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2009 Annual Conference: Deadlines for Notebook, Registration, Reports, Resolutions and more. **page 7**



Mission South Africa: Growing United Methodist Ministry throughout Africa and the world. **page 10**

By Suzy Keenan

Bishop Peggy Johnson has a heart for persons with disabilities, especially hearing and sight disabilities. So, when she decided to speak to her nearly 1,000 churches in The Philadelphia Area of the United Methodist Church, she created video messages.

"The United Methodist Church is highly inclusive and diverse," said Bishop Johnson. "But we need to include the gifts and diversity of people with disabilities. Some people need to see the Word of the Lord as well as hear it. Opening up our communications visually is a way of being inclusive in proclaiming and witnessing the Gospel."

She has created four videos to date: three Lenten messages for Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. The latest video is The Lord's Prayer. Each of the videos includes spoken English and sign language. "American Sign Language reaches a community our denomination is largely ignoring," she said.

Bishop Johnson was born with one eye and wears a prosthesis; this disability was part of

what led her on the path to ministry with persons with disabilities. Prior to her election as bishop in July of 2008, she was pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore, MD. Now, as bishop of The Philadelphia Area, she sees that part of her shepherding includes encouraging churches to reach out and broaden their outreach to persons with visual and hearing

disabilities. "These are gifted members of the Body of Christ that bring a needed voice in the diversity spectrum."

In the United States, there are nearly 2 million people who are culturally deaf and use American Sign Language. Less than 1% of culturally deaf persons worship in churches.

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Bishop Johnson takes videos to YouTube



PA Methodists Name Capitol Veteran, Church Leader Drachler to Lead Advocacy Effort

Stephen Drachler, a longtime United Methodist leader and veteran state capitol staffer and journalist, has been named to lead A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania, the Rev. Dr. Keith Benjamin, chair of the denomination's statewide advocacy organization said.

"A United Methodist Witness is entering a new era," said Benjamin of Carbondale, in announcing Drachler's appointment. "Stephen Drachler brings important leadership and advocacy skills to UM Witness. He has served at the highest levels of the church

and state government. And he was a widely respected political and investigative reporter and editor for two decades."

A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania is the social justice advocacy arm of The United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania. The members of its board of directors represent nearly 2,300 congregations with nearly 490,000 members across the Commonwealth.

Drachler, 58, is relocating to Harrisburg from Nashville, TN, where he operated

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Calendar of Events

APRIL

4 - Healing the Wounds of Racism - (Healer's Session), 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Matthew's UMC, www.stmatthewsvf.org. For more information or to register, contact Evangeline Johnson at 610-666-9090, ext. 242 or evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org.

4 - Early Response Team Training - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thorndale UMC, 3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372. Cost of the training is \$10 each and lunch and a light breakfast will be provided courtesy of the host churches. If you wish to attend either of the training sessions, please notify Ben Botti at bbotti@entermail.net or 215-723-8367.

4 - Time Traveler Event at Historic St. George's UMC See page 12 for details.

4 - 2nd Annual Bridge Walk for Peace - Saturday, April 4th starting promptly at 6:00 a.m. at the north walkway entrance of the Philadelphia side of the Ben Franklin Bridge. Following the bridge walk, participants will walk to 700 N. 3rd Street in Northern Liberties for the 8:00 a.m. clean-up project as part of Mayor Nutter's 2nd Philly Spring Cleanup. To Register for the walk, go to www.bridgewalkforpeace.org.

6 - PRO - A Recovery Institute - Recovery Specialist Training Series - We invite you to attend this 7-day training series to be held at The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

15-16 - The Poetic Nature of Good Preaching. For more information: Dr. Gennifer Benjamin Brooks, Styberg Preaching Institute, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201; 847-866-3957 (FAX); or Styberg Preaching Institute: styberg.preaching.institute@garrett.edu.

18 - Woodcutters Day and Wood Cleanup at Pocono Plateau - 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided. If you have any questions or are available, give Dan a call at the Camp Office, 570-676-3665, or send him an email at dan@poconoplateau.org.

18 - Southeast District Conference - Registration - 9:30 with light refreshments, Conference 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Grove UMC, 490 W. Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380; (610) 696-2663, www.grovechurch.org. For more information contact the Southeast District Office at: 60 W Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380; Telephone: (610)436-4277, Fax: (610) 431-4715 Email: lin.george@epaumc.org.

18 - Northeast District Conference - 1:30 p.m. - Registration and Displays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - District Conference. Bethlehem: Wesley UMC, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017, (610) 865-5715, www.wesleychurch.com. For more information contact the Northeast District office: 2336 S. 9th Street, Allentown, PA 18103-0818, Telephone: 610-395-6661, Fax: 610-395-5117, Email: Sheila.Hyun@epaumc.org; Internet: www.nedistrictepaumc.org.

19 - Northwest District Conference - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. First UMC, 330 W Market Street, Pottsville, PA 17901; (570) 622-8140, For more information contact the Northwest District office: 330 W Market Street, Pottsville, PA 17901; Telephone: (570) 624-1471, Fax: (570) 624-1626. Email: christine.eddy@epaumc.org

20-25 - A River Deep and Wide: Christian Spiritual Practices for the 21st Century. All are welcome to attend "A River Deep and Wide." For more information, call 877-899-2781; ext. 7233. Registration is \$225 or \$175 for students. Visit <http://www.upperroom.org/river/registration.html> to register online.

21 - Women in Professional Ministry Morning Apart. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, 600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA 19087; 610-688-7055. All women in professional ministry are welcome to a time apart on April 21. This time provides a space apart

for women in professional ministry to connect, fellowship and support one another in their ministries. Continental breakfast will be provided. Childcare is also available. If you need childcare, please contact the co-conveners, Dawn Taylor-Storm at pastordawn@stmatthewsvf.org or Mandy Stanley Miller at mandystanley@yahoo.com.

21-24 - Large Church Initiative 2009 Partnerships Play in Peoria. First United Methodist Church, 116 NE Perry Ave., Peoria, IL 61603, 309-673-3641. The theme of the event is Partnerships Play in Peoria. The focus is upon developing partnerships within the community which lead to ministries of transformation. We will be highlighting the ministries of Peoria First as well as partnerships between Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio and UMCOR, large church and the ADVANCE, larger churches with smaller churches, learning how to develop partnerships, and experiencing the fruits of ministries that are working for the transformation of the church and community.

24-25 - Biblical Literacy in a Digital Age with Donald Griggs. The Interfaith Resource Center in Wilmington, DE, is pleased to announce an upcoming seminar series on April 24 and 25 with Dr. Donald Griggs titled Biblical Literacy in a Digital Age. Dr. Griggs is a prominent lecturer on the topic of faith education and author of *The Bible from Scratch & Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach*. Interfaith Resource Center, 913 Wilson Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 302.477.0910 or 800.336.6152 www.interfaithresourcecenter.com.

24-26 - Father/Son Retreat at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center (for boys in grades 3-8 and their dad). This is the second year for our "Dangerous Retreat", inspired by "The Dangerous Book for Boys" and sponsored by Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center. Check-in is Friday evening at 7 p.m. Check-out on Sunday at 2 p.m. Cost is \$170 for father and son (additional son - \$75).

25 - Woodcutters Day and Wood Cleanup at Pocono Plateau - 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided. If you have any questions or are available, give Dan a call at the Camp Office, or send him an email at dan@poconoplateau.org.

25 - Urban Academy - *What was John Wesley's Response to the City?* Dr. John G. McEllhenney, Wesleyan scholar, retired clergy member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Palmer Theological Seminary faculty; many published works on John Wesley. *What has been the Historical Response of the EPA to Urban Ministry?* Rev. Herbert E. Palmer, Extensive experience in urban churches of EPA and has served as Director of the Urban Office of the conference. For more information see Calendar of Events at www.epaumc.org.

25 - Deacon's Day Apart. 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. First UMC of Phoenixville, 865 Main Street, Phoenixville, PA 610-933-5936. For all ordained & commissioned deacons and candidates for ordination. Registration & Fee: \$15.00 contact mditter@comcast.net.

25 - "Serving Congregational Libraries of All Faiths" Church & Synagogue Library Association - Delaware Valley Chapter - Spring Workshop and Luncheon. St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Malvern, PA. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information contact Verna Colliver at 215-855-0797 or vcolliver@verizon.net.

26 - Voices of Welcome; Songs of Joy, An AIDS Benefit Concert, at 4 p.m. at Drexel Hill UMC, sponsored by Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania. Cost: \$10. For tickets or other information, please call 610-259-2104, for directions, check www.drexelhillumc.org.

26 - Carson-Simpson Farm Open House. Take a tour of the camp property. Good opportunity for campers to get acquainted with the facility. Come see what Carson-Simpson Farm is all about. www.CSFarm.org.

26 - Southwest District Conference - Light refreshments at 2:30 p.m. District Conference from 3-5:00 p.m. Memorial UMC, 2nd and Hess Streets, Quarryville, PA 17566; www.quarryvillememorialumc.org. For more information

contact the Southwest District office: Bird-in-Hand United Methodist Church, 2nd floor, 2620 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505. Mailing Address: P O Box 271, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505-0270. Phone: (717) 569-9673, Fax: (717) 569-2038, email: maryann.unangst@epaumc.org, Website: <http://southwestdistrict.us>.

28 - PRO - A Recovery Institute - Recovery Specialist Training Series - We invite you to attend this 7-day training series to be held at The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services at 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.pro-a.org

30 - Temple Raising: Constructing Churches (and Church Buildings). Jonestown United Methodist Church, 109 West Market Street, Jonestown, PA 17038 on Thursday, April 30, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 717-865-4369, or send an email to lfsp3@comcast.net.

MAY

2 - Central District Conference - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Society Hall at Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131; (215) 878-3600. For more information contact the Central District office: Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131; Telephone: (215) 878-4607, Fax: (215) 878-4623, Email: jennifer.smith@epaumc.org.

2 - East District Conference - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The UMC of Huntingdon Valley, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006; (215) 947-7961. For more information contact the East District office: 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006; Telephone: (215) 914-2130, Fax: (215) 914-2132, Email: clarita.krall@epaumc.org Internet: www.gbmg-umc.org/AHShaw

2 - Little Critters Go To Camp is a FREE event for children age 3 (by 6/1/09) through completed Kindergarten. Kids can see what a camp day is like. Games, puppets, Bible story, craft, snack. Child must be accompanied by a parent. Call the camp to reserve a spot. Date: May 2, 2009; Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Carson-Simpson Farm, 3405 Davisville Rd. Hatboro, PA 19040 215-659-0232.

(USPS 19-604)

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of
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A Word from the Bishop

Are You Part of the Good News?

Easter is all about "Good News." In fact Jesus caused good things to happen wherever he went, whatever he did, and with anyone he touched. Even during his suffering and death he was still bringing hope and empowerment. During his arrest he healed the ear of the servant of the high priest who had been struck by Peter's sword. During his trial, Pilate and Herod became friends and Barabbas was given a second chance at life. During his crucifixion he gave new life to a thief on the cross, he found a home for his mother, he forgave his abusers. How can we be busy doing good things when we are in the midst of our personal suffering?

The best news of all is that Jesus changed death into life on Easter Sunday. It can be your personal good news if you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. The good news of Easter keeps happening every time there is a new believer, every time someone changes their "death" habits into "life" habits with God's help, every time we return good for evil, and every time we do a sacrificial act of kindness in this world.

There is a dry cleaner that will dry clean a suit for anyone who is interviewing for a new job free of charge. The owner of the cleaning company is doing this as his small way of helping people who are out of work make



a good impression on their job interviews and hopefully get back to work. He is bringing a little Easter into the lives of people who are desperately trying to find work.

There are at least 400 United Methodist volunteers every week traveling to the Gulf repairing homes for people who have lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Some of these volunteers are college students who are giving up their spring break to help with the effort. They are bringing a little Easter into the lives of people who are trying to rebuild their lives.

On National Malaria Day (April 21st) people are encouraged to give up their lunch and instead donate \$10 to buy a malaria bed net to help a family in Africa be protected from killer mosquitoes that infect people with the disease. You are bringing a little Easter to Africa when you help stamp out this killer disease.

Let Easter continue...bring new life wherever you go, tell people about Jesus, share what God has given you to bless others. In that way you keep Easter going all year round and you too are part of the good news.

Peggy A. Johnson

Visiting Missionaries

It is with great pleasure that we welcome missionaries Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman and their children for a visit to the U.S. from their work in Nepal. The Zimmermans will be traveling throughout the Philadelphia Area during the months of March, April and May. If you would like information about where they will be visiting or if you are interested in information about supporting a missionary through a covenant relationship, please contact Rev. Coryn Pena at Ps139CBeck@msn.com or 215-266-7580. Please support the efforts of our missionaries through your prayers.

Zimmerman Schedule of Church Visiting

- 4/5 - Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. - Crossroads UMC, Felton, PA
- 4/5 - Sunday @ 7:00 p.m. - Hockessin UMC, Hockessin, DE
- 4/8 - Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. - Chambersburg First UMC, Chambersburg, PA
- 4/14 - Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m. - Bethany UMC, Hamburg, PA
- 4/15 - Wednesday @ 11:00 a.m. - Bedford UMC, Bedford, PA
- 4/15 - Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m. - Grandview UMC, Lancaster, PA
- 4/18 - Saturday @ 8:00 a.m. - Bethel UMC, Seaford, DE
- 4/19 - Sunday @ 10:25 a.m. - Grace UMC, Wilmington, DE
- 4/19 - Sunday @ 5:30 p.m. - St. Matthews by the Sea UMC, DE
- 4/26 - Sunday @ 12:00 noon - Shanksville UMC, Shanksville, PA
- 4/26 - Sunday @ 6:30 p.m. - Steubenville UMC, Steubenville, OH
- 4/29 - Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. - Tonawanda UMC, Tonawanda NY

In Memoriam

Mrs. Martha Peiffer, widow of the Rev. Dr. Harold S. Peiffer, passed away on March 5, 2009. Rev. Peiffer served the following appointments: Brunnerville, Newtown, Lancaster: Covenant, Northeast District Superintendent, Associate to the Bishop, Mount Gretna, Quarryville: Memorial and Quarryville; Wesley. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at Covenant United Methodist Church. Martha is survived by her daughter, Nadine Peiffer Wethington and her son-in-law, Olin L. Wethington, and three grandchildren: Stephanie, Catherine, and Bryan. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Nadine U. Wethington, 645 Potomac River Road, McLean, VA 22102. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to Covenant United Methodist Church, 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

The Rev. Dr. George S. Hewitt, age 86, retired elder, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Rev. Hewitt, served the following appointments: Gradyville, Georgetown, Mount Pleasant, Joliett-First, Donaldson, Former Tremont First, Phila: S D Cooper, Havertown: Union, Drexel Hill, and Extension Ministry as Director of Pastoral Care Services, Del. Co. Memorial Hospital. He retired in 1987. A memorial service was held on Friday, March 13, 2009 at Drexel Hill UMC, Drexel Hill, PA. Dr. Hewitt is survived by his daughters Linda, wife of William McCouch of Plymouth Meeting,

PA, and Barbara, wife of Kenneth Eyre of Alexandria, VA, as well as three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of his daughter, Mrs. Barbara Eyre, 6422 Calleb Court, Alexandria, VA 22315. Memorial contributions may be sent to Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation, 7240 Walnut Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Mrs. Anna H. Himmelberger, 94, widow of the late Rev. Harry J.P. Himmelberger, passed away Friday, March 20, 2009. She is survived by four sons: David, John, Karl, and Timothy Himmelberger; eight grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be sent in her memory to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 100 West Main St., Mountville, PA 17554.

Mrs. Roberta Watson, widow of the Rev. Richmond W. Watson, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Rev. Watson served for eleven years as pastor of Birdsboro: Christ UMC on the Central District. A funeral service was held on Monday, March 30 at Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church. She is survived by daughter Charlotte Stevens, son Richmond C. Watson, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to the attention of Charlotte Stevens, P.O. Box 247, St. Peters, PA 19470. Contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made in her memory to Christ United Methodist Church, 114 Bird St., Birdsboro, PA 19508.

Do not forget to register for 2009 Annual Conference!

June 16-18, 2009

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

For more information go to page 7.



In the Nation

Churches focus on Christian recovery programs



An instructor from the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute trains United Methodist in Paducah, Ky., on Faith Partners, a Christian-based recovery program. A UMNS photo courtesy of Trish Merrill.

By Andrew J. Schleicher*

Is something hurting you? Is something holding you back from living your life fully? Do you have a habit that is addictive or otherwise causes problems for your life and those around you? Does your church and community need greater awareness of the struggles of addiction for those dealing with it?

United Methodist congregations are joining programs that address these hurts, habits and hang-ups. In turn, they are building more welcoming congregations and individuals who are leaders in those congregations and greater communities.

At First United Methodist Church of Tulsa, Okla., Gary Pond was trying to get his life straight. Struggling with alcoholism, Pond says, "I came to the church about seven years ago and was pretty much a broken man." He attended recovery programs, but "there really needed to be something else beyond secular recovery."

As the idea was turning over in his head, Pond shared the thought about wanting a Christian recovery program with his counselor. That counselor had just received a mailing about Celebrate Recovery, founded by John Baker at Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in California. Warren wrote "The Purpose Driven Life" and gave the invocation at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Hungering for healing

Celebrate Recovery and another Christian recovery program, Faith Partners, are ministries taking hold in many United Methodist congregations.

Faith Partners, founded 20 years ago by a United Methodist nurse in Austin, Texas, is now part of the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute. It is endorsed by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society with support from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Trish Merrill began looking into addictions as a nurse concerned about psychiatric drugs. She then started learning about alcoholism. Merrill noticed that people were looking for something.

"We have experiences in life that lead to a need for and hunger for healing in a spiritual way," Merrill says.

Turning to God

"My name is John, and I am a believer in Jesus Christ who struggles with alcoholism." That is how Baker and all participants in Celebrate Recovery introduce themselves. It takes away the emphasis on what one does and emphasizes one's relationship with God.

"God is more interested in who I am, rather than what I do," Baker says in a Celebrate Recovery introductory video for leaders. "He's interested in my character and in my values."

Jerry Andrews, who has been off drugs and alcohol for five years, is now ministry leader for the Celebrate Recovery program at First United Methodist Church in Smyrna, Tenn. When the church's program launched earlier this year, there were 25 to 40 people in attendance on a Thursday night.

"The whole program starts with 'I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ,'" Andrews says. "It is our intent to move people to Christ if they're not already there."

Changing the culture

The initial work Merrill did with a team of people 20 years ago became Faith Partners in the mid-1990s. That team approach continues today. Faith Partners trains lay people in congregations to use the knowledge and skills they already have. Thus, each congregation may carry the ministry forward in a unique way.

Recovery is only one part of the ministry. Grace and Faith United Methodist churches in Davenport, Iowa, demonstrate the educational part of the ministry. Their Faith Partners team carries out puppet shows to educate children and others about peer pressure and the dangers of prescription and street drugs.

It also changes the culture of the congregation.

"I have seen a few people who have really come together and a few people who have overcome," says Mike Salter,

director of the Faith Partners ministry for Grace and Faith churches.

Faith Partners also supports advocacy. Cynthia Abrams of the Board of Church and Society calls it one of the unique aspects of the ministry. "In the past there has been a separation between recovery work and advocacy," she explains.

She sees a trend in the connection. Through advocacy, she says, "we're creating an environment where wellness flourishes and addiction does not."

The United Methodist Church is involved in a campaign to eliminate alcohol advertising from all sports.

Opening doors

Pond and the Tulsa congregation also are reaching out more. They will begin picking up women from a local correctional facility to participate in the program. The local Salvation Army has contacted them to see how it could be a part of this ministry.

Susan Andrews, who helped her husband, Jerry, start the Celebrate Recovery program in Smyrna, believes recovery ministries fit well into United Methodism. "I think it goes along with 'Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors,'" she says.

Indeed these ministries are opening doors both for those in need of healing and for those already part of local congregations. "I'm a true believer in AA. It does work," Jerry Andrews says, but he found that he needed something more.

Becoming disciples

In developing the Christian aspect of the Celebrate Recovery program, Rick Warren connected Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 steps with eight principles based on the Beatitudes. Jerry Andrews summarizes the first four steps in this way: "I can't; he can; I think I'll let God."

The last of the principles is "Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words." In this way, the program encourages its participants to be disciples. Congregations are building leaders through Celebrate Recovery.

For more information about Celebrate Recovery, visit www.celebraterecovery.com. A state-by-state directory will point you to the nearest program to your location.

Faith Partners may be found at www.rushcenter.org/faithapproach.

*Schleicher is a freelance writer and editor living in Nashville, Tenn. News media contact: Linda Green, (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

The Nation in Brief

Higher Ed board approves plan, cost cuts, scholarship fund - NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) - A revised strategic plan, budget cuts and a new scholarship fund were approved by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry's directors, in a meeting focused in part on what it means to lead the church in developing principled Christian leaders. "The way we were able to engage in conversation about what it means to be the lead agency for developing principled leaders for the church and the world was important," said Bishop Marcus Matthews, board president. "We are totally committed to giving all our energy to finding ways to be collaborative with other agencies."

Case pending over endowment funds - A decision may be announced in the next 60 to 90 days in a court case involving a 1965 trust document that may decide the future work of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. Fred Brewington, a board member and trustee of the agency, gave a brief update on the pending court case during the spring board meeting held March 18-22. The board's trustees filed a request in early 2007 for a declaratory decision on the appropriate use of the United Methodist Building endowment funds. He read portions of a letter he received from a concerned United Methodist questioning the stewardship of the board because the cost of the trial has been \$1.4 million to date. He explained the initial cost of the case was to be \$300,000 but increased after five people joined the case as interveners.

UMTV: Humanizing the Border - We hear a lot about the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who attempt

to cross the Mexico - U.S. border illegally each year. What you don't hear about is the thousands who don't make it. Migrants walking days through the Mexican desert succumb to heat stroke, dehydration, and hypothermia. With the support of UMCOR, volunteers in New Mexico place crosses in the desert to remember those who have died during the journey and extend humanitarian help to those still fighting for survival. UMTV's "Humanizing the Border" is available to view at http://www.umtv.org/archives/humanizing_the_border.htm. Find this and other UMTV stories on YouTube, GodTube and GoogleVideo by typing "UMTV" in the keyword search.

Thousands of volunteers from universities and colleges in North Carolina will join forces again in late August to break the record they set last year by packaging 1,010,374 meals in one day for Stop Hunger Now, a United Methodist-related Raleigh, N.C.-based international hunger relief organization. This year, "University Million Meal Week" will be hosted by three North Carolina universities. To assist by volunteering or providing donations to cover the cost of food and materials, contact Stop Hunger Now at (888) 501-8440 or info@stophungernow.org. The National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Programs has released the Mindful Living Gathering Guide, a by-step process for facilitating adult Christian education on the issues of health, pollution and toxic substances. More information can be found online at www.ncccojustice.org.

Event allows youth, young adults to explore ministry - EXPLORATION 2009, scheduled for Nov. 13-15 in

Dallas, will address The United Methodist Church's need for young clergy by offering youth and young adults who feel God's call a chance to explore that call. "Today more than ever, the denomination needs to sponsor events that invite, train, and support young people as they answer their call to ordained ministry," said the Rev. Meg Lassiat, director of student ministries, vocation, and enlistment at the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which sponsors EXPLORATION. Aimed at high school seniors through young adults aged 24 who are considering a call to ordained ministry, EXPLORATION will feature the Rev. Tyrone Gordon, the Rev. William B. Lawrence, Bishop Sally Dyck, and the Rev. Motoe Yamada as keynote speakers. Participants also will have the chance to talk with admissions staff from the 13 United Methodist schools of theology, attend workshops, and take part in small-group discussions.

Find-a-Church is the most used feature option on www.umc.org. The tool offers United Methodist churches a free online profile but its success depends on local churches providing accurate information, and keeping it updated. Churches share not only a street address, phone number, photo and Web site address, but also information about other opportunities and ongoing church activities. A new Find-a-Church menu prompts the user to provide a multi-dimensional look at a congregation's mission and ministry. More information, including updating Find-a-Church information, is available from United Methodist Communications by e-mailing FAC@umc.org or by calling (800) 251-8140.

In the World

Buy chocolate, help farmers, agency says

By Linda Bloom*

When June Kim says she'd like everyone to buy a ton of chocolate for Easter, she isn't kidding.

But she is very specific about the type of chocolate it should be. Kim is in charge of the yearlong 100-Ton Challenge of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which ends on May 9, World Fair Trade Day.

As of March 4, United Methodist congregations and individuals participating in the challenge had bought 69.3 tons of fairly traded products through the UMCOR Partner Equal Exchange --115,506 pounds of coffee, 9,729 pounds of chocolate, 8,085 pounds of cocoa, 2,614 pounds of snack items, 2,108 pounds of tea and 501 pounds of organic sugar.

Kim is encouraging purchases of any of these items -- especially the weightier ones, like chocolate and coffee -- to help the denomination reach the 100-ton goal. "If we buy it for our homes, I think we can make it, especially with the chocolate lovers," she says. "Orders received until May 9 will count toward the challenge."

The challenge was started to increase awareness of fair trade, which helps small farmers and their communities -- mostly in Latin America, Africa and Asia -- and the UMCOR Coffee Project with Equal Exchange. Fifteen cents of every pound of product sold through the project supports farmers through UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program. That program helps farmers learn new methods of crop cultivation.

Filling Easter baskets

Kim points out that the Organic Dark Chocolate Minis are perfect for Easter baskets. And the newest 3.5-oz. chocolate bar, Organic Orange Dark Chocolate, made with 65 percent cacao content and citrus, is very popular.

Like the other Equal Exchange chocolates, the minis and organic orange bars are made with cocoa from two farmer cooperatives -- CONACADO in the Dominican Republic and CACVRA in Peru -- and fairly traded organic sugar from cooperatives in Paraguay and Costa Rica.

Other bars available are Organic Panama Extra Dark Chocolate (also new), Organic Very Dark Chocolate, Organic Dark Chocolate with Almonds, Organic Milk Chocolate with a Hint of Hazelnut, Organic Mint Chocolate with a Delicate Crunch, Organic Chocolate Espresso Bean and Organic Dark Chocolate with Pure Cocoa Nibs.

Those ordering chocolate before May 1 will incur lower



The United Methodist Committee on Relief is encouraging congregations and members to buy fairly traded chocolate for Easter to help reach the 100-Ton Challenge, which ends May 9, Fair Trade Day. The campaign encourages purchasing fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks through the UMCOR Coffee Project and its partner, Equal Exchange, a worker-owned cooperative. A UMINS photo courtesy of Equal Exchange.

shipping costs. Between May 1 and Oct. 1, expedited shipping and insulated packaging are required to prevent melting during the warmer weather.

Kim admits that she is not a chocolate eater herself, "but I do love their hot chocolate. I understand their spicy hot chocolate is to die for."

Coffee hour or fundraiser

Products are sold by the case. Many congregations use Equal Exchange products at coffee hour or to sell as fundraisers, but Kim notes that a case purchase may work for individuals as well. A case of coffee, for example, is only six bags. "It's not a lot for even a household, if they're coffee drinkers," she says.

United Methodist participation in Equal Exchange continues to grow and does not seem to be affected by the economic downturn, according to Kim. In fact, chocolate and all other types of sweets are in demand. A March 24 New York Times story reports that Americans adults in particular are

consuming more candy these days, perhaps as an inexpensive pick-me-up or "nostalgic reminder of better times."

Last year, 370 congregations joined the UMCOR Coffee Project for the first time, for a total of 3,242 congregations since the project began in 2002. That represented a 19 percent increase over 2007, Kim says.

Total volume sold through Equal Exchange's interfaith program was up 4 percent in 2008, for a total of 529 tons. "United Methodist participation was the single largest denominational purchase in their interfaith program," she adds, with \$1.3 million in sales.

More information about the 100-Ton Challenge and ordering instructions can be found on UMCOR's Web site and at Equal Exchange.

**Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York. News media contact: Linda Bloom, New York, (646) 369-3759 or newsdesk@umcom.org.*

The World in Brief

Agency will help develop leaders in Brazil - Leaders of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry are hailing a new partnership agreement between the agency and Brazilian educational institutions as a major step in their mission of developing leaders for the church. Under the agreement, signed March 19 between the board and the General Council of the Methodist Institutions of Education, the council will function as the "regional operating vehicle" of the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development.

The European church: small but committed - United Methodist Bishop Patrick Streiff says the biblical story of the loaves and fishes is a metaphor for the faith and strength for churches in Central and Southern Europe. "I took that Bible story...as a very good picture for our situation as Methodists in these countries," he explained. "We are very small in numbers, even in Switzerland, where the church is the biggest." The small numbers refer to both membership -- about 36,000 in 14 countries -- and the amount of funds available to local churches in those countries. But Streiff, who oversees the episcopal area, also is encouraged by this biblical metaphor and wonders "what Christ can make out of it (the European church) if we really let it be blessed by him." He said that his goal is to strengthen the mission of local churches and develop good leadership, particularly among women because "in many ways, the women are somehow leading us further among the laity."

Bishop Borgen dies at 83 - Bishop Ole Edvard Borgen, the first non-American president of the Council of

Bishops of the United Methodist Church, died March 24 at Akershus University Hospital outside Lillestrøm, Norway. Borgen, 83, who was installed as president of the council in 1985 and served a one-year term, called United Methodists to a "spiritual and holy life." In 1983, during a meeting of the denomination's evangelical caucus, he said, the primary reason that the church has not been effective in mission was because "it shifted from a sectarian movement to a denomination." The funeral service will take place April 2 at Skedsmo church outside Lillestrøm.

Afghanistan faces food shortages - The most severe drought in a decade is fuelling a food crisis in Afghanistan that now threatens millions of people with possible starvation, church-linked humanitarian agencies have warned. "Unless the international community responds to the issue of hunger in Afghanistan, we will not be able to fulfill any other promises we are making to the Afghan people," said Marvin Parvez, Asia and Pacific regional coordinator for Church World Service. "In Afghanistan, the heroin trade, suicide bombings and the 'war on terror' has put the humanitarian agenda on the sidelines," said Parvez in a March 24 report distributed by Action by Churches Together International. The alliance further warned that a U.S. \$1.26 million ACT appeal for the drought in Afghanistan was severely underfunded, and had received less than three percent of the requested amount. The United Methodist Committee on Relief also is a part of ACT.

Make Philippines live up to standards, NCC says - The National Council of Churches urged Congress on

March 25 to require assurances that the Philippines is living up human rights standards before providing its government with additional military financing. Despite efforts by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to tie U.S. military aid to improvements in the Philippines' human rights record, widespread abuses continue, said the NCC's top executive, the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, in an open letter to the Congress. In 2008, Congress allocated \$30 million in Foreign Military Financing to the Philippines, but said \$2 million would depend upon the Philippine government's compliance on several conditions. "The Philippine government did not meet any of these conditions ... (but) the (U.S.) Department of State provided the Philippines with the full FMF allocation," Kinnamon said. "We are very concerned about the lack of transparency in the reporting process."

UMTV: Haiti HealthWorkers - In Haiti, one third of all children will die before their fifth birthday. With a national unemployment rate at 90 percent, parents cannot afford food or basic medical care for their children. A global health charity is training hundreds of health workers to serve in their communities. This free and accessible medical help is saving the lives of children in one of the poorest countries in the world. UMTV's "Haiti Health Workers" is available to view at [http://www.umtv.org/archives/haiti health workers.htm](http://www.umtv.org/archives/haiti%20health%20workers.htm) Find this and other UMTV stories on YouTube, GodTube and GoogleVideo by typing "UMTV" in the keyword search.



The Urban Academy

The Office of Urban and Global Ministries will sponsor an Urban Academy in 2009. The purpose of the academy is to encourage urban congregations in making disciples of Jesus Christ, and to support ministry and partnerships in the cities in which they are located. The Academy will enable urban churches to be centers of wholeness of mind, body, and spirit for all people in their neighborhoods and beyond.

25 April 2009

What was John Wesley's Response to the City?

Dr. John G. McEllhenney, Wesleyan scholar, retired clergy member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Palmer Theological Seminary faculty; many published works on John Wesley.

What has been the Historical Response of the EPA to Urban Ministry?

Rev. Herbert E. Palmer, Extensive experience in urban churches of EPA and has served as Director of the Urban Office of the Conference.

16 May 2009

How Does the Local Church Enhance is Building Space in order that the Church becomes a Center of the Community?

Ms. Elizabeth Terry, Lead Trainer, Partners for Sacred Places, with national experience in assisting local congregations to become viable entities of their neighborhoods.

27 June 2009

How can the Local Church Engage in Financial Health even in Present Economic Conditions?

Rev. Melvin Amerson, Associate of the Texas Foundation, the largest conference foundation in the United Methodist Church and an author on the topic. Afternoon sessions will be lead be EPA leadership that will follow up on topics presented by morning keynote address and such topics as youth engagement, demographics, Hispanic/racial ethnic ministry, moving out into the city, etc.

All dates are on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to facilitate attendance.

The pastor, as well as three or four lay persons of urban congregations are invited to attend the Academy.

The Urban Academy is specifically for those congregations located in the following urban areas: Allentown, Bethlehem, Chester, Coatesville, Doylestown, Easton, Hazleton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Levittown, Norristown, Philadelphia, Pottstown, Pottsville, Quakertown, Reading, Shamokin, Stroudsburg and West Chester.

Location: The Abraham Lincoln - A Wyndham Historic Hotel, 100 North Fifth Street, Reading PA 19601 (610) 372-3700

<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/RDGHT/main.wnt>

Meals: Continental breakfast and brown bag lunch To Register, contact the Urban and Global Office: 800-866-6855 or email dorothy.watsonatatem@epaumc.org.

Be sure to check the Office of Urban and Global Ministries Website for news and updates: www.epaurbanministries.com.

Mother African Zoar UMC honors 82 year member

The United Methodist Women of Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church will honor Alberta Martin for 82 years membership and service on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The celebration will take place at the annual salad luncheon presented by the Methodist Women on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 12:00 noon at the church located at 1204 Melon St. (near 12th and Fairmount). The public is invited to attend. Donations are \$15.00. Ms. Martin is the 8th of nine daughters born to Grant and Rosella Martin. Her family moved to Philadelphia in 1927 from North, South Carolina. Ms. Martin became a leader in the church and a trailblazer who paved the way for Black professionals in the nursing field in Philadelphia. Ms. Martin received her B.S. in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 1942 and her Master in Education in 1948. In 1944 she joined the Army Nurse Corp in the first integrated unit. She became the first Black Head Nurse at the Philadelphia General Hospital in 1950 and also became the hospital's first Black administrator in 1957. Continuing in a distinguished career of "Firsts", Ms. Martin was the first black faculty member and Science Coordinator at Chestnut Hill Hospital School of Nursing. She was also the first Black faculty member at Temple University School of Nursing where she helped to develop the curriculum for a new collegiate program. Ms. Martin retired in 1978, but continues to volunteer in community service programs. At Zoar, Ms. Martin has served in many capacities over the years: as Lay Leader, Sunday School and Bible teacher, Steward and a member of the United Methodist Women. Her greatest joy has been working with children in Sunday School and tutoring children in math and science. Ms. Alberta Martin is a living legend at Zoar and we are privileged to honor her. Please join us as we pay homage to one of Philadelphia's outstanding African American trailblazers. Honoraria for Ms. Martin will be placed in the Alberta Martin Scholarship Fund for nursing students at Zoar. For more information you may call the church office at 215- 769-3899.

Denman Evangelism Award Nominations Sought

The task sharing the good news of Jesus Christ belongs to all Christians. Yet, there are certain people who have a special gift to accomplish this task with passion and outstanding results. The Denman Evangelism Award recognizes the witness of these gifted people.

Over 2,000 United Methodist clergy and laity have received the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism Award presented in recognition of outstanding personal evangelism and ministry.

This year, The Foundation for Evangelism is celebrating 60 years of commitment to the vision of Dr. Harry Denman, a lay evangelist and our founder, who believed that it was the business of every Christian to be an evangelist. This award, named in his honor, recognizes this same level of commitment to evangelism for persons in ministry today.

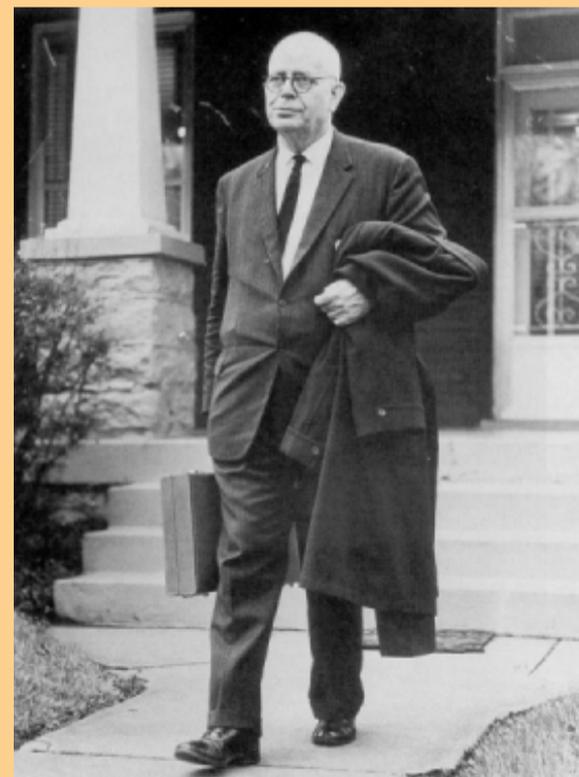
The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is invited to partner with The Foundation for Evangelism in this meaningful way to honor those who have a passion to help others experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Awards Nomination Packets are available for download on The Foundation for Evangelism website at www.FoundationForEvangelism.org. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1, 2009. Nominations should be forwarded to Rev. Steve McComas RevSTMComas@aol.com or Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820; irving.cotto@epaumc.org; FAX: 610-666-9093. Suzzette James is Co-chair of Calling Disciples Resource Team for church revitalization.

Excellence recognition in the field of evangelism is one way The Foundation for Evangelism promotes and encourages persons to effectively carry on the work of evangelism in The United Methodist Church. The Foundation for Evangelism provides venture capital for the development of leaders with a passion for evangelism who will have a multiplying impact on The United Methodist Church. In 2008, more than \$2.5 million was awarded to grantees including E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evange-

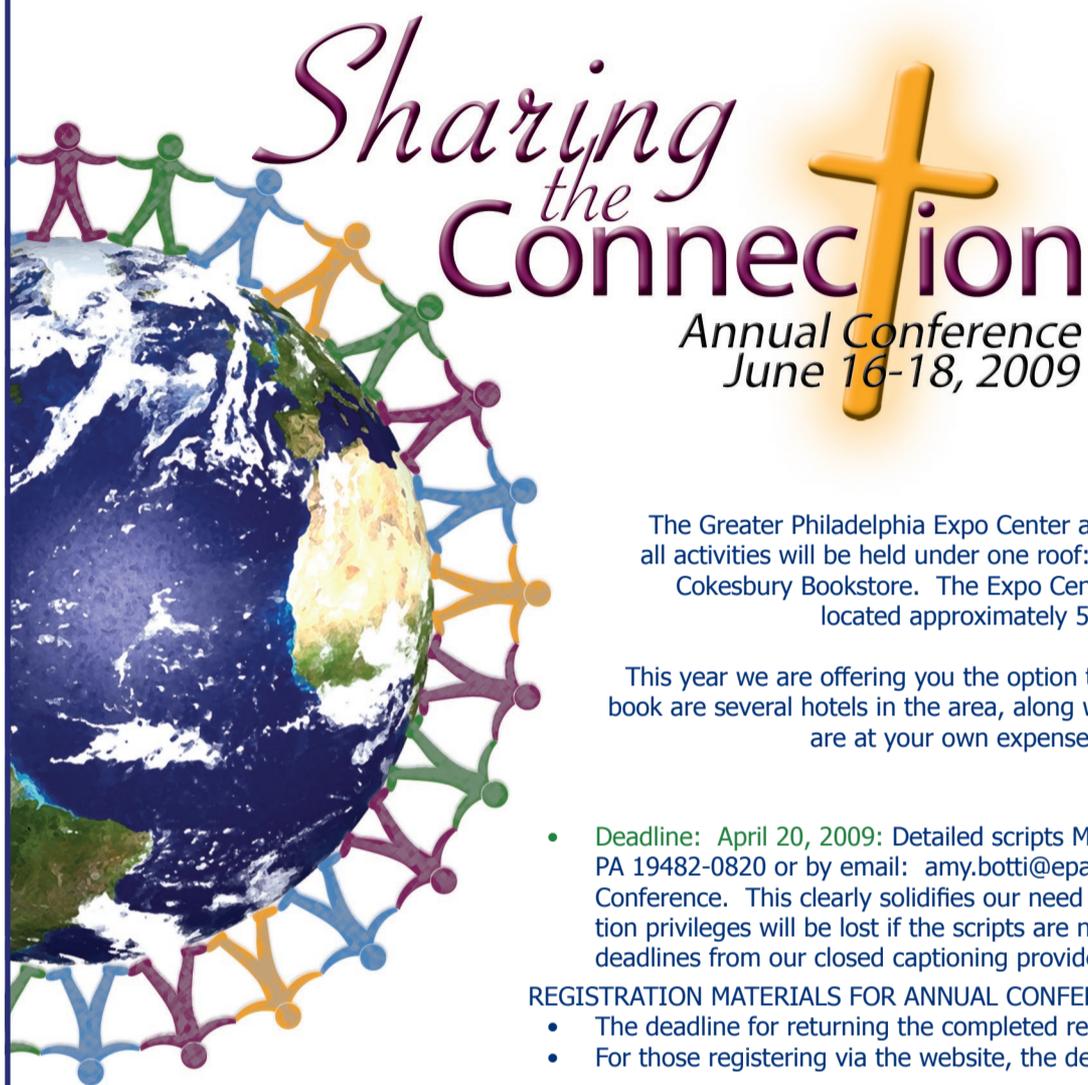
lism in the United States and around the world, scholars preparing for leadership in the Church through graduate and post-graduate education, and resources for leaders working with youth and on college campuses. The Foundation for Evangelism is an affiliate of The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. The Foundation's work is possible by donations from individuals who resonate with our mission and vision.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.FoundationForEvangelism.org or call (800)737-8333.



2009 Annual Conference

Living Connected as God's People



Annual Conference 2009:
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks
100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456

The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks has just opened its doors in January. At The Expo Center all activities will be held under one roof: Clergy and Laity Sessions, Ordination, Vendors/Exhibitors and the Cokesbury Bookstore. The Expo Center is handicapped accessible with plenty of free parking. It is located approximately 5 miles from the Conference Office in Valley Forge.

This year we are offering you the option to care for your own hotel accommodations. Listed in the registration book are several hotels in the area, along with their contact information. Please note that hotel accommodations are at your own expense. You may also feel free to commute to the event.

Deadlines:

- **Deadline: April 20, 2009:** Detailed scripts MUST be sent by this date to Mrs. Amy Botti, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820 or by email: amy.botti@epaumc.org. We will be providing closed captioning for this entire Annual Conference. This clearly solidifies our need for all detailed scripts to be received by the stated deadline. Presentation privileges will be lost if the scripts are not received by the stated date. No exceptions can be allowed due to deadlines from our closed captioning provider.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- The deadline for returning the completed registration materials is **April 22, 2009**.
- For those registering via the website, the deadline is also **April 22, 2009**.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DISPLAY TABLE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, **THE DEADLINE IS April 15, 2009**.

- Please contact Mrs. Evangeline Johnson at 610-666-9090, ext. 242 or 800-828-9093, or by e-mail: evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org.
- Vendor reservations for display tables must be submitted and payment received at the time of submission.
- Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

THE MEDIA AND/OR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS **DEADLINE IS April 22, 2009**.

- Please complete the Media Specification Submission Form and return it to the Conference Office by April 22, 2009.
- Please complete the Technical Specification Submission Form and return it to the Conference Office by April 22, 2009.
- Any presenters planning to have a media and/or technical presentation must submit ALL materials by this deadline to retain presentation privileges. Late entries will not be accommodated due to the amount of time needed to process all the submissions.



The Rev. Harold J. Recinos

Professor of Church and Society, Southern Methodist University - Perkins School of Theology

Harold J. Recinos received his B.A. from the College of Wooster in 1978 followed by his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 1982. In 1986 he graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a D.Min. and in 1993 received his Ph.D. from American University. He has written and published many things including *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), "Evangelization and Church Growth: A Lesson from the Barrios" in W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson, eds., *Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005).



The Rev. Vance P. Ross

Associate General Secretary of the Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee

Vance P. Ross is a proud native of Bluefield, WV. He was educated in Bluefield Public Schools and earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Government/Youth Services from West Virginia Wesleyan College. In June of 1985 he entered the Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC) where he graduated with honors. Rev. Ross currently serves as the Associate General Secretary of the Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee. He provides leadership to the Family Lifespan/Hispanic Latino Ministries Team, the Congregational leaders Team and the Conference Leaders Team. In addition, he supervises the Office of Operations and Fund Development. From July 1998 to January 2004, Rev. Ross served as the Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, Maryland.

We look forward to seeing you in June at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks!
For more information and directions: www.phillyexpocenter.com.



Mission South Africa



The Congo River

By Dick McCreight

At Asbury United Methodist Church in Allentown Pennsylvania, we have been blessed over and over again by our mission connections in our community, nation and around the world. We believe mission is much more than putting a check in the mail. We try to avoid saying “we support mission”; we prefer saying “we are in partnership in mission.” What’s the difference? We feel led by God to make connection with each of our mission partners so that we might pray for them, learn how we can be a part of their ministry and to provide financial assistance.

Our theme of “Finding Neighbors Everywhere” based on the great commandment (Matthew 22: 37-39) has led us to mission partnerships from our local community to the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia to Native Americans in Oklahoma and as far as Kathmandu, Nepal. In addition to connectional giving to the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, our lives have been enriched by connection with these local, regional/national and global mission partners.

Several years ago, a job transfer resulted in Asbury members Jim and Sarah Fullton moving to the Northwest Prov-

ince town of Lichtenburg in South Africa. Through regular e-mail communication, a seed was planted which grew into a new mission partnership with the Lichtenburg Methodist Church. This little church has been a beacon to this Afrikaner community with a congregation that is racially and socially diverse.

How could we connect with Lichtenburg church? Sarah’s love of the children and youth of the church provided the initial direction. After much prayer, we felt the call to lead a youth camp and Vacation Bible School with the support of the fine people of Lichtenburg. While Christian camping is a mainstay of Christian commitment for American youth, the concept was relatively unknown to our brothers and sisters in South Africa. Lichtenburg church members, Derek and Karin Mathews, stepped forward to offer their farm west of Lichtenburg as a camp site and other members of the congregation under the leadership of Pastor Michael Stone, agreed to provide help with the Bible School and food for the camp. Richard Bosart, director of South African Methodist Volunteers in Mission (SAMVIM) graciously offered his assistance with travel logistics.

The seed that was planted by Sarah and Michael began

to grow. In 2004 twelve members and friends of Asbury church answered the call to be in mission and that first team was enriched by the addition of two graduates of Africa University in Zimbabwe (another of Asbury’s mission partners). The Asbury congregation pulled together in prayer and financial support to make this trip a reality. When we embark on a task that seems impossible in scope from a human standpoint, we find that God provides and in the process the blessings pour out on the entire congregation. The home team becomes as important as those who are actually traveling in mission.

Our vision for the week was “To provide a safe, accepting Christian environment through living in a camp-based community in order to lead campers to experience Christ, accept Christ, grow in Christ and go forth in Christ.” In late December 2008, fourteen more members and friends of Asbury traveled to Lichtenburg for our fifth youth camp, this time hosted by Bryan and Mariana Price. Our hearts are warmed each year as we see racial barriers break down as our campers live in Christian community; however, we were saddened to see a divide in the Lichtenburg church along racial lines and we continue to pray for reconciliation in this congregation.

Beginning in 2005 we began offering a Vacation Bible School at the tribal community of Deelpan. This year in addition to the Deelpan VBS, we were able to add a second VBS in the Pholoso community. Each day one of the youth camp Bible study groups traveled to Pholoso to assist with the activities of the day. Our youth campers, who are primarily middle class, go to Deelpan with apprehension, but the barriers of social class and economic status melt within minutes as the youth and children work and play together.

The words of author Shane Claiborne resonate with us. “When the worlds of poverty and wealth collide, the resulting powerful fusion can change the world. But that collision rarely happens. I long for the Calcutta slums to meet the Chicago suburbs, for lepers to meet landowners and for each to see God’s image in the other. It’s no wonder that the footsteps of Jesus lead from the tax collectors to the lepers. I truly believe that when the poor meet the rich, riches will have no meaning. And when the rich meet the poor, we will see poverty come to an end.”

In the miracle of Christian camping, we began the week as strangers and by the end of the week we had become transformed into the body of Christ. We praise God and thank Him for connecting us through mission. Our lives will never be the same.

Retired clergy network at Cornwall Manor

Cornwall Manor Chaplain Glen Esler hosted a fellowship gathering for retired clergy living at Cornwall Manor on February 25 (Ash Wednesday). The gathering allows retired clergy to network and share news regarding events in local churches and volunteer opportunities, etc.

Currently, there are 27 retired clergy members living at Cornwall Manor. Twenty of them are United Methodists, three are Lutheran and four are Presbyterian. Of the 20 United Methodist retired clergy living at Cornwall Manor, 16 of them are members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Cornwall Manor is a 525-resident, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community that offers diversified and high quality housing, health care and related services for individuals to achieve a retirement and aging lifestyle they find fulfilling in a secure, caring, and Christian environment.



From the Eastern Penn.-Peninsula UM Foundation

As the Executive Director of your Foundation I often find myself discussing ways older people can make a large gift or plan a gift to the Church in their will. This month I thought I would share a recent question that came from a younger member of our Church.

"My husband and I are both in our 30's and recently joined the Church. We have good jobs but always find it difficult to save money. As new members of the church we want to be in a position to be more generous with our giving, yet have our family financially secure. Do you have any suggestions on how we can accomplish our goals? M.B."

Dear M.B.,

These economically difficult times can often make us wonder if we will ever feel financially secure again. A recent USA Today article gives some of the financial realities of 30 year olds.

- 9 out of 10 consumers in their 30's are in debt.
- 45% feel they have too much debt to think about saving
- 20% are still paying college loans.

You have already taken the first steps to realizing your goals by recognizing your need to make a plan, asking for help, and setting goals for your family. The Foundation has many Christian resources available and some of our Churches now offer budgeting courses and workshops from the Christian spiritual perspective.

When I was an Investment Advisor working with clients I often recommended a short book by George Samuel Clason titled, "The Richest Man in Babylon." The book gives financial advice through a series of parables set in ancient Babylon. Written in 1926, the lessons are interesting and entertaining to read and full of information that is as easy to understand and timely given our current economic environment.

The general theme of the book is budgeting and financial accumulation



**Jack Brooks is the Executive Director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation.*

can be achieved by anyone. The basic lesson in the book is you "pay yourself first." Paying into savings becomes part of your monthly budget. As Christians we also understand the importance of sharing God's blessings in stewardship with our Church. We must budget for that important spiritual goal.

Let me also recommend Adam Hamilton's new book "Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity" (Abingdon, 2009)

In this book Adam speaks right to the current economic times and the intersection of our faith and our money. I especially like his term "credititis".

His six principles are helpful to all of us and reflect our Christian views:

1. Pay your tithe and offering first
2. Create a budget and track your expenses
3. Simplify your lifestyle
4. Establish an emergency fund
5. Pay off your credit cards, use cash/debit/cards for purchases, and use credit wisely
6. Practice long-term savings and investing habits

Today we find ourselves searching for answers as we face accountability for past financial decisions. The economy and World have changed and we must adapt to the new economic reality. This will take time, planning, and prayer but the contentment that will come from feeling financially secure and the joy you will feel by sharing God's blessings with your Church is the reward at the end of the journey. By keeping God with you in your plans, your personal financial journey will also be a Spiritual one.

Simple Living in a Time of Economic Uncertainty

*By Michael Mortvedt** Over the past year I have often said "Now is the time to embrace voluntary simplicity because it will not be voluntary much longer!" Little did I know how quickly that would become true with the current economic crisis and the recession that is affecting many of the nations in the world.

Indeed we are living in challenging times, but I am hopeful that we and our leaders are starting to address some of the issues with constructive ideas and policies. Living more simply is an essential element in solving many of the issues threatening our nation and the global community. Living more simply is something we can start now—congress does not have to pass any new legislature for us to take steps to start simplifying our lives. In difficult economic times, practice just economy by purchasing Fair Trade items, organic produce, and compact fluorescent light bulbs, which will help develop a sustainable green economy.

Jesus teaches us that abundance is not in material things, but in our relationship to God and to humankind. (Luke 6:20-26, Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34) Simple living is living in a way that is outwardly simple and inwardly rich. Simplifying our lives can help us remember that we were created in the image of God, and are deeply and profoundly loved by God.

The average American worker works more days a year than workers in any other industrialized nation. That same average American spends another five to six hours shopping with that hard earned money, and often spending more than he or she earns, and going further into debt. Yet the General Survey, an annual survey funded largely by the National Science Foundation, indicates that the level of happiness in the U.S. has declined each year since 1971; despite an economy that has kept expanding and personal incomes that have

more than doubled.

Living more simply does not have to be painful, actually it is quite fun to take your life off the auto pilot of the status quo and be more intentional about what is important to you and your family. If quality time with your spouse, partner or family is important to you, plan several activities during the month that embody freedom from things such as a neighborhood softball game, hiking, or a picnic in the local park. If the environment or personal health is a priority, try a vegetarian or vegan diet one day a week. Shop at a thrift store on a regular basis instead of the mall if you are concerned about sweat shop labor practices. Or declare next month an experiment in buying nothing new. If possible take public transit to work one or more days a week instead of your car, or ride your bicycle to work or school and enjoy physical and emotional health benefits as well as helping the earth's environment.

By living more simply, we can spend time in ways that more closely reflect the reign of God and our highest values. And we can redirect some of our time into the social capital of healthy relationships and families, good neighborhoods, volunteering at the parish, and enjoying and taking care of God's creation.

For more information, contact us at Alternatives for Simple Living, (800) 821-6153 or www.simpleliving.org. Alternatives for simple living was founded 35 years ago by The Reverend Bob Kochtitzky, a United Methodist pastor, to equip people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly, and celebrate Holy days and other occasions in earth friendly, people honoring ways.

**Michael Mortvedt is co-director of Alternatives for Simple Living.*

United Methodist Student Forum

United Methodist college students will have the opportunity to explore leadership and hone their skills at Student Forum 2009 at Centenary College of Louisiana, May 21-24. Student Forum is the national leadership conference of the United Methodist Student Movement, sponsored by the Campus Ministry Section of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Student leaders from all over the U.S. are expected to gather at the meeting at the college in Shreveport, La. The theme of the conference, which is planned and organized by college students, is "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges." The conference will include leadership training, spiritual formation, and networking.

The registration fee this year has been reduced to \$75 per person. The fee includes all conference materials, lodging, meals, and a \$5 contribution to the UMSM Mission Fund.

"We are excited about this year's theme and the opportunity to bring students together from a variety of backgrounds and areas," said Meg Lassiat, director of Student Ministries, Vocation, and Enlistment at GBHEM. "In today's culture, giving students the opportunity to learn about religious pluralism and inclusivity in the church will help prepare students to be better leaders in a global church."

On Saturday, participants will take part in various community service projects in Shreveport. Students will also engage in legislative discussions during the event.

Although registration for Student Forum is open to all college students, each annual conference must still identify three voting student delegates and six alternate student delegates to the annual Student Forum.

To register online or to learn more about the event, visit www.umsm.org/studentforum.

Drachler to Lead Advocacy Effort (continued)

Continued from page 1

Drachler & Associates, a public relations/crisis communications firm. He started the firm in 2006 after serving as executive director of public information at Nashville-based United Methodist Communications. In that role he served as a spokesman for the denomination and provided media relations counsel to its worldwide Council of Bishops.

In Pennsylvania, Drachler served as press secretary to former House Speaker John M. Perzel from 1995 to 2002, and served as the Harrisburg bureau chief for the Allentown Morning Call and Ottaway Newspapers, a chain of community newspapers. His reporting for the Morning Call was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

An active United Methodist, Drachler also served as director of communications for the Central Pennsylvania Conference, on the board of directors of The United Methodist Publishing House, and was twice elected as a delegate to the denomination's top legislative body, the General Conference. "In these uncertain times, we believe more than ever that the church is called to serve as a voice for the voiceless, and an advocate for those who are in need," Benjamin said. "It is at the core of our beliefs as United Methodist Christians."

Drachler will represent the church's interests before the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the executive branch of state government. He will work closely with the state's United Methodist bishops and with grassroots church members on social justice issues.

Pennsylvania is one of two states – Iowa is the other – where United Methodists employ a person as a lobbyist/advocate to represent its interests before state government.

For more information: www.umwitnesspa.org.



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announces the following appointments effective July 1, 2009:

Andrew L. Foster, III appointed to Janes Memorial

Andrew L. Foster, III was ordained elder in 2004. He was called into ministry from Tindley Temple UMC and is a graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he will also receive his Doctorate of Ministry in May 2009. Rev. Foster is married to his best friend and partner in ministry, Lorraine. They have three sons, Nathaniel, Andrew IV, Joshua, and one daughter, Loretta; one granddaughter, Angel, and two grandsons, Andrew V and Andre. Rev Foster is the President of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Philadelphia Chapter and a member of Black United Methodist Preachers (BUMP). His appointments include pastor of Clearview UMC, Associate pastor of Janes Memorial UMC and senior pastor of Grace Community UMC in the city of Chester, Pa. Rev. Foster is the author of *So You've Answered the Call, Now What?* This book gives practical insight on balancing family and ministry.

Janes Memorial UMC is located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, next door to Germantown High School and one block from First UMC of Germantown (FUMCOG). Janes Memorial was founded in 1872 and has become established as a strong church in that community through successful outreach ministries which reach the needy in the area and which place a strong emphasis on education. One such program of Janes is the 'college tour' ministry for African American students from throughout the area. Janes offers many worship experiences, disciple training and fellowship through other churches in the area as well as their own training opportunities. This congregation is looking forward to expanding her ministry and creating a stronger spiritual life for members and visitors to Janes UMC.

Albert Mosley appointed to Extension Ministry

Albert Mosley (currently serving Janes Memorial) has been appointed to extension ministry to serve as University Chaplain & Director of the Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith and Community Service Center at John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland as of July 2009.

Coleen Brandt appointed to Honey Brook

Coleen Brandt has a BA from the University of Pennsylvania with a dual major in Political Science and Environmental Studies. She obtained a MBA from St. Joseph University, majoring in Health and Medical Services Administration and a MDIV from Union Theological Seminary. Her Clinical Pastoral Education was at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Coleen has 10 years experience as a Chaplain in varied health care settings, including hospice, mental hospital, skilled nursing and assisted living. She was responsible for pastoral care and bereavement services, religious programming, coordination of volunteer staff and pastoral support for professional staff. She has Ecclesiastical Endorsement by the Division of Chaplains, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The UMC. She was ordained a Deacon in 1982 and has been an Elder in Full Connection since 1986. Coleen has been the creator and

leader of parent-led programs for special needs children. She developed curriculum and conducted Confirmation Class for youth with autism at Spring City UMC. She led the only known 4-H club for children with autism for 8 years through which members were also enabled to be included in mainstream 4-H camps. She also organized and led a Cub Scout Den for boys with a special needs Pack in a former parish. She has been married for 27 years to Mark Painter, Sr., an attorney and the elected tax collector for Limerick Township, Montgomery County. They have two children: Mark, age 22, and Benjamin, age 18. They are foster parents to two Southeast Asian refugee children who are now grown with families of their own.

Honey Brook UMC has a beautiful church building in the heart of the city of Honey Brook, PA. Honey Brook UMC desires to have intergenerational ministries, outreach evangelism, and from its history has a ministry of inviting persons to the mission field. The church offers scholarships to college students who are members of the congregation. A strong hero to our faith comes out of this church: Lela McConnell (1884-1970). She was raised in the faith at Honey Brook Methodist Episcopal Church and it was at their revival service that she became a Christian. Lela's calling with the Kentucky Mountain Missionary Society led her to be seen as a pioneer woman preacher, missionary, educator and holiness advocate.

Jacqueline Hines appointed to Spring City: Bethel UMC

Jacqueline Hines was born and raised in Connecticut. She received a BSW from Eastern University in 1978 and a M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1984. For ten years, starting in 1984, she has had appointments in the Eastern PA Conference at Grace UMC in Chester, First UMC of Germantown as Associate, and then St. Paul UMC in Lancaster. From 2000-2005 she was an Assistant to the Pastor at Locust UMC in Columbia, Maryland. Currently she is a part-time teacher in the public school system in Baltimore City and also teaches English at the local community college. Her focused ministries are prayer, fasting, healing, and support of women with incarcerated children. She has been published in "Wellsprings", "The Reporter", and was co-editor of *Womanist Wisdom*.

Bethel United Methodist Church, located in Spring City, was founded in 1844. The existing Church building today was completed in 1931 with an Education Wing, Fellowship Hall, Library and kitchen added in 1972. There are two services, an 8:30 a.m. praise service and a traditional service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday School is available for all ages including three adult classes focusing on the Bible, the Sunday Liturgy and everyday life and the Word, respectively. There is an active UMW group working in Missions/Outreach projects. Bethel Church is well known for its community barbeque, Easter Egg Hunt Day and Vacation Bible School. Bethel seeks to be a church that fulfills the spiritual needs of the community, shows God's love to all, and serves God in all it does.

John Lewis, Sr. appointed to Grace Community UMC

John Lewis had served as assistant pastor for four years at three churches before being appointed as a part-time local pastor with the former Peniel United Methodist Church. He was appointed senior pastor of Haven Peniel UMC in July of 2002. Prior to formally answering his call to ministry Rev. Lewis had earned a certificate from Manna Bible Institute in Philadelphia and in 1994 he graduated with a BS degree from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. Since then he has completed his studies at Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia where he received an M Div in 2006. He is a Provisional Elder. Rev. Lewis is married to Norma Jean. They are the parents of three children and the grandparents of nine.

Grace Community United Methodist Church formed in 1992 when the Community United Methodist Church and the Grace United Methodist Church merged. There are currently 130 members and approximately 70 in attendance on Sunday. This active congregation has a heart for community ministry. They engage in a number of ecumenical partnerships that benefit the community, including Knowledge Points Learning Center, the Chester Grocery Co-op, and the recently developed Grace Community Resource and Empowerment Center, Inc.

Louis D. Hornberger appointed to Orwigsburg: Salem UMC

Lou Hornberger is a graduate of Bensalem High School. He has an undergraduate degree in Youth Ministry and Sociology from Eastern University and an M.Div. from Evangelical Theological Seminary. While attending seminary, Lou served the West Lawn United Methodist Church as the Youth Pastor and then served Berne: Salem-Berne as the Senior Pastor. Lou will be ordained as an Elder in Full Connection at the 2009 June session of Annual Conference. Lou is married to Gail, and they have three children: Benjamin, Emily, and Joshua. Lou has served the Annual Conference as a member of the Committee on Equitable Compensation; and he has served the District by using his computer/website development skills. Lou is particularly passionate about discerning God's vision for the church and moving toward it. Lou was appointed to Berne: Salem-Berne when the church decided to go from part-time to full time ministry.

Orwigsburg: Salem was organized in 1824. It has three unique worship experiences with a combined average attendance of 184. The church received twenty nine new members in 2008. In addition to its three unique worship experiences, volunteers from the church are involved in a community-wide mission team called Team Orwigsburg. For the past three years Team Orwigsburg has traveled to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild communities destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Salem also has a significant number of Christ Servant Ministers who give leadership to several ministries of the church. Finally, being a presence in the community is important to the church. Each year they host a community block party.

Bishop Johnson on YouTube (continued)

Continued from page 1

There are also 28 to 30 million people who are hard of hearing and late deafened who do not use sign language. Most of these persons use lip reading, printed and written materials, and other forms of communication. Out of the severely hard of hearing and late deafened persons, only 7% worship in churches. "The average age for United Methodists is 57, and many of our members are heading into the post-55 age group. The majority of persons over 65 have some hearing loss as a property of aging. A lot of the seniors in our pews are not getting what we're saying," Bishop Johnson exclaimed. "This is a very neglected group. Our main method of communicating in church is auditory: 'Hear the Word of the Lord!' For hard of hearing adults, church

becomes depressing and frustrating, as they can't fully hear the music, the announcements, the Gospel readings, and the sermon." Bishop Johnson recommends increased use of assisted listening devices and printed materials: anything that can be spoken, including scripture and sermon can be printed ahead to hand out. Churches can also provide real time captioning or computer note-takers to project a text version of the spoken word.

Bishop Johnson's four video messages are posted on YouTube, with a main goal of making the Gospel accessible. "The deaf community - young and old - has really jumped into YouTube. It is reaching deaf people where they are in terms of visual communications." For hard of hearing per-

sons who do not use sign language and for people who have visual challenges, the text for the messages is available online in large font type.

In terms of her video messages, Bishop Johnson said that they are not a true rendering of American Sign Language, as persons do not usually sign and speak at the same time. In the future, she plans to make videos in American Sign Language with voice-over, with text for "the sign language-impaired."

Churches are invited to use Bishop Johnson's videos within the life of their congregations. All are available online: bishoppeggyjohnson.blogspot.com or www.youtube.com/PhiladelphiaAreaUMC.

Classified Ads

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Part-time position, requiring 15 hours per week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. St. Daniel's United Methodist Church, 315 Edwards Street, Chester, PA. Contact Lynne D. White, Staff Parish Relations Chairperson, lyncst@hotmail.com or 610 247 4738.

CONNECTING MINISTRY LEADER:

New position to oversee team leaders for Assimilation, Congregational Care, and Hospitality. Duties include recruiting and equipping volunteers. 20 hr/wk. Send resume to Jim Carver, Sanctuary UMC, 1346 E. Prospect Avenue, North Wales, PA 19454; jim.carver@sanctuarychurch.org; 215-699-9331. For job description: www.sanctuarychurch.org.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER:

Contemporary worship leader, part time, to assist the pastor at 9:10 a.m. Sunday service. Proficient both vocally and instrumentally on keyboard. Responsible for recruiting and leading a worship band, selecting appropriate music, directing band rehearsal, and meeting weekly with the pastor to plan worship. Estimated weekly time commitment: 10 hours/week. Salary: \$7500 annually. Start date: June 1, 2009. Send a cover letter, resume, three references, and if possible cd or dvd of a recent worship service in which you were involved by May 1st to Mr. Robert Stewart, email: bstewart@voicenet.com. or Zion United Methodist Church, 22 East Main Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

Part-time at Jarrettown United Methodist Church located in Montgomery County. Job Description: www.jarrettownchurch.org. Well established children's program that includes Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and a Wednesday evening adult and children's program. We need a dynamic "people person" with a spirit for God to help guide and grow our children's ministry. Teaching and/or Christian education experience is preferred, but not required. 25 hours/week. Contact: (215) 646-4129 or jarrettownumc@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF URBAN AND GLOBAL MIN:

For the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United

Methodist Church. Deadline for application: April 30, 2009. Interested applicants should apply to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, c/o Rev. Lillian Smith, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482, 610-666-9090, ext. 230 or fax resumes to 610-666-9093. Please share this information with a friend. Contact Lillian Smith for more information: lillian.smith@epaumc.org. For the full job description: www.epaumc.org/pdf/DirUrbMin.pdf.

DVDS AVAILABLE:

In November, Lancaster: First hosted Tony and Peggy Campolo along with hundreds of people from the Lancaster area for "A Public Conversation on Our Differences - Homosexuality and Christianity." The Campolos are a married couple who differ in their views on this topic and model that we do not have to divide or separate because of our differences; we can continue to love each other and respect each other's opinions. They each spoke at length about the reasons for the views they hold, and then responded to questions from the audience. DVDs of this event are now available for \$5 [add \$3 for mailing]. Contact Tracy (717) 394-7231 or tbroderick@fumclan.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director for non-profit neighborhood center located in Wilmington, Delaware with a satellite center in Middletown, Delaware. Responsible for the advocacy, leadership and the overall management of the agency, including fundraising, hiring and supervising administrative and management staff and coordinating public relations with the community, government, customers and funding sources. For additional information please go to our website www.neighborhoodhse.org. Please submit resumes via email only: searchcommittee@neighborhoodhse.org. Deadline: April 30. (A United Way member agency and National Mission Institution of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church)

MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

First UMC, Lancaster, seeks its next Minister of Spiritual Growth. Resource the lay team overseeing Sunday and weekday education, small groups, pre-school, and more. Master's degree and experience expected. Order of Deacon is a plus. Full-time ministry with full benefits. Visit First

UMC website, www.EngageGodFirst.org for Ministry Description, congregational DNA, and application form. Apply by 4/15/09.

MINISTER OF VISITATION:

Part-time minister of visitation: retired clergy or qualified lay person. For a detailed job description, see our web address: havenfirstumc.org, or request a job description from the address below. Please send a letter of interest with resume listing 3 references; salary expectations may be included. Send Attn: Dr. Richard Hawley, SPRC Chair, First United Methodist Church, 420 Saylor Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

ORGANIST TO PLAY MOHLER PIPE ORGAN:

Honey Brook United Methodist Church, Honey Brook, PA. Sunday Morning Service Only, 1 ½ -2 hours. Position begins Spring 2009. If interested, please call 610-273-3415 or email:hbumc19344@verizon.net.

PEOPLE INTERESTED IN DEAF MINISTRY:

Are you deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened or deaf blind? Do you have a deaf family member or friend? Do you have a deaf ministry at your church or want to start one? Are you interested in working with a ministry with deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened or deaf blind people? Do you know sign language or want to learn sign language or can interpret for worship services? Do you want to help with deaf camp or join a deaf ministry committee in either EPA or Pen-Del? If so...please write to areadeafmistry@gmail.com.

SUMMER CAMP NURSE:

Summer Camp Nurse Needed, full summer (9 weeks), 8:30-5 PM, M-F, kids attend free, Carson Simpson Farm Christian Center (no housing) 215-659-0232, www.csfarm.org, all inquiries to MegatCSFarm@aol.com.

VAN NEEDED:

The youth group of Prospect UMC in Delaware County, will head to Tennessee for a mission trip from July 11 to the 19, and are looking to borrow a larger (15 passenger) van for the week. If you can help, please contact Thomas Behmke (610) 721-7900 or Tbemp9912@yahoo.com.

Congratulations!



Central District Resource Assistant, Jennifer Smith, married Rev. Steward Warner, pastor of Reading: Holy Cross on Feb. 2. As a point of interest, the matchmaker, District Superintendent Gary George, also performed the wedding ceremony.

Rev. Lin George returns to Southeast District



It is with great joy that we welcome back The Rev. Lin George as District Resource Assistant to the Southeast District. She had served previously in this capacity for eleven years and when the position was open again she decided to come back. We are so happy she can use her experience and gifts in this way.

Lin continues to serve as part time pastor to the Romansville United Methodist Church. We look forward to her continued ministry in the Southeast District and in the Annual Conference.

Simplicity Circles

While the AIG top executives are "circling the wagons" trying to defend their exorbitant bonuses, others are forming circles of another kind; simplicity circles. Simplicity circles are a small group of people who commit to meet on a regular basis to study and discuss the issues they face in trying to live simply. Groups meet in homes, houses of worship, coffee shops, and even on the internet.

There has never been a better time to gather with others in your community to study voluntary simplicity and to support each other in taking steps to live in more earth friendly ways. Sandy and I are in the process of starting a simplicity circle in our community.

Alternatives for Simple Living wants to help you get started. A brief explanation of simplicity circles and a proposed format for the first meeting are on the Alternatives for Simple Living website. Included are recommended resources for study, discussion questions, suggested scripture passages, and organizing tips.

Also, partners at the Simple Living Network have an on-line posting of existing simplicity circles organized by state and the opportunity to post online your interest in starting a circle in your area. Alternatives for Simple Living is a place for you to share your ideas, to find help for your journey toward a more sustainable life. More information is available at www.simpleliving.org, or by phone: 970-468-2375.



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More Information To Follow



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