Sunday, September 27 was a remarkable day for Lighthouse Korean United Methodist Church, as it welcomed more than 330 people to its grand opening worship celebration.

With the opening of Lighthouse Korean, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference now has five Korean ethnic churches. Lighthouse Korean is one of four new church starts for 2009. According to its pastor, Rev. Byung Woo Cho, the Glenside area is ideal for opening a new church to minister with the growing Korean population. He and his wife, EunMi, recently moved to eastern Pennsylvania from New York, and he began his new appointment on July 1.

Lighthouse Korean UMC is located at Lighthouse Fellowship UMC in Glenside, PA. According to Rev. Cindy Brubaker, pastor of Lighthouse Fellowship, “Partnership is what we are working toward. We are stepping across comfort and language lines to help and be present praying for one another. Often there is a feeling of ‘us and them’ in this kind of arrangement – we’re working toward being ‘we’ - that we really are only one body. We’ve been intentional about that all along.”

During the opening worship service, Bishop Peggy Johnson said, “We still struggle and draw lines of race, gender, and class. I hope that everyone will be welcomed in your new church: people of all races, all languages, the rich ones, the poor ones, the ones you like, and the ones you don’t like, and people with disabilities.” She added, “In all things trust in God to provide, be content in the things God will be giving you, and you know God will see you through. I thank God for your ministry to the Lord and for this wonderful new beginning!”

Rev. Irving Cotto, director of Congregational Development for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, included in his message, “It is encouraging to know that our Annual Conference and the National Plan for Korean American Ministries are committed to a ministry with and for the Korean community in the Philadelphia area.” He said, “We are all called to do our part in living out God’s vision of unity, mutuality, inclusivity, and reconciliation. At the same time, the vision for a multicultural church includes recognition that there is an urgent need to provide along the journey, places and spaces where people with language needs, immigration needs, and particular cultural needs are given special attention.”

The executive director of the United Methodist Council on Korean American Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries, Rev. Dr. Paul Chang, stressed the connectional nature of the church, saying, “Connectional means we are not alone. The annual conference, the National Plan, and the whole Korean community are with you, and more important, God is with you.”

The worship celebration included music from the Women’s Ensemble of Delaware First UMC, the choir of First Korean UMC of Cherry Hill, a men’s ensemble, and soloists Jang Gi Baek and Bar. Park Joseph.

View video segments from the grand opening online: www.epaumc.org.

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

The choir of First Korean United Methodist Church of Cherry Hill sang for the grand opening of Lighthouse Korean UMC. The worship service was followed by a concert featuring group and soloist performances.

Ministry with Deaf People Workshop
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SO YOU WANT TO START A DEAF MINISTRY?
Opening Worship with Bishop Peggy Johnson followed by workshops.
After lunch there will be an open discussion about Deaf Ministry in the Eastern PA Conference.
JONESTOWN UMC
109 W. Market St
Jonestown, PA 17038

Cost: $10. Pay at the door
Lunch provided
Register online @ www.epaumc.org

More information: Carol Stevens, Deaf Ministries Area Coordinator at 443-794-6499 or carolstevens100@hotmail.com.

At Lighthouse Korean UMC’s grand opening, pictured are (left to right) EunMi Cho, Bishop Peggy A. Johnson and Rev. Byung Woo Cho.
October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
24th Annual Boehms Chapel Apple Festival:
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. rain or shine. Free parking and admission. Historic Boehms Chapel, 13 W. Boehms Church Road, Willow Street PA 17584; execdirboehms@dejazzd.com or phone 717-872-4133.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Six Weeks - Beginning “American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Classes”: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Maximum class size 15-20 people; great for families too! Ages 10 years through adult. Session fee: $48.00 (per student). For further information contact: pastor_eayres@verizon.net or info@creativesuccess.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Ministry with Deaf People Workshop:
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jonestown UMC, 109 W. Market St., Jonestown, PA 17038
Cost: $10. Pay at the door. Register online: www.epaumc.org. Information: Carol Stevens, Deaf Ministries Area Coordinator at 443-794-6499 or carolstevens100@hotmail.com.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
The Women In Professional Ministry of Pennsylvania City Clergywomen’s Retreat: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. @ Epworth UMC in Rehoboth Beach, DE. The cost is $10 and includes lunch. For more information contact: Dawn Taylor-Storm at pastordawn@stmatthews.org or Mandy Stanley Miller at mandystanley@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23-25
Healing the Wounds of Racism Training:
Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center. For more information or to register, contact Rev. Hilda Campbell, director of Human Relations and Leadership, 1-800-828-9093, ext. 224 or hilda.campbell@epaumc.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
UMW 36th Annual Meeting: 9 a.m. Hope UMC, 3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata PA 17522. For more information: www.gbgm-umc.org/www-epac.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Seeing in the Darkness - the Fanny Crosby story: 4:00 p.m. Debi Irene Wahl of ‘Act 1 Productions presents ‘Seeing in the Darkness’, the Fanny Crosby story. Program also includes congregational singing of many of Fanny Crosby’s best known hymns. Historic Boehms Chapel, 13 W. Boehms Church Road, Willow Street PA 17584. execdirboehms@dejazzd.com or phone 717-872-4133.

OCTOBER 25, 2009
Lumina’s Tenth Annual Celebration: Dinner and Annual Celebration of the Ministries that are taking place with the help of our many supporters, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Mountville: St. Paul’s UMC, 100 W. Main Street, Mountville, PA, (on left, look for parking lot attendants). Contact LUMINA at (717) 594-8412 or email your reservation to lumina@verizon.net by October 19th. www.luminoutreach.org.

OCTOBER 26
Fall Gathering of Women in Professional Ministry:
RSVPs must be received by September 15th by Mandy Miller mandystanley@yahoo.com or Dawn Taylor-Storm pastordawn@stmatthews.org.

November

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4-6
Vitality of Small Churches - Fall Retreat:
Camp Hebron, 975 Camp Hebron Rd., Halifax, PA 17032. Price: $ 155.00; Commuter Fee $75.00; Single rooms available upon request, $25.00 extra per night. Info: Pastor Sandra Brant, PO Box 345, Ulster PA 18850-0345.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Clergy Day Apart at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center: Call one week ahead and let us know that you are coming. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA 18326 570-676-3665.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6-8

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Frankford Group Ministry 30th Anniversary Celebration: At Rosewood Caterers, 8888 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. 7:00 p.m. Tickets: $35.00/ person.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13-15

In Memoriam

Rev. Gerald H. Miller

Word has been received of the death of Rev. Gerald H. Miller, age 76. He and his wife, Evelyn, lived at Landis Homes, Lititz. Rev. Miller was a graduate of Drew University and served various pastorates in the former Philadelphia Conference including Wind Gap/Belfast charge; Tannersville charge; Levittown where he was associate pastor; Kensington Area; St. Phillips; and Langhorne. After serving Langhorne, he went on to Lehigh University and earned a Masters in Education and pursued a second career as a school guidance counselor and was granted Honorable Location status with the Annual Conference. In his retirement he was an AARP Driver Safety instructor in Lancaster County. A memorial service was held at Landis Homes, West Bethany Chapel on Saturday, October 3. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Evelyn Miller, 1001 E. Oregon Road, Westview #217, Lititz, PA 17543.
Holy Communion

SACRIFICE
In the Lord’s Supper we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us on the cross. It is not just an intellectual remembering of what happened on Good Friday long ago. It is a sign of ultimate love for us personally. It is a call to present ourselves as living sacrifices in union with Christ (Romans 12:1) to be used by God to do works of reconciliation. This is what Christ did on the cross. When you take Communion think about how you can sacrifice as well so that others can experience God’s love. Give of your service and your means to alleviate suffering and further the mission of Christ in the world.

ESCHATOLOGICAL
The Lord’s Supper can be seen as the first course of a meal here on earth that will find its fulfillment in the kingdom of God that is yet to come at the end of history. Christ told his disciples on the night before he died, “I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29) That day is yet to come when all of the saints for all times gather at the heavenly banquet. There we will have no divisions of theology, time, place and all the human “isms” and bigotries of this present age. As you partake of the bread and the cup, think about that day to come when all will be made right and all people will be with the Lord in a place where there will be no more sickness, sorrow and death.

I hope that you will consider moving toward having Communion more often in your churches. A weekly celebration of Holy Communion is the recommendation of The United Methodist Church. The theology of John Wesley was all about grace: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. Holy Communion offers us a rich experience of grace.

New Director for Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center

Apryl Miller is the new director of Gretna Glen. Apryl has worked in Eastern Pennsylvania Camp and Retreat Ministry since 2001 when she and her husband, Chris, began at Pocono Plateau. At that time, Apryl served at Pocono Plateau as office manager and interim food service coordinator. They moved to Gretna Glen in 2005. Apryl has most recently served as Gretna Glen’s interim director. Apryl’s passion about this ministry is evident as she shares her vision. “It is so important for us to foster a community of celebrating the mission of Gretna Glen - to truly share the joy of knowing and following Jesus Christ. Gretna Glen is called to be a place where people come, find their focus, step away for awhile, and meet Jesus. We will continue to be that special place as we explore new ways to invite others, focus on making disciples and be an active ministry partner with our community. I look forward to serving alongside our wonderful volunteers and staff as we celebrate this 50th year at Gretna Glen.”

New Coordinator for Young People’s Ministry

Georgette Hall-Peterson has been selected as the new coordinator of Young People’s Ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Georgette is a local pastor currently serving as assistant pastor at St. Daniel’s United Methodist Church in Chester, where she coordinates youth and young adult activities. She has been involved with young people’s ministry for fifteen years. As the teacher for the Basic Christ Servant Minister course for young adults at the Laity Academy, she said, “I wholeheartedly believe in the ability of young people to minister not only to each other but to the greater population no matter what age, in the church and outside of the church. It is their voice that will bring people in.” Georgette has a Master's degree in pastoral counseling from Neumann University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Albright College, where she majored in Social Welfare. She says, “I know that God has great plans for the young people of this conference. As the Coordinator of Young People’s Ministry, I welcome the opportunity to be a part of God's plan for youth and young adults and those who will come to Christ because of the young people who lead the way.”
Native Americans explore youth outreach

BY JERAD MOREY

Native American leaders are making plans to bring Facebook and other social media into the mission field for youth and young adults. Older Native Americans may be more comfortable with traditional forms of communication, but the younger generations are increasingly doing their talking through texts and Web sites, said United Methodist leaders at a meeting of the Native American Comprehensive Plan.

“There is an intimacy there that is foreign to a lot of Native American elders,” said the Rev. Anita Phillips, the plan’s executive director. “We must approach the sharing of ourselves and things about our ministry and work and faith using mediums that reach out to young people and yet retain cultural integrity.”

Social media received heavy emphasis during an Aug. 22 discussion on engaging young people in the church. The session came near the end of a two-day meeting of the comprehensive plan’s directors, who focused on a variety of issues related to strengthening Native American ministries.

A PLACE IN CHURCH

Native American youth and young adults find themselves straddling two worlds, meeting participants said.

“In the Native American world, there is a fine line that people have between the ‘traditional’ and the ‘Christian,’ and some young people just don’t know how to walk that line,” said young adult representative Jalisa Rose. “Because they have been oppressed for so long, they feel like they have to stick with their traditional ways, and that’s what keeps them away from church.”

Jennifer Battiest, another young adult representative, agreed.

Native American youth and young adults “still experience oppression in some churches,” she said. “They feel that being traditional is wrong. Some young people can’t quite figure out ‘where do I fit in,’” or they find it too difficult to participate in their traditional culture and also be Christian, so they conclude, “I don’t want to be part of that struggle.”

In making that decision, they often leave the church behind, young people said.

The Rev. David Wilson, plan chairman and superintendent of the United Methodist Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, said an additional challenge the church faces in reaching young Native Americans is that most church events and resources are not written for them.

At national church events, he said, “Young people ask, ‘Is anybody here like me? Does anybody care that I’m here? When they talk, are they talking about me?’”

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Native American churches also struggle to reach young adults.

“Most of our churches are so rural, and the churches themselves don’t have access to the technology that our young people have access to. This creates a disconnect,” Wilson said.

Small, rural churches also lack the finances to send young people to events such as rallies and national or jurisdictional events.

Wilson said event organizers “should always keep in mind the economics of impoverished ethnic groups.” The comprehensive plan also needs financial resources to provide scholarships to youth and young adult Native Americans, he said.

MOREY IS A FREELANCE WRITER based in Minneapolis.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has a new Committee on Native American Ministries to identify Native Americans in the conference and persons interested in developing a ministry with Native Americans. If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact Bob Hinderliter, 610-459-2740 or brutherbaahhindy@aol.com.

Bob is available to speak on his experience leading mission trips to Fort Peck (Sioux and Assiniboine tribes) and Pine Ridge (Sioux tribe) Indian Reservations and with the Lumbee tribe in Lumbertown, NC.

In addition, a Native American group meets the second Wednesday of every month at Arch St.UMC, 55 N. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA; www.archstreetumc.org.

The Nation in Brief

5. CENTRAL JURIS. REALIGN

Responding to a directive from the denomination’s top legislative body, United Methodists in the South Central region of the U.S. will make do with one less bishop in 2012. Through a Sept. 18 webcast, the 6,400 local churches in the South Central Jurisdiction learned that the Nebraska, Kansas East and Kansas West annual (regional) conferences will be combined into one episcopal area at that time. Dallas Area Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, president of the jurisdiction’s board of bishops, reminded viewers that the 2008 General Conference had directed that body to reduce its numbers from 11 to 10 bishops.

CROP WALK SEASON BEGINS

September marks the opening of the 40th season of CROP Hunger Walks, sponsored by Church World Service. The walks draw participants, including many United Methodists, from some 2,000 U.S. communities. The walks raise around $16 million annually to fight hunger on both local and global levels. This year’s theme - “Enough for All” - has added significance as people in the United States and abroad face increasing joblessness and hunger in an ailing global economy. More information is available at www.cropwalk.org.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP TO SERVE 500 YOUNG PEOPLE

More than 500 young people are expected to converge on the city next summer to perform mission work, learn leadership skills and discover more about what it means to be United Methodists. The seven-week Denominational Mission Experience, June 20-Aug. 6, is the result of a partnership linking the Minneapolis-based YouthWorks with Young People’s Ministries, a division of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

NATIVE AMERICAN GATHERING TO HONOR WOMEN LEADERS

Four Native American UM women will be celebrated at the first Native Women’s Gathering and Conference Oct. 16-18. The Rev. Cynthia Abrams of the Board of Church and Society, Cynthia Kent, former executive for the Board of Global Ministries, Anne Marshall, chair of the Native American International Caucus, and the Rev. Suanne Ware-Diaz of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race will be honored. The theme of the event is “Re-Defining Our Place: Native Women Speak!” Further information is available online: www.lakejunaluska.com.

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY FOCUSES ON GOOD, GREEN JOBS

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society is among 33 organizations that are speaking with one voice on the importance of making poverty reduction a central component of programs and policies aimed at creating a clean-energy economy. The national faith-based organizations have committed to participating in an interfaith week of action, “Praying for Poverty with Faith,” Oct. 14-21, to urge elected officials to make poverty-reduction a key goal of the transition to a green economy. Further information is available at http://fighting-povertywithfaith.com/f2/.

RELIEF AGENCY DEPOTS NEED SUPPLIES

UMCOR is calling on church members to help replenish its stock of supplies at the relief agency’s depots, UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, La., and UMCOR West in Salt Lake City. During the summer, volunteers worked at both locations to assemble international shipments of relief supplies worth more than $100,000 to people around the world.

In particular, UMCOR West, which provides opportunities for kit ministry at churches in the Western Jurisdiction, can use help in filling the shelves of its 22,000-square-foot warehouse. More information: www.umcor.org.
African bishops to take role in university

Bishops of the three United Methodist central conferences in Africa declared the time is now to take an active role in “our school,” Africa University.

Bishop John Innis of Liberia spoke of a growing desire among church leaders to make greater contributions to the development of Africa University during a meeting of the College of African Bishops held Sept. 7-10 at the university.

“This is the time and such is the time that God has appointed for us to begin to make a contribution to this university,” Innis said. “This is our school and we own this campus and it is mandatory that we take an active part in its development.”

As the recently appointed chancellor of the university, Bishop David Yemba, Central Congo, was optimistic about the support pledged by the College of African Bishops.

“I am beginning to see a new awareness by the African bishops to contribute to the growth of Africa University, he said. “We may say the African bishops have delayed in making tangible contributions to Africa University, but as African bishops, we did not have a forum to discuss issues as they affect us. It is only now that we are rediscovering ourselves and how we can best contribute to Africa University and the whole continent.”

Africa University, established in 1992, is a private, pan-African and United Methodist-related institution. Twenty-two African countries are represented in the school’s enrollment.

LESSONS IN FINANCE

Concurrent with the meeting, the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration held a four-day training workshop. Staff members from the finance agency and the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries met with about 36 African colleagues.

“There is a new element to our meeting this year,” Yemba said. “Key people who help us in our episcopal offices are receiving training and instruction in finance, law, administration and this can only strengthen the capacity of our operations.”

Moses Kumar, top executive for the finance agency, said participants were willing to learn from one another on issues such as legal concerns, statistics and the handling of episopal funds.

“This is an enriching learning experience for all of us and we are learning positively from our various experiences,” Kumar said.

UNITY AND FAITH

Unity and faithfulness emerged as a strong theme in the bishops’ discussions during the meetings.

Innis said church leaders expect to develop a pastoral letter of hope that encourages “our people to remain united as we move forward in the transformation of Africa.”

Looking back, Yemba said, the College of African Bishops has made significant progress since its inaugural meeting in 2007.

“I believe we have made some considerable steps in mitigating poverty,” Yemba said. “We have heard positive feedback from different African bishops on leadership development and eradication of poverty through various initiatives in health and education.”

NONDIO IS A PROGRAM ASSISTANT in Africa University’s Information and Public Affairs Office.

By SHARAN NONDIO

The World in Brief

NORWEGIAN THEOLOGIAN COMBINES CREATIVITY, REALISM

When the Rev. Olav Fykse Tvet, a Norwegian theologian, takes charge of the World Council of Churches, he will be that ecumenical body’s youngest leader since its founding assembly 61 years ago. The 48-year-old Lutheran pastor, who will replace the Rev. Samuel Kobia, a Methodist from Kenya, is expected to start as chief executive on Jan. 1. “I like to combine vision and practical work, creativity and realism,” Tvet told members of the council’s Central Committee after his election in late August. “The most demanding tasks are quite often the most important ones.”

STEPPING UP TO HELP STUDENTS

Grace Muradzikwa is a successful executive in Zimbabwe. But it was her mother’s heart that responded when she heard more than 300 Africa University students didn’t have the money to go back to school. Muradzikwa turned to the business community of Zimbabwe and raised $100,000 for scholarships. The effort gave some 60 students the opportunity to continue their education, and showed how a nation could come together to provide a better future for the next generation, Muradzikwa said. The school has seen its enrollment drop $9 million as a result of the international economic downturn.

RESETTLED REFUGEES FEATURED IN VIDEO

Somali refugees resettled to Pennsylvania by Church World Service are featured in a “webisode” as part of the Odyssey Networks’ Million Minutes for Peace Campaign. The campaign is working to collect pledges from a million people to join in one minute of prayer for peace at noon Sept. 21 in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. Further information is available at www.odysseynetworks.org.

PRAY WITH AFRICA BUILDS COMMUNITY FOR CONTINENT

Two teams of young people will visit 30 U.S. cities this fall to build a worldwide community in support of African Christians working daily with the poor, sick and hungry. Pray With Africa, a new Upper Room Ministries initiative, seeks to inspire people to connect across continents, to pray each other’s prayers and to put those prayers into action by giving their time, energy and resources to address key issues facing the African people, says Cary Graham, project director. More info: www.PrayWithAfrica.com.

APPEAL FOR SAFETY OF CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN

Two top mission leaders of The United Methodist Church are appealing to the government of Pakistan to ensure the safety of a Christian minority under violent attack in some parts of the officially Islamic nation. West Ohio Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and Inelda Gonzalez of Harlingen, Texas, president of the board’s Women’s Division, also asked the United Nations and the United States to pursue protection for Christians in Pakistan.

BOOK EXPLORES LANDSCAPES OF AFRICA UNIVERSITY

CAMPING
www.epaumc.org

CAMPERS EXPERIENCE SUMMER “BREAKTHROUGH”

Over 5000 children and youth experienced the faith “breakthrough” that comes when we meet Jesus, this summer at our four camps—Pocono Plateau, Carson Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen and Camp Innabah.

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.

With the “Breakthrough” summer theme, campers learned how Jesus welcomes, listens, shows compassion, loves, transforms, and invites us into relationship with him.

Camp Innabah

Throughout the summer at Innabah, we were blessed to see many new and returning campers. This year in particular several families benefited from scholarships from the Camping Board and the Dewees Fund. It is always a joy to give people the opportunity to experience Christ at camp. We were also pleased to see a growth in our Camper in Leadership Training (CILT) program.

This program gives youth campers hands-on leadership opportunities with younger campers throughout the summer. Innabah’s 2009 summer camping season featured some new additions to our site. The new nine-hole Frisbee golf course that was built and paid for by the Langhorne UMC. Youth quickly became a highlight for many of our campers throughout the summer. Our largest and much needed addition is a brand new bath house on Sky Hill, which was paid for by several donors and built by volunteers and the Innabah Staff.

We give thanks to our friends at First UMC Lansdale, which finished building the last rustic cabin and pavilion in the Otterbein area. We are now able to house 48 people in the outpost! Morrisville UMC came and built our 9th new cabin! Now, all six of the cabins on Orchard Hill are new. Hallelujah! Only three more to go on Sky Hill!

Pocono Plateau

This past summer Jesus knocked on the doors of camper’s hearts at Pocono Plateau Camp.

Here are a few camper comments about their week at camp:

- “I tried my hardest to be a disciple of Jesus.” – Kid’s Camp
- “I re-committed my life to God.” – Youth Camp
- “I connected more to Jesus.” – Jr. High Adventure
- “I grew as a disciple when we learned about the Good Samaritan.” – EcoExplorers
- “Camp rekindled my flame for Christ.” – Youth Music Camp

Campers experienced the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Campers explored a series of biblical stories that represented transforming encounters with Jesus. It was wonderful to watch the Holy Spirit use the volunteers, staff, and the camp environment to minister and bear witness to God’s amazing love, as many lives were touched by God’s grace.

Gretna Glen

Campers were welcomed to Gretna Glen this summer with a warm celebration that shared with them the excitement of this year’s theme—Breakthrough. We incorporated the theme into all the activities with our campers through the week. Each Wednesday we gathered all the campers together for our summer staff to perform R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out for Christ Kingdom) and for an awesome all camp game in the meadow. The week ended with a closing where campers shared camping “Breakthrough” experience through skits and songs. The new personal challenge course was a hit this summer. The new G.A.G.A. game court built by Mission Possible campers during the last week of July continues to be a big hit with retreat and school groups. In our 50th anniversary year, Gretna Glen was blessed with 1560 campers, 178 volunteers, and 40 staff who built relationships with each other and Christ. For that we will be forever thankful.

Carson Simpson Farm

The 2009 camping season at Carson Simpson Farm was a testimony to God’s grace and power. As a camp, we broke through the chains of selfishness and made it all about God. The staff was awesome and stepped in wherever needed. There were over 60 in the Cornerstone Youth Leadership program. New and returning PEACE Ministries groups joined us for overnight and day camp. We gave to others through “CSF Kids Give Back” (this year’s project was Monument Village school supplies), Operation Gloria Del, where the campers leave surprises for our elderly neighbors, and weekly nursing home visits. Specials included a 4th of July parade, CSF Games, Talent Show, Water Carnival, Monkey Business Games, Balloon Man, Dancing with the Staff, our Farewell Carnival, and Praise Celebration. All the crazy themes and dress-up days, along with our silent auction and family night fundraiser, completed a very busy program. We were blessed with the ability to give scholarships to 60 campers thanks to site scholarships and a grant through the Dewees Fund. Finally and most importantly, over 60 kids decided to give their lives to Christ this summer. We have much to praise God about this summer...God is doing a mighty work in the camps of Eastern PA Conference.

NEWLYWEDS

Yadeline Lopez (EPA Conference administrative assistant) married Netnali Ortiz on Saturday, July 18 at Wesley UMC in Bethlehem. The couple met at Latino camp in 2000 at Gretna Glen. Rev. Rene Perez (center), pastor of Lizzie UMC performed the ceremony. At left is the bride’s father, Rev. Angel Lopez, pastor of La Trinidad UMC in Allentown, and at right is her mother, Madeline Gonzalez-Lopez, Benefits Administrator for the EPA Conference.

HONORARY DOCTORATE CONFERRED AT ALBRIGHT COLLEGE

Rev. Frederick Douglas, Jr., Ph.D., pastor of Devereux Memorial UMC, delivered the Baccalaureate Sermon for Albright College’s 150th Commencement on May 24, 2009. During the Graduation Ceremonies, he was conferred with the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree by President of the College, Lex O. McMillan, III, Ph.D. (right), in attendance with Dr. Douglas at the Service and Ceremonies were his wife, Valerie, daughter, Tezrin, and son, Stephen.

EAST DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem was installed as the new superintendent for the East District on September 20 at Huntingdon Valley UMC. Dr. Tatem previously served as director of Urban and Global Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. As part of the installation service, district clergy were anointed by Bishop Peggy Johnson. Photo by: Mark Dennis.
Communications Survey

1. Types of Conference-related information I wish to receive:
   - Inspirational feature stories
   - News about upcoming events
   - Success stories from churches around the Conference
   - News about United Methodism worldwide
   - Obituaries or Appointment announcements
   - Bishop’s reflections
   - Information about resources available to the local church
   - Other:

2. I prefer receiving information via:
   - NEWSpirit newspaper
   - Conference website
   - Conference e-mails
   - Attending a program or meeting
   - Other:

3. The Conference should focus its communication resources:
   - Providing Conference information to church members
   - Providing an online place for interactive exchange of ideas
   - Gathering and sharing success stories from local churches
   - Communication training for local churches (Rethink Church, website development, public relations, crisis communications, etc.)
   - Public/media relations
   - Advertising

4. I read NEWSpirit newspaper: (check one)
   - Frequently
   - Occasionally
   - Rarely
   - Not at all

5. I prefer these pages in NEWSpirit (rate 1-4):
   - Front page
   - 2 and 3 - calendar and bishop’s message
   - 4 and 5 - national and international news
   - 6 to 12 - conference news

6. I would like to receive conference email updates (circle one):
   - Daily
   - Twice a week
   - Once a week

7. High-speed Internet is available in my area (check one):
   - Yes
   - No
   - I don’t know

8. I visit the Conference website (check one):
   - Daily
   - Once a week
   - Once a month
   - A few times a year
   - Never

9. I visit the Conference website for (rate 1-5):
   - Calendar of Events
   - News
   - Forms
   - Ministry resources
   - Other:

10. Having online registration forms, Charge Conference forms and other documents would be:
    - Very helpful
    - Somewhat helpful
    - Not helpful at all

11. Overall, when it comes to general communication within the Conference, I feel in the loop:
    - Always
    - Usually
    - Sometimes
    - Never

12. I recommend improving Conference communications by:

13. I am: □ Male □ Female

14. I am:
   - Caucasian
   - African-American
   - Hispanic/Latino
   - Korean
   - Other:

15. My age is:
   - 17 or under
   - 18 - 34
   - 35 - 44
   - 45 - 54
   - 55 - 64
   - 65 or above

16. My primary language is:
   - English
   - Spanish
   - Korean
   - Other:

17. The average attendance of Sunday worship services at my church is...
    - 1 - 25
    - 26 - 50
    - 51 - 100
    - 101 - 200
    - 201 - 500
    - 501 or more
    - I don’t know the average attendance

18. The primary way in which I currently serve the church is: (Select the one that best describes your role.)
    - Pastor/clergy
    - Church Staff
    - Retired clergy
    - Laity
    - Other:

19. I am involved in church-related activities other than weekend worship:
    - Twice per week or more
    - Once or twice per month
    - Once per week
    - Several times per year

20. Are there any comments you would like to make regarding communication within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference?
November 14, 2009

Open hearts, open minds, open doors.
What if open were a verb?
What if church were something we did 24/7?

Register now for Rethink Church Welcoming Training, presented by United Methodist Communications and sponsored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

National trainers will facilitate the training event:
- Terry Keeling, lay member of Richfield United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Rev. Danette H. Howell, pastor of Weimar Church in Weimar, Texas, and
- Rev. Larry Homitsky, pastor to a cluster of United Methodist churches, rebuilding an urban ministry presence in Pittsburgh, PA (previously Director of Connectional Ministries of the Western PA Conference)

Training will be held at West Chester UMC, West Chester, PA, on Saturday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is $40 per church team. Register now: https://www.123signup.com/event?id=jqmph.

For more information, contact Suzy Keenan, Director of Communications, communications@epaumc.org or 800-828-9093, ext. 227.

Powered by the Holy Spirit, ‘Rethink Church’ serves as a catalyst that moves the denomination, and those we hope to reach, into dialogue -- and ultimately, into transformative, collaborative action.

Bishop’s Midwinter Retreat
for clergy and spouses

Theme: "Lord have mercy!
Loving our enemies and practicing forgiveness,
even in church."

January 12-14, 2010

Keynote Speakers from
Duke Divinity School:
Rev. Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Dean and
Rev. Susan Pendleton Jones, Director of Field Education

Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

Register online: www.epaumc.org
For more information contact: Mrs. Amy Botti
1-800-828-9093, ext. 233 or email at amy.botti@epaumc.org