I

If a story can be told in statistics, here is how you would tell the story of the response of Lancaster’s First United Methodist Church to Hurricanes Katrina and Ike:

Number of mission teams sent in the past four and a half years: 25.
Number of United Methodist churches we know of anywhere that sent more teams than that: 1.
Number of different people who have gone on First Church’s hurricane relief trips: 200.
Number of person-weeks given, considering that some of those 200 people went more than once: 300.
Number of times Senior Pastor Kent Kroehler went: 1.
Number of times Karen Bender went: NEW Spirit!

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

**Volume 10 Number 3**

**June 2010**

**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ**

**Chaplain sets sights on winning Afghanistan**

BY SUZY KEENAN

*This week has been very painful. A week full of high tension moments. We have been under constant direct and indirect attacks in the compounds just miles away from ours. Sadly we lost 6 more soldiers in our area, two of them members of one of our driving teams. Attending their memorial service was a moment full in reflection, thinking, and evaluation of our own commitments to what we are doing around here.* This is one of Chaplain Nicolas Camacho’s reflections from Kabul, Afghanistan, where he serves as chaplain of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade of the U.S. Army. Now in his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, his primary focus is serving the 34 soldiers of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade stationed all around Afghanistan. But this is just where his ministry begins. CH (LTC) Camacho had already served almost ten years as a U.S. Army chaplain when the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks hit. He immediately volunteered for Operation Enduring Freedom and was sent with the 528th Battalion to the frontiers of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

In this new tour of duty with the Civil Affairs brigade, Camacho has been making a difference in the world through his concept of Operation Winning Afghanistan (OWA). Its three main goals are to build cohesion between Afghans and coalition forces, enhance the partnership between the people of Afghanistan with U.S. and Coalition troops in charitable efforts, and to provide an opportunity for volunteers to make a difference in the Afghan community.

“We began our first charitable mission by bringing school supplies to a local girls’ school,” Rev. Camacho explained. “The experience of seeing hundreds of kids embracing with so much affection a simple pencil and bringing unto their faces a smile of gratitude was well recorded in my mind and heart. After that moment I knew and understood that I would not be the same.”

The Operation Winning Afghanistan charitable effort now extends to ten local missions, including five orphanages, two day care centers, the Afghan National Army Hospital, a School for Girls and Boys with more than 3,200 students, the building of a mosque, and the Kabul Children Hospital.

This concept came about after Rev. Camacho attended Counterinsurgency training in March 2010, where he learned, “why as soldiers we must risk our lives to protect the population, relate to them on a one on one basis, and build a trust through the understanding, awareness and acceptance of their culture. We learned that we will not be able to win based on the number of Taliban we kill, but rather in our ability to separate insurgents from the center of gravity which draws the people. This means for us that we must learn to respect and protect the population from violence and from being coerced. It also means that we need to operate in a manner which will win their support.”

Through Operation Winning Afghanistan, CH Camacho has met different local Afghan leaders, including one who is today a good friend, COL Sediqullah Saberi, Garrison Commander for the

**Storm of Hope**

BY ANDREA BROWN

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- Number of times Karen Bender went: NEW Spirit!

In May 2010, First UMC volunteers worked with Violet Church of God in Violet, LA (outside New Orleans), installing insulation, sheetrock and beginning mudding and taping. Rev. James Hunter and the congregation have been working for nearly five years to get their church back.
June

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23-THURSDAY, JULY 1
Summer Collegium for Clergy Renewal: The theme of the Summer Collegium this year is Leadership in the Small Congregation. Our keynote speaker will be Alice Mann, a prolific writer on congregational ministry, and John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland will join our worship team for the conference. For information email summercollegium@vts.edu.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25
Nets and Vets Golf Outing: What church has the best golfers? Maybe yours! Please go to www.netsandvets.com for the details. You will find the registration form there. For further information about this event or other United Methodist Men’s programs, contact Ross Brightwell 215/643-1269 or rossbrightwell@verizon.net.

July

FRIDAY, JULY 2 - SATURDAY, JULY 3
Post-Edinburgh Conference on Interfaith Relations: Sponsored by the South Asian National Caucus for the United Methodists. Cost of Registration: $50, includes: 1 Lunch and 2 Dinners. Housing: Spartan accommodation provided for free at the Church. Information: Rev. Timothy Rathod, Revtimothyrathod@yahoo.com, 847-475-0601 (O).

Saturday, July 10

UM Night at the Phillies: The baseball season has begun and with it a wonderful opportunity for members of your congregation to strengthen fellowship between each other. Saturday, July 10, 2010 is going to be United Methodist Night at the Philadelphia Phillies! More information: Ross Brightwell, rossbrightwell@verizon.net.

Saturday, July 17

Cruise Down the Delaware: Tindley Temple UMC (750-762 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19146) will host a tribute to the music of Dr. Charles A. Tindley aboard the 762 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19146) will host a tribute to the music of Dr. Charles A. Tindley aboard the Cruise Down the Delaware:

Complimentary refreshments are provided before the concert. Seating will be provided, but feel free to bring your own chair. If raining, the concerts will be held in Freeman Auditorium (second floor of the Community Center). www.conwanorman.org.

August

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010
CCYM Mission Blitz: All middle school youth are invited to participate. Information: Georgette Hall-Peterson, ghpeterson@comcast.net.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6-SUNDAY, AUGUST 8
27th Annual Laity Academy: Sheraton Bucks County, Langhorne, PA. Information, contact Brenda Tildon at brendatildon@aol.com.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9-WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11
Healing the Wounds of Racism Training: Location: Daylesford Abbey, 220 South Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301. For more information visit www.epaumc.org/ministry/healingwoundsofracism.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9
CCYM Mission Focused Trip: Join CCYM for a visit to the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City. Also on the agenda are tours of Historic Riverside Church and St. Mark’s in Harlem. Information, contact Georgette Hall-Peterson, ghpeterson@comcast.net.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13-SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
Healing the Wounds of Racism Training - Level II: Daylesford Abbey, 220 South Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301. For more information visit www.epaumc.org/ministry/healingwoundsofracism.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Pearl (Pike) Griffiths
Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Pearl (Pike) Griffiths, 96, who passed away on Saturday March 27, 2010, at Manor Care, Pottstown. She was the widow of the late Rev. Maris H. Griffiths.

Rev. Griffiths was a supply minister who served Boyertown: Ebenezer, Evansburg (for 18 years) and Temple Methodist Churches (1963-1966). He passed away in 1966 at the age of 55. Mrs. Griffiths was a member of Temple United Methodist Church, Pottstown, and taught Sunday School for 30 years, and served as president of the United Methodist Women of West Chester District for eight years. She is survived by her son Bruce D. Griffiths, 292 Maugers Mill Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464. She was preceded in death by sons, Gordon, Richard, & Robert, and grandson, Michael Griffiths. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent in Mrs. Griffiths name to Temple UMC, 1390 Unionville Rd., Pottstown, PA 19465 or The American Heart Association, 1617 JFK Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Mrs. Marion Hunter
Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Marion Hunter, surviving spouse of the Rev. Norman Hunter, Associate Member of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, on April 14, 2010. Rev. Hunter served South Media and Willistown. He retired in June 1971 and passed away in 1999. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Hunter’s niece: Joyce Gobrecht, 5522 Willow Way, Orefield, PA 18069.

Rev. Herman L. Kuster
Word has been received of the death of Rev. Herman L. Kuster, retired full member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, on March 24, 2010. He served these appointments: Larelton and Millmont, Dover Plains and Wingdale, Beacon, Trinity, Bala Cynwyd; Bethlehem: Fritz; Norristown: Haws Avenue; Lima; Frackville: First; St. Clair-Wade. His Charge Conference was at Lancaster: First. He is survived by his wife, Joanne, and children, Jack, Lynn, Kristin, and Darla. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Joanne S. Kuster, 615 Foster Road, Dalton, GA 30720. Memorial contributions may be sent to First UMC, 500 S. Thornton Avenue, Dalton, GA 30720.

Rev. Farai David Muzorewa
Word has been received of the death of The Rev. Farai David Muzorewa, pastor of Somerton UMC, on the evening of Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Rev. Muzorewa served the following appointments: Wesley in Reading and Fritz in Bethlehem. He retired in 2004, and served Eddystone; First in Mahanoy City; and Somerton. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Angelina Tai Tsu Muzorewa, one daughter and three sons: Tapina David, Sarudzai Esther, Anesu Daniel, Tarembedzwa Joseph. He is survived by his brother, Rev. Dr.Gwinyai Muzorewa, pastor of New London UMC in the southeast District, who is a professor at Lincoln University. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Angelina Muzorewa, 13073 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19116.

NEW Spirit!

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

Bishop Peggy Johnson - Philadelphia Area Bishop
Suzy Keenan - Director of Communications
Sarah Young - Graphic Design and Layout

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Fear is everywhere. We see it on the national scene with the way politics have become meaner and even violent as protestors clash on the streets. We see it in the faces of earthquake victims and people stranded in airports in Europe due to the recent volcanoes in Iceland. We see it in our churches where there are dwindling numbers and rising costs. At a Town Hall meeting recently some people told me they came because they feared that their church was going to be closed. We experience fear personally with health issues, family relationships, strife and financial shortcomings.

It’s been said that fear is “false evidence appearing real” (an acronym for F. E. A. R.) and indeed, much of what we fear, is exaggerated in our mind by the emotions of the anticipated calamity. It’s been said that 75% of all the things we fear never happen and 10% of it is not nearly as bad as we expected it would be. However, some things we fear are real and serious. Getting a diagnosis of cancer and seeing the spot on the X-ray film is hardly an imaginary monster under the bed.

Our faith teaches us that we can experience a difficult ordeal without fear. I John says that “perfect love casts out fear.” (I John 4:18) We have the resources of God at hand that we are not fully taking to heart when we live in fear. As the hymn writer says “Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.” (“What a Friend we Have in Jesus”) That is good advice. The thing that the gospels record that Christ said more than anything else is: “Fear not!” It can be found 52 times, one time for every week of the year. The presence of Jesus can relieve our fear and show us the way forward. The more perfected our love, the more we trust and the less we fear. It is a journey of Christian perfection as we travel with Christ.

Steve Bradbury in a recent edition of “Encounter with God” (Scripture Union) describes the world of the Apostle John, who was exiled on the Island of Patmos for preaching the Gospel. “The power of the earthly emperor who demanded their worship must have seemed far more real than the power of Jesus, who had not met their expectation of returning in triumph. Wherever we are, no matter how crushing our circumstances, there are wonderfully liberating truths that we can grasp in faith. There is only one God who loves us and has freed us from our sins, whose Kingdom is already under way among the ordinary and even fearful people who serve him, who holds the keys to eternity, and who holds us securely. It is this all-powerful, all-loving God who says to us ‘do not be afraid.’” (Revelation 1:17)

The powerful Roman government has been gone for centuries. The seemingly weak church of the first century still lives on today. That is because of this powerful, curiously amazing God who serves, who works through our weakness and makes a way in the midst of our fearful circumstances to bring about God’s ultimate kingdom.

Look at your fears in light of the whole picture of God’s final kingdom and the sure promise of eternal life and the fear of our times are mere brush fires by comparison. I Peter 1:4-7 reminds us that our “ultimate inheritance is imperishable, undefiled and kept in heaven for us as we are being protected by the power of God through faith. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold, though perishable, is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

So fear not! Christ is with you! Hold on to the God’s eternal truths as you experience troubles and fears in this life. Trust God to see you through. And to our churches, who are experiencing fear due to low membership and resources, I say “Look up!” Pray for a vision for new ways to reach out to the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Turn your fears into positive energy around new mission and ministry through the power of God!

A Word from the Bishop

What are you afraid of?

The saga of the BP Oil spill continues to wear on with a continual gush of bad news as big as the 210,000 gallons of oil that daily soil the once-clean waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Our dependency on oil as an energy source, the grief over lives lost during this tragedy, the specter of the environmental disaster that this is causing is almost impossible to comprehend. This incident casts the eyes of the world on this substance known as oil.

Oil is a very powerful and essential commodity, not only in our time but throughout the history of the people of faith. The Bible has thousands of references to oil for a variety of purposes. It is a food, a cosmetic, an illuminant, a medicine, a form of currency, and a commodity used in religious services and burials. It is also used as a figure of speech such as “the oil of gladness” (Psalm 45:7) and as a symbol of prosperity.

Oil is most notable as a sign of the Holy Spirit. Throughout Scripture we read about many people being anointed. Prophets were anointed to proclaim God’s Word. Kings were anointed to rule God’s people. Priests were anointed to conduct worship and offer the sacrifices on behalf of the people. The sick were anointed for healing and even objects, such as the tabernacle and altars, were anointed with oil to symbolize their holy (set apart) nature.

Jesus spoke of his anointing for ministry when he addressed the people in the synagogue in Nazareth. He opened the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Still today the Holy Spirit is about the business of anointing people for ministry so that we might be equipped and energized to do the work. God’s Spirit gives gifts (skills and abilities), enables us to discern the truth and helps us witness about Christ. If you are a Christian, you are anointed for a ministry. It is not reserved only for clergy or missionaries. Claim your special ministry for God. You were put here for a purpose, not just to get through the day, eat dinner, watch TV and go to bed at night. You are a holy priesthood, set aside for the work of Christ. What is the work that you should be doing for the Lord?

Brenda Moland is a member of a United Methodist Women’s local unit in Utah and works as a travel agent. She found out through a UMW study about the evils of human trafficking. There are 27 million people held captive in this world who are being sold for sex and slave labor. Some of the victims are as young as 9 years old. Brenda got busy and she now teaches a wide range of classes in Utah promoting awareness. She has developed a tourism ethics code and is on that front line assisting people to escape from the commercial sex industry. Brenda is a regular person who comes to church on Sunday, but the oil of God’s anointing spurred her into this vitally important advocacy work.

Perhaps God may be calling you to do something about the oil spill in the Gulf. Check out www.umc-gbcs.org and pull up “Gulf Coast Resources for Prayer and Action.” There is much that we can do to help. Pray for God to show you what you should be doing in ministry and mission. God will surely answer this prayer but expect it to be something that you, in your own strength, could not possibly accomplish. The Holy Spirit will empower you and give you all that you need to accomplish what looks like an impossible task.

Remember the words of Psalm 23:5b “You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.” Remember the words of Christ: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Oil: Anointed for Ministry

BY BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON

The power of God’s final kingdom and the sure promise of eternal life and the fear of our times are mere brush fires by comparison. I Peter 1:4-7 reminds us that our “ultimate inheritance is imperishable, undefiled and kept in heaven for us as we are being protected by the power of God through faith. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold, though perishable, is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

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### Appointments

**BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2010, EXCEPT AS NOTED:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From/Affiliation</th>
<th>To/Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Hoffman</td>
<td>Effort UMC (Associate)</td>
<td>Woodland Hills United Methodist Church (Interim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Hebden</td>
<td>Otterbein UMC in Mont Clare</td>
<td>St. Paul’s UMC in Drums (Effective June 1, 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyone Kale Yu</td>
<td>St. Peter’s UMC in Saylorsburg</td>
<td>Extension Ministry (Effective March 1, 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gadkunst</td>
<td>Leola UMC</td>
<td>UMC in Norristown (Effective March 1, 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Sheely</td>
<td>Manheim: Salem UMC (Associate)</td>
<td>Akron: Mt. Zion UMC (Part-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christiane McLaughlin</td>
<td>Firstview UMC (Associate)</td>
<td>Devereux Memorial UMC (Effective March 1, 2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Barley</td>
<td>Part-time pastor of Boehm’s UMC</td>
<td>Part-time pastor of First UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hun Ju Lee</td>
<td>First Korean UMC of Philadelphia</td>
<td>Lynx UMC (Interim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy M. Field</td>
<td>Crozerville UMC</td>
<td>Crozerville UMC (Part-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Alleman</td>
<td>Oak Grove UMC</td>
<td>Zion UMC (Retired)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Bach</td>
<td>Yoked charge of Phila.</td>
<td>Montgomery UMC (Retired)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny networked</td>
<td>Contacted churches, organizations, and government</td>
<td>Continued on page 11</td>
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**Making a home for the homeless on cold winter nights**

When winter temperatures dropped below freezing, Bucks County, unlike surrounding counties, did not have a shelter to protect homeless persons on these cold nights. So, Penny Murphy, a Christ Servant Minister and Stephen Minister at Emily UMC, decided to change that. She initiated a team effort to contact area churches and local organizations to see what could be done by the faith community to meet the need.

What Penny found was that several churches were already providing short-term housing and hospitality to the homeless through Interfaith Housing Network, and some were providing hot meals, but there was nowhere to go when the wind chill dropped below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature which the Health Department calls "Code Blue."

Penny networked, contacting local churches, organizations, and government offices. Bucks County Commissioner Diane Bainsen took a proposal to form Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN), was ready to begin a month later, opening on the weekend of December 18, 2009, when the first major snowfall of this very cold and snowy winter arrived. Penny continues as Program Coordinator.

“We just watched God do this,” said Sandy Mullican, a Red Cross Disaster Relief volunteer and member of Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. She was speaking of how it all came together in six short weeks. Sandy had just completed instruction of approximately 60 Code Blue volunteers, using an American Red Cross manual modified for the purpose by Bill Burns of the Red Cross Homeless Shelter in Levittown.

For homeless persons in tent encampments, people who have lost their homes in the economic downturn, those who have fled abuse, and others AHTN in setting up a similar program in another eastern portion of the county, for whom the county shelter in Norristown is too distant. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church houses the shelter, which arose from a discernment process as the congregation sought to identify new ministries needed in their community. In Lansdale, while the shelter is housed at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, in addition to Trinity’s members, volunteers and support have come from the following congregations: St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Limerick; Trinity Evangeline Lutheran Church, Perkasie; First UMC, Quakertown; and Society of Friends congregations are also involved. United Methodist Churches involved include Emile, Fallowfield Hills, Falls Church First, Langhorne, and Christ United Methodist Church of America and Society of Friends congregations are also involved.

As more Bucks County churches became involved, spin-off ministries have emerged, including a “Rejuvenation Station” on Wednesdays, where guests could enjoy a light lunch and take a shower. AHTN intends to advocate for affordable housing in the area, and address the root causes of homelessness. United Methodists have applied for Community of Shalom status, and for an Advance number for the ministry. Similarly, in Montgomery County, a Code Blue Shelter sprang up in Lansdale to serve those in need in the eastern portion of the county, for whom the county shelter in Norristown is too distant. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church houses the shelter, which arose from a discernment process as the congregation sought to identify new ministries needed in their community. In Lansdale, while the shelter is housed at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, in addition to Trinity’s members, volunteers and support have come from the following congregations: St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Perkasie; First UMC, Lansdale; Lansdale UMC; Chestnut Hill UMC; Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, North Wales; and Pleasantville United Church of Christ.

A true community has grown up in and around the shelters. As volunteers and guests shared time, life stories, food and companionship, lives have been transformed and friendships forged that transcend the roles of “helpers” and “those in need of help.” Jan Adkins, Lay Leader at Fallsington United Methodist Church, said “One of our guests asked me if I feared God. I told him that I trust God. He said, ‘Trust God. I like that.’”

Currently AHTN has about 250 registered volunteers, including some who learned about the program as guests. Jan Adkins created AHTN’s website: www.advocates4homeless.org. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or would like assistance from AHTN in setting up a similar program in another part of Bucks County, please contact Penny Martin, Program Coordinator, at advocates4homeless@gmail.com or call 215-550-3680.

Further information about volunteering at the Montgomery County shelter, contact Deacon Rebecca Kolow at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 215-368-1710, ext. 256, or Terri Gillespie at 215-740-6429.

BY LYNN JAEGER

LYNN JAEGER AND HER HUSBAND, CARY, are the East District Disaster Response Ministry Coordinators.
United Methodist Seminary in Congo needs support and prayer

Katanga Methodist University in the Mulungwishi Mission Station, Katanga Provence, Democratic Republic of the Congo, is the oldest United Methodist school for the training of pastors and others leaders on the continent of Africa, and was founded by missionaries Woody Bartlett in 1951. It is served by United Methodist Missionaries David and Lorene Persons. Pictured are seminary graduates and faculty.

BY JIM HOLTON

As United Methodists, no matter where we go, we are connected to other United Methodists and we know if we need help, they will help us. This has been so since John Wesley. For over 90 years the land at Mulungwishi Mission Station in the DR of the Congo has been the training ground for United Methodist pastors and other local church leaders, their spouses and children. Currently it contains six schools for all age levels, including Katanga Methodist University, the oldest UM Seminary on the African continent (nearly 60 years) and other United Methodist support functions. It needs our help and prayers.

We may lose this land due to a local property law that requires renewal of land titles every twenty-five years, which process has been overlooked by both local UM people and the government for over 50 years. To correct this, Mulungwishi’s land needs to be surveyed and its title renewed or abandoned. Abandoned land can be re-titled to another. Due to government and UM people changes, title renewals were not done in 1959 (Belgian Congo), 1984 (Zaire), and 2009 (DR Congo). Since the time span is so long, a new survey is needed and renewal fees also include current fees and penalties.

This area of the Katanga Provence in Democratic Republic of the Congo has extensive mineral deposits. Already small freelance pit miners take these deposits from the property. If the Mulungwishi land title were lost, a large mining concern could start a large pit mine that could destroy the mission station. Devastation of this kind has happened to people and towns in areas in this county when strip mining occurred.

Why is Mulungwishi important? Think of what our American United Methodist education facilities do for our churches, our conferences and our leaders. They provide pastors and leaders with good Christian education to effectively help the rest of us learn more about God through Christ. What would happen if some of these facilities were lost? If lost, we do not mean closing a department or school at a university, but the university is closed, bulldozed and its land is sold for other purposes. The seminary at Mulungwishi provides theological education for pastors called to support one of our world’s fastest growing areas for Christ. The Women’s School serves the pastor’s wives allowing them to also support Christ’s Call. To learn more about what goes on at Mulungwishi mission station, see its blog: http://umccongo.blogspot.com/. Additional pictures are at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/umccongo.

JIM HOLTON IS A CHRIST SERVANT MINISTER and a member of West Chester UMC.

Remembering Veterans

Evangelical UMC in New Holland, PA reached out to the community by sponsoring Memorial Day services and prayers which included (left to right) District Superintendent Jim Todd, Bishop Peggy Johnson, Pastor Eric Ritz, and Mr. Wilbur Horning, mayor of New Holland.

On Memorial Day, May 31, 2010, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Philadelphia Area participated in remembrances for those who died in military service to our country. She traveled to Evangelical United Methodist Church in New Holland, Lancaster County, on the Southwest District. While there, she offered prayers at a ceremony in the graveyard of the Evangelical UMC, and prior to the service, met privately with parents of a young man who was killed in the line of duty ten years ago who are members of Evangelical UMC. After participating in a similar service in another church cemetery, she walked with veterans and current members of the armed services to the community park in New Holland where a closing ceremony was held with prayers by the Bishop and words from both a retired serviceman and an aspiring serviceman (a member of West Lawn UMC near Reading) who will be in a college ROTC program in the fall.

Participating with Bishop Johnson in the Memorial Day remembrances were the Bishop’s husband, the Rev. Michael Johnson, the Rev. Eric Ritz, pastor of Evangelical UMC, Mr. Wilbur Horning, Mayor of New Holland and Finance Chair of Evangelical UMC, and District Superintendent Jim Todd of the Southwest District.

Bishop Peggy Johnson walks with veterans and current members of the armed services to the community park in New Holland, PA for closing Memorial Day services.
With a theme of “Leading Beyond the Walls,” the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference met May 20-22, 2010 at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, PA. Nearly 1,000 clergy and lay delegates attended, representing the conference's 463 churches. The morning of Thursday, May 20 began with Clergy and Laity Sessions. The Laity began with the election of Dr. Mary White to a second four-year term as Conference Lay Leader. Members from the Southeast District led worship, and district lay leaders led presentations on the United Methodist Four Areas of Focus.

Opening Worship began with a procession and music by “The Well” praise team of West Lawn United Methodist Church. Bishop Peggy Johnson welcomed Bishop B. Penrose Hoover, bishop of the Lower Susquehanna area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Johnson preached, “When we re-member Jesus we think about all of the parts of the body. All the world is called into union with Christ through this act of death. Yet all of the parts of the body are not equally welcome. Some parts are not welcome into union with Christ through this act of death. But all of the parts of the body are remembered in a Memorial Service on the afternoon of Friday, May 21. Arthur F. Kulah, bishop of the Nigeria Area of The United Methodist Church, offered words of witness to the lives and service in remembrance of the deceased. Family members, as well as superintendents and district lay members, lit candles for each remembered person as the names were read, while the bell tolled from Mother African Zoar UMC as the remembrance began.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of United Methodist Church honored nineteen retiring pastors – marking 540 years of ministry - at the Retiree Service on the evening of Friday, May 21. The Rev. Dan C. Prentice, as Bishop Peggy Johnson invited the ordained and commissioned for ministry to come forward and asked if they would be willing to be ordained or commissioned. Bishop Johnson welcomed the retirees as a symbolic transfer of ministry from the retirees to the new ordinands. As a symbolic transfer of ministry from the retirees to the new ordinands, Bishop Johnson implored all to proclaim God’s love, to share material blessings, to self examine for sin, and to forgive and to come to the communion table.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, was the Annual Conference keynote speaker. His presentations focused on Effective Church Leadership, Ideas for Preaching and Worship, and Strategies for Reaching the Unchurched. In his second session, on preaching, Hamilton spoke on the results of a study in which many people indicated that they do not find fulfillment during a worship service, and did not expect to. He invited preachers to think about worship as a “Soul Food Cafe.”

Deceased bishops, clergy, spouses, widows and laity were remembered in a Memorial Service on the afternoon of Friday, May 21. Arthur F. Kulah, bishop of the Nigeria Area of The United Methodist Church, offered words of witness to the lives and service in remembrance of the deceased. Family members, as well as superintendents and district lay members, lit candles for each remembered person as the names were read, while the bell tolled from Mother African Zoar UMC as the remembrance began.

2010 Annual Conference: Leading Beyond the Walls

Top left: Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas was the keynote speaker. Above: Bishop Arthur Kulah preached for the Memorial Service. Left: Rev. Richard Connor, retiree, “yoked” ordain for Elders Orders and seven were commissioned for Deacons Orders and another were recognized. One person as the names were read, while the bell tolled from Mother African Zoar UMC as the remembrance began.
Leading Beyond the Walls

While the bell was rung in the service of Ordination, a total of one hundred persons were ordained. The service began with the retiring and ordaining of the Nineteen retiring pastors, including Rev. Richard Conner “yoked” Rev. Wendy Orzolek ministry from the retirees to the new ordinands, pastors. As a symbolic transfer of the mantle of leadership, Bishop Peggy Johnson invited those to be ordained to come forward and asked them the Historic Oath of Membership with Orders as Elder: Quentin Wallace. Commissioned to perform the ministry of the Deacon: Benjamin Dale Caldwell. Commissioned to perform the ministry of the Elder: Victoria Lynne Allen, Robert Amundsen, Amy Elizabeth Banka, Hannah Adair Bonner, Johnson Dodla, Candy LaBar, Michael S. Remel. Concurrent with Annual Conference, a youth rally called The Big Event drew a diverse crowd of youth from across the conference to First UMC in Lancaster. Top on the bill was preaching by Pastor Shawn McBride and music by Christian rock group, Saline. The three offerings at Annual Conference raised funds for these important ministries: the Children of Africa —— $5,679.18; Scholarships for Undergraduate and Seminary Students —— $4,021.36; and the Central Conference Pension Initiative —— $3,620.50. All three of Rev. Hamilton’s presentations — as well as the entire annual conference — were videostreamed online, watched by over 900 persons, therefore including many persons who were unable to attend. Interpretation in American Sign Language, assistive listening devices, and on-screen transcription of the spoken word were offered for Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. A big screen reader made written materials available to persons with visual disabilities. For the first time, up-to-the-minute news was posted throughout the conference on both Facebook and Twitter (#epaumc).

In addition, the Eastern Pennsylvania Renewal Fellowship led a prayer walk around the conference rooms prior to Annual Conference. The Order of St. Luke held morning communion and the Prayer Room, which was open throughout the day. The Methodist Federation for Social Action held a dinner at Paul’s United Methodist Church with a presentation from Peeter Pedemonti on The New Sanctuary Movement and immigration issues. Rev. Clair Wagner led tours of the city of Lancaster on Friday afternoon. In addition to a health fair, the Office of Pensions and Health Benefits offered consultations with Josie Martinez, Conference Liaison from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Camping was one of the most popular exhibits in the Vendor area, featuring the making of “smores” over a small flame. In business: Deborah Denzel, student ambassador, thanked the Annual Conference for its support of the Black College Panel, one of the denomination’s seven appointed funds. The Rev. Dr. Christoph Kurien presented the District Superintendents’ Report, giving thanks for Bishop Johnson and conference leadership, and noting the superintendents’ role in leadership development and strengthening the ministry of conference churches. In her Laity Address, Dr. Mary White, Conference Lay Leader, asked if we believed that we are a denomination in decline or, “do we believe that God is alive, active and at work in our world? Do we expect God to do great things among us?”

SUZY KEENAN IS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church: communications@epaumc.org. Photos by Jim Mundell, John Shannon, and Suzy Keenan.
Resolutions

Resolution #2010-14: Relating to Salary/Benefits Recommendations for 2011 - voluntarily removed from the Consent Calendar. Consent Calendar: Approved (Consent Calendar included 2010 Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Resolution #2010 – 1: Resolution to designate Bensalem United Methodist Church as a Historic Site of The United Methodist Church

Resolution #2010 – 2: Resolution to designate Bethel Hill UMC as a Historic Site

Resolution #2010 – 3: Resolution to designate St James/Solid Rock UMC, Philadelphia as a Historic Site

Resolution #2010 – 4: Resolution Encouraging the Support and Use of the Eastern PA Conference Camp and Retreat Centers

Resolution #2010 – 5: Resolution Related to Transformation


Resolution #2010 – 9: Relating to Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons

Resolution #2010 – 10: Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for the Year 2011

Resolution #2010 – 11: Resolution Pertaining to Gambling as a Moral Issue, Urging repeal of PA Gambling Laws: Abstaining from Gambling

Resolution #2010 – 12: Resolution urging removal of housing barriers for people with disabilities and advocating non-toxic, safe, affordable, accessible housing

Resolution #2010 – 5: Relating to Amendment of the Policy: Safe Sanctuaries, Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church – Motion to refer and bring back to the Annual Conference was approved.

Resolution #2010 – 8: On the Updating of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Eastern PA Conference Education Society of The United Methodist Church – resolution approved.

Resolution #2010 – 13: Pertaining to the Establishment of a Consumer Driven Health Care Plan for the Year 2011 – resolution approved. The proposed plan will be brought to the Fall Session, November 13.


Resolution #2010 – 15: Concerning the United Methodist Foundation - resolution approved.

Resolution #2010 – 16: Relating to the Eastern PA Conference Safe Sanctuaries - resolution not approved.

New Resolution presented on the floor of Annual Conference: A Call to Action for Immigration Reform - A motion to suspend the Rules of Order (required in order to vote on the resolution) was approved on the third vote (requiring a two-thirds approval in favor of suspension of the Rules) and the resolution was approved. Bishop Peggy Johnson commended the "therefore" section of the resolution, and recommended that churches show hospitality to immigrants.

Storm of Hope

“Everyone would have laughed,” Bender says. And yet, that is exactly what people have given, right in the midst of a multi-year, multi-million-dollar capital campaign.

In fact, the extra, unexpected investment of time and talent and resources seems to have only added to First Church’s ability to raise funds and expand ministry and mission.

Think about it: “You’ve got 200 people getting hands-on experience of giving themselves away,” Kroehler notes. “They come back transformed.”

The pastors have also built relationships as 20 year olds and 73 year olds work and sweat right beside each other. “This is all about bonding with people,” Kroehler says.

Because First Church is a primarily white and fairly affluent church that was serving in a city that is largely black and heavily impacted by poverty, the trips have brought about bonding across race and class lines, she notes. “Our partnerships with people . . . crossed borders of history and pain,” Kroehler notes. “It really was a work of the Spirit.”

Bender recalls the first time her team was invited to work in the hard-hit Lower Ninth Ward. They did not enter the neighborhood without trepidation. But they were moved to help a pastor and his extended family—all of whom had lost their homes. They were living in FEMA trailers. Five days before the storm hit, Pastor Raymond had settled on the new church building they had just purchased. It was wiped out after the levees broke.

Working side by side with this family over several trips, Bender says, they rebuilt each house and developed strong bonds. The pastor has come to First Church to preach. And every time a team goes to the area now, no matter where the volunteers are working in FEMA trailers, they worship with that reborn church every Friday night.

The mission also led First to cross denominational lines, setting up work with the non-denominational Adventures in Mission and with Mennonite Disaster Service as well as with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. One trip, after Hurricane Ike, took them to Galveston, Texas. The most recent trip resulted from connections First Church itself had made directly with New Orleanians. Members of four other Lancaster churches were on the team.

“They thought when they got to 25 trips they’d stop. But now, they are saying, who knows?” “It feels like we’re at another moment of prayer and discernment,” Bender says.

She is constantly moved by New Orleans’ resilient people—by the way they’ve lifted each other. “Neighbors help neighbors. The people I have met are so thankful, so gracious.”

The work has been hard and sometimes even dangerous. In the early days, volunteers had to wear masks and Tyvek suits to cope with fungus and mold in the waterlogged properties. The very first house the teams worked on burnt down after they rebuilt it, when a neighbor, trying to be helpful, hooked up electricity too soon. It was heartbreaking for the homeowner and the mission team, but it didn’t dissuade them. They started over again.

“I’ve learned so much about truly relying on faith,” Bender says. “There aren’t even words—not enough or too many.”

Worshipping at Pastor Raymond’s predominantly African-American church on this most recent trip, she says, she was overcome by a sense of glimpsing heaven. “I had goosebumps even thinking about it.”

“It was black and white, men and women, young and old, rich and poor,” all loudly praising God together.

“Thus,” she thought, “is exactly what God intends.”

THE REV. ANDREA BROWN IS ASSOCIATE PASTOR of Grandview United Methodist Church.

Painting the Fellowship Hall building of Eagle’s Wings Church of God in the Lower Ninth Ward, First UMC volunteers began with the gutting phase and assisted with the entire rebuild of this abandoned building, now a community and ministry outreach center.

- Larry Herr—the two lay people with the initial vision for the mission—have gone: 24.
- Amount nearly every person who went paid from their own pockets so that they could go and serve: $350-$1,000.
- Number of people with new homes and new churches: Hundreds.
- Number of connections made and lives changed: Countless.

The thing that sticks with Karen Bender about her first trip to New Orleans following Katrina was the sound. “What I’ll never forget is how deceptively quiet it was,” she says. There were no birds. There was no traffic. There were hardly any people.

When she got back to Lancaster and developed her pictures, it looked like she had been shooting in black and white, though she hadn’t. The vibrant colors of this great American city were washed out when the levees broke.

“It was mile after mile after mile of devastation, That’s what people don’t realize,” Bender says. There was no way, in the confines of a television screen, to reveal the scope of the disaster. “I don’t even get it is it?”

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Making disciples through radio programming

BY REV. DR. IRVING COTTO

As part of the office of congregational development, Dr. Irving Cotto recently started a new Spanish speaking radio program called, “La sala de la alegría” (The Living Room of Joy). The program is aired every Monday from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. through WNWR 1540 AM (NEW WORLD RADIO in Philadelphia).

The focus of the program is the ministry of the United Methodist Latino congregations of our Annual Conference. Each week one of the Latino churches or ministry will be highlighted through an interview with the pastor or a key leader.

The thrust of the program is evangelism inviting listeners to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The funding comes from the Latino Commission budget for the next six months. After that period the Commission will re-assess the importance and cost of this new ministry. Praise God for the power of the media to communicate the love of God and the ministry of our Church.

Chaplain sets sights

Continued from page 1

Afghan National Army Training Center, Kabul. Rev. Camacho explains, “Thanks to his support, I have been able to partner with him and use as secure protection for most of our missions the Afghan Force Protection based in his compound. Today every time I go out with some members of my team of volunteers to the area served by COL Sediquallah, I use his Force Protection and continue strengthening our relationship of trust and friendship.”

In reality, it is not part of CH Camacho’s work to coordinate charitable work with the Afghan people, but rather to serve the religious needs of the soldiers and to advise his commander on anything affecting the welfare of his soldiers.

“However to serve beyond your own described and identified duties is something that God calls you to do,” he says. “I highly appreciate the dimension of social justice that we have in The United Methodist Church. You help others because it is a call that is given birth in your heart and soul. You need to be very conscious of what you are doing, the places you are getting into, the challenges and high risk factors that are involved. There is a high price in Christ our Savior that involves the dimension of serving by and in the grace and compassion of our Lord.”

As a chaplain, he is very aware of the risk factors – not only to his own self, but to every volunteer involved, both soldier and civilian that have volunteered “to help, to bring charity and kindness, hope and joy, a smile where there was sadness and lack of hope.” The missions call for travel from thirty minutes to an hour away through hostile territory. “So when we go out I surrender completely in the merciful presence of God and I pray intensively for each life that offers his/her life to one of my programs. I know what it means to have fear, to be concerned, to think that this could be that day, that moment, to look around and not be able to identify who is who, and where the unexpected could happen. People don’t have an idea of how dangerous it is around here and how intense life is in Afghanistan. This is why I always look to bring a sense of security, safety and calmness into the life of each volunteer.”

CH Camacho is thankful for the United Methodist connection, and support of his ministry from The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. “They have provided spiritual support through their prayers and emailing of supporting materials for our use as chaplains. They also have provided more than 800 free calling cards for soldiers in my brigade which is so essential when in need of calling your family or support group in the USA. GBHEM was also critical in assisting the EPA Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in changing my status from Leave of Absence to Extension Ministry, which is the correct one as per the United Methodist Discipline.”

About CH Camacho, his chaplain assistant says, “CH (LTC) Camacho is well loved and highly admired in our compound and has earned the respect and admiration of local Afghan leaders with whom he has established an open communication and strong relationship.”

For his second tour in Afghanistan, CH (LTC) Camacho will be awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Medal, and the NATO Medal. His tour of duty will end on October 15, 2010, when he will return to Fort Dix in New Jersey. Prior to his assignment in Afghanistan, Rev. Camacho was the pastor of New Journey/Nueva Jornada United Methodist Church in Reading, PA, in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

For more information on supporting the ministry of CH Camacho contact: ncamacho@verizon.net or Nicolas Camacho, USFOR-A (NKO), ATTN: J9, APO, AE 09356.
7th Annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth

Saturday, November 6, 2010
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Hopewell United Methodist Church
Downtown, PA 19335

Featuring Special Guest, Debi Nixon
Debi is the Executive Director of Adult Discipleship and Catalyst Ministry for the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, where she has been a part of Adam Hamilton’s staff for 16 years. She is passionate about church renewal and has written a new curriculum for local churches called CATCH: Connecting and Attracting Visitors and the companion book, Catch a New Life. She will be our keynote speaker and lead a workshop around this new curriculum.

Workshops
Help! I Teach at Church, But I Don’t Know Anything About the Bible

Many of our local church teachers are answering the call to lead various classes and groups such as Sunday School, ALPHA, Disciple, youth groups and more, but they don’t necessarily have the exegetical skills to teach others what the Bible really means. Come and learn how to get the most out of your Bible so you can teach others to do the same.

Led by Rev. Dr. Deborah Appler, Associate Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at Moravian Theological Seminary, and an elder in the EPA Conference.

Transitioning Into Alternative Styles of Worship

Change is hard for local churches today, especially when it comes to worship style. And yet some are doing it remarkably well, and growing! You will see Ricky’s passion for various forms and styles of worship and he will share his learning around preaching, music, laity/clergy involvement, accomplishments, pitfalls and expectations from his transition experience. Led by Jose “Ricky” Ayala, a licensed local pastor in the EPA Conference, currently serving at his learning around preaching, music, laity/clergy involvement, accomplishments, pitfalls and expectations from his transition experience. Led by Jose “Ricky” Ayala, a licensed local pastor in the EPA Conference, currently serving at

Creation: Do We Care?

"Creation care" is more than a trendy cliche in this 21st century; there is also a biblical imperative for us to protect the earth. As disciples of Jesus Christ, are we being the best stewards we can be of God’s good earth? Come and learn what we are called to do and how to develop a creation care effort within your congregation. Led by Beth Norcross, adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary where she teaches, guest-lectures and develops curriculum in eco-theology.

Developing a Culture of Personal Spirituality

In the midst of the clamor, the noise, the distractions of our culture and this world, so many are longing to find ways to ‘go deeper’ with God; to be in intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. It is essential that local churches develop meaningful opportunities to increase followers’ personal spirituality as they strive to satisfy this innate hunger. Led by Vicki Pry, Pastor of Caring Ministries at Hopewell UMC, and a licensed local pastor in the EPA Conference.

www.hopewellumc.com

New mission depot focuses on helping pregnant women in Haiti

Emergency supplies including toys, furniture, books, baby equipment, and appliances, as well as disaster relief kits, are readied for distribution at the new Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, a ministry of Wesley UMC in Bethlehem.

A mission warehouse in south Bethlehem, PA, focused on helping some of the 63,000 women who were pregnant at the time of the earthquake in Haiti, is now one of seventeen depots in four states focused on emergency relief and serving the poor. When the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot (LVOD) held its grand opening on April 24, volunteers assembled Birthing Kits to send to Haiti via the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). A Birthing Kit contains the essential items a woman needs to give birth outside of a health care facility.

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot is a 5,000 square foot warehouse and work center established as a mission project of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem. In addition to assembling the Birthing Kits, the Depot will assemble and distribute Health Kits, School Kits, Cleaning Kits and other disaster relief kits as well as collect donated household items for dissemination to victims of disasters throughout the world.

As it says on the LVOD website: “Our vision is to become the hands and feet of God. Our sole purpose is to receive, store and provide useful goods to those who need help reestablishing their lives or business.”

The Depot will support those going through devastating times due to loss of home or business because of fire, flood, hurricane, earthquake, or other catastrophic occurrences. Those in need may be local (within the greater Lehigh Valley), elsewhere in Pennsylvania, the nation and the world. The LVOD is a hub of Mission Central out of the Central PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. Goods distributed may include household furniture, small appliances, business furniture and equipment and disaster relief kits - Health Kits, cleaning buckets, School Kits, Birthing Kits, etc.

The Grand Opening Celebration offered tours, a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Pastor Bill Lentz, food, fun, and an opportunity to participate in mission. The depot will be open to receive/distribute supplies two days a week - Tuesdays and Saturdays - from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. On those days, volunteers will be asked to help support depot operations as well as assemble disaster relief kits. During periods of increased demand following a major disaster, these days and hours may be expanded to accommodate added volunteers.

The LVOD team is made up of members of Wesley United Methodist Church: Mike Krum and Don Fuller, co-site managers; Carol Totten and Sue Matacavage, volunteer coordinators; Sharon Schultz, treasurer; Bob Totten and Karen Rose, communications coordinators. The team works with Danelle Fowler, Wesley’s Mission Coordinator.

After a search of the Lehigh Valley for possibilities, Wesley Church sent a letter to forty sites asking for the donation of warehouse space. Ed Sinko and Gary Wagner of Rustic Exteriors responded to the vision of LVOD and enthusiastically embraced the ministry by donating 5,000 square feet of their warehouse to launch the ministry.

For further information: www.lvoutreachdepot.org.
Cultivating the rich legacy of older adults

BY SHIRLEY DADDARIO*

West Grove UMC is nestled in the rural countryside of Chester County in the southern-most tip of Pennsylvania. Just a “stone’s throw” from Maryland and Delaware, the town has a population of 13,073. Older adults at West Grove UMC are the history of the church. They formed it to what it is today, from committees within the church to the outreach in the town. Because of the older adults West Grove is known by the entire community for its famous Chicken Barbeques and rummage sales twice a year.

West Grove intentionally reaches out to the growing older adult community because they are God’s children and are not to be forgotten. A good steward reaches out to all generations. Older Adults have a rich legacy of faith, wisdom and experience, which when cultivated, can be shared with the next generation.

The congregation’s efforts to reach out to the older adult community include designing a building that is all one floor and offering large print bulletins at Sunday worship.

West Grove UMC has seven programs under the Older Adult Ministry. Retired Active People (RAP), meets once a month. This is for men and women from the church and from the community who gather together and have lunch, followed by a speaker or an entertainer. Visiting Ministry reaches out not only the shut-ins, but the lonely or the grieving. Grand-God Ministry is intergenerational connecting a person with a family whose child is going to be baptized. They stay in contact with the family through cards and prayers. Our Chaplain Assistant Hudson-Jacoby says, “At West Grove UMC, part of our mission is to equip our community members for God’s work in the world – and we mean members of all ages! Our vibrant Older Adult Ministry is an important part of the way we fulfill our congregation’s vision to Open Hearts to Jesus, Grow in Faith, and Serve Others. Our older adults are both teachers and students in our community, and we are grateful for the way they serve, lead and learn.”

For more information, go to www.westgroveumc.org.

SHIRLEY DADDARIO IS ASSOCIATE PASTOR of West Grove UMC, and is responsible for Older Adult Ministry.

LUMINA lights up inner-city summer

Our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference congregations donated a very generous supply of food and kitchen utensils to LUMINA as one of our Annual Conference mission projects. LUMINA is a ministry with the poor that was created through a partnership of UM churches in the Lancaster area.

Executive director, Sally Wisener Orr says, “On behalf of the persons served through LUMINA, our staff, board and participants would like to express our THANKS to everyone who brought donations of staple food items and kitchen utensils to our recent Annual Conference session. We deeply appreciate your support of our SuperCupboard (nutrition education) program. Your generosity will enable us to continue to offer this vital ministry to low income homemakers in our communities.”

LUMINA continues to reach out to persons in need throughout the summer months. The annual Community Day Camp will be held at Lancaster: St. Paul’s UMC includes a fun field trip, and has a goal of signing up 50 campers and a variety of “light bearers” (volunteers) to assist with Bible study, Prayer, food, games, crafts, a discovery center, transportation and more. Children who regularly participate in Kids’ Night are rewarded with a residence camp experience

Program encourages older adults to visit residents at a local nursing home. Another ministry is a weekly community Bible study. ROMEO (Retired Older Men Eating Out) meets once a month for lunch.

Rev. Jim Mundell is appointed in his retirement to West Grove UMC, and serves as pastor of Jenner’s Pond, a retirement complex, part of Simpson Senior Services. Jim says, “I have the privilege of ministering to people of many faiths. I have found out that no matter what a person’s faith they still need to have someone to aid them and comfort them in time of need. My objective is to be that spiritual presence for all people at Jenner’s Pond in the name of Christ.”

Older Adults can tell the history of our churches as well as the history of our families and our country. Their valuable stories need to be heard and recognized. West Grove’s pastor, Wendy Hudson-Jacoby says, “At West Grove UMC, part of our mission is to equip our community members for God’s work in the world – and we mean members of all ages! Our vibrant Older Adult Ministry is an important part of the way we fulfill our congregation’s vision to Open Hearts to Jesus, Grow in Faith, and Serve Others. Our older adults are both teachers and students in our community, and we are grateful for the way they serve, lead and learn.”

For more information, please visit www.westgroveumc.org.

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Obituaries

Continued from page 2

The Rev. John H Shenk

Word has been received of the death of The Rev. John H. Shenk, 77, a retired Elder on the Northwest District, who passed away on May 5, 2010. Rev. Shenk served the following appointments on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: the former Mount Pisgah in Philadelphia; and Hebron in Lebanon, where he served for 30 years from 1968 until his retirement in 1998. Rev. Shenk is survived by his wife, Ruth, daughter Donna J., spouse of Jon Dunlop, a son Richard, spouse of Lynn Shenk, and two grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Ruth N. Shenk, 1136 Nowlen Street, Lebanon, PA 17042-7236. Memorial Contributions may be made to Hebron United Methodist Church, 5th Avenue and Walnut Street, Lebanon, PA 17042.

Mrs. Eleanor (Mazurek) Weiser

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Eleanor (Mazurek) Weiser, 67, wife of the late James M. Weiser, of Upper Providence, who passed away on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She was employed in the Pension and Health Benefits office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Phoenixville for nearly 35 years. Mrs. Weiser is survived by two daughters, Joy M., wife of Peter Welsh, of Wayne and Dawn N., wife of Paul Zvarik, of Upper Providence, and six grandchildren. Joshua, Kathryn, Ethan, and Kyle Welsh and Olivia and Gabriel Zvarik. Memorial gifts may be made in Eleanor’s memory to the First United Methodist Church of Phoenixville, please memo Capital Campaign. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. To offer condolences and view a memorial video, please visit www.phoenixvillefuneralhome.com.

Appointments

Continued from page 4

Amy Banke – from Fallsington UMC to Stroudsburg: Faith UMC
Timothy Fisher – from Avon Zion UMC in Lebanon to Reeder’s UMC
Robin Fisher – from Bethany UMC to Effort UMC
Bernard J. Kefer – from Lancaster: Community UMC to Mohnton: Calvary UMC
Richard J. Rimer – from Mohnton: Calvary UMC to Conestoga UMC
Drena Miller – from Drums: St. Paul’s UMC to Birdsboro: Alice Focht Memorial UMC
Rev. Thomas Hall – from Crossroads UMC to Lebanon: St. John’s UMC
Johnson E. Dodal – to Crossroads UMC
Rev. Hilda Campbell - from Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Director of Human Relations and Leadership to Chester: Siloam and Chester: Trinity UMCs
Sunil Balasundaram – from Solebury UMC to Lickdale: Trinity UMC
Robin Rother - from Stroudsburg: Salem UMC to New Berlinville: St. Andrew UMC
27th Annual Academy for Laity
Growing, Sharing and Living our Faith - in the local Church, in the Community, and in the World

Friday, August 6 - 8, 2010
Sheraton Bucks County, 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA
Registration Deadline: Friday, July 9, 2010

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 9, 2010 (No refunds after July 9th)

Mail registration forms and pastor’s recommendation forms, if applicable, and payment to:
Mr. Charles Ehniger
2620 Gracie Lane
Macungie, PA 18062
(610) 965-2290

Partial scholarships are available. For EPA Laity Scholarships contact Fran Sokso at (610) 209-3192 or fsokso@juno.com;
For Reta Barto Laity Academy Scholarships contact Verna Colliver at (215) 555-0767 or veolliver@dwcnet.org

Scholarship deadline July 9, 2010

Note: It is very important to register early because space is limited for some courses.

New this year
• 2 basic CSM courses
• The John Walter King Memorial Award
• Friday evening Praise & Worship Service

We continue to offer advanced courses in
• Leading
• Communication
• Caring

These courses can be used for re-certification as a Christ Servant Minister and continuing education for the Certified Lay Minister. The Academy is open to everyone.

Daily Schedule
Friday, August 6
• 4:30 p.m. - Registration/Reception
• 6:30 p.m. - Opening Praise & Worship, Reta Barto Scholarship, Offering, Hymn Sing

Saturday, August 7
• 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
• 8:15 a.m. - Bible study
• 8:30 a.m. - Class Session 1
• 12:00 noon - Lunch
• 1:30 p.m. - Class Session 2
• 5:30 p.m. - Dinner, Walter King Memorial Award

Sunday, August 8
• 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
• 8:30 a.m. - Class Session 3
• 11:00 a.m. - Worship with Service of Holy Communion

Walter King Memorial Award
This award will be given in memory of our Treasurer and friend John Walter King who passed away last year. The person receiving this award will exemplify faithful dedication and commitment to Lay Ministry in The UMC.