



NEWspirit!

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By Suzy Keenan

"No slots - no slots - no slots," chanted the crowd standing in freezing temperatures outside the Bellevue Stratford Hotel at a press conference on Wednesday, February 18. Among the line-up of press conference speakers standing on the Market Street sidewalk was Bishop Peggy Johnson. Leading the crowd in their chanting of "No slots!" was the Rev. Robin Hynicka, pastor of Arch United Methodist Church.

The press conference was organized by No Casino in the Heart of Our City - a coalition of faith and civic organizations, non-profit social service agencies, and businesses - to oppose the building of a slots parlor at the Market Street East Gallery in the heart of Center City Philadelphia. The coalition includes Casino Free Philadelphia, an organization whose mission is "to stop casinos from coming to Philadelphia and close any that open."

The Bellevue was chosen as the site for the coalition's first press conference as it houses the offices of the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT), the landlord of the Gallery. PREIT is currently negotiating with the Foxwoods Group as the site for Foxwoods Casino. The hotel is also the site of Governor Ed Rendell's Philadelphia offices. The crowd's message was clear to the governor, demanding that elected officials take action against slots in the city.

Rev. Richard Ellis, president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia, urged listeners to take a stand against gambling, saying, "We cannot build a healthy economy or balanced budget by increasing the levels of poverty and addiction among our citizens."

"This is not just some hobby for rich people," said Bishop Peggy Johnson, shepherd for the nearly 1,000 churches of the

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Philadelphians take stand against slots



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson speaks out against a slots parlor planned for Center City Philadelphia.

World Service and General Church Apportionments Paid 100% in 2008



By Suzy Keenan

"Thank you to all church members in The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for making it possible to pay 100% of the World

Service and General Church apportionments in 2008," said Conference Treasurer Peter DiNofia.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference was one of 17 of 63 U.S. United Methodist conferences to contribute 100% or more to the Church's seven apportioned global ministry funds. This marks the second straight year that Eastern Pennsylvania has paid its full apportioned amount. Prior to 2007, the conference had not paid 100% for twenty years.

"As we all struggle with our own finances in these very difficult times it is especially

gratifying to know that the spirit of giving abounds throughout our Conference," Mr. DiNofia added.

"One of the hallmarks and strengths of the United Methodist Church is its connectionalism," said Bishop Peggy Johnson. "We live out the truth of I Corinthians 12 as the Body of Christ as we network together our talents, time and treasure. Our collective apportionment dollars do much good when added together as we extend and strengthen the ministry of Christ locally and globally.

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Calendar of Events

MARCH

14 - Disaster Ministry and Preparedness 101 - The program for this day is designed to assist individuals, congregations and interfaith partnerships/communities to be prepared to respond as quickly and as well as possible. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (check in at 8:30 a.m.). Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972. Cost (including lunch): \$10 per person, \$50 for groups of 5-10. Registration deadline March 5, 2009. For more information contact: Ruth Doty at ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org; 610-770-9205 or 484-553-1162.

19 - Good Schools PA - Public forum on Accountability and the federal stimulus, 7 - 9 p.m. Expected guests include federal and state policy-makers, as well as the media. This meeting will be an opportunity to bring carloads of people from our churches, organizations, and municipalities. Location to be announced soon.

26 - Wesley Forum at Evangelical Theological Seminary: "The Priority of Grace . . . Spiritual Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition." Presenters are Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of The Upper Room Chapel and Dr. Paul Chilcote, professor of Wesleyan Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary. More information is available at www.evangelical.edu.

26 - Drew Theological School Open House. For persons who are interested in the Masters of Divinity, Master of Arts and Master of Arts in Ministry programs. Information online at <http://www.drew.edu/theo-content.aspx?id=49566> or contact: Office of Theological Admissions, 36 Madison Ave., Madison, NJ 07940; Phone: 973-408-3111; Fax: 973-408-3242.

26 - Samaritan Counseling Center's Congregational Ministries of Healing and Wholeness presents: "HOW DO WE RESPOND? Ethical Care for Persons and Families Experiencing Serious/Terminal Illness." Thursday, March 26, 2009, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Corner of Lititz Pike and Delp Road, Lancaster, PA. Cost: \$35.00/person. Continuing Education Credits for clergy and professional nurses. For more information and brochures: call Ruth Stoll, DNSc, RN @ (717) 697-6560 or 590-9969. For more information - <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=2853>

26 - Albin speaks at Boehm's Chapel - The Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of The Upper Room Chapel and teamleader for the program unit of The Upper Room Ministries of Nashville, Tennessee will speak on the topic, "The Power of a Transformed Life; Methodist Insights in Christian Spiritual Formation", on Thursday evening, March 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at historic Boehm's Chapel, 13 West Boehm's Road, Willow Street, PA. The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited to approximately 150. Contact Dolores Myers 717-872-4133 or email execdirboehms@dejazzd.com

28 - Walk for Women in Crisis - 9 a.m. 5 Mile Walk begins and ends at Old Union UMC in Wallingford, 152 W. Rose Valley Road. Sponsorship proceeds benefit local Women's Crisis Centers. Celebrate Women's History Month by Walking for Women in Crisis or sponsor someone who will walk.

28 - 4th Annual Messiah College Youth Workers Conference - This one-day conference hosted by Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA, offers keynote sessions, a ministry resource area, and more than 20 workshops in three tracks - adult leaders, student leaders, and veteran youth workers. Complete conference and registration information can be found at www.messiah.edu/youthworkers/.

APRIL

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

johnson@epaumc.org.

2 - Church Communication Conference - Using Communication to Strengthen Relationships in Your Church. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301. Featuring Scott Vaughan of Scott Vaughn Communications, Lexington, SC, www.svministry.com. Cost is \$40/person or \$135/4-person congregational ticket. Registration includes program, lunch and resources.

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.

21 - Women in Professional Ministry Morning Apart. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 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 mandylstanley@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 Ginghamsburg 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).

5 - 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.

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. Members of five choirs will present varying musical selections, including a children's choir, several massed pieces, and some composed by local choir directors. Cost: \$10. For

tickets or other information, please call 610-259-2104, for directions, check www.drexelhillumc.org.

MAY

1-3 - Fly Fishing Weekend (ages 18 & over) at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center - Dan Helm, our Director for this retreat, has many years of fly fishing experience and will be sharing his knowledge. Friday, May 1, 2009 - 7pm through Sunday, May 3, 2009 - 2p.m. Fee: The weekend retreat fee is \$95 which includes lodging, 3 meals on Saturday, breakfast & lunch on Sunday. Fly fishing equipment may be provided at no extra charge (limited quantities available). You are welcome to bring your own gear.

5 - Order of Elders Retreat at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA. - Last year's retreat was an overwhelming success and we want to continue to care for the Elders - active and retired - of our Conference. For more information, contact The Reverend Nancy Haigh Ross, Clifton United Methodist Church, 113 S. Springfield Road, Clifton Heights, PA 19018; (610) 623-5781; pastor.nancy@yahoo.com.

6 - Northwest District Small Church Initiative (Session II) - Schuylkill Haven: First UMC, 420 Saylor Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, www.havenfirstumc.org. 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. includes light supper. Donation of \$3 covers meal. To register, call Northwest District Office: 570-624-1471 or email northwest4@verizon.net

16 - Urban Academy - *How Does the Local Church Enhance its 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 neighborhood. For more information see Calendar of Events at www.epaumc.org.

Annual Conference 2009 Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

100 Station Road
Oaks, PA 19456

June 16 - 18, 2009

See page 12 for more information.

 **NEWSpirit!**
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Making Disciples
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www.epaumc.org

A Word from the Bishop

Keeping a Holy Lent

During the 40 days of Lent, Christians around the globe fast and pray, reflecting upon their relationship with God and their need for the grace of God provided by the sacrifice of Christ.

John Wesley felt that fasting was an important spiritual discipline to be practiced by the people called Methodist. Pastors at ordination are asked, "Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?" In the third general rule, one of ordinances of God to be attended to was "fasting or abstinence."

John Wesley followed the practice of fasting every Thursday evening, after the evening meal, until mid-afternoon on Friday. During this time he did not take solid food but fasted and focused much of his time in prayer.

There is no magic in fasting. Fasting does not force God to do anything. Fasting is a spiritual practice that helps a disciple do a number of things. By fasting, you choose to deny your physical hunger and choose your spiritual need of time with God as a higher priority. It is a way to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. This simple act can help strengthen your soul by deliberately placing its needs before the hungers of the body.

The practice of fasting also serves to strengthen the spirit of compassion in our lives. We may choose to go without a meal or two, but we have precious sisters and brothers who are truly hungry. Too often we do not remember and show little compassion for the hungry and those in need. This act of fasting can open our hearts to those in need instead of being focused only on our own physical desires.



The money you save by not eating can be donated to a feeding ministry.

The spiritual practice of fasting helps us make time in our busy schedules for that which is most important, yet too often neglected: a time to pray. Prayer is ten percent sharing with God the desires of our hearts and ninety percent

listening to God and being enveloped by God's holy presence. We need this time, so we give the Potter a chance to transform our lives. A time of fasting gives God our willing hearts.

Traditionally, fasting has centered around food, but it is not about food at all. It is about denying ourselves and giving to God what he has always wanted, a chance to be with us "one on one." Instead of going without food, you may go "unplugged" for a time: no media such as television, ipod, cell phone, or radio. Turn off the world and tune into God with a fast. I know a woman who "fasts" from shopping during Lent. How you fast and what you abstain from is not as important as making a change in your daily routine and turning your full attention on God.

Traditionally fasting is a time of revelation. It is very likely that God will reveal to you not just who God is, but who God wants you to become. God may show you a new direction for your life. God may show you some changes in behavior you need to make or a new call to love the world around you in a way that reflects the life of Christ.

United Methodists are a very spiritual people. Lent is a very spiritual time. I invite you to enter into this holy season with open hearts. Let God feed your soul even as you deny yourself. In this way may God prepare us for the lessons of Holy Week and the Good News of Great Joy on Easter.

Peggy A. Johnson

In Memoriam

Mrs. Muriel Smethers, age 91, spouse of retired elder Robert S. Smethers, Jr., passed away recently. She and Robert were residents of Luther Acres in Lititz, PA. Rev. Smethers served the following appointments: Fleetwood: Emanuel; Reading: Central Park; Extension Min.: Dir. f Ch. Relations; Ext. Min.: Director of College Relations; and Rothsville: Salem. He retired in 1985. Her funeral service was held on Monday, February 2, at Salem UMC. Mrs. Smethers is survived by her husband, Robert, and their two children, Nancy and David. Condolences may be sent to: Nancy Smethers, 430 Atkins Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603; and David Smethers, 5917 Henry Dr., Plano, TX 75093. Memorial contributions may be sent to March of Dimes, PA Central Div., 160 S. Progress Ave., Suite 1-C, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Rev. Malachi C. Blakley, retired elder, passed away on January 26, 2009. Rev. Blakley served the following appointments: Phila: Shipside Mission (Del-Conf.); Nassau, DE (Del-Conf.); Bidgeton, NJ (Del-Conf.); Delair, NJ (Del-Conf.); Ext. Min: Attending school; Phila: East Germantown (Del-Conf.); Phila: Trinity (Baynton); Bethesda; Trevose: St. Matthews; Phila: Tindley Temple; Former Phila: Peniel. He retired in 1978. A Memorial Service was held at Indio UMC, Indio California, on Saturday, February 7, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Esther. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Esther S. Blakley, 82389 Nancy Drive, Indio CA 92201.

Theodore R. Lorah, Jr., died suddenly on Saturday, January 31. Until his death, he was serving Pottstown: Salem UMC (Central District) as lay supply pastor. A viewing was held on Friday, February 6 at Labs Funeral Home in Honey Brook. Rev. Lorah is survived by his wife, Sue, daughters Elizabeth Lorah, Katie Lorah, Anne Lorah, and Amanda Palmer, a granddaughter, Sadie, and his parents, Ginny and Theodore Lorah. Condolences may be sent to The Lorah Family, P.O. Box 208, Honey Brook, PA 19344. Memorial contributions may be

sent to the American Heart Association, 625 Ridge Pike, St. A100, Conshohocken, PA 19428; or, The Alzheimer's Association, 399 Market St., St. 102, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Clyde L. Young, age 82, spouse of retired local pastor, Rev. Joanne Young passed away. They were married for 58 years. Rev. Joanne Young serves Kulpmont UMC on the Northwest District and the Hazleton Enlarged Ministry on the Northeast District. His memorial service was held Thursday, February 19, at the Butler Chapel of Krapf & Hughes Funeral Home Inc. in Drums, PA. Dr. Kenneth O. Brown, a family friend and former pastor, presided. Condolences may be sent to: The Rev. Joanne Young, 560 W Butler Drive, Drums, PA 18222-9573. Memorial contributions may be sent to: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 335 W. Butler Drive, Drums, PA 18222 or the American Heart Association 71 N. Franklin St. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Mrs. Mary Marsland, widow of the Rev. Harvey Marsland, on January 17 at the age of 89. Rev. Marsland died last year on February 7, 2008. Rev. Marsland was a graduate of Wilson Borough Schools, and Lafayette College, both in Easton, PA and Drew Seminary in Madison, NJ. He served the following appointments: Berean Methodist, Philadelphia, PA; Rhawnhurst Methodist, Philadelphia, PA; St. Marks Methodist Lucknow, Harrisburg, PA; Millersburg Methodist, Millersburg, PA; Logan Methodist, Philadelphia, PA; Wayne Methodist, Wayne, PA; and Covenant United Methodist, Springfield, Delaware Co., PA. He served as District Superintendent in the Allentown District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for four years, and then served Elm Park United Methodist, Scranton, PA. He retired in 1983. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, February 21, at 11:00 am (luncheon to follow) at Wayne United Methodist Church, 210 S. Wayne Ave., Wayne, PA 19087. Surviving are two sons, William Ward, Lehigh Acres, FL;

and Robert Bruce and wife, Barbara, Richmond, VA; a daughter, Carol Schoch and husband, David, Farmington Hills, MI; five granddaughters, Dana, Heather, Christen, Jenna and Laura; and three great-grandchildren, Zachary, Logan and Caitlin. Condolences may be sent to Mr. Robert B. Marsland, 7904 Alvarado Road, Henrico, VA 23229. Gifts in memory of Mrs. Marsland may be sent to Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, 1750 Manzana Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950, or Tidewell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238.

Mr. Keith Ladd left us on Sunday, February 22, 2009. He served as Conference Lay Leader of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1990-1998, and was a dedicated member of Hopewell United Methodist Church in Downingtown. Keith also served on the Board of Directors of Handicrafters in Thorndale. Keith was founder and CEO of The Protection Bureau. He was active in the Electronic Security Industry, serving on many councils and boards. He was instrumental in the founding of the Eastern Pennsylvania Burglar and Fire Alarm Association and was a Past President. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, March 7, at Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown, PA. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Mary; his children Karen Ladd Baker, J. Matthew Ladd, Adam H. Ladd; daughters-in-law Mary C. Ladd, Jill B. Ladd; grandchildren Joshua Baker, Zachary Baker, Amanda Ladd, Catherine Ladd, Madeline Ladd and great-granddaughter Ava Grace Ladd and his brother, Parker B. Ladd. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Mary Ladd, c/o The Protection Bureau, 197 Philips Road, Exton, PA 19341. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent in Keith's name to Handicrafters, 215 Barley Sheaf Road, Thorndale, PA 19372 or the Cancer Center of Chester County, 440 E. Marshall Street, Suite 201, West Chester, PA 19380.

In the Nation

Church leaders speak out on economic suffering

By Linda Green*

The world's financial crisis is bringing hardship and suffering to people across the globe, and The United Methodist Church's focus areas of ministry are among the most effective responses, according to three United Methodist leaders.

United Methodists must engage in ministries with the poor; tackle the diseases of poverty that limit life, health and wholeness; and develop principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, the three leaders said in a statement. The message, addressed to the people of The United Methodist Church, was signed by the president of the Council of Bishops, chairperson of the Connectional Table and chairperson of the table of general agency executives.

The letter, signed by Bishop Gregory Palmer, Bishop John Hopkins and Neil Alexander, notes a loss of 50 million jobs in the world by Dec. 31, adding to the poverty rolls and leading to an increase in global unrest and violence and the death of up to 400,000 children by 2015 if the situation continues. It acknowledges the economic constraints placed on churches, annual conferences and churchwide agencies, forcing them to reevaluate their ministries while keeping their focus. The situation is affecting the wealthy and poor alike, creating misery and scarcity of necessities, they note.

"It is a prophetic reminder that our destiny as a worldwide community and a global church is interwoven with complex bonds of prosperity, security, dignity and justice," the three leaders said. "We reclaim anew Jesus' teaching, 'as you (cared for) the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me' as an urgent appeal for how we can live today."

The financial crisis was discussed recently at a meeting of the Table of General Secretaries, presidents of the agencies, the Council of Bishops' ecumenical officer, Bishop Hopkins and Mary Brooke Casad from the Connectional Table, and Bishop Palmer.

They wanted to use the opportunity to let United Methodists know that church leaders are focused on the mission and "upon ways in which we can respond to the church and world that is experiencing dis-ease because of the downturn in the global economy," said Palmer, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Acknowledging the challenges and hardships faced by people in every part of the world, Palmer said "the church is needed now more than ever" and that he and church leaders are "absolutely convinced that our four foci will help us stay on task around the mission of reaching the world for Jesus Christ and making it a transforming world."



Daniel Wischart of Longmont, Colo., packs boxes at the Welfare Reform Liaison Project warehouse in Greensboro, N.C., in this 2007 photo. United Methodist leaders are calling for the church to offer hope amid a global economic downturn.
A UMNS file photo by Mike DuBose

A conversation is occurring across the church about ways to reenergize outreach to the world and to offer hospitality to those seeking deeper spiritual fulfillment. Rethink Church, the leaders say, is an avenue United Methodist constituencies are using in self-examination to move their outreach beyond the church doors. Rethink Church is an awareness campaign designed to redefine church as a 365-days-a-year experience, in which people seeking a church community can become involved at many different levels.

During the 40 days of Lent, people engage in the practice of self-denial and sacrifice as they look for hope, resurrection and new life. However, the three officials declare, faith "does

not rise and fall with the financial markets but resides in the enduring love of God, who is present with us as we struggle and strive to love God and our neighbors." They advise United Methodists to recommit to three basic rules: do no harm, do good and stay in love with God.

The letter invites United Methodists to embrace life with hope, expectancy and the assurance that God, through Christ, "is calling us to prepare our hearts, minds and hands to work for the New Creation."

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

The Nation in Brief

One Great Hour of Sharing - For more than a decade, the Rev. Tom Hazelwood has led the domestic disaster relief response for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The work of Hazelwood and other UMCOR staff is supported each year by the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. This year's offering, which underwrites the agency's "costs of doing business," will be collected in local churches on March 22. For more information: www.umcgiving.org.

Church nurtures hero pilot - His Sunday school teacher 50 years ago at Waples Memorial United Methodist Church in Denison, Texas, remembers him as Chesley. His sister refers to him by his middle name, Burnett. A prominent female clergy member of the United Methodist North Texas Annual Conference knew him as Burney, her rival for first-chair flute in the Denison High School band. Since Jan. 15, much of the world knows him as the pilot of "The Miracle on the Hudson" - the pilot who made a successful emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 in New York's Hudson River with no loss of life.

UMCOR assists in Oklahoma tornado response - The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working with the denomination's Oklahoma Annual Conference, First United Methodist Church in Ardmore, and Lindsay United Methodist Church in Lindsay, Okla., to assist in recovery from the half-mile-wide tornado that tore through parts of that state on Feb. 10, destroying homes, killing eight

people and injuring others. The Rev. Mary Gaudreau from the Oklahoma Conference is facilitating response action as UMCOR's disaster response consultant. First UMC is helping to coordinate Early Response Teams and more than 40 volunteers who are ready to help. UMCOR is assisting with case management work, repairs, rebuilds and provides spiritual and emotional care support. Donations can be made to Domestic Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670.

Publishing House feels impact of economic downturn - The United Methodist Publishing House is experiencing its greatest sales decline in 20 years, causing it to slow down its work on revising The United Methodist Hymnal as well as taking other cost-saving measures. "At the United Methodist Publishing House, we've seen the largest drop in year-to-year sales performance in more than 20 years," said Neil Alexander, publisher and president. "Our polling of local church leaders reveals that they are extremely cautious about spending for resources given current conditions and are often coping by reusing materials or simply doing without." The Publishing House receives no general church apportioned funds. The difficult global economic climate has affected the Publishing House, causing a shortfall of 12 percent in this fiscal year and a reduction in the value of investment reserves of 25 percent.

Universities, churches to attract more Methodist students - United Methodists are known for their commitment to higher education, having launched many U.S. colleges and

universities in the 19th century. For generations, most of the students were from Methodist families. That is no longer the case because the relationship between United Methodist churches and affiliated institutions of higher education has faltered over the years. While 122 colleges and universities are affiliated with the church, some critics say they became secularized in the 20th century and now resemble non-church institutions. Many local churches fail to welcome college students in their area or even encourage their young people to enroll at the schools. To help reclaim the relationship, university staff and clergy will be invited to participate in jurisdictional events held by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry through March.

United Methodists commit to action on immigration - United Methodists are responding with compassion to the "aliens" in their midst with prayer vigils and letters to the President, members of Congress, and other officials calling for immigration reform. The North Texas Annual (regional) Conference United Methodist Women organized an inter-faith prayer vigil Feb. 15, at Munger Place United Methodist Church in Dallas, drawing more than 80 people from 10 countries outside of the United States. The event was part of a national effort supported by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society in Washington and other religious organizations to coincide with the Feb. 13-22 Congressional recess.

In the World

Starvation affects millions in Kenya

By Mary Beth Coudal*

Felix had been admitted to the Maua Methodist Hospital, in Maua, Kenya, with severe tuberculosis. He was nine years old, but only weighed 20 pounds and was three feet tall.

Jerri Savuto sat by Felix's bedside, watching him gasp for breath. "How hungry, alone and desperate he must have always been," said Savuto, a nurse and one of six missionaries serving in Kenya through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. "I reached out and touched him and smiled at him. His eyes looked up and met mine and then his little face broke into a smile. He gained weight and seemed to be doing much better but died four days ago."

As many as 10 million Kenyans, a majority of them children like Felix, are dying due to pervasive drought and famine. The Kenyan newspaper, The Daily Nation, projected that next October will be the first opportunity for a substantial rainfall. Savuto worries that many in Kenya will not live to see that next big rain.

As malnourished children are admitted to Maua Hospital, with their families unable to pay, the staff goes without pay and the facility lacks money for necessities. So, too, families flock to Kenyan churches for food, prayer, and comfort, yet parishioners are no longer able to support their pastors. They subsist on donations. The Methodist Church in Kenya is seeking funding to continue the mission of the hospitals and churches.

Bishop Stephen Kanyaru M'Impwii, head of the Methodist Church in Kenya, visited the New York headquarters of the Board of Global Ministries on Feb. 19-20 to highlight the need for increased relief efforts. He met, among others, with the Rev. Edward Paup, the board's top executive, to convey the urgency of the famine.

"I'm not telling you what I've heard," M'Impwii said. "I'm telling you what I've seen. Starving people have died. It's very serious. Even in the capital, there are very many, many orphans."

"We are currently supporting churches in Kenya to respond to the famine in Nairobi, Coastal Province, and the Rift Valley (Nakuru)," said Melissa Crutchfield, an international disaster response executive with the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

"These activities include provision of food aid for some of the most vulnerable populations, including nursing mothers, vulnerable children, orphans, school children, people living with HIV and AIDS, and internally-displaced people from the election violence last year," she added. "The grants are



Children displaced by violence following the December 2007 election in Kenya receive emergency food supplies. A UMNS photo by the Rev. Josam Kariuki.

also providing some medicines for a clinic in Nakuru, and agricultural inputs like seeds and tools, so that farmers in that region can begin to grow for themselves again."

A report from the United Nations indicates childhood malnourishment is at the level of one in five in Kenya, a number that exceeds emergency requirements. "The number of people who are starving in Kenya seems to increase daily. Our pediatric ward continues to have so many starving, emaciated children admitted," Savuto reported.

One of those emaciated children is four-year-old Martin. Tall for his age, he must have received proper nutrition earlier in his life, according to Savuto, "but now the family has nothing. He was admitted with malaria, pneumonia, severe anemia, and starvation.

"We can help these children recover from their illnesses

and even gain weight, but then we have to send them home to the same situation. The hospital has started a program to send food home with families of children like this," she said.

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. The check should be made to "UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response," with "Kenya Famine" on the memo line.

For credit card donations, visit UMCOR's web site at www.umcor.org for online giving information or call (800) 554-8583.

*Coudal is a staff writer for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

The World in Brief

German gift will buy nets for Africa - A gift of approximately \$130,000 from the United Methodist Germany Central Conference will provide mosquito nets in a national net campaign to take place in Sierra Leone next November. The gift to Nothing But Nets builds on the conference's long-standing relationship in Sierra Leone. The United Methodist Committee on Relief and other United Methodist representatives met with the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone in early February to discuss the upcoming national net campaign as a way to combat malaria in the West African country. "This is an excellent example of how United Methodists join hands in response to God's mission of health and healing," said Sam Dixon, UMCOR's top executive and the executive overseeing global health for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Friends of Estonia to hold 13th national meeting - United Methodist supporters of Methodism in Estonia will gather for a combined celebration rally with friends of Methodist church organizations supporting Estonia's sister Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia April 23-25 at First United Methodist Church. The 13th national gathering of Friends of Estonia is open to anyone interested in furthering Methodism in the Baltic states. The special guest speaker will be the Rev. Taavi Hollman, superintendent of The United Methodist Church in Estonia and pastor at Tallinn United Methodist Church and Holston Conference Bishop James Swanson will deliver the keynote address. The Friends of Estonia was established in the mid-1990s to help United

Methodist congregations in the United States coordinate their mutual efforts to assist the church in Estonia. Other guests include the Rev. John Campbell, district superintendent of Lithuania; the Rev. Gita Mednis, superintendent of the church in Latvia; and Gary Fowler, Chairman of the Latvia-Lithuania group. For more information, including registration, visit www.friendsofestonia.com.

Baltimore Washington Conference works to combat Zimbabwe's cholera - The Baltimore-Washington Conference Zimbabwe Partnership has exceeded its initial \$10,000 goal for cholera kits in less than one month. "It is remarkable what can be accomplished when God's Spirit links us together in His cause," said Greg Jenks who purchased and delivered the supplies to Zimbabwe. The funds, when combined with other funds raised in other conferences, will treat nearly 6,000 people with moderate to severe cholera, according to Neil Moores, the conference's Annapolis Region missions coordinator. As of Feb. 5, the World Health Organization reported nearly 68,000 cases of cholera since the outbreak began last August in Zimbabwe and an estimated 3,371 people have died. Through ZOE, a ministry that gives help and hope to African children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and genocide, the Baltimore-Washington Conference and several United Methodist groups from across the country are responding to Zimbabwe's cholera crisis. ZOE committed \$30,000 to ship medical supplies to treat 5,500-6,000 moderate to severe cases and 140-150 severe cases of cholera. This shipment helps equip the United

Methodist Medical Ministries in Zimbabwe to combat the epidemic. ZOE is a project of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. More information on ZOE, including donating to the cholera epidemic, is available at www.zoemistry.org.

UMTV: Samoan Church - The people of the remote Samoan Islands in the South Pacific have managed to preserve their rich culture for hundreds of years. But a recent wave of emigration has brought many native Samoans to the Western United States. Elderly newcomers are often homesick for the language, traditional dress, and customs of home. A few have found a special place where they can celebrate their heritage in their new hometown.

UMTV's "Samoan Church" is available to view at http://www.umtv.org/archives/samoan_church.htm. Find this and other UMTV stories on YouTube, GodTube and GoogleVideo by typing "UMTV" in the keyword search.

The Central Conference Pension Initiative's Lenten Toolkit combines the initiative's mission of providing a retirement with dignity for central conference pastors and surviving spouses with the Lenten message of sacrifice and commitment in loving service to others. The toolkit includes new materials, as well as links to existing materials that pastors and local churches may find useful for giving campaigns, including an overview of the pension initiative, central conferences statistics, sermon starters, a bulletin insert and sample in-pew commitment card. The resources are available at www.cpi-umc.org and clicking on "Volunteer resources."

Should socially responsible investing include business ethics?

By Jack Brooks*

Over the past few months it has become apparent that Americans are increasingly interested in the topic of business ethics and the role they played in the current economic melt-down. Employees, investors, and consumers have become aware of the corporate culture divide that exists in business between a company acting ethically, and its ability to maintain profitability. The end result is a broken chain in the covenant of trust that binds the company together. Employees feel expendable and no longer trust a company to value their contributions. Investors no longer trust the company's financial statements, audits, or bond rating. Consumers just don't trust anyone anymore which is reflected in the deteriorating consumer confidence index.

Understandably people now direct additional anger toward overpaid company executives saying "they just don't seem to get it." Recent examples include the auto manufacturers taking private jets to ask the tax payers for money and financial companies spending lavishly on trips and golf events while taking money to remain financially solvent. Don't get me started on the rewarding of excessive Wall Street bonuses for the very people who were involved with this investment mess to begin with.

A recent *International Herald Tribune* article was titled, "From Madoff to Merrill Lynch, 'Where was the ethics officer?' Many investment companies employed ethics officers, but I doubt many were at the top of the executive compensation list. The position was viewed as one of necessity but not of importance. When working in the investment business, I was required to attend many sessions on "Ethics" as a component of my annual continuing education requirements.

Interestingly this always was oriented around the potential ethical dilemmas and choices that I could face as an Investment Advisor, not how ethical our company leadership or board of directors were in making choices.

As responsible Christians, we invite Christ to become our internal ethics officer and the Bible our Ethics Manual. The Golden Rule of Christianity, Matthew 7:12, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is generally referred to as the Ethic of Reciprocity. Nearly every religion in the World, ethical system, or philosophy includes some concept requiring each person to treat another person in a decent manner. The hardest part for organized religion is to consistently teach followers this applies to all human beings, not just fellow believers, and is related to every aspect of our daily life.

Today the debate on business ethics expands to include the topics of corporate social responsibility, government regulation, self-regulation, environmental impact, equitable compensation, and others. The center of the debate remains as it has for thousands of years, how the human race should treat one another. United Methodists are additionally guided in social responsibility by the *Book of Discipline*. Great detail is given on the policy of Socially Responsible Investments. The policy states: "in the investments of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the *Social Principles*." Perhaps its time for us to add "and a business that exhibits the Ethic of Reciprocity."

*Jack Brooks is the Executive Director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation. He can be reached at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 247 or jack.brooks@epaumc.org.

EPA Campus Ministry

Asbury Protestant Ministry at Drexel University

Asbury Protestant Ministry, the only campus ministry currently supported by the Eastern PA Conference, is moving from a quarterly to a semi-annual distribution schedule for its newsletter, *Asbury Crossroads*. In the past you would have received issues in January and July; now, at least for the time being, issues will only be sent in early April and early October, coinciding with the beginning of Drexel's Spring and Fall Terms. Copies are sent to pastors at all Eastern PA churches, as well as related agencies.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list and/or if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically (saving trees and expense), contact Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin at asbury@drexel.edu. In the meantime, you can always go to Asbury's website (www.asburycrossroads.org) for the latest information. Past issues of the newsletter are also available online.

Stay tuned in May for NEWspirit coverage of Asbury's upcoming Alternative Spring Break trip to Memphis, TN, March 21-28! Students will be working with Habitat for Humanity and other agencies in Memphis, while also learning about the Civil Rights movement and ongoing work for racial and economic justice.

United Methodist Student Movement – Student Forum 2009

If you know of any college students who might be interested in the United Methodist Student Movement—or attending the UMSM's annual Student Forum—contact Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin, Eastern PA's UMSM Advisor, at pastortim@drexel.edu. This year's Forum is Memorial Day weekend, May 21-24, in Shreveport, LA. Scholarship money may be available for interested students. For more info about UMSM/Student Forum: www.umsm.org.

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Change a Child's Life!

Encourage every child and youth in your church to attend a week at one of our four beautiful conference camps this summer. They will make friends, have fun and grow in their love of Jesus Christ.

Camp Vouchers

Every church can assist families with the cost of camp by purchasing camp vouchers. The voucher is given to the camper's family; they include it as part of their payment.

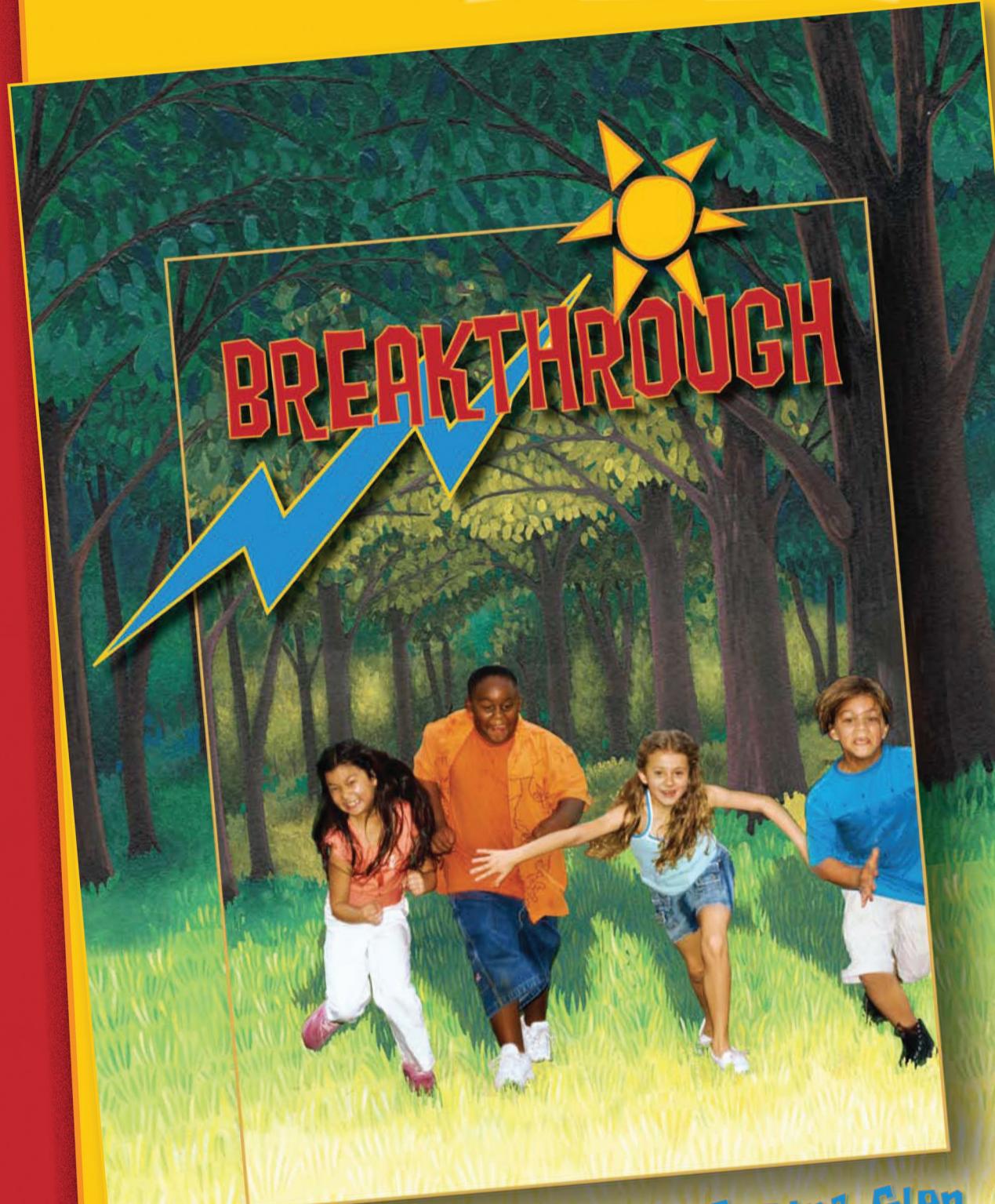
Scholarships

Churches and individuals can contribute to the conference scholarship fund. Eastern PA Conference policy is that no child or youth should be denied a week of summer camp due to financial hardship. Contributions to the scholarship fund are critical in helping us honor this commitment!

For More Information

Contact Jim Wilkin, Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries at 610-666-9090, ext. 225 or jim.wilkin@epaumc.org.

SUMMER CAMP 2009



Carson-Simpson Farm • Gretna Glen
Innabah • Pocono Plateau

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference The United Methodist Church
CALL US TOLL FREE 1.877.UMC.CAMP • VISIT US ON-LINE: WWW.EPAUMC.ORG/CAMPING

Summer Camp 2009 Program Calendar

The dates on the following list are for the week beginning on Sunday. Some camps are held for all or part of a week. Please check individual camp brochure schedules for exact start and end dates of each camp.

COLOR CODING: Children Children (Half-Week) Youth Adult Family Family

*Children & Youth ** Youth & Adults

Contact each individual camp for information on volunteer opportunities.

DATES	CARSON-SIMPSON	GRETNA GLEN	INNABAH	POCONO PLATEAU
May 29-31		Camper in Leadership Training (100) \$100		
June 16	Red Cross Life Guard Challenge (951) \$75 Red Cross CPR – Professional Rescuer (951A) \$40			
June 20	American Heart Association CPR, First Aid, AED (953) \$90			
June 14-20		Mission Possible II (188) \$345 Wilderness Adventure (140) \$230 Discovery Day Camp (117) \$185 Discovery Junior Day Camp (118) \$175	Day Camp Sampler (300) \$150 Extended Day Camp Sampler (301) \$175 Grandparents & Me (390) \$165 Challenge 5 (365) \$230	
June 21-27	Summer Day Camp (901) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (901 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (901E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (901.5) \$105 Disciple Program (941) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (941 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (941E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (921) ***	Ride On! (133) \$230 Vision Quest (143V) \$205 Dancing with the Drum (143D) \$205 Vision Quest + Dancing with the Drum (143) \$345 Wet & Wild Day Camp (121) \$185 Puddle Jumpers Day Camp (122) \$175	Grandparents and Me (391) \$165 Children's Adventure (319) \$195 Sports Spectacular (329) \$365 Water Sports Splash (359) \$450 Wilderness Encounter (330) \$325 Young Children's Day Camp (302) \$165 Young Children's Extended Day Camp (303) \$185 Day Camp ** (304) \$190 Extended Day Camp ** (305) \$210 Elementary Sports and Games (334) \$195 Grandparents & Me (392) \$165	Youth Music (682) \$365.00 Day at Camp (690) \$25.00 Day at Camp (691) \$25.00 Sr. High Adventure PLUS (641) \$250.00
June 28-July 4	Summer Day Camp (902) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (902 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (902E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (902.5) \$105 Disciple Program (942) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (942 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (942E) \$135 Kids Can Camp (912) \$250 PEACE Ministries Camp (922) ***	Experiments & Explosions (130) \$345 Youth Latino Camp (152) \$345 Children's Latino Camp (151) \$335 Awesome Art Adventure (104) \$230 Youth Adventure (145) \$375 Sports Day Camp (128) \$185 Young Children's Day Camp (120) \$175	Challenge I (361) \$350 Video and Theater Arts Camp (340) \$360 Fishin' Camp (346) \$420 Challenge 4 (364) \$420 Novice Horseback (375) \$570 Archery Camp (357) \$355 Day Camp (306) \$190 Extended Day Camp (307) \$210	Sr. High Adventure (642) \$390.00
July 5-11	Summer Day Camp (903) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (903 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (903E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (903.5) \$105 Disciple Program (943) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (943 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (943E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (923) *** Guard Start Class (940) \$70	Woodland Adventure/Sports & Fun (106) \$335 Creative & Performing Arts (183) \$350 Arts & Crafts (137) \$350 After Hours (138) \$375 After Hours II (131) \$375 Wet & Wild Day Camp (123) \$185 Puddle Jumpers Day Camp (124) \$175	Parents & Me (398) \$160 Wet-n-Wild (331) \$240 Children's Hilltop (320) \$350 Junior High Hilltop (350) \$385 Junior High Sports (352) \$385 Day Camp (308) \$190 Extended Day Camp (309) \$210 Grandparents & Me (393) \$165 Wet-n-Wild (322) \$240	Youth Camp (612) \$360.00 W.O.W. Camp (687) \$345.00 Camp Fusion (630) \$355.00 Young Children's 3-Day (601) \$190.00 Sports & Crafts for Kids (607) \$355.00 Jr. High Adventure (633) \$355.00 Mommy & Me 3-Day (600) \$155.00 Mommy & Me 3-Day (600A) \$185.00
July 12-18	Summer Day Camp (904) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (904 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (904E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (904.5) \$105 Disciple Program (944) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (944 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (944E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (924) *** Guard Start Class (cont'd) (940)	My Early Camping Adventure (102) \$195 Woodland Adventure (108) \$335 S.P.O.R.T. (185) \$375 Woodland Adventure III (141) \$405 Woodland Adventure II (134) \$375 Help 412 (146) \$205 Explorer's Day Camp (119) \$185 Young Children's Day Camp (129) \$175	Young Adult Deaf Developmental Camp (360) \$385 Soccer I (386) \$375 Soccer II (387) \$395. Night Camp (358) \$375 Young Children (322) \$195 Day Camp (310) \$190 Extended Day Camp (311) \$210 Young Children (323) \$195	
July 19-25	Summer Day Camp (905) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (905 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (905E) \$250 Day Camp with Pre-teen Overnight Option (905N) \$235 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (905.5) \$105 Disciple Program (945) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (945 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (945E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (925) ***	Youth Blast (154) \$375 Woodland Adventure (107) \$335 Young Creation Caretakers (103) \$230 Woodland Adventure II (135) \$375 Native American Village (142) \$345	Grandparents & Me (394) \$165 Children's Hilltop (321) \$350 Horseback II (376) \$590 Late Night Camp (342) \$370 Day Camp (312) \$190 Extended Day Camp (313) \$210 Grandparents & Me (395) \$165	Glacier National Park Hiking Trip (668) \$885.00 ** Young Children's 5-Day (603) \$255.00 Children's Pioneer (684) \$345.00 Jr. High Camp (611) \$355.00 Sr. High Rock & Raft (645) \$435.00
July 26-Aug. 1	Summer Day Camp (906) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (906 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (906E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (906.5) \$105 Disciple Program (946) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (946 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (946E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp for Small Groups & Individuals (926) ***	Music & Drama (181) \$350 Music & Drama II (182) \$360 Mission Possible (189) \$345 Youth Adventure (144) \$375 Float 2 Flight (109) \$230 Music & More Day Camp (127) \$175	Tee It Up (374) \$430 Creative Writing (326) \$330 Junior High Hilltop (351) \$385 Challenge 3 (363) \$410 Art Expression (328) \$340 Day Camp (314) \$190 Extended Day Camp (315) \$210 Little Minnows (325) \$230	Nature Explorers: 5-Day (604) \$255.00 Music & Performance Camp (681) \$360.00 * Jr. High Adventure (632) \$355.00 Eco-Explorers (605) \$355.00
Aug. 2-8	Summer Day Camp (907) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (907 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (907E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (907.5) \$105 Disciple Program (947) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (947 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (947E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (927) ***	Legs for Liberia-Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Trip (196) \$345	Grandparents and Me (396) \$165 Senior High Hilltop (370) \$395 Challenge 2 (362) \$385 Creative Arts (345) \$375 Ultimate Survivor (353) \$330 Day Camp (316) \$190 Extended Day Camp (317) \$210 Children's First Experience (324) \$195	Kid's Camp (grades 3-4) (608) \$345.00 Kid's Camp (grades 5-6) (609) \$345.00 TrailBlazers (686) \$390.00*
Aug. 9-14	Summer Day Camp (908) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (908 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (908E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (908.5) \$105 Disciple Program (948) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (948 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (948E) \$135 PEACE Ministries Camp (928) ***		Grandparents and Me (397) \$165 Day Camp (318) \$190 Extended Day Camp (319) \$210	
Aug. 17-21	Summer Day Camp (909) \$205 Day Camp with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (909 AM or PM) \$235 Day Camp with Before AND After Care (909E) \$250 Summer Day Camp Half-day Program (909.5) \$105 Disciple Program (949) \$90 Disciple with Before Care (AM) OR After Care (PM) (949 AM or PM) \$120 Disciple with Before AND After Care (949E) \$135	Wet & Wild Day Camp (125) \$185 Puddle Jumpers Day Camp (126) \$175		
Sept. 5-7			Family Jamboree	

2009 Summer Camp Theme: **BREAKTHROUGH**

What would it have been like to meet Jesus? Jesus met many different people in his journeys across Palestine. In story after story, the people received comfort, healing, guidance and forgiveness from Jesus. These encounters resulted in a breakthrough—a life-

changing experience for the people. This summer we'll see how Jesus welcomes, listens, shows compassion, loves, transforms, and invites us into relationship with him. We'll experience the Breakthrough that comes when we meet Jesus.



REGISTRATION & Contact Information

3 WAYS TO REGISTER

- 1** On-line at www.epaumc.org/camping
- 2** By fax to the Camp/Retreat Center of the Event
- 3** By mail to the Camp/Retreat Center of the Event

REGISTER BY APRIL 30 & RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OFF ALL REGISTRATIONS

Press #2 to order a 2009 summer camp catalog

Press #4 to be connected to Gretna Glen

Press #6 to be connected to Pocono Plateau

Press #3 to be connected to Carson-Simpson Farm

Press #5 to be connected to Innabah

Press #1 to be connected to the EPA Conference Camp/Retreat Office

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:

- EPA Camperships, site scholarships or volunteer scholarships
- ways you can volunteer as counselor, program director, nurse, or support staff
- information about your registration or bill

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH ABOUT:

- information on local church scholarship support
- how you can obtain a "Camp Cash" voucher

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

A complete copy of this catalog, additional registration forms and other information are available at the EPA Conference Camp/Retreat web site: www.epaumc.org/camping

CALL TOLL FREE
1-877-UMC-CAMP

(1-877-862-2267)



OUR MISSION

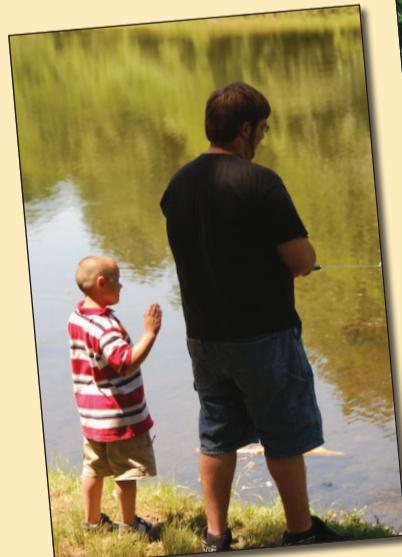
As a ministry of the Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church, we provide safe, meaningful, enjoyable experiences in camp and retreat settings that lead people to new and renewed life in Jesus Christ.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

It is the policy of the camping program of the Eastern PA Conference that no child or youth should be denied a week of summer camp due to financial hardship. Camper families who cannot afford the full fee should first contact their local United Methodist Church about scholarship support.

For further information on scholarships, please contact the site at which the camper will be attending. Eligibility and the source of the scholarship funding will be determined by the site director.

Register by
April 30 &
receive a
discount off all
registrations



The Camp and Retreat Ministry of the Eastern PA Conference follows the guidelines of the National Camp and Retreat Committee of the United Methodist Church. We carry membership in Christian Camping International and the American Camping Association. All four sites, Carson-Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen, Innabah and Pocono Plateau are accredited by the American Camping Association. Our facilities are hospitable, accessible, and invite participation by people of all ages and cultures and by those with special needs.



Christian Camp and Conference Association

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CAMP LOCATIONS & Contact Information

Camp Innabah

www.innabah.org
(event numbers in the 300s)
712 Pughtown Road
Spring City, PA 19475
For additional information, please contact
Christy Heflin, Director
1-877-UMC-CAMP ext. 5
camp@innabah.org

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center

www.gretnaglen.org
(event numbers in the 100s)
87 Old Mine Road
Lebanon, PA 17042-9238
For additional information, please contact
Apryl Miller, Interim Director
717-273-6525 • Fax: 717-273-6045
1-877-UMC-CAMP ext. 4
camp@gretnaglen.org

Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

www.poconoplateau.org
(event numbers in the 600s)
RR 2, Box 2747 (Pocono Plateau Road)
Cresco, PA 18326
For additional information, please contact
Rev. Ron Schane, Director
570-676-3665 • fax: 570-676-9388
1-877-UMC CAMP ext. 6
camp@poconoplateau.org

Carson-Simpson Farm

www.CSFarm.org
(event numbers in the 900s)
3405 Davisville Road
Hatboro, PA 19040-4295
For additional information,
please contact
Ray Neitz, Manager/Director
215-659-0232
Fax: 215-659-5129
1-877-UMC CAMP ext. 3
CSFarm@aol.com

Register by April 30 & receive a discount off all registrations!

Summer Camp 2009 Registration Form

At the four Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church Camp & Retreat Centers:
Carson-Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen, Innabah and Pocono Plateau –1-877-UMC-Camp

CAMPER INFORMATION: Please PRINT and use a SEPARATE form and a SEPARATE CHECK for each camper and event. Please mail or fax registration form and payment to the camp/retreat center at which the event will take place. This form may be copied as needed.

Camper's Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____ Male Female
Street Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Home Telephone () _____ Birthday _____ / _____ / _____
Church Name and Town _____ Grade Completed by June 2009 _____
Email _____ Bunk Mate Preference _____
(One Only - Campers Choose One Another)

Name of Father/Guardian (circle) _____ Home Tel. () _____ Work Tel. () _____ ext. _____
Name of Mother/Guardian (circle) _____ Home Tel. () _____ Work Tel. () _____ ext. _____
Name of Agency Contact Person _____ Agency: _____ Phone () _____ ext. _____
List major health concerns _____

How did you find out about camp? (brochure at church, recommended by friend, web page, or other):

1st Choice	EVENT NO.	EVENT TITLE	DATES	FEES
2nd Choice*				

* Will be automatically assigned if available

I give my permission for _____ to attend the above listed 2009 summer camp event with the Eastern PA Conference-UMC. I acknowledge my responsibility for payment of all fees in full to the camp/retreat center (Carson-Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen, Innabah or Pocono Plateau), **ONE FULL MONTH PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT**.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____
(Grandparents or other relatives may not sign unless they are the legal guardian of the camper)

SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST There are a variety of need-based scholarships available. If you are requesting a scholarship, please indicate below and the site staff will determine your eligibility and the best source of support.

I request a Scholarship for Summer Camp 2009 for _____ (name of camper) for the event indicated above for the following reasons: _____

(SIGNATURE OF PASTOR, PARENT, GUARDIAN OR SPONSORING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE)

PAYMENT INFORMATION: (Please make checks payable to the camp/retreat center at which the event is to take place (i.e. ONE of the following: Carson-Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen, Innabah or Pocono Plateau.) Please pay full amount or \$100 minimum deposit for full week events and \$50 minimum deposit for half-weeks or day camp. **All deposits** are non-refundable. All credit card registrations MUST BE PAID IN FULL, OR MUST BE FOR THE FULL DEPOSIT AMOUNT (\$100 for a full week or \$50 for a half week or day camp event). **Registration WILL BE RETURNED if payment is not indicated.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
AMOUNT \$ _____	
(SIGNATURE)	

PARENT PAYMENT

Check enclosed Camp Cash enclosed
 Check expected Camp Cash expected
AMOUNT \$ _____

CHURCH PAYMENT

Check enclosed Camp Cash enclosed
 Check expected Camp Cash expected
AMOUNT \$ _____

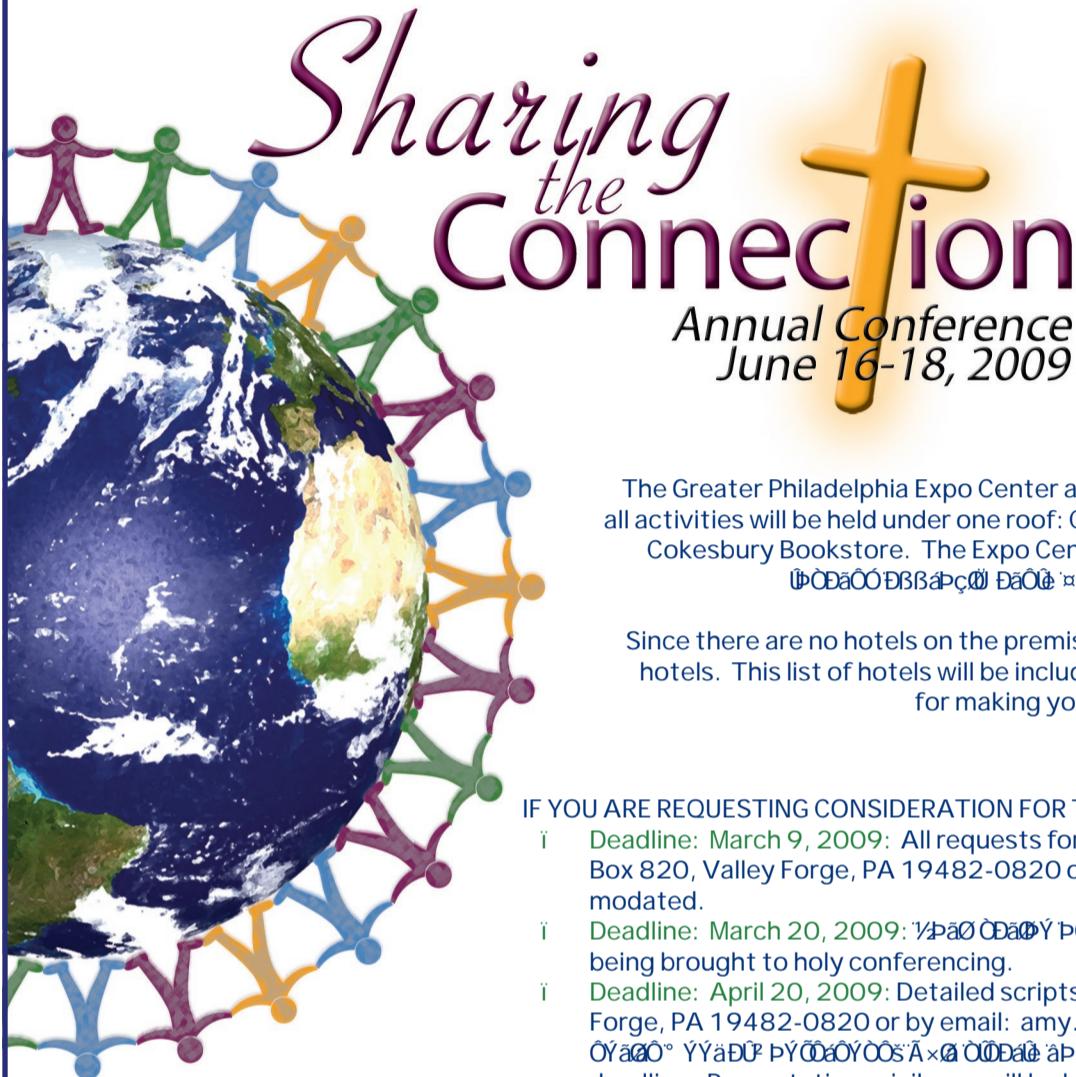
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Discover Mastercard VISA
AMOUNT \$ _____ Exp. date _____
Card # _____

(SIGNATURE)

2009 Annual Conference

Living Connected as God's People



Annual Conference 2009:
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks
100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456
June 16 - 18, 2009

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 at 100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456.

Since there are no hotels on the premises, the Conference will hold discounted blocks of rooms at area hotels. This list of hotels will be included in your registration information and you will be responsible for making your own hotel reservation and payment.

Deadlines:

IF YOU ARE REQUESTING CONSIDERATION FOR TIME ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA:

- i Deadline: March 9, 2009: 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.
- ii Deadline: March 20, 2009: Requests for consideration for time on the agenda 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. Requests for consideration for time on the agenda must be brought to holy conferencing.
- iii 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 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.

IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT:

- i Deadline: March 20, 2009: Resolutions are to be submitted to the Conference Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Rodney E. Miller, 2666 Bantam Lane, Lancaster, PA 17601; Direct your questions to: (O) (717) 569-2931; email: eparesolutions@gmail.com. The name of the actual presenter must accompany each resolution. Resolutions, in portrait format, must be sent on a disk or CD in Microsoft Word, along with a hard copy. Resolutions submitted after the March 20, 2009 deadline will be referred to the Agenda Review Committee in accordance with the rules of the Annual Conference. Copies cannot be made by

anyone other than the Conference Secretary. NEWSpirit.i

IF YOU HAVE A REPORT FROM YOUR COMMITTEE, AGENCY OR WORK TEAM TO SUBMIT FOR PRINTING IN OUR CONFERENCE JOURNAL, THE DEADLINE IS March 20, 2009.

- i Please submit reports to the Conference Secretary, The Rev. Dr. Rodney E. Miller, 2666 Bantam Lane, Lancaster, PA 17601.
- ii Reports, in portrait format, must be sent on a disk or CD in Microsoft Word, along with a hard copy.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE CLERGY, LAY AND EQUALIZING DELEGATES WILL BE MAILED OUT IN MARCH.

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

IF YOU HAVE MATERIALS TO SUBMIT FOR INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK, THE DEADLINE IS March 20, 2009:

- i Copy-ready originals must be sent.
- ii For more information, please contact Ms. Gloria Knoeller at 610-666-9090, ext. 222 or 800-828-9093, or by e-mail: gloria.knoeller@epaumc.org.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DISPLAY TABLE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE DEADLINE IS April 1, 2009.

- i Please contact Mrs. Evangeline Johnson at 610-666-9090, ext. 242 or 800-828-9093, or by e-mail: evangeline.johnson@epaumc.org.
- ii Vendor reservations for display tables must be submitted and payment received at the time of submission.
- iii Any vendor reservations for display tables must be submitted and payment received at the time of submission.

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

- i Any media and/or technical presentations must be submitted by April 22, 2009.
- ii Any media and/or technical presentations must be submitted by April 22, 2009.
- iii 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.

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

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

Rev. Scott Fridgen-Veitch appointed to Clifton Heights UMC

Rev. Scott Friedgen-Veitch graduated from the University of Delaware with a BFA in 1984, and earned his Masters of Divinity degree at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2004 (now Palmer Seminary). His appointments include Price Street UMC in Trainer, PA, Marshallton UMC, and Honey Brook UMC, where he is now serving. He is Co-Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and serves on the Episcopacy Committee. He is to be ordained as an Elder in Full Connection this June. He is married to Lori, and they have two sons, Thomas (age 19) and Dylan (age 15).

Clifton Heights United Methodist Church

Clifton Heights UMC was founded in 1871 and was a large congregation in the Delaware county at that time. Clifton Heights is a suburban/urban area near West Philadelphia with a changing population. They have Sunday school available for all ages at 9:30 and worship service at 10:45. The church has a number of ministries including a school bus ministry, Shoe Box ministry, food bank ministry, ministry to former homeless women, etc. There is an active UMW and UMM group. Clifton Heights UMC may be a small church with an older congregation, but it is one with a strong desire to serve.

Sherry Lantz appointed to Cedarville, Central District

Sherry graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Bible with an emphasis in Christian Life and Ministry from Lancaster Bible College in 1996 and then received her Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2000. Among her many positions she served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Hempfield UMC beginning in 1992 for three years. She has been the Pastor of Discipleship and Congregations Care at West Lawn UMC in the Central District since 2000.

Cedarville United Methodist Church

Central District, 1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465. The mission area of Cedarville church includes North Coventry, South Coventry, East Coventry, Warwick, Union Township, Douglassville, Upper and Lower Pottsgrove and the borough of Pottstown. The area is growing. New housing as well as retail development have been built and are continuing to expand. Cedarville offers three opportunities for two different kinds of worship on Sunday. The church's mission statement is "To Change Lives with Jesus."

James McNair appointed to Elverson, Central District

1983 BA Troy State University - Double Major American History/Psychology; 1985 MA Troy State University - Counseling; 1998 MDiv Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jim was born in Miami, Florida in 1952. Jim joined the army in 1971 & stayed in the military for 20 years. While in the army Jim met and married Sharyn. When Jim retired, he and Sharyn returned home and they started to attend his wife's home church, Royersford UMC. Several members of the conference pushed him to

search further spiritually. In 1992 Jim and Sharyn did the Emmaus Walk and went to the Lay Speaker Training course offered at Albright College. It was soon after these events that Jim felt the call to go into full-time ministry.

Elverson United Methodist Church

Elverson UMC is in the heart of the city of Elverson, PA. Elverson offers a pre-school as one of its ministries. The congregation loves Bible study and passionate biblical preaching, and is very interested in evangelism and community outreach.

Nancy Ross appointed to Quakertown UMC

The Rev. Nancy Ross has been appointed as Senior Pastor of Quakertown UMC effective July 1, 2009. Rev. Ross is currently serving at Clifton Heights UMC in Delaware County. She received her B.A. from Wittenburg University, the designations of CLU and ChFC from the American College, and her M. Div. from The Theological School at Drew University. She currently serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry and is Chair of the Order of Elders for the Eastern Pa. Conference.

She is married to Lemuel (Jack) Ross, and she has two adult children. Her previous appointments include Fairless Hills UMC (associate), Frackville and Girardville UMC's, and Clifton Heights UMC. Rev. Ross has been actively involved in the communities she served, and is currently serving on the Clifton Heights Community Economic Development Corporation, the Community Revitalization Committee, and the Lions Club.

Quakertown United Methodist Church

Quakertown UMC is located in the rapidly growing Bucks County area. The church offers both traditional and contemporary worship each weekend, an active youth ministry program, and outstanding children's programming that includes a Christian pre-school, a parents' day out program, children's Sunday School and fellowship activities. Church members are actively involved in a variety of local mission outreach projects to the community.

David T. Ryan appointed to Hopeland UMC

David Ryan, current lead pastor of Quakertown UMC on the Northeast District, will become pastor of Hopeland UMC on July 1, 2009. He replaces the Rev. Dennis Snovel, retiring in June 2009. David was born and raised in Delaware County, and attended Siloam UMC in Booth's Corner. He attended Asbury College (1982) and Wesley Theological Seminary (1985), and was appointed first to Washington Crossing as associate pastor in 1985. He then was appointed to Fairless Hills: Christ (1988), Leola (1996), and Quakertown (2003). He married his wife, Jeanette in 1986, and they have two sons, Jonathan and Zachary.

Hopeland United Methodist Church

Hopeland UMC comes out of the United Brethren side of the EUB tradition. Hopeland UMC is located in rural northern Lancaster County in Clay Township (population: 6400), and celebrates 162 years of ministry in 2009. Hopeland's current membership numbers 328, with an average

attendance of 168. The church is noted for its strong and active children and youth programs, and reaches out to its community in significant ways. Recently begun clothing and home repair ministries are but two examples. The church is growing, and added 11 persons by profession of faith from November 2007 to August 2008.

Rev. Mark Terry appointed to Oxford UMC

Mark Terry is a 2006 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and his home church is Spring City United Methodist. Prior to entering seminary he worked with the youth at St. Paul's UMC in Geigertown, and continued to do that during his first two years at Lancaster, while also serving as the pastor at Mount Carmel UMC in St. Peters. Upon graduating he was appointed to Bethel UMC in East Coventry Township where he is completing his third year of service. Mark and his wife Jennifer first came to the area in 1993 when they served as the live-in caretakers for the National Greyhound Adoption Program. Prior to answering the call to ordained ministry Mark also worked as the customer service manager for a small book publisher, and as a writer for a Philadelphia ad agency. He is also one of the founding members of Comedy On Demand, an improvisational comedy group. He and Jennifer have three boys, Jacob, Matthew, and Joshua.

Oxford United Methodist Church

Oxford United Methodist Church was founded in 1850. After occupying several sites in Oxford, the present church was built in 1885. An education building with a large fellowship hall was added in 1959. There are two services, an 8:30 casual service that has about 20 members, and a traditional service at 11:00 that draws about 90. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45. There is an adult choir, hand bell choirs for children and adults, an active chapter of United Methodist Women and Youth Fellowship for grade 6-12.

Mark Young appointed to Springfield: Covenant UMC

Mark Young came out of C.C. Hancock UMC and after high school went to Boston University and then to Duke University for his M.Div. Probationary member (1988) Full Member (1991). He served the following appointments: on loan to Puerto Rico Conference (1989) Phila: FGM: Central (1991) Phila: Holmesburg 1994, Allentown Trinity (1998) Lebanon:Trinity (2004), CPE Residency (2008-09).

Springfield: Covenant United Methodist Church

Covenant United Methodist Church is an active congregation located in Springfield, Delaware County. Springfield is a suburban middle class community of about 30,000 residents. The church has approximately 750 members, with about half residing in Springfield, and the rest coming from communities within a 10 mile radius. Service to local families through the Covenant Nursery School and a strong and inspirational music component to Sunday worship are among Covenant's program highlights.

"Ghost of Methodist Past" returns to "Cradle of American Methodism"

Methodist history comes alive in the "Time Travelers" program at Historic St. George's United Methodist Church—the oldest American Methodist church building in continuous service. On April 4 and May 9, visitors will receive a "surprise visit" from Simon Blessing, a created Methodist preacher based upon history and journals. He takes Methodist testimony and history off the page and onto center stage—well, sanctuary.

Blessing is the creation of Peyton Dixon, an actor, writer, and Methodist minister's son. For the last two years, he has taken Simon to churches from Philadelphia to as far west as Kentucky, as a part of his project "Founders' Faith."

"Simon has done everything from interrupting a Sunday morning sermon to leading a period-based class meeting," Dixon said. "The goal is to not only remind Methodists of our heritage, but also to help us appreciate the challenges our imperfect ancestors faced to get us here." This will be Dixon's second year bringing Simon Blessing to life at St. George's Church.

"Peyton really puts a fascinating spin on colonial Methodism," said St. George pastor Fred Day. "He grabs the congregation's attention from the minute he enters the sanctuary."

The Time Traveler events provide an exploration of the Methodist heritage. Along with Blessing, "Time Travelers"

can scavenge for clues of Wesley in St. George's museum, learn the time-honored tradition of line-singing, and discuss the challenges that black Methodists faced along with the Reverends Richard Allen and Absalom Jones themselves.

"We had over 500 confirmants and their hosts participate last year," said Day. "The reaction was better than we could have hoped for. We're blessed to have Peyton with us again this year."

If you or your church would like more information about St. George's Time Traveler programs, you can visit their website at http://www.historicstgeorges.org/events_tours/be_a_time_traveler.

Imagine the Impact Grows High School Leaders

Imagine the impact that will be made when pastors across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference ask the question, "What high school students in our church have a leadership calling on their life?" Imagine the impact these students could have if they joined an initiative designed to unleash their dreams and abilities for God. Imagine the impact as youth answer the call to invest their lives in ministry.

Imagine the Impact is a leadership program that enables pastors to help high school students to grow in Christ centered living, community leadership, godly character, leadership competencies, and an understanding of God's calling upon their life. This ministry launched on August 28, 2008 with three youth who will participate in three retreats during the school year, complete adolescent-tailored assessment forms, connect twice a month with a mentor during the nine month program, help lead in their local church's worship service every 4-6 weeks, and develop a personal ministry project focusing on evangelism and social justice in their local setting.

Started by a team of twelve people including Southwest District Superintendent Jim Todd, *Imagine the Impact* is based on the research of Dr. Dave Coryell. Dr. Coryell, as a high school student, was encouraged by his pastor, Rev. Clair Wagner, to imagine the impact God could have on his life. As an ordained deacon in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, he carries out his ministry of service by connecting youth in the local church with the world as Executive Director of Christian

Endeavor – Mid Atlantic. Christian Endeavor's mission is "Turning Today's Youth into Engaged Leaders, One Church at a Time."

"My personal project for *Imagine the Impact* has been to create a church basketball league," said Aubrey Ulrich, a senior in high school and member of Hopeland UMC. "Through finding and reserving gyms, contacting area churches, and planning the entire basketball league, I have learned a great deal and have stretched and enhanced my leadership skills. One of the most important things I have learned is that even though we may have obstacles to

overcome, God is always with us and always in control. As Romans 8:28 states, 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' Aubrey's project provides devotions before games to challenge players to follow Christ. Donations from the team support the "Nothing But Nets" effort to end Malaria in African countries.

McKenna Snyder, another *Imagine the Impact* youth, has a passion for the inner-city. A junior at Elizabethtown High School, she attends Ludwig UMC in Bainbridge and serves on the LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner City Alliance) board. She recognized the needs young girls have in the inner city through her LUMINA connection. She decided to form a middle school girls group in Lancaster city that focuses on self esteem issues by using scripture as a guide.

The third student, David Glick, is a homeschooled junior from Lititz, PA. David's passion for drama and videography led him to research and write a screenplay, recruit 12 volunteer actors, and develop a film. The film portrays the dangers that violence in the media can bring to a person spiritually and developmentally. The film will be available on YouTube later this spring.

Pastors, youth workers, and students can download applications www.imaginetheimpact.org. For more information on *Imagine the Impact*, contact Dave Coryell at 717-381-5618 or dcoryell@pachristianendeavor.org.



Left to right: Dave Coryell, Aubrey Ulrich, McKenna Snyder and David Glick were in Washington DC for a day of experiential leadership training.

Bishop's Lenten Day Apart - Journey



Left: Rev. Lillian Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries reads a scripture.

Bottom Left: Rev. Ricky Ayala and Rev. Irving Cotto lead praise music.



Above: Rev. Gwen Purushotham, from the New England Annual Conference, was preacher for the Bishop's Lenten Day Apart.

Right: Bishop Peggy Johnson signs during the singing of a hymn at the Bishop's Lenten Day Apart.



Hope for Small Churches

*By Lin George**

At the invitation of Southeast District Superintendent Christopher Kurien, seventy pastors and lay persons from small membership churches gathered at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Lionville on February 17. Hosted by Pastor Joan Trout and members of the congregation, these church leaders came to hear about small church leadership from the Rev. Dr. Lewis A. Parks, Professor of Theology, Ministry and Congregational Development, and Director, Doctor of Ministry Program at Wesley Theological Seminary. Dr. Parks is working with all six of the districts of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to share his message of validation, hope and help for small congregations.

Dr. Parks shared his experience, insight and expertise about the realities of small membership churches and the significance of their ministry. He has authored a book titled *Preaching in the Small Membership Church* (Abingdon Press) and is currently working on a project "to bring new life to small churches through the use of gatherings of lay and clergy leaders where the ministry potential of the small church is celebrated and tools for transforming small churches are taught".

Dr. Parks said, "Fifty percent of the Protestant congregations in North America average less than 75 at worship and yet, the majority of them are doing significant min-



Rev. Dr. Lewis A. Parks addresses pastors gathered at the Southeast District Small Church Initiative event held on February 17, 2009.

istry." He compared the small membership church to the house churches in Acts 2:46-47 and then asked the question, "What Does God See When God Looks at a Small Church?" He led the group with laughter, exploring the joys, strengths and pitfalls that are part of the small church experience. "More importantly," he said, "God has great expectations for all churches regardless of their size and even the smallest church has the potential for transformation, for excellence in worship and leadership, and for significant,

1:30 p.m. (includes working lunch) at Quakertown UMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951. He will be presenting on the topic of Discernment for Small Congregations. The cost will be \$5 per person to cover meal costs. For more information, contact your district office.

**Lin George is a local pastor appointed to Romansville United Methodist Church.*

Apportionments (*continued*)

Continued on page 1

Thank you for sharing in the connection!"

100% giving to the seven apportioned funds means full support the outreach of the General Church agencies such as the General Board of Global Ministries and its United Methodist Committee on Relief. Students from more than twenty African nations are given an opportunity to pursue higher education at Africa University. Our historically Black colleges are supported in their work to grow leaders. Our bishops are nurtured and seminarians are strengthened in their ministry. And we work together with persons of other faiths around the globe. The seven funds are the World Service Fund, the Africa University Fund, the Black College Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and the Ministerial Education Fund.

"Thank you for helping United Methodists share the Christian witness, not only in your neighborhood, but across this country and world," said the Rev. Lillian Smith, director of Connectional Ministry for Eastern Pennsylvania. "Thank you for filling the gap for congregations that were unable to support our shared ministry. Through apportionment dollars, new churches are started. Through these dollars, other congregations experience the blessing of a pastor from equitable salary. Apportionment dollars enhance congregational resourcing efforts through the annual conference and the general church. These funds support missionaries, colleges and universities and coordinated communications efforts designed to invite and engage new people, younger people and more diverse people. These funds make it possible for

children, youth and adults to grow in their discipleship through camping ministry. Truly, the list of ministries made possible from these funds, goes on and on!"

The 17 conferences that paid 100% of their apportioned amount are Alaska Conference, Baltimore-Washington, Central Pennsylvania, Central Texas, East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, Greater New Jersey, Illinois Great Rivers, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula-Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, Rio Grande, West Michigan, and Wisconsin.

For more information on the connectional ministry of The United Methodist Church, go to www.umcgiving.org.

No Slots (*continued*)

Continued on page 1

Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church.

"This is going to hurt all of us. Because when any one of us is hurt, all of us hurt!"

The crowd, holding "No slots" signs in Chinese and English, cheered as Rev. Hynicka concluded the press conference by reading the names of coalition member organizations, which includes Asian Americans United, Arch Street United Methodist Church, the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, Disabled in Action Pennsylvania, the Greater Philadelphia Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Christian Association of the University of Pennsylvania, Project H.O.M.E., and Liberty Resources.

meaningful ministry that makes a difference."

"Healthy churches remember their story and are grounded in it while having a sense that the story is not finished," Dr. Parks said.

"Regardless of size, or age, or setting...healthy small churches always have a sense of future." Participants were invited to take a step into the future and into transformation by developing a 1,000 word corporate story of their congregation as the starting place for looking to the future. They were also invited to send their stories to Dr. Parks so that they can become of part of his work with small churches.

For more information on the Small Church Initiative, contact your district office or Dr. Lewis Parks at lparks@wesleyseminary.edu.

Dr. Parks will return to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for Small Church Initiative Training on the East and Northeast Districts on March 7, 10:00 a.m. -

1:30 p.m. (includes working lunch) at Quakertown UMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951. He will be presenting on the topic of Discernment for Small Congregations. The cost will be \$5 per person to cover meal costs. For more information, contact your district office.

**Lin George is a local pastor appointed to Romansville United Methodist Church.*

Needed - Philadelphia Episcopal Area Ecumenical Officer (part-time)

Purpose: The Ecumenical Officer shall represent the Area Episcopal Office in responsible participation in specified ecumenical meetings, ecclesial gatherings and educational opportunities as well as other interreligious events throughout the Philadelphia Episcopal Area.

Qualifications: M. Div. degree, effective ministry as UM clergy, proven understanding and commitment to ecumenicity, basic knowledge of The Book of Discipline of The UMC and The Book of Resolutions, administrative and secretarial skills, team worker, oral and written communication skills.

Salary and Expenses: \$20,000.00 per year plus travel and other expenses up to \$5,000.00 annually. (No pension, medical or other benefits will be granted).

Beginning Date: July 1, 2009.

Applications: Résumés with references are to be E-mailed to areaecumenical@gmail.com or write to Bishop Peggy Johnson, POB 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820. (Application deadline is April 6, 2009.)

Churches/Volunteers respond to Coatesville fires



Left to right: Jenn Simcox, Garry Simcox Jr., and Nick Thomas, all from Hope United Methodist Church, move donated furnishings from Olivet United Methodist Church to a distribution warehouse prior to being distributed to fire victims.

Over the weekend of January 24 and 25, fifteen homes burned in a single blaze thought to be arson in the city of Coatesville with a loss of \$2 million in property. That's not all. Coatesville Fire Department counts 15 arsons in 2008 and fourteen so far in 2009. More than thirty families have been displaced. Only two of those families owned their homes; the rest were renters with little or no insurance to cover everything they lost.

Olivet United Methodist Church, in the heart of Coatesville, is only two blocks from the row of fifteen houses that burned. According to the Rev. Joe Tyson, when the fire went to seven alarms, he called the president of the church trustees, and the church opened its doors on Sunday, January 25 at 2:30 am to provide emergency shelter to fire victims until the Red Cross set up a shelter in Gordon Special Needs School. The church then gave respite hospitality to fire fighters and emergency workers, and was the setting for a press conference the following day.

Olivet has since been responding to their community's needs hand-in-hand with the larger faith community. As part of the Ministers Alliance of Coatesville and Vicinity, the united effort to respond to these disasters began with a meeting of 90 pastors and ministry leaders from the town. In speaking of the Ministers Alliance, Rev. Tyson said, "We are one body One body regardless of denomination or racial or ethnic background – there are Russian and Greek, Orthodox churches, Hispanic, independent, Mainline denomination churches, and the Salvation Army. The alliance includes not only the city of Coatesville, but also Caln, Brandywine, and Valley Townships. No one group is trying to do it all, no one group that could do it all."

He continued, "Speaking with one voice, working together with one hand, we are working as body of Christ unified in outreach and disaster relief efforts. From spiritual and emotional needs to material needs, the many needs are being addressed by ministries or churches leading primary effort."

In the outpouring of generosity from Coatesville Area residents, Olivet became the central collection facility for furniture and household goods donations under the leadership of Pastor Keith Wilburn of New Community Christian Church, which meets at Olivet UMC.

On January 29, 2009, a meeting was held at Olivet UMC to discuss how the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference could respond to the continuing need in Coatesville. Southeast

District Superintendent Christopher Kurien, Disaster Response Coordinator, Debra DePrinzio, District Disaster Response Coordinators Bill LaBriola and Chuck Moore, and Pastor Joe Tyson met with community leaders. In response, the Disaster Response Committee donated \$5,000 to Olivet to assist in the relief efforts, and offered to send in volunteers who could help with furniture distribution.

Early Response Coordinator, Bob Simcox, blanketed the conference with a request for volunteers. Working with Coatesville's Community, Youth, and Women's Alliance (CYWA), which identified the furniture and household needs of the families affected by the fires, and Pastor Wilburn, Simcox led an effort to place furniture with families in need. Simcox said, "On February 6, four trucks and ten people went into action and became the hands and hearts of the Disaster Response Committee's response in Coatesville. The team first cleared a garage space, so that more furniture could

be staged, they assisted unloading and loading furniture at Olivet, and they loaded up their trucks with furniture for a family, only to find out that the temporary housing did not work out for this family and the furniture had to be returned to Olivet UMC. With great disappointment, the family was forced to return to the

hotel for another night. The volunteers, sad that the family had to experience such a setback, prayed with the family, who expressed their gratitude for the volunteers." He added, "Despite the cold February evening, responders came from Colemanville UMC, Bethesda UMC, Wayne UMC, Hempfield UMC, Parkesburg UMC, Hope UMC, Douglassville UMC, and Olivet UMC."

Volunteers from Parkesburg UMC, Hope UMC and Grove UMC on February 13 moved three families into their new residences. Then, on Saturday, February 21, more volunteers came out to Olivet to begin the process of removing all of the furniture from the church to a warehouse on 2nd Street. Furniture was carried down from the second floor, loaded onto truck, driven to the warehouse and then unloaded into a two story building. Debra DiPrinzio, Disaster Response Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference said of this effort, "There was such a beautiful spirit shown by the volunteers as they worked hard to ensure the furniture was protected so that it would be in the best shape possible for the families. They divided the furniture up by categories such as sofas, dining room tables, household items, etc. After all the furniture was organized, then the resident's furniture needs were reviewed and the process of picking furniture for each family began. Trucks and trailers were reloaded with the needs for each family. The amount of work accomplished in one morning was incredible but came as no surprise. When the body of Christ works together as one, nothing is impossible!"

DiPrinzio, as well as District Superintendent Christopher Kurien, and Bob Simcox worked alongside these volunteers and appreciated their ministry and dedication. Simcox said, "The Early Response training that many of these volunteers received was put to good use and blessed many within the community. We were grateful for the United Methodist connection, for volunteers from Parkesburg UMC, Thorndale UMC, Conyngham UMC, Hope UMC and Mount Hope UMC."

The need continues in Coatesville. If you are interested in assisting in future volunteer opportunities, contact Bob Simcox, simkim9788@aol.com. If you are interested in making donations to the Disaster Response Committee's relief efforts, make your checks out to The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482; designate in the memo area that it goes to the Disaster Response Committee for Coatesville Relief. For more information, contact Debra DePrinzio, Disaster Response Coordinator, 215-919-9789.



Volunteers from Parkesburg UMC, Thorndale UMC, Conyngham UMC, Hope UMC and Mount Hope UMC helped move donated furnishings into a warehouse and sort them for distribution.

26th Annual
Academy for
Laity
July 31 - August 2
2009

Park Ridge Hotel
and
Conference Center
King of Prussia, PA



26th Annual Academy for Laity

July 31-August 2, 2009



Growing, Sharing and Living our Faith

Park Ridge Hotel - King of Prussia, PA

Special Guest:
Bishop Peggy Johnson

Featuring

- Basic and Advanced Workshops
- Basic CSM Course for Young Adults
- CSM Recognition
- New Workshop on Missions
- Clergy Workshop on Partnering in Ministry with Laity
- Fellowship and Fun

Growing, Sharing and Living Our Faith

More Information To Follow



Methodist Home
for Children

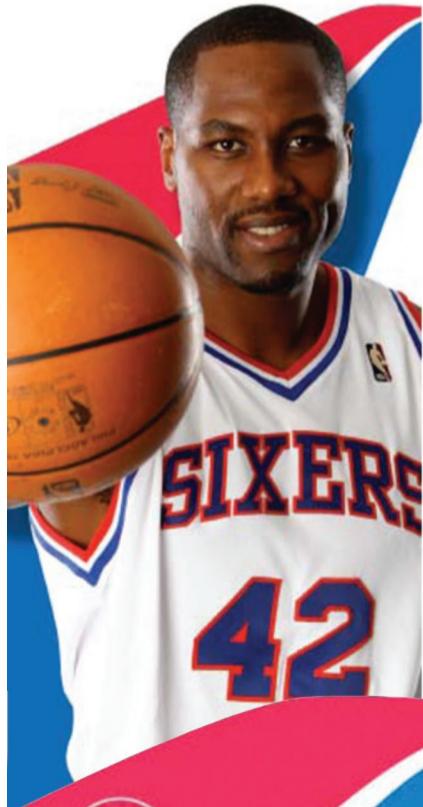
*With grateful appreciation
we thank the 30 churches of the
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference*



*who generously supported
our 2008 Toy Drive*

Methodist Home for Children
4300 Monument Road
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215-877-1925
www.methodistservices.org

2008-09 Philadelphia 76ers United Methodist Church Night



76ers vs. Charlotte Bobcats
Friday, March 27, 2009
7:00 p.m. - Wachovia Center

United Methodist Night is a chance for all families and friends to join in fellowship with one another. *Church members can purchase advance tickets at a specially discounted rate!*

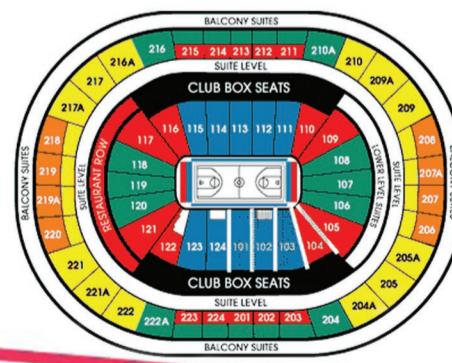
Then join us after the game for a *free post-game concert* by Christian artist Worth Dying For! Please sit in Section 113 following the game!

A portion of each ticket also goes to support Youth Ministry and Nothing But Nets Foundation!



To purchase your tickets,
contact John Tabourn at
(215) 952-7352.

Location	UM Price
Lower Level Ends	\$32.00
Mezzanine corners	\$20.00



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