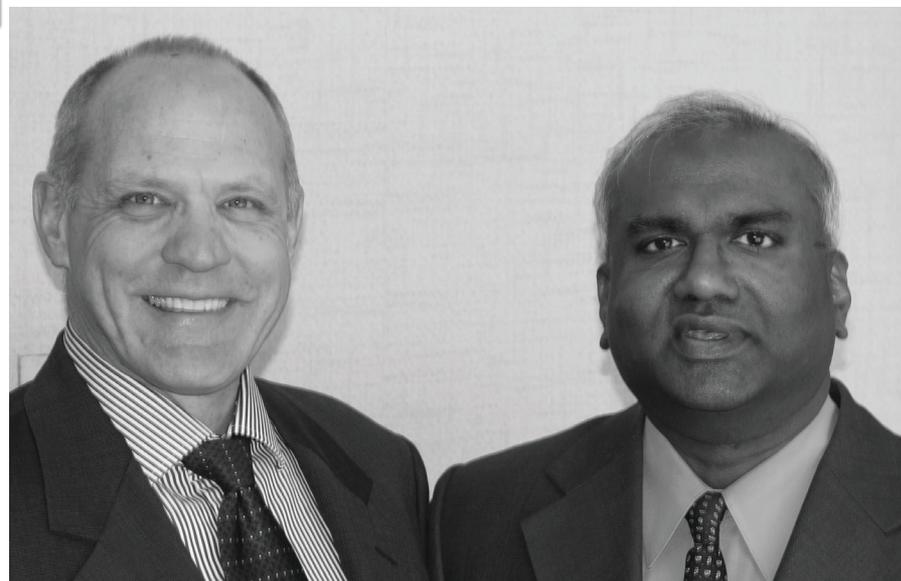
locally and around the world - for which we are very thankful."

He added, "Even after paying 100% of the General Conference and World Service apportionment in 2007, additionally we are able to reduce the Direct Bill by 15% in 2008 (Direct Bill consists of Pre-1982 pension Liability, Pension Board Expense and Retiree medical). This reduction will be reflected in the February remittance form for those churches that paid 100% of their direct bill in 2007."

### Ministry of the General Church

Nurtured and funded by United Methodists, the World Service Fund apportionment:

- Undergirds a network of missionaries and others who serve in the name of Christ and The United Methodist Church around the world;
- Supports specific local church work with children, youth, singles, students, persons who are mentally and physically challenged, adults and older persons;
- Enriches our congregational life with worship, retreat and camping resources, leader training, and stewardship development;
- Provides leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth;
- Continues nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education;
- Certifies United Methodist professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians;
- Assures United Methodists speak



Jack Brooks (left) is pictured with conference treasurer, Moses Kumar. Brooks began January 27 as Foundation Executive Director, succeeding Stacy Martin.

United Methodist-related school in Pennington, NJ.

Jack and his wife, Kathy, live in Wayne, PA. Jack loves to swim, swimming three times a week in the winter, and more in the summer, to prepare for lifeguard championships in Rehoboth, NJ. Last

and work to help encourage a more ethical, just and humane world;

- Continues a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work;
- Gives our denomination a presence in the mass media and makes new communications technologies accessible to the church; and
- Expresses our commitment to God's reign through ministries of peace and justice, and efforts to build a church and a society truly inclusive of all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or handicapping condition.

Our General Church apportionment makes it possible for us to be in mission and ministry around the world, beyond the reach of our own hands and feet and communities.

Among the General Church Funds is Black College Fund. Since 1972, the Black College Fund has supported the programs and ministries of 11 historically Black colleges and universities related to the United Methodist Church. Wiley College, featured in the recent critically acclaimed movie, "The Great Debaters," is one of those colleges, cultivating African American leaders of today and tomorrow.

By paying our apportionment in full, 25% of the Ministerial Education Fund is retained by the Conference, allowing more funds for the Board of Ordained Ministry in recruiting, supporting, and offering scholarships to candidates for ministry as well as active Elders and Deacons.

Africa University is funded by the General Conference apportionment, and is at

year, he won in his age group in swimming and lifeguard boat rowing. He has restored his own lifeguard boat, collects toy trains, enjoys cooking, and has taken ballroom dancing lessons.

You may contact Jack at [jack.brooks@epaumc.org](mailto:jack.brooks@epaumc.org) or 1-800-828-9093, ext. 247.

work educating 1200 students from across the continent of Africa. One student whose life is being shaped by Africa University is Celeste Sauls, who said, "They don't know what seeds they are planting in the lives of the people here in Africa. They are assisting Africa University in investing in Africa's future—you know—making Africa a better place. Even if they don't see it now, someday they will see it. If they look back, they'll see most of the students come from Africa University."

"The church speaks in many ways," said Sandra Kelley Lackore, general secretary, General Council on Finance and Administration and lifelong United Methodist. "We can say we believe in this and that, we can say we are for this or we are for that, but World Service is the demonstration through our pocketbook of how this denomination's mission statement is lived out."

Even with a budget of \$641.9 million for the next four years, the General Church only reflects 1% of the dollars that make up the ministry of the 42,804 United Methodist churches around the world. By sharing God's gifts through our giving to the General Conference and World Service apportionment, we are at work making disciples and sharing God's love for the transformation of the world.

*\*Suzy Keenan is director of communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. Portions of this article came from [www.umegiving.org](http://www.umegiving.org); the Connectional Ministry website of United Methodist Communications.*

# New birth for the message of Christmas

by Julia and Ileana Rivera\*

Every Christmas, New Birth UMC (Iglesia Metodista Unida Nuevo Nacimiento) in Lebanon, PA shares the message of Jesus with the children of the community through "Christmas with Jesus."

All children from newborn to 13 years of age are invited to share in this time of fellowship and entertainment. Entertainment that includes drama, which the children of the church participate in, clowns and much more. The church has found that the most effective way to invite children is by going door to door around the neighborhood giving them a personal invitation and the witnessing of many children that have attended on previous years inviting their friends to the activity.

The Rev. Elena Ortiz, pastor, said: "this activity is not only for the children but it is also a requirement for the parents to be present since the purpose of it is for the children to share with their parents in such an important time as it is the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. In this, the children learn the real meaning of Christmas and also learn how to worship."

From hospitality to kitchen help, photography to food serving and clean-up, members of the church participated to make sure this event went smoothly and the time spent was enjoyed by everyone. There were gifts for every child, candy on every table, and festive balloons and decorations.

The church has had the opportunity to do this for 14 years as part of their ministry. This year, members had the blessing of serving 155 children plus parents. Through this activity the church reaches families for Christ for it's important for the church to

connect with the community, "we want to be visible in our community," said Rev. Ortiz. All of this ministry would not have been possible, however, without help and donations from other United Methodist churches from Lebanon and surrounding areas such as Church of the Good Shepherd, Cornwall, Bethany, Trinity, St. Luke's, Kochenderfer, Ono, and Jonestown.

To view this article in Spanish, go to: [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) and click on News Stories.

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

Photos by Brenda Santiago



## Historic St. George's invites you to be a Time Traveler

Two Dates Available:

March 8 or May 10\*, 2008

10:30am — 12:30pm

Join other Confirmation Classes from the Conference to experience history first-hand, including a visit from a Colonial Lay Preacher, Simon Blessing. Explore our Museum, complete with eye-opening learning centers; walk and talk where the first Methodists in America once gathered. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon in Philadelphia's renowned Historical District ...

Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Carpenter's Hall ... History is Waiting!

Call for reservations and parking information: 215-925-7788 or e-mail [office@historicstgeorges.org](mailto:office@historicstgeorges.org)

\* May 10th participants can invite their Mom's ... St. George's has a special Mother's Day connection to share.

## BUMP



*African American clergy and their spouses of BUMP (Black United Methodist Preachers) from throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered to celebrate a year of accomplishments and look forward to 2008 with great anticipation. Last year, BUMP under the theme, "Strengthened By Fellowship, Transformed By Worship, Empowered By Advocacy" had an active calendar that included participation in the Bishop's Rally for Peace, participation in a protest supporting gun legislation in Harrisburg and collaboration with BMCR (Black Methodists for Church Renewal), Methodists for Social Action (MFSA) and other organizations that seek to strengthen communities. Moving forward, BUMP looks to continue its commitment to providing scholarship support to students as well as tackling other urban issues.*

# Making disciples of Jesus Christ

*for the transformation of the world*



**Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

## Epiphany with action is dead!

by *Suzy Keenan*

More than 200 persons flocked to Philadelphia on a January winter weekend for a training called "The Touch Experience." Little did they know just how touched they would be – just how much of an epiphany it would be – to hear the stories of Rev. Rudy Rasmus, pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Houston, and Christian Washington, one of the church's members and head of Real Coaching, Inc.

Rev. Rasmus and his wife, Juanita, started St. John's with nine members. The church now numbers 9,000. Many of the flock – nearly one-third – are homeless, struggle with addictions, or are challenged by mental illness. With genuine vulnerability, Rasmus shared the joys and challenges of ministering with this Houston community. With tears streaming down his face, he shared that just several weeks ago he went to his family telling them that he was unclear just how long he could continue to persist in the face of these challenges. He then told of

his path of repentance over the following two weeks, knowing that God calls him to touch his community in this extraordinary way.

Christian Washington is a life coach in the same Houston community. He related the difference between preacher, teacher, and coach: a preacher tells you something; a teacher tells you and then asks you to repeat it back; a coach works with you and expects new behavior in return. "Epiphany without action is dead!" he emphasized.

Mr. Washington asked listeners to take a plain white piece of paper and a pencil in hand. He asked them to draw a box at the top of the paper that symbolized their church. He then asked each person to list the people who are not in that box: people with addictions, people who are of a different color or who speak a different language, soccer moms, people who prefer to sip coffee at Starbucks than come to church, and so on. Then he asked, "What is the objective here?"

"Is the objective to figure out how to get these people to come to your church?"

Washington asked. "No! The objective is to eliminate the walls!"

Church teams spent time together discussing how to eliminate the walls so that the church could become one with their community and the community could become one with the church. (This exercise is highly recommended for your church – the entire congregation!)

Each church team was asked to email to Rev. Lillian Smith that day with the steps they would take within the following

48 hours to eliminate the walls of their church. He repeated, "Epiphany without action is dead!"

Is yours a dying church, or the living Body of Christ? A DVD of "The Touch Experience" training is available for use in your congregation. To order your copy, see the order form on page 10.

Read more about St. John's UMC in Houston, visit [www.stjohnsdowntown.org](http://www.stjohnsdowntown.org).

### Invitational Preaching, Worship and Evangelism in the 21st Century

**Mt. Hope UMC, 4020 Concord Road, Aston, PA 19014**

**February 15 at 7-8:30 PM - Congregations that have completed their NCD or CVI assessment and have an indicator that relates to Evangelism or Worship are invited to participate in the on-line sessions with Kwasi and Safiyah.**

**February 16 at 10 AM - 3 PM - Training session for all at Mt. Hope UMC.**

Safiyah Fosua, Director, Invitational Preaching, and Kwasi Kena, Director, Evangelism, General Board of Discipleship. This husband-wife team will engage people with the importance and power of invitational preaching, worship and evangelism in reaching people for Christ. Both have resources available on-line. To see Safiyah's resources go to: <http://www.gbod.org/worship/>. To hear Kwasi's audio interview of the new Executive Director, Foundation for Evangelism, visit [www.gbod.org/evangelism/articles.asp?item\\_id=45440](http://www.gbod.org/evangelism/articles.asp?item_id=45440). Visit [umcevangelism.org](http://umcevangelism.org) for additional written and audio resources.



*Christian Washington*



*Rudy Rasmus*



## Global Praise

Hopeland UMC, 295 N. Clay Road, Lititz, PA 17543

March 15, 2008

10 am - 3 pm



Jorge Lockward, General Board of Global Ministries, will lead worship incorporating resources and songs from various countries, in various languages. Increasingly, as people move across the globe, we experience the world right in our backyard.

Things get exciting when people of all nations and languages praise the Lord. Visit the following link to hear music clips from various Global Praise CDs and Music Books. You can also listen to various on-line workshops featuring different rhythms and instruments.

Visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/resources/globalpraise/>

## Hot Metal Bridge

Kochenderfer UMC, 1105 Kochenderfer Road

Lebanon, PA 17046

April 19, 2008

10 am - 3 pm



Jim Walker, an ordained elder in The UMC and co-pastor of Hot Metal Bridge, will share with us how this faith community goes about ministry. Birthed out of a tattoo parlor, this is definitely not your grandparents' type of United Methodist congregation. Worship services held in the Goodwill building and Bible studies in the tattoo parlor are only glimpses of how this faith community engages people for Christ in Pittsburgh, PA. This worshipping community uses a narrative style of worship that incorporates drama and the arts, as well as traditional worship

styles. Jim has a passion for the church and seeing The UMC reclaiming John Wesley's passionate missiological approach to ministry. To see photos and learn more, go to

[www.hotmetalbridge.com](http://www.hotmetalbridge.com)

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## Engage the Arts in Worship

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel  
 May 29 & 30, 2008  
 at Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA



Marcia McFee, will design and lead various worship experiences at the upcoming annual conference and will invite people to engage the arts in worship. Marcia will also design and lead the worship experiences at the upcoming General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in Ft. Worth, Texas. She has been a worship leader at various United Methodist gatherings around the globe. To learn more or read resources,

visit: [www.marciamcfee.com](http://www.marciamcfee.com).

## Weaving A Web Of Connections

Using Internet Technology For Effective Ministry  
 West Chester UMC, 129 S. High Street, West Chester, PA  
 July 25-26, 2008  
 Friday, July 25 - 5:30 pm and Saturday, July 26 - 7:30 am - 5 pm

*Face-to-face training from United Methodist Communications*  
 Do you want to develop or expand a Web presence for your local church, district or conference organization? Are you interested in the latest Internet technology for ministry? Then join local church, district, and conference volunteers, staff, webmasters/servants, communicators, editors, and pastors for a Friday evening to Saturday afternoon face-to-face training event. Through presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and vendor exhibits, you will be able to explore a variety of options for "Weaving a Web of Connections" by using Internet technology for effective ministry.  
 Conducted by United Methodist Communications Web Ministry Team of Nashville, TN.



## Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Wesley UMC, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017  
 June 14, 2008  
 10 am - 3 pm



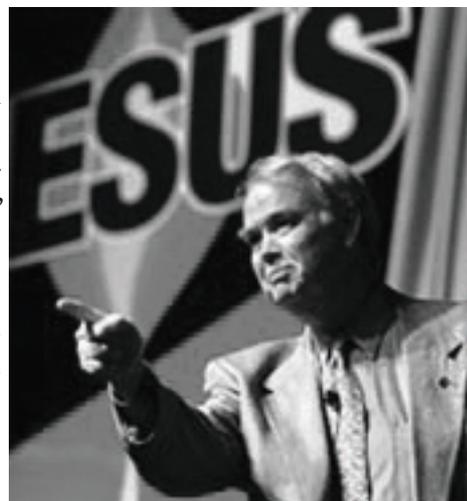
Margie Burger, of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, will facilitate this seminar which is designed to "encourage God's people to become a people of prayer." The session will include activities and practical applications of teachings on prayer. "More than just a teaching tool, this seminar is an opportunity for all to encounter the Living God!" Aldersgate Renewal Ministries is an affiliate member of the General Board of Discipleship. To learn more about Aldersgate Renewal or to obtain prayer resources,

visit [www.aldersgaterenewal.org/resources/prayer/index.html](http://www.aldersgaterenewal.org/resources/prayer/index.html).

## Sharing Your Faith

September or October 2008

Dr. H. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism, World Methodist Council, and Executive Director, World Methodist Evangelism Institute will teach and "encourage lay and clergy to be about the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ." During this session, participants will gain confidence and tools to share their faith and Christian witness with others. To learn more about this, Dr. Fox and the World Methodist Council, visit:



[www.worldmethodist.org/aboutwmc.htm](http://www.worldmethodist.org/aboutwmc.htm).

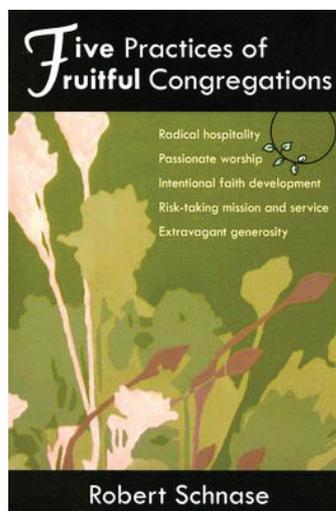
March 2, 2008

Share the goodness of life with those who hurt.



Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to keep our promise that 100 percent of your designated gift goes entirely to specific causes.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



## Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

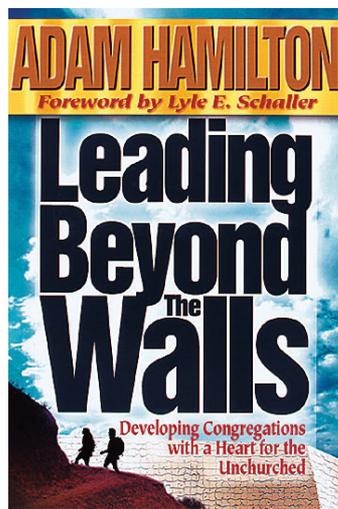
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations was written by Robert Schnase, bishop of the Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church. Though he first wrote it to describe the five core practices of congregational life for his Missouri congregations, the book is providing

useful for congregations across the country and across denominations of the Christian faith. "Robert Schnase's words are thoughtful, provocative, and challenging. Any congregation will find encouragement and insight to deepen faithfulness and multiply fruitfulness," said Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary.

The book includes a chapter on each practice plus a chapter on excellence and fruitfulness. The practices include Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

"Stimulating. Challenging. Uniquely helpful. Bishop Schnase gives us powerful language, rich examples, and practical suggestions for fulfilling the mission God gives us," said Janice Riggle Huie, Bishop of the Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations is available at The Cokesbury Store or online at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com). It is published by Abingdon Press, a division of The United Methodist Publishing House; retail price is \$17.



## Leading Beyond the Walls

Good pastoral leadership is not a "by the numbers" proposition. It is a matter of heart and soul, of devoting the whole self to the vision God gives for the congregation in which one serves. Yet neither is it purely intuitive; it requires hard, careful thinking about the directions and details of the path down which God calls. When Adam Hamilton became pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, its membership consisted of himself and his family. Ten years later the church averages between five and six thousand worshipers per weekend. Throughout this remarkable period, Hamilton learned many serious lessons about both the broad visions and the specific details of pastoral leadership.

Bringing a depth of analytical skills often lacking in visionary leaders, in this book he goes beyond simply telling the story of Church of the Resurrection. He

shares the questions that he learned to ask about the largely unchurched population to which Church of the Resurrection has reached out. Further, he demonstrates what he learned by listening to the answers to these questions, and how doing so has made possible a number of strategically crucial decisions the church has made. One of those crucial decisions was to make more traditional forms of worship and praise the center of the congregation's life. The result is that the example of Church of the Resurrection offers pastors and church leaders (especially those in mainline denominations) the realization that they need not completely change their liturgical and theological identity in order to reach out to the unchurched.

Drawing on his own experience, as well as the detailed research on the characteristics of highly successful congregations he undertook during a sabbatical leave, Hamilton offers pastors and other church leaders solid, substantive thinking on steps that congregations can take to become centers of vibrant outreach and mission.

Leading Beyond the Walls is available at The Cokesbury Store or online at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com). It is published by Abingdon Press, a division of The United Methodist Publishing House; retail price is \$23.

# The World is My Parish — podcasts and the local church

by Christopher Schiavino\*

"The world is my parish." These words from John Wesley, reflecting a growing global community through 18th century European colonialism, give insight to Wesley's understanding of the nature of church. He believed "church" and ministry extended beyond the local churches' physical walls into the open fields, coal mines and even "uncharted" lands of America, from the colonial outlook.

Today, the growth of technology bridges to the uncharted lands, and the world appears to be getting smaller – or at least more accessible for many.

Grove United Methodist Church - [www.grovechurch.org](http://www.grovechurch.org), has ventured to place our parish into a more global context is through our website. We've recently added our weekly sermons to the web through our podcast. This gives people the ability to listen to the audio of the sermons we've preached by either going directly to our website and streaming the audio, or they can "subscribe" to our podcast through iTunes or any other aggregators. With the later, our sermons will automatically download to their computer as soon as we post them on the web.

Then people are able to take the sermons in their cars, listen in their offices, or during their morning jog on their computer or mp3 player.

Podcasting becomes a relatively easy and inexpensive way for our church to share our gospel message far beyond our church walls on Sunday morning, at least through our sermons. For less than five dollars a month, we can post our podcasts to the web through a third party source, that doesn't even require having our own website.

What is needed to complete this process is: 1) a computer that can record the sermon. Any way you can connect a microphone to a computer and record it with audio software (which you can find free online through open-source projects – i.e. [www.audacity.com](http://www.audacity.com)) and convert the audio to mp3 format. 2) A place to host your podcasts online. Often this is a company that to which you pay a monthly fee them to store and broadcast your podcast on one of their computers. Grove UMC uses [www.cyberears.com](http://www.cyberears.com) at the cost of \$4.95 a month.) 3) An internet connection to upload the podcast. 4) Someone at your church willing to commit the time to

do this each week.

What has been surprising for me has been the volume of people listening to the podcasts from Grove UMC. Grove starting podcasting in the summer of 2007. Each week we've averaged 200 downloads for each sermon posted since the start. Bear in mind that Grove's worship attendance on Sunday morning in 2007 has been a little less than 400 people. Therefore, if most of those were new listeners (as opposed to one who heard it in the church on Sunday morning) we would have increased our preaching audience by fifty percent.

Podcasting can also keep parishioners connected to the pastor's message when they cannot attend.

In addition to keeping current worshippers connected, podcasting can be a source of invitation for new members. For people looking for a church, but nervous about or reluctant to worship in a new space, this provides them the opportunity to at least get a sense of what is being expressed from the pulpit. And current worshippers can use the podcast as a means of sharing about their church.

There are of course limitations – the people listening to the podcasts are not physically present, worship corporately with others. Their presence is missed by the other worshippers. One of the comments I receive most (joking or not) is; "Now I can stay home on Sunday morning and listen on my computer." Podcasting, is not used to encourage a lack of participation in community worship, but instead is a response to a culture where weekly attendance in worship is decreasing.

In a world when people turn first to the internet for a source of information and look at it as a means of staying "connected," I feel the positives can certainly outweigh the negatives. And I believe we, as preachers and church leaders, need to continue to stress the importance of building community, the great strength of the church from its genesis.

There are copyright limitations on worship music, certain liturgy, and even certain translation of the Bible. So, you can't podcast an entire service. But we can share a little piece of our worshipping community.

\*The Rev. Christopher Schiavino is associate pastor of Grove United Methodist Church in West Chester, PA.

# S U M M E R C A M P 2 0 0 8

Summer will be here soon, and now is the time for young people to pick a week or two of summer camp! Our Eastern Pennsylvania camps offer many different activities for young people of all ages. Our campers at Pocono Plateau, Gretna Glen, Carson Simpson Farm and Camp Innabah swim, play sports and games, study nature, go hiking, use the challenge courses, broaden their creativity with arts, crafts and music, learn archery, paddle canoes, make new friends, cook out, and many other activities too numerous to list. However, no matter which camp they attend or what age they are, all campers learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to grow in their discipleship.

This year's theme is "Listen! God is calling." The theme verse is 2 Timothy 1:4 which says, "God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to God's own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus.

Please encourage all young people to consider spending a week at one of our four conference camps. The brochures are being sent to every conference church and to our previous campers. The brochures are also available to view on-line at the websites of the conference and each of the camps.

Our camping program was truly blessed in 2007. For several previous years the camps had been operating at a

significant financial deficit. Growth in the number of campers, hard work by the site directors and other staff, and the generous support of churches and individuals helped the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camp and retreat ministry finish 2007 with a small surplus. We thank God that we are able to be good stewards, and we are committed to continue using our gifts, resources and abilities to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

You can support the camps in many different ways. Churches and individuals can purchase Camp Cash, which are vouchers toward the cost of a week of summer camp for individual young people. Camp Cash vouchers are available in denominations of \$10, \$20, and \$50 and are available from the conference office.

Each camp has a wish list of things that would help make their ministry more effective. These items range in scope and price from art supplies to tractors. If you would like to support an individual camp, please contact them directly.

Our conference camps have a policy

that no child be denied a week of summer camp due to an ability to pay. We have a campership fund that helps fund a camp experience for lower income families. Our need for campership routinely exceeds the funds available. Donations to the Annual Scholarship Fund go directly to provide financial aid for a young person to attend camp. To donate to this fund, or for more information, contact Jim Wilkin.

We would love to come to your church and share more information about camping with your congregation. We can speak at a worship service, to Sunday School classes or youth groups, or any other setting that would work well. Please contact one of our camps or Jim Wilkin to schedule a camp speaker.

Most importantly, we ask for your prayers. Over 5,000 young people attend our four camps, and it is often a life-altering experience. We ask that you pray for the campers, the volunteers and the staff throughout the summer that lives are changed and young people find new and

renewed life in Jesus Christ.

## Camping Contact Information

Carson Simpson Farm - 3405 Davisville Rd., Hatboro, PA 19040, 215-659-0232; csfarm@aol.com; www.csfarm.org; Ray Nietz, Director

Gretna Glen - 87 Old Mine Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042; 717-273-6525; camp.gretnaglen.org; www.gretnaglen.org; Paul Douglas, Director

Camp Innabah - 712 Pughtown Rd., Spring City, PA 19475; 610-469-6111; camp@innabah.org; www.innabah.org; Christy Heflin, Director

Pocono Plateau - RR 2, Box 2747; Cresco, PA 18326; 570-676-3665; camp@poconoplateau.org; www.poconoplateau.org; Ron Schane, Director

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office of Camping & Retreat Ministry - P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820; 610-666-9090 ext. 225; jim.wilkin@epaumc.org; www.epaumc.org/camping; Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries



UPCOMING  
YOUTH  
EVENTS

## "The Nor'Easter" July 10-13, 2008

This event of the Northeast Jurisdiction brings young people from West Virginia to Maine together in Hershey, PA for a weekend of fun, fellowship and worship. Plan to come for the whole weekend!! (or at least come to Hershey Park on Thursday, July 10 for the special pre-Nor-easter gathering.)

## "Recess"

April 4-6, 2008

CCYM Retreat at Gretna Glen

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest." - Matthew 11:28 (The Message)

Fun & Friends

Music

WORSHIP

Karaoke!!!!

## "Transformers: More than meets the eye!!"

September 26-28, 2008

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." - Romans 12:2 (The Message)

GREAT MUSIC, Awesome fun and spiritual growth!!

Worship, Speakers, Workshops

## TENEBRAE SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

The date for Easter 2008 (March 23) is the earliest it can possibly be. In the 250 years between 1875-2124, Easter occurs that early only one other year - 1913. Because of the early date for Easter this year, Lent also comes early with Ash Wednesday on February 6 and there is an exceedingly short period for planning and preparing Holy Week and Easter services. We have just come through the Advent and Christmas Eve services, many of us lighting an increasing number of candles through the Sundays of Advent. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows," and a Tenebrae service is a service that recalls through scripture, meditation, and candles the Passion story of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. It is often enacted during Holy Week, perhaps most often on Good Friday. As the scriptures and meditations are read, and hymns and music offered, there is a diminishing of light brought on by the gradual dimming of sanctuary lights and the extinguishing of candles, until we sit in silent darkness following the Crucifixion reading.

There are numerous variations and services available, a number of them on the GBOD worship website. Here are some helpful links:

Especially helpful for information on conducting and planning your own Tenebrae service is: <http://www.kencollins.com/how-05.htm>

Also see Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenebrae\\_\(service\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenebrae_(service))

The UM Book of Worship has a full Tenebrae service at no. 354. One that is quite different may be found on our website at [http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=1850&loc\\_id=062.509](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=1850&loc_id=062.509)

## Classifieds

- **PIANIST** - A unique, intimate United Methodist congregation is seeking a pianist for weekly Sunday worship and brief practice. Approximate hours: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays. Special rehearsals on Saturday mornings about once a quarter. Perfect for student or retiree. Contact Malver UMC at 610-644-4799 to leave name and contact information or email [hopejournal@juno.com](mailto:hopejournal@juno.com)
- **FOOD SERVICE MANAGER/HEAD COOK** - Immediate opening at Christian Camp & Retreat Center of the United Methodist Church in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.
- Full-time salaried position with on-site housing; responsible to plan and implement food service program includes budgeting, inventory, purchasing, meal preparation, and supervision of weekend & summer kitchen staff. Compensation is commensurate with experience, and includes health, dental, and pension benefits. Please send inquires and/or resumes to Rev. Ron Schane, Director, Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR 2, Box 2747, Cresco, PA, 18326, or call: 570-676-3665. Website: [www.poconoplateau.org](http://www.poconoplateau.org)
- **ORGANIST** - Scottsville United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time organist. The position entails 6.5-8 hours per week that includes practice on Thursday evenings, and Sunday Morning Worship 8:00am - 12:30pm. Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education/Performance or 2 years experience required. Salary is negotiable upon skill and experience.
- Please send resume to the attention of Rev. Dennis Keen, 2400 Browns-ville Road, Langhorne, PA 19053 or [Scottsvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:Scottsvilleumc@verizon.net)
- **ORGANIST NEEDED** to provide special music, accompany choirs or soloists (including rehearsals), and to accompany congregational singing for two Sunday morning services, memorial services, and weddings, under the direction of the Senior Pastor and Director of Music. Please send resumes to St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, 600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA 19087 or email to [pastor@stmatthewsvf.org](mailto:pastor@stmatthewsvf.org).
- **WEB DEVELOPER NEEDED** at Haws Avenue UMC, 800 W. Marshall Street, Norristown, PA. Person should be available to make quick changes requested by the pastor. Persons interested can contact the church at 610-275-1283 and will be directed to the pastor for details.
- **STUDENT MINISTRY POSITION** at First UMC Lancaster. Church has an immediate opening for our Director of Student Ministries. Requires vision and skill for lay volunteer development, multi-cultural setting, multi-ministry congregation, team-work, small-groups and large-groups, and a readiness to grow as a leader. Click on [www.Engage-GodFirst.org](http://www.Engage-GodFirst.org) for the information and application materials.
- **PRESIDENT** - Parish Resource Center, a national subscriber-based organization based in Lancaster, PA, seeks President to build relationships with congregations and develop programs for training, coaching and equipping their members for leadership and service. For 31 years, the Parish Resource Center has worked

with congregations of all religious faiths through its affiliated Centers in Pennsylvania, New York and Colorado. The President leads in developing the vision for strengthening congregations and implementing the mission, including designing and monitoring educational strategies and services; enlisting financial support; developing relationships with congregations and affiliates; and employing, training, and supervising the staff. Candidate must have 10 years' experience, preferably with a faith-based organization, and must demonstrate: a passion for congregations; leadership training or consulting background with strong communications skills; experience in financial development; the ability to enlist and train a professional staff; and experience working with a Board. Qualified candidates may visit <http://www.parishresourcecenter.org> to view the job description and desired qualifications. Letter of application and resume should be sent to: Parish Resource Center Search, 633 Community Way, Lancaster, PA 17603. Responses should be received by early March.

- **ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR** - Calvary United Methodist Church in Easton, PA is seeking an organist and choir director. The position can be a combined position of Music Director or 2 separate positions. Experience in choir directing, keyboard competency, good organizational and communication skills required. Send your letter of interest and resume to: The Staff Parish Relations Committee, Calvary United Methodist Church, 4411 Green Pond Road, Easton, PA 18045

## Native American Ministries Sunday

April 6, 2008

For more information go to:  
[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

## Missionaries in Spain need covenant support

Mark and Diane Abbott serve in Madrid. Mark is Professor of New Testament in the United Evangelical Theological Seminary. The seminary is an institution of the Spanish Evangelical Church and the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church. Both do cooperative theological extension and residency programs. Their vision is to help prepare spiritual leaders, both clergy and lay, for the Spanish Protestant Community. His missionary code is 10069Z.

Diane does translation work for the United Evangelical Seminary. She is a harpist and is also a pianist in the English-speaking Community Church of Madrid. Her missionary code is 10070Z.

The Abbotts have three children: two sons, Andrew and Christopher, and a daughter, Caroline.

Churches that pay full support of East-

ern Pennsylvania Conference askings are encouraged to also be in covenant with a United Methodist Missionary. Support of five dollars per member is requested. For the EPA Mission Manual, including application forms, please phone the EPA Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Dick Howarth, at 610-792-4822 or email him at [rwjhwh@earthlink.net](mailto:rwjhwh@earthlink.net).



*Celebrate the gifts and contributions of  
Native Americans.*

Your offering nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

## No child left behind



St. Philip's at "F" and Tioga Streets in Kensington began and after school program in October 1998 with twenty-five children in first and second grade. The program has grown over the last ten years to become a state licensed program, a member of Keystone Stars; we are now

part of the Children Investment Strategy for the city of Philadelphia - with sixty-five children on roll. Six of the original twenty-five students are still with the program and are honor students in Central and Edison High School.

During the ten years we have strived to

make disciples for Christ of the children - by teaching about, and showing God's love, we teach the children to love one another, regardless of ethnic heritage.

Since the program has always been ethnically diverse, with children of Vietnamese, African American, Latino, and Euro Americans, we have the perfect scenario to teach consideration and love to people of different backgrounds.

The School District's Conwell Middle Magnet School partners the program, (a Blue Ribbon nominee) so most of your young children go from elementary school to Conwell Magnet School, with many going on to Central High School. St. Philip's believes that because of God's love presented to the children, they are becoming ambassadors for Christ as well as productive citizens of Philadelphia.

As a full day summer program, St. Philip's is blessed to partner with Center for Student Missions, which provides wonderful Christian education programs i.e.: puppet shows, plays and music. These volunteers are from churches throughout

the United States and Canada. The volunteers come full of the love of Christ and are anxious to share this love with the children at St. Philip's. We also have students from Villanova University volunteer, who come three days each week to assist with the children's education. This service from Villanova is strong and has been provided over the last six years.

Each Christmas the children enjoy a full dinner and are given gifts donated by various churches, Toys for Tots, and St. Philip's UMC. This year the principal and staff from Conwell Middle School prepared and served the dinner to over eighty-five children and parents. The students also performed songs and dances for their parents.

St. Philip's believes in providing a strong foundation for children based on faith in God, social accountability, and intellectual and emotional development. Should any church want information or help in developing an after school program please feel free to call Pastor William Wolfe or Nancy Wolfe, administrator, at 215-634-5222 or [revwolfe@aol.com](mailto:revwolfe@aol.com).

## 'Thunder in the Desert' is entry point to Discipleship University for black Methodists

Five church teams from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference were among 200 United Methodist black church pastors and laity who pressed their way to "Thunder in the Desert: A Symposium for Partnerships in Black Churches" meeting in Nashville January 3-5, 2008.

Sponsored by the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, the gathering was designed to help participating churches plan and implement effective ministry partnerships between laity and clergy leaders.

The symposium is among the agency's ongoing efforts to address leadership development, one of four areas of focus the denomination has set for the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

The Rev. Vance P. Ross, top executive for GBOD's Leadership Ministries division, said that "Thunder in the Desert is an entry point to Discipleship University, GBOD's ground-breaking new initiative offering leaders two-year learning experiences designed to provide skills and models that help reverse the decline in United Methodist Church growth and membership."

Opening worship included a meditation, "There's Got to Be a Better Way," by the Rev. Safiyah Fosua, GBOD's director of Invitational Preaching, who posed the question "Are you working hard or hardly working?"

Referring to the story of Jesus and his disciples in Luke 5:1-11, she said, "The disciples could say they had been working hard all night long doing what fishermen do,"

she said. "Working smart came for them when they said, 'Nevertheless Lord, we'll go and try again.'"

In closing, Fosua challenged participants to "beat the bushes and the hedges. You've been fishing too shallow—re-fishing in the same water again and again. Go out there to the deep parts where no one else is going."

During the call to worship, the group responded that they can "hear the thunder (the sound of the sky tuning up for rain) even in the desert where they live.

"Lord, we are dry and thirsty in this place. Send your rain, send your rain, send your rain," they plead.

"God is not through with the United Methodist Church, and the black church in America," said the Rev. Tyrone Gordon, pastor of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in Dallas. "The rain of renewal, growth and vitality is on the way. This event gives us tools to prepare for the coming rain."

The Rev. Geraldine McClellan, district superintendent for the North Central District of the Florida Conference, brought 26 participants representing 11 congregations, most of whom had never attended a denomination-wide, connectional event of African-American pastors and laity.

"The Florida Conference is making intentional efforts to strengthen African-American congregations. The Office of Connectional Ministries provided \$2,500 to assist clergy and lay to attend the symposium," she said. The event, she added, is the kind of resource that will provide



needed training.

"African-American United Methodist churches have a unique opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in communities and to people who confront the varied issues of people of the Diaspora," says the Rev. Lillian Smith, director of Connectional Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference, which had five congregational teams in attendance.

"This gathering is designed to help clergy and laity better partner together to better fulfill their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," said Smith.

Working in groups related to their demographics, ministry teams completed ministry action plans and submitted them during the closing worship service.

The Rev. Frederick G. Outlaw, district superintendent of the Bay Pines District of the Alabama-West Florida Conference,

led the opening plenary with the topic, "Why the Bible? By Whose Authority?"

"The Bible is the record of the affirmation of faith for a particular people, in a particular place, at a particular time, responding to the call of God on their lives," said Outlaw.

He shared a poignant story about his father's death. While a student at Tennessee State University in 1961, Outlaw said he received the word that his father's body had been found "floating in the river ... riddled with bullets."

He had watched his father, a master brick mason, stand his ground against white masons who refused to pay black workers for their labor. That stand, he believes, was the cause of his father's death, although it was ruled a suicide.

"There is a God whose grace lifted me up, simply because I stay with the Bible," he said.

# Lenten Study

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 6th this year. It's the traditional time when Christians ponder the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross on our behalf. Daily contemplation and reflection during the 47 days of Lent can bring us to a deeper understanding of just what that sacrifice meant to Jesus as well as to ourselves.

"I Wonder ..." is the theme of this year's Lenten Devotions program from the Society of St. Andrew, a national non-profit hunger-relief ministry and Advance Special #801600. The devotions program is a collection of personal "wonderings" and insights of ordinary people as they read, think, and pray about the symbols, people, and places that shaped Jesus' last days on Earth. The daily devotions will also enjoin readers to think about how they might be Christ to others.

The devotions booklet is divided into five sections: the journey begins; symbols of Lent; stories and miracles; significant

people; and events of Holy Week. In addition, the devotions program challenges readers to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor; and it provides an opportunity for them to feed our hungry neighbors through the Society of St. Andrew's hunger-relief ministry.

A Good Friday Fast, written by Ken Horne, Executive Director of the Society of St. Andrew, is a separate booklet that complements the Lenten devotions or can be used as a stand alone activity for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

All materials are free and a sample packet can be ordered for review before placing a congregational order. Orders can be placed online at <http://www.endhunger.org/lent.htm>, by email at [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org), or by phone at 800-333-4597.

Every attempt will be made to expedite late orders. Good Friday Fast booklets should be ordered by March 7th. The Society of St. Andrew asks that churches help them remain good stewards of their

resources by ordering only as many kits as they will use. The Society of St. Andrew asks that you call their office if you do not receive your materials within two weeks of ordering.

The Society's Lenten Devotions program continues to grow in popularity each year. Last year donations from participants provided just under four million servings of fresh, nutritious food to families across the nation who don't get enough to eat. Because the Society of St. Andrew maintains an extremely low administrative and fundraising overhead, nearly 93 cents of every donated dollar

goes directly to saving fresh produce from going to waste and providing that food to the hungry.

The Society of St. Andrew's national non-profit hunger-relief ministry feeds the hungry with excess fresh produce saved through its Potato and Produce Project, Gleaning Network, Harvest of Hope, and Hunger Relief Advocate programs. More information is available at [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org).

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change the face of the world.

The Methodist  
**GLOBAL**  
EDUCATION FUND

The Methodist Global Education Fund uses the worldwide Methodist educational network to nurture the development of leaders who will foster local and worldwide communities that are peaceful, tolerant and value-based.

Contact Ken Yamada at (615) 340-7398  
or visit [www.gbhem.org/mgef](http://www.gbhem.org/mgef)

GENERAL BOARD OF  
**Higher Education & Ministry**

## The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church announcement:

### Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services Free in 2008

This year, Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services is being offered to eligible participants at no cost. In the past, this service was \$99 January 1 through March 31 and \$149 after March 31.

Another change to this service is that participants now have unlimited phone time. In the past, this program was sold in three-hour blocks. But all this year, participants can call Ernst & Young as often as they like and spend as much time on the phone as necessary.

Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services is available to:  
active participants,  
surviving spouses, and  
terminated and retired participants with an account balance of at least \$10,000.

Eligible participants can take advantage of this free service by calling Ernst & Young directly at 1-800-360-2539 between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, beginning January 2, 2008.

## End The Violence Now! Grant Opportunities

Application/Request for Funding

This grant opportunity exists so that United Methodist congregations, church related ministries, districts groups and agencies can facilitate peace in their communities. Bishop Marcus Matthews, concerned by the rising violence in Southeastern Pennsylvania, called for the Anti-Violence Rally in September 2007, the initiation of an Anti-Violence task force, which consists of various conference ministries, and the creation of this grant opportunity. Another component of the Anti-Violence efforts include: Day-long retreats for victims of violence at conference camps in 2008. United Methodist congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (EPA), agencies and district groups are eligible to apply for the "End the Violence" Grants. Community organizations with a significant involvement of United Methodists of the EPA Conference are also eligible. Grant applications may request up to \$8,000. Grants are intended to provide seed money to start new or expand existing programs with proven track records. Grants may address the following areas:

- Conflict resolution
- Community partners with parents
- Youth programs to teach the seeds and prevention of violence
- Programs to involve community in mentoring, homework assistance, music, and art or theatre programs.
- Programs that work with adjudicated youth
- Programs that promote peace, reconciliation and the ending of violence

Grant applications deadlines are: January 30, 2008 and April 30, 2008. For more information, go to:

**[www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) and click on  
News Stories.**

# The healing power of prayer

by Pierre M. Eade\*

God is pouring out His Spirit upon a Methodist Church in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania bringing forth numerous manifestations of physical healing. Members of the Washington Crossing United Methodist Church are being used to minister the healing power of God both within the sanctuary and in the marketplace. This move of God is causing a deepening hunger for God's power and increasing faith among the members and staff of "The Crossing" who are continually asking and believing God for more.

The church is not new to charismatic renewal or healing, but the frequency and level of anointing has been unprecedented in recent days. Senior Pastor Scott McDermott, said, "We've always believed in healing, but didn't see much healing...some, but just not much - that's the truth." The church did not give up in their pursuit of the healing touch of God and continually prayed for healing and for God's power to break through.

"I was committed to keep praying," said Pastor Scott, who has served in his appointment at the Crossing since 1993, "I longed to see it and believed there could be more." After many seemingly fruitless prayer attempts, even some of the more vigilant saints in the body were becoming

wearied and discouraged. This can present a tricky situation for a pastor who wants to encourage people to believe God for healing yet sees his sheep losing hope and feeling disappointment.

The Crossing places a strong emphasis on people's emotional wholeness and freedom in Christ as well as their physical well-being. The "Prayer and Care Ministry" uses the Word of God and prayer to facilitate emotional healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. "As a pastor you have a heart for hurting people as well as for healing. You understand the tension people live in and you want to show them compassion."

Many in the Western church have felt this tension, believing with all their heart that God is, Jehovah-Rapha, "the Lord who heals" (Exodus 15:26), yet seeing little to no evidence of His power manifested. Dr. McDermott, an adjunct professor in the doctorate program at Perkins School of Theology, is a man deeply committed to sound teaching as much as he is to charismatic renewal. "It's easier to have a theology of a God who heals than have an experience of healings. I spent a lot of my research time trying to explain, 'Why not?' instead of exploring how to see more healing." After a while, you begin to try and explain the unanswered prayers for



healing in order to 'allow God an out.'

In the last nine months, God has removed any confusion about His ability to heal creating a "heavenly shift" in the atmosphere at the Crossing. A miraculous transition has begun where the theology of healing is no longer greater than the manifestation of it. Instead physical healing has become a regular part of the Sunday morning worship.

"When God starts showing up, you first ask yourself, 'Is it real?' You start to test it. You hear the stories of people getting touched, and you back up and say, 'Why is this happening now?' Although Pastor McDermott believes that the years of prayers and fasting laid a good foundation for the church's healing ministry, he acknowledges two specific forces that broke open the seal to the healing power of God.

The first happened in September of 2006 during a healing conference held at the church. The conference featured Randy Clark from Global Awakening ministries along with Bill Johnson and Leif Hetland. The ministry trio imparted a wealth of knowledge and insight about the healing power of God and invited conference attendees to minister healing to one another. They also prayed for physical healings and reported an estimate of over three-hundred healings that took place over the four day event. Additionally, Clark and his ministry partners purposed to impart the healing anointing to conference participants through prayer and the laying on of hands. This "impartation" had personal significance in Pastor Scott's own life and ministry. "The day Randy prayed for me, I actually felt something come on me and go through me. That conference was definitely significant in this church's history."

The second breakthrough came as a revelation of God's sufficiency and the pursuit of His kingdom. Instead of "begging" God to come and heal, members of the

Crossing began to release the kingdom of God on the earth through prayer. This is a theme common in Bill Johnson's teachings and his book, *When Heaven Invades Earth*. In his book, Johnson explains the importance of the words "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" found in *The Lord's Model Prayer*. He writes, "This is the primary focus for all prayer - if it exists in heaven, it is to be loosed on earth. It's the praying Christian who looses heaven's expression here." 1

Pastor Ed Reistetter who oversees the healing ministry at the Crossing with his wife Carol explained how they teach others to pray for healing. Instead of petitioning and even begging God to heal, they practice prayer that declares God's heart for healing as revealed in His Word. "Your will is to heal Lord." "You've paid the price Lord." "By the stripes on your back we are healed." This type of prayer builds faith and expectancy because it is based on the unfailing Word of God, Reistetter explained.

The Reistetters also oversee the "Healing Room" ministry of the church. They have modeled this ministry after the Healing Rooms pioneered by John G. Lake in Spokane, Washington and today is operating in that city under Cal Pierce. "We adopted the basic model from Spokane using three prayer ministers in each prayer room and having a receptionist - like in a doctor's office. The new aspect we added was a soaking prayer room, where people can quietly sit or lay on the floor listening to quiet Christian music before or after healing ministry," said Carol. The couple has trained over fifty church members who are now agents of God's healing touch in this ministry of the church.

\*Pierre M. Eade, a member of Washington Crossing United Methodist Church, may be contacted at [pierreecade@gmail.com](mailto:pierreecade@gmail.com).

## Calvary UMC receives hospitality award

Calvary United Methodist Church, Mohnton has been recognized by United Methodist Communications (UMCom) here as an official "Welcoming Congregation."

"Welcoming Congregations" are a select group of United Methodist congregations nationwide that meet criteria including embracing newcomers and providing opportunities in discipleship. The recognition program is part of a larger effort launched in late 2000 by UMCom, the denomination's communications agency, to use modern technology and the common language of television to spread the Good News of Christ to a world in need.

The church's pastor, Rev. Richard Rimert Jr., reports that this "recognition represents the efforts of many persons within the congregation who are seeking to help us to do a better job of reaching out not only to Mohnton, but to the larger Reading and Berks County Community. We still have much to accomplish in this area as we seek to Invite...Equip.. and send out disciples of Jesus Christ." The church will begin hosting "Mohnton Meals" in January of 2008 as part of this outreach. The meals will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month,

beginning with the third Thursday of January." As part of this program a box will be made available to provide an opportunity for community members to submit needs that will hopefully be addressed by members of the congregation."

"Open hearts, open minds, open doors" is the theme of the denominational effort, the centerpiece which is a series of national cable TV advertising, supplemented by regional and local church participation. The overall aim of the effort is to invite people, particularly those between 25 and 54 years old, to enter into connection with the Christian community as they seek meaning and purpose in their lives.

The church holds two worship services each Sunday: an 8:15 Praise Service as well as a 10:45 "traditional service". Christian education is offered on Sunday mornings at 9:30 as well as in a variety of Bible Studies throughout the week. All are welcome. Calvary United Methodist Church is located at 1 W. Wyomissing Ave. Mohnton. More information about the church and its ministries may be obtained by calling the church office at (610) 777-8441 or at the church's website: [www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org).

More information is available from [www.IgnitingMinistry.org](http://www.IgnitingMinistry.org) or by calling toll free (877) 281-6535.

### Your help is needed...

...to obtain the addresses of about a dozen clergy who are on Honorable Location. Their names were reported at the Clergy Session in June 2007.

Clergy on Honorable Location are mandated by The Book of Discipline, Para. 360.2 to submit to the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry a copy of their annual report to the charge conference of the local church in which they hold membership. And, according to The Book of Discipline, Para. 360.2, "failure to submit the report for two consecutive years may result in termination..."

Clergy actively serving a charge where clergy on Honorable Location are located can help by informing or reminding the located clergy member to be in touch with the Conference Relations Committee as soon as possible by contacting Robert J. Wilt, Jr. of 600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA 19087 or [pastor@stmatthewsvf.org](mailto:pastor@stmatthewsvf.org).



# Denman Award to honor evangelism efforts

by *The Rev. Rene A. Perez\**

Every year, the Denman Award honors lay and clergy who have done outstanding work in the area of evangelism. This year, we will have the joy to honor two outstanding United Methodists in our Conference, who have reached persons for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Denman Award is given in recognition and celebration of the life of the late Harry Denman, a layman who lived the life of a true disciple and evangelist. This Award was established in 1980 by the Foundation for Evangelism and is awarded in partnership with the General Board of Discipleship and the Annual Conference.

Who should receive the Denman Evangelism Award? A pastor or lay person who

is effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ. This can involve speaking or preaching, personal witnessing, inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism, leading people to Christ, or leading a congregational effort in reaching people for Christ. This person may or may not have the best statistical record and may be from any size church. Those honored should be persons whose lives bring honor and glory to Christ and the church.



If you need more information on the Denman Awards you can visit the following website address: [www.evangelize.org](http://www.evangelize.org) or you can call the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office of Outreach and Church Multiplication at 800-828-9093 ext. 218. If you know of someone you would like to nominate for the Denman Award, please submit the attached form for laity and/or clergy.

Deadline for submitting recommendations is Tuesday, April 1, 2008 to The Rev. René A. Perez at P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

*\*The Rev. Rene A. Perez is Director of Outreach and Church Multiplication for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: [rene.perez@epaumc.org](mailto:rene.perez@epaumc.org).*

# Theological Training

*continued from page 1*

Reading. If your mission team would like to help, please contact the Rev. Nicolas Camacho at [ncamacho7@verizon.net](mailto:ncamacho7@verizon.net).

For our conference this is a historical and pioneering event which we are extremely excited about. We hope this to become a viable, affordable, sought out and excellent program for our congregations and for people outside of our conference and outside of the United Methodist church.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Rene A. Perez, Director of Outreach and Church Multiplication for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, at 1-800-828-9093 ext. 218 or at [rene.perez@epaumc.org](mailto:rene.perez@epaumc.org).

## Clergy Nomination Form

### DENMAN AWARD CLERGY NOMINATION FORM

I. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church/Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of Church: 1-99  100-249  250-400  500 - More

II. CLERGY

How long has this person served as pastor of this church? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please list the number of members added to the church over the last three (3) years:

	2001	2002	2003
1) Profession of Faith	_____	_____	_____
2) By Transfer	_____	_____	_____
3) Average Worship Attendance	_____	_____	_____
4) Average Sunday School Attendance	_____	_____	_____
5) Population of community of present charge	_____	_____	_____
6) How would you categorize this community:	growing <input type="checkbox"/>	static <input type="checkbox"/>	declining <input type="checkbox"/>

III. Describe the "spirit" of the person you have nominated. Give a brief biography, tell about the person's attitude toward life, his/her Christian commitment, and the person's vision for the future. (You may use additional paper.)

IV. Describe the "fruits" of the spirit displayed by this person. What difference has this person made in the lives of people, the church, and the community. (You may use additional paper.)

V. Other comments or information you believe would be helpful to the selection process.

VI. Please attach a letter written by the District Superintendent of the clergy person you have nominated.

VII. Person making nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Mail this form by \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

## Laity Nomination Form

### DENMAN AWARD LAITY NOMINATION FORM

I. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of Church: 1-99  100-249  250-400  500 - More

II. LAITY

How long has this person been a member of this church? \_\_\_\_\_  
 List areas where he/she has evidenced leadership in evangelism and in the making of Disciples of Jesus Christ:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

III. Describe the "spirit" of the person you have nominated. Give a brief biography, tell about the person's attitude toward life, his/her Christian commitment, and the person's vision for the future. (You may use additional paper.)

IV. Describe the "fruits" of the spirit displayed by this person. What difference has this person made in the lives of people, the church, and the community. (You may use additional paper.)

V. Other comments or information you believe would be helpful to the selection process.

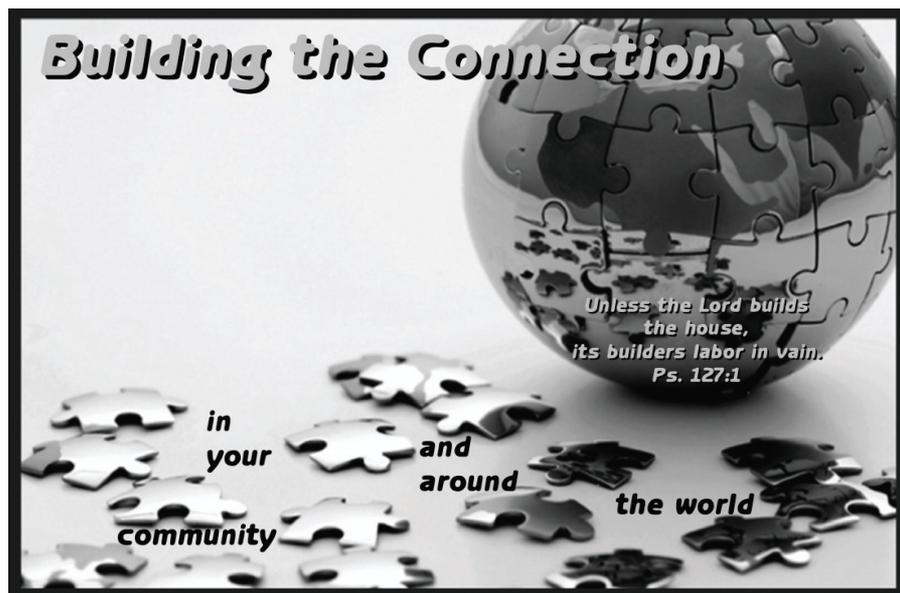
VI. Please attach a letter written by the Pastor of the person you have nominated.

VII. Person making nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Mail this form by \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

# The 2008 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel



**When:** May 29-30, 2008  
**Where:** Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel  
 17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia

Bus transportation will be available.

Clergy Session will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at 9:30 am at Hempfield UMC in Lancaster.

The Service of Ordination will be conducted at First United Methodist Church in Lancaster on June 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.



**Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey** will preach for Opening Worship and the Memorial Service. In addition to being resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, McCleskey represents the Council of Bishops on the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He is vice-president of that board and chair of its Division of Higher Education. He is vice-president of the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. Bishop McCleskey also served as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction

College of Bishops (2003-2004), and he is a member of the board of trustees of Duke University.



**The Rev. Kelvin Sauls** will lead the Bible Studies. He was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. Currently he leads the Office of Congregational Development of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, with a passion for congregational revitalization and community organizing in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the United Methodist Church in the U.S. Rev. Sauls currently serves on the national planning team for the Convocation of Pastors of African American Churches (General Board of Discipleship) and

on the National Policy Committee of the Community Developers Program (General Board of Global Ministries).

## Living Connected as God's People: "Building the Connection"

### DEADLINES:

**IF YOU ARE REQUESTING CONSIDERATION FOR TIME ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, THE DEADLINE IS February 15, 2008.**

- All requests for consideration **MUST** be submitted in writing to Mrs. Amy Botti, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820 or by email: amy.botti@epaumc.org. Late requests cannot be accommodated.
- Presenters will be asked to submit detailed scripts accompanied by the name(s) of the actual presenter(s) and the estimated presentation time by March 21, 2008. If a script is not received by the deadline, the presenter will lose presentation privileges.

**IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT, THE DEADLINE IS February 15, 2008.**

- Resolutions are to be submitted to the Conference Secretary: The Rev. Charles E. Weigel, Jr., 751 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335; Direct your questions to: (O) 610-269-1496, (H) 610-269-0629; email: Weigel4@aol.com. The name of the actual presenter must accompany each resolution.
- Resolutions, in portrait format, may be sent by email or on a CD. Attached is a sample of the format for setting up your document.
- Resolutions submitted after the February 15, 2008 deadline will be referred to the Agenda Review Committee in accordance with the rules of the Annual Conference. Copies cannot be made by the office staff at the Conference Office and will not be published in "NewSpirit".

#### FORMAT FOR SETTING UP YOUR DOCUMENT

**Please use Microsoft Word and submit your resolution on a CD or you may email it as an MS Word attachment. Please use the following specifications.**

1. Paper Size: 8.5" by 11"
2. Font: Arial 12 pt.
3. Justification: Full
4. Left/Right Margins: 1"/1"
- Top/Bottom Margins: 1"/1"
5. Portrait

**Please send your information to and direct your questions to:**

**The Rev. Charles E. Weigel, Jr.**  
 751 E. Lancaster Avenue  
 Downingtown, PA 19335  
 (O) 610-269-1496  
 email: Weigel4@aol.com

#### SAMPLE RESOLUTION FORMAT

**RESOLUTION # (We will fill in the number)**

**RESOLUTION TO 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

**Resolution Relating to Housing Allowance for Retired Clergy (Title)**

**Presented by The Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Organization/group/agency)**

**WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

**WHEREAS**, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

**WHEREAS**, pension paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, etc., etc., etc.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** (Name of Presenter)

## A Future with Hope for the United Methodist Church

by NEWSpirit Staff and UMNS

On April 23 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, held every four years, will convene in Ft. Worth, Texas, with the theme, "A Future with Hope." Among the nearly 1,000 delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States will be twelve from our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: six clergy and six laity elected at the 2007 Annual Conference sessions held in Philadelphia. The purpose of the conference is to set church policy, approve a budget and speak on behalf of the denomination regarding social and moral issues of the day.

The first General Conference was held by Methodists in 1792 and has generally met every four years since to develop the mission and ministry emphases for the denomination. It is the only body which may speak officially for United Methodism. The General Conference's decisions will change United Methodism's Book of Discipline and its Book of Resolutions, both of which guide church's ministry in Christ's name.

The delegates will begin each day with worship including music, prayer, and preaching. Throughout the day, as the delegates read, study, and deliberate on the petitions submitted by local churches, conferences, and individuals, there will be many occasions for additional worship and prayer. The petitions deal with many of the critical issues facing both the church and the world.

As a part of "A Future with Hope" theme, the General Conference will consider and vote on a budget of \$641.9 million based on the four areas of collaboration for world-wide ministry: leadership development (living the Wesleyan way), congregational development and new church starts, elimination of poverty by reaching the children, and global health including stamping out malaria and HIV/AIDS. These four areas of collaboration for the denomination were developed by the Council of Bishops based on the State of the Church report, and the seven vision pathways (find more on [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)).

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference delegation, co-chaired by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. and Mary White, asks for your prayer for this important gathering which concludes on May 2.

The General Conference 2008 gathering in Fort Worth is projected to cost \$6.6 million, up from the \$5.3 million price tag of the 2004 Pittsburgh assembly, even though its length has dropped from 12 to 10 days. Up to 7,000 people will attend over the 10 day meeting.

Plans for General Conference worship services are for them to be "less doctrinal,

more poetic," said Marsha McFee, worship director. "The conference's theme, 'A Future with Hope,' infuses everything we do," said McFee, a United Methodist worship consultant from Truckee, Calif. "These are pathways the bishops have determined are important to our faith community and what we need to do as a church. These services will prepare us each day for the work of General Conference by reminding ourselves to celebrate and pray for our work in those different directions."

Bishop Janice Riggie Huie of Houston, who is president of the Council of Bishops, will lead opening worship on April 23, and Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer of Iowa, who will succeed Huie as president next May, will guide the closing worship on May 2. Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher of the Illinois Area will deliver the Episcopal Address on April 24.

The worship schedule themes and preachers include:

April 23—Opening Service of Word & Table, Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World, Bishop Janice Riggie Huie of Houston;

April 24—"The Opening," Transforming Existing Congregations, Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher's Episcopal Address;

April 25—"The Planting," Developing New Congregations, Bishop João Somane Machado of Mozambique;

April 26—"The Nurturing," Baptismal Renewal, Strengthening Clergy and Lay Leadership, Bishop William W. Hutchinson of Louisiana;

April 27—"The Residing," Eliminating Poverty in Community with the Poor, Bishop Minerva Carcaño of Phoenix;

April 28—"The Building," Teaching the Wesleyan Model of Reaching and Forming Disciples, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght of West Virginia;

April 29—"The Sustaining," Reaching and Transforming the Lives of Children, ecumenical service with Bishop Mark Hanson, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America;

April 30—"The Bearing," Ending Racism as We Expand Racial/Ethnic Ministries, Bishop Violet Fisher of New York West;

May 1—"The Remembering," Reconnecting with Our Call to be Disciples of Jesus Christ who Transform the World, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of Chicago;

May 2—"The Releasing," Sending Forth Disciples for the Transformation of the World, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of Mississippi;

May 2—Closing Worship, "A Future with Hope," Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer.

## United Methodist Night at the 76ers

### Lower Level Ends

(Sections 106-108 and 118-120)

UM Cost - \$31.00

Box Office - \$52.00

### Mezzanine Corners

(Sections 204-205 and 209-210a)

UM Cost - \$20.00

Box Office - \$30.00

To download a ticket order form, go to:

[www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org)

or contact Jim Wilkin at

1-800-828-9093 or

[jim.wilkin@epaumc.org](mailto:jim.wilkin@epaumc.org)

**A donation will be made to the conference for each ticket sold.**

**Friday, April 11, 2008**



7:00 p.m.

VS



## United Methodist Night at the Phillies



3:55 p.m.

VS

For more information contact

Ross Brightwell at

[rossbrightwell@verizon.net](mailto:rossbrightwell@verizon.net)



**JULY 26, 2008**