

Chaplain sets sights on winning Afghanistan



CH (LTC) Nicolas Camacho holds a little girl at the Mirza Abdul Qader Day Care Center. The center is one of the 10 humanitarian projects served under the J-9 Operation Winning Afghanistan program. It serves 200 children, does not receive government funding and is run by Afghani widows.

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 me-

morial 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 54 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

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Storm of Hope

BY ANDREA BROWN



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.

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

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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, Revtimothyathod@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 Spirit of Philadelphia. Boarding time is 11:30 a.m. at Penn's Landing. Tickets: \$55.00 per person. Ticket sales and questions should be directed to Raymond DeBrest (215-833-1924), Tracey Jones (trjomd@gmail.com), and Royal Pinder (RLPinder1@verizon.net).

THURSDAY, JULY 22 - SATURDAY, JULY 24

EPA School of Christian Mission: The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference School of Christian Mission will be held at West Lawn United Methodist Church in Reading Thursday, July 22 through Saturday, July 24, 2010. The purpose of the School of Christian Mission is to help church leaders (lay and clergy, men and women, youth and children) understand and interpret the global mission of the church and the responsibility of Christians within that mission. Information, the school website is www.gbgm-umc.org/umw-epac/

SOCM.htm, or contact Joan Sowers at gsowers@mbcomp.com or 717-272-4279.

THURSDAY, JULY 29-MONDAY, AUGUST 2

2010 School of Congregational Development: Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, TN. Go to the Forum on the www.scdnetwork.ning.com site and share you ideas in the discussion areas.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Cornwall Manor Fountain Concert: Beginning at 7:00 p.m. around the fountain in front of the Community Center.



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.cornwallmanor.org.

August

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010

CCYM Mission Blitz: All middle school youth are invited to participate. Information: Georgette Hall-Peterson, ghpeterston@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/healingwoundsof racism.

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, ghpeterston@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/healingwoundsof racism.



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 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.

The 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: Lareton 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.

The 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 Tsi Tsi Muzorewa, one daughter and three sons: Tapina David, Sarudzai Esther, Anesu Daniel, Taremedzwa 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.

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

A Word from the Bishop

What are you afraid of?

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 relationship strife and financial shortages.

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 we are in 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)

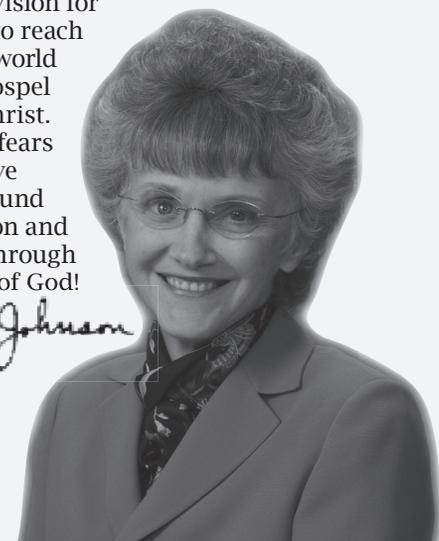
The powerful Roman government has been gone for centuries. The seemingly weak church of the first century still lives on today. That is because of this powerful, curiously amazing God we serve, who works through our weakness and makes a way in the midst of our fearful circumstances to bring about God's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

Peggy A. Johnson



Oil: Anointed for Ministry

BY BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON

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 money, 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 the 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 28:20b)

"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."

Peggy A. Johnson

Bishop, The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church

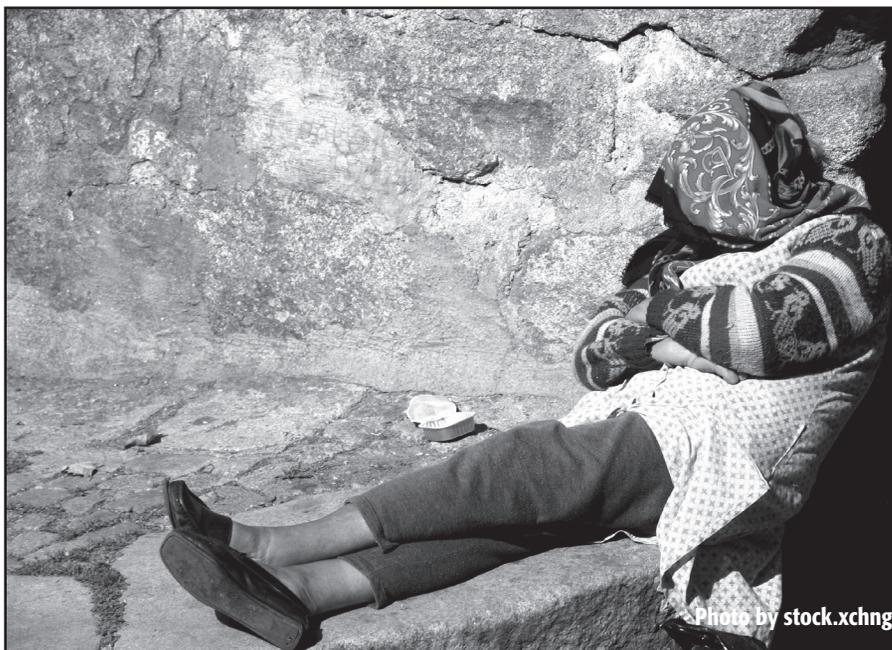
Appointments

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

Deborah Hoffman - from Effort UMC (Associate) to Wooddale
 Debra Hebden - from Otterbein UMC in Mont Clare to St. Paul's UMC in Drums
 Keyone Kale Yu - from St. Peter's UMC in Saylorsburg to extension ministry
 John Gudikunst - from Leola UMC to Lancaster: St. Paul's (part-time)
 Timothy Smith - from First United Methodist Church of Millersville to Leola United Methodist Church.
 Jacquelyn Sheely - from Manheim: Salem UMC (associate, part-time) to Akron: Mt. Zion UMC (part-time)
 Christiane McLaughlin - from Grandview UMC (associate, half-time) to Washington Boro UMC (part-time), also continuing one-quarter time to Newtown (in western Lancaster County)
 Sharon Barley to part-time pastor of Boehm's UMC (November 2009)
 Timothy Heitz - from Honorable Location to interim part-time pastor of Narvon: Mt. Zion UMC (January 1, 2010)
 Dennis Snovel - (retired elder) to retired interim supply pastor of Milton Grove UMC (February 21, 2010)
 Gertrude Duckett - from Siloam and Trinity United Methodist Churches in Chester to Leave of Absence
 Hun Ju Lee - from First Korean UMC of Philadelphia, Prospectville (interim) to Drexel Hill: New Covenant (half-time) and Eddystone (half-time)
 Nelson Alleman - from Oak Grove UMC (part-time local pastor) to Bethany UMC of Lebanon (3/4 time)
 W. Theodore Bach - to the yoked charge of Phila.: Bustleton and Phila.: Holmesburg UMCs
 Dorothy M. Field - from Crozerville UMC (retired supply)
 Karen Sadvari - to Crozerville UMC
 Frederick Douglas - from Phila.: Devereux Memorial UMC to Incapacity Leave (March 14, 2010)
 Thomas Jackmon - to Phila.: Devereux Memorial UMC (Retired Supply Pastor, April 5 to June 30, 2010)
 Pearl Scott Johnson - to Devereux Memorial UMC (Elder on loan from Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference)
 Dan Lebo - to Phila.: Somerton UMC (Full-time Local Pastor)
 Mercedes Case - from Parkesburg UMC (associate, 1/2 time local pastor) to New London UMC
 David Goss - from Stroudsburg: Faith UMC (Interim) to Mount Pocono UMC
 John G. Smith - from Lancaster: St. Paul's and Akron: Mt. Zion UMCs to Pocono Lake UMC
 Salim Khan - to Phila.: Simpson Memorial (Interim retired part-time supply) (effective March 10)
 John Cordes - from Mt. Pocono UMC to Solebury UMC
 Barbara J. Seekford - from Bustleton UMC to Chalfont UMC
 Hun Ju Lee - to First Korean UMC of Philadelphia (Interim part-time local pastor)
 Carolene Brubaker - from West Chester UMC (associate) to Lancaster: Community UMC

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Making a home for the homeless on cold winter nights



BY LYNN JAEGER

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 Martin, a Christ Servant Minister and Stephen Minister at Emilie 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, service organizations, and government offices. Bucks County Commissioner Diane Marseglia took a proposal to form Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need to the County Commission, where it was accepted by unanimous vote. 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 that have lost their homes in the economic downturn, those who have fled abuse, and others AHTN provided shelter on dangerously cold nights. On bitter cold nights, drivers picked up guests at predetermined locations on a route that covered Bristol, Morrisville, Levittown, and the Pennel areas and drove them back in the morning.

After transportation to the site, guests shared an evening meal with volunteers, and had a warm, secure place to sleep. In the morning there was a hot breakfast, and guests left with a brown-bag lunch for the day. While the shelter could not accommodate pets - unless they are trained service animals - animal bedding and pet food were also available through a dog club for guests' animals, and went out

to them in the vans. Pastoral counseling was offered to guests, and referrals were made for medical and social services. After breakfast, guests are dropped off at a resource center or are taken back to the pick-up locations.

In its first season, the number of guests at Bucks County Code Blue ranged from 5 to 25 adults per night, with an average of 15 or 16 enjoying the shelter's hospitality and fellowship.

These are interdenominational ministries. In Bucks County, four churches housed the shelter over the winter, one month per church: Langhorne Terrace Ministries, United Christian, Emmaus Road Lutheran, and Woodside Presbyterian.

United Methodist Churches involved include Emile, Fairless Hills, Fallsington, Bristol First, Langhorne, and Christ Evangelical Lutheran 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 eat 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; Christ 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 215-550-3868.

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

LYNN JAEGER AND HER HUSBAND, GARY, 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 Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, is the oldest United Methodist school for the training of pastors and other leaders on the continent of Africa, and was founded by missionary 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 others may claim it. The cost to do this is \$45,000 for the survey and renewal fees. This amount needs to be raised fairly quickly. (The local Annual Conference is attempt-

ing to reduce a part of the fees.) Gifts should be sent through the Advance for Katanga Methodist University #14433A with the designation "Mulungwishi Property."

What happened? Property laws in this part of the world require that land titles be renewed every twenty-five years. Title renewal shows the land has not been 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 Province 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



The faculty of the Doris Bartlett Women's School. The Women's School provides education and training for the wives of pastors plus others from the surrounding area. Front row, right, is Lorene Persons, UM Missionary, whose parents, The Bartletts, founded the schools nearly 60 years ago.

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? By 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.

2010 Annual Conference:

BY SUZY KEENAN

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 at all. We struggle with our re-membering because to remember means to accept as part of us, all of us." She urged everyone to

"think about who is not a member, and who you are uncomfortable being around," while remarking that while pastor of an all-Deaf church that the hardest persons for the Deaf to accept were the people with HIV/AIDS. Bishop Johnson implored all to proclaim God's love, to share material blessings, to self examine for sin, and to remember that "God forgives as we forgive." She invited all 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

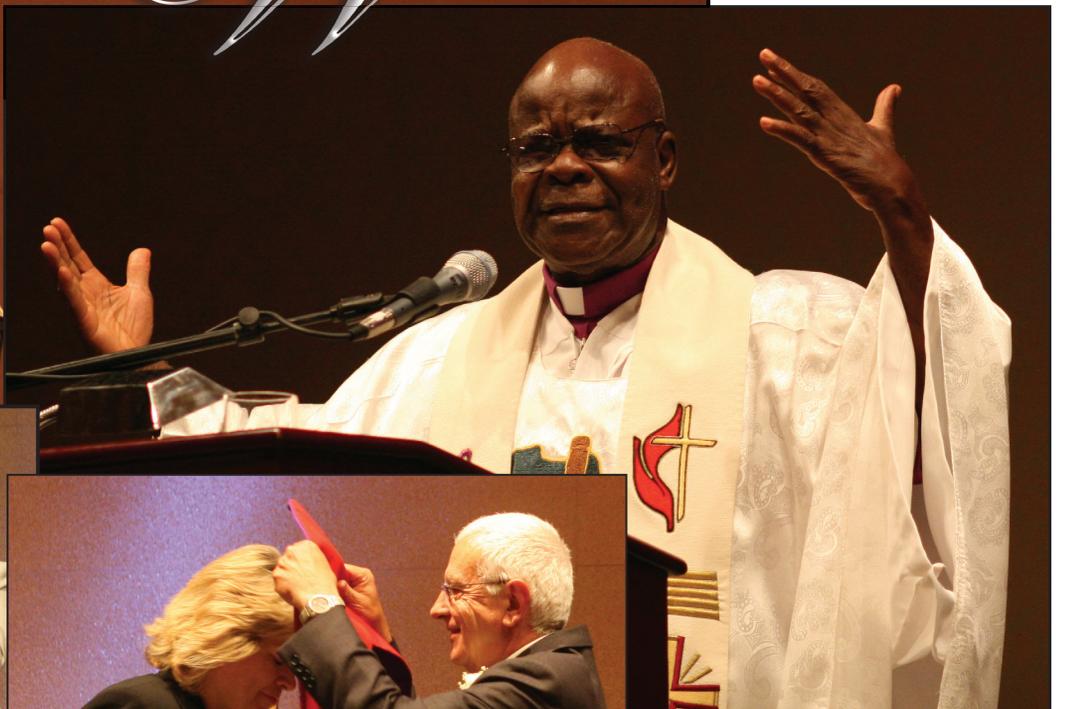
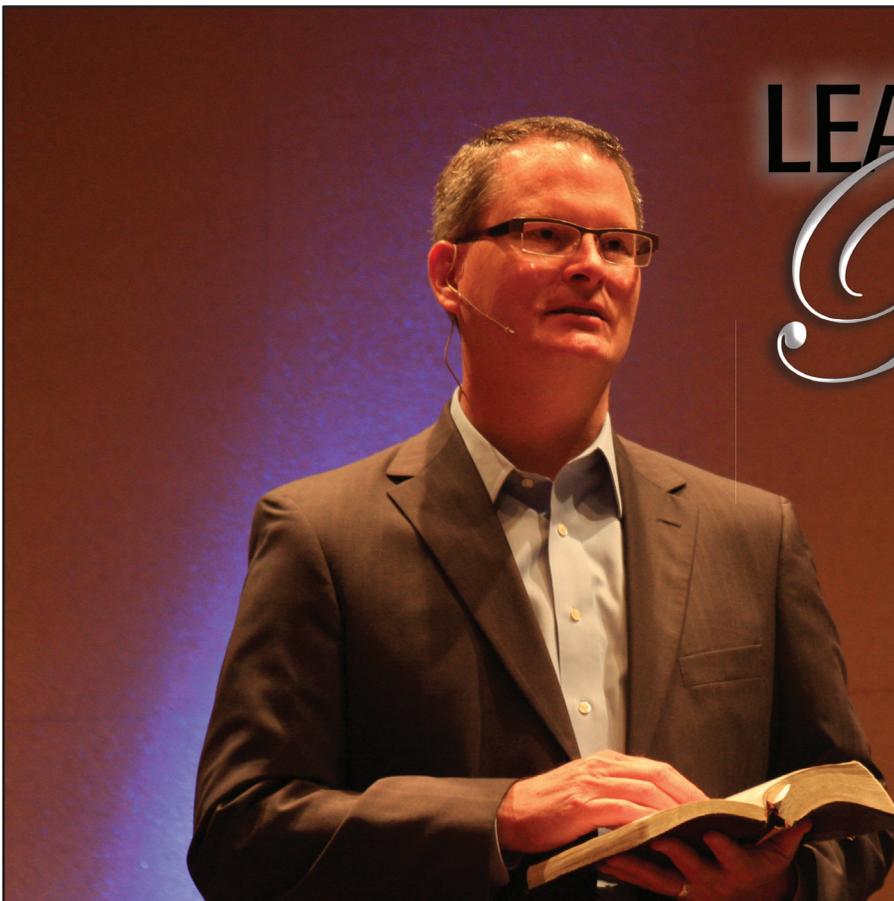
person as the names were read, with a candle lit for each name from Mother African Zoar UMC with a candle lit for each name in remembrance.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Church honored nineteen retiring pastors - representing 540 years of ministry - at the Retirement Service on the evening of Friday, May 21. The service was led by Bishop Peggy Johnson as Bishop Peggy Johnson invited the retiring pastors to be ordained and commissioned for ministry. She invited them to come forward and asked them to answer the question, "Questions. Bishop Johnson welcomed the retiring pastors. As a symbolic transfer of ministry from the retirees to the new pastors, Bishop Johnson "yoked" Rev. Richard Conner with a red stole. The service concluded with the ordination of new pastors and prayer for the ordinands. The nineteen retiring pastors were: Richard H. Andrew, Richard Conner, Nancy R. Dougherty, Jan S. Felker, Clyde S. Flaherty, Charles G. Hagner, Kent E. Kroehler, Philip Lloyd-Sidle, Theodore E. McMichael, Martin S. Morgan, Dr. G. Wayne Pratt, Steven W. Rodgers, J. Wayne Pratt, Steven W. Rodgers, and Carole A. Wood.

On both Friday and Saturday, there were more than 1,000 registrations for lunch and worship on a variety of topics from evangelism, Safe Sanctuaries, and issues, to developing healthy churches and including young people.

Led by Rev. Lillian Smith, Director of the annual conference Celebration of Ministries, the conference looked at the conference connection, new church starts, and Healing through communication updates on the new conference and congregational transformation. Board of Church and Society on the part of Rev. Lillian Smith recognized Ben Botti, retiring

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 Conner, retiree, "yoked" ordinand Rev. Wendy Orzolek. Far left: Rev. Lillian Smith commended retiring Volunteers in Mission coordinator, Ben Botti, at the Celebration of Ministries.

for Elders Ordained as a pastor, assisted in the pastorate of Arthur F. Kulah and John R. Smith. The Annual Conference of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference welcomed Rev. Lillian Smith who preached at the conference. Ordained as a pastor, George Albert, William Calhoun, Robert L. Hagner, Susan Joy Ketner, and Orzolek, Navi

Leading Beyond the Walls

While the bell was rung in the presence of The service of a total of Free Service on the service began nose to be or- ministerial orders the Historic ned the retiring of the mantle of new ordinands, Wendy Orzolek aded as retir- with the new pastors include s, Richard W. . Edwards, Da- ene L. Gaspar, , Bruce Lefever, Cabe, Lee F. vinyai Muzore- ers, Rodney H.

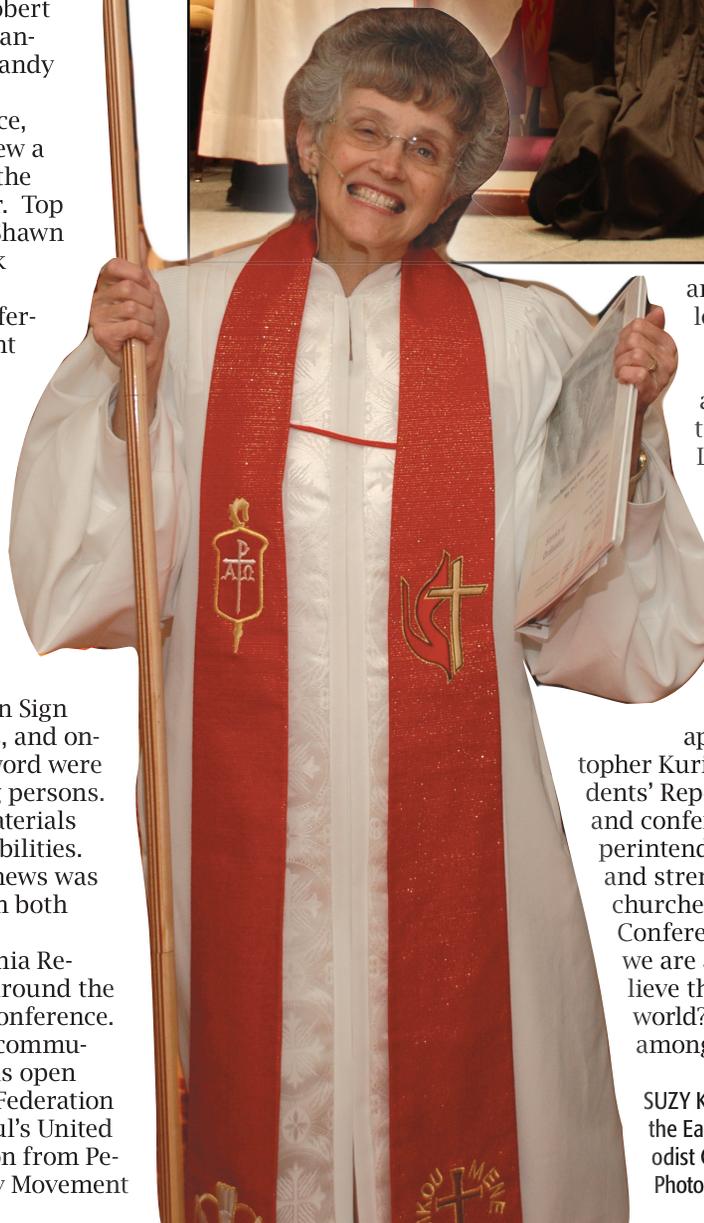
ere were more time work- leadership, social justice ch finances

or of Connectional Ministries, of Ministries took an in-depth from camping, urban ministry, e Wounds of Racism, to com- onference website and database, n. A new video from the General e Social Creed was shown. Rev. ng coordinator of EPA Volun- s in Mission. Four conference gregations received an UMCOR ificate recognizing their refu- resettlement ministry: Chiques, aster: First, Lohr's Memorial, and ndview. Six Lay persons and four or-Mentors who had completed ules 1 and 2 of Lay Missioner ning were awarded their certifi- s. Rachel Barnett, representing Advance for Christ, spoke on the k and accomplishments of this nd-mile giving program of the eral Board of Global Ministries. umberia United Methodist Church ived the Kim Jefferson Award for an Ministry for their ecumenical k with impoverished persons in community. ordination was the final event of 2010 Eastern Pennsylvania An- nial Conference, its 224th annual ion. Ten persons were ordained n Elders Orders, and the Orders of ther were recognized. One per- was commissioned for Deacons ers and seven were commissioned ders. Bishop Peggy Johnson was e ordination by two bishops: Ar- of the Nigeria Annual Conference chol of the Baltimore-Washington erence. The Eastern Pennsylvania elcomed back home Bishop Schol, l for the service.

s Elders in Full Connection: Brian t, Elaine Miller Bortman, Leonard un, Thomas Duane Ebersole, htman, Jr., Richard L. Hostetter, tter, John Lewis, Sr., Wendy Sue n Satyavrata. Recognition of Full



Above: The Conference welcomed back Bishop John Schol, preacher for Ordination. Top right: Conference youth participate in The Big Event. Bottom right: Rev. Johnson Dodla is commissioned at the Service of Ordination. Below: Bishop Johnson processes to Ordination.



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:

Hope for 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 Peter Pedemonti on The New Sanctuary Movement

and immigration issues. Rev. Clair Wagner led costumed 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 Fund, one of the denomination's seven apportioned funds. The Rev. Dr. Christopher 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?"

SUZU 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.

Annual Conference 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, 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 - 6: Resolution Related to Transformation

Resolution #2010 - 7 Resolution Relating to Conference Advance Specials for the Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Resolution #2010 - 9: Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances 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 - 14: Relating to the Salary/Benefits Recommendations for 2011 - resolution approved.

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

Continued from page 1



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.

and 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: \$550-\$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 deafeningly 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 is no way, in the confines of a television screen, to reveal the scope of the disaster. "I don't even get it because I haven't been to Mississippi. I'm still grasping it."

But what is equally hard to fathom, she says, is the perseverance of the people. "If it were me, I would have thrown my hands up long before," she says.

Yet she hasn't.

Bender had never been on a mission trip until July 2005, when she led youth from First Church to Kentucky under the auspices of Adventures in Mission (AIM).

"When the storm hit the very next month, AIM sent a letter" looking for mission teams to come the following spring.

The young mother of two preschoolers, moved by her initial experience of doing mission work, got on a plane with Larry Herr, a retiree, in December 2005. Their idea was to scout opportunities for two service trips: one for youth, one for adults.

But instantly, as their eyes met the eyes of the people of New Orleans, as they heard the people's stories, they made "a heartbreaking connection."

On the plane back home, Bender and Herr looked at each other and said, "Once isn't going to be enough, is it?"

Fortunately, they have pastors and a congregation with a permission-giving style.

"We joyfully watched it take off and supported it," Kroehler says. "The staff didn't lead. It was all lay led and inspired."

But the pastors nonetheless had an important role to play. Kroehler, says Bender, "has been such a great cheerleader and champion and optimist."

And trip after trip after trip, the mission just built. "If we had said up front, 'we need 300 people, 12,000 hours of their time, and \$300,000,' it never would have happened," Kroehler says.

"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 trips 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, too.

"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, 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 mildew in the water-logged 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 have goosebumps even thinking about it."

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

"This," she thought, "is exactly what God intends."

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

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 1540AM. (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.

On the Air: Irving Cotto interviews Esdras Seda, pastor of Iglesia Metodista Unida Espiritu Santo in Philadelphia during a live radio broadcast.



Haciendo discípulos por medio de la radio

Como parte de la oficina de desarrollo congregacional el Dr. Irving Cotto comenzó hace poco un nuevo programa radial conocido como "La sala de la alegría". Este programa sale al aire todos los lunes de 12:30 p.m. a 1:00 p.m. y nuevamente de 6:00 p.m. a 6:30 p.m. en WNWR 1540 a.m. (NEW WORLD RADIO en Philadelphia).

El enfoque del programa es el ministerio de las iglesias latinas Metodistas Unidas de nuestra Conferencia Anual. Cada semana se le dará atención especial a uno de los ministerios por medio de una entrevista con el pastor(a) o uno(a) de los(as) líderes claves.

El énfasis del programa es la evangelización, haciendo una invitación a seguir a Jesucristo como Señor y Salvador. Los fondos para el programa vienen del presupuesto de la Comisión Latina para los próximos seis meses. Después de este periodo la Comisión reevaluará la importancia y el costo de este nuevo ministerio. Alabamos a Dios por el

poder de la tecnología y su uso para comunicar el amor de Dios y el ministerio de nuestra iglesia.

REV. DR. IRVING COTTO IS THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist 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 Sediqullah, 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 life, 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 time 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: ncamacho7@verizon.net or Nicolas Camacho, USFOR-A (NKC), ATTN: J9, APO, AE 09356.

The Fall Session of Annual Conference

To be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Hempfield United Methodist Church, 3050 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601. This session will include the following business: to look at the Rethink Conference initiative including EPA Conference program ministry and staffing, to pass a 2011 Budget for our Connectional Ministry, and to approve the final health care design and costing structure. Who should attend: clergy and lay members of annual conference.

Annual Conference 2011

To be held May 19-21, 2011 at the Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA.

Nominations Report

Some of the 2014 dates may be incorrect due to people filling in for positions, those approved for Committee on Investigation will be alternates and one of the current alternates will fill the open position created by a resignation.

Blue Ribbon Report

The recommendations from the Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee to the 2010 Session of the Eastern PA Annual Conference on the 2008 and 2009 Payments to World Service Fund were approved.

School of Christian Mission

July 22-24, 2010

West Lawn United Methodist Church, Reading

The purpose of the school of Christian Mission is to help church leaders (lay and clergy, men and women, youth and children) understand and interpret the global mission of the church and the responsibility of Christians within that mission.

Adults will have the opportunity to choose from three studies.

- The Spiritual Growth Study is For the Love of God: Epistles of John
- The Issue Study is Joy to the World - Mission in the Age of Global Christianity
- The Geographic Study is The Beauty and Courage of Sudan.

The Youth Study is a focus on Mission and Evangelism called I'm Living the Faith.

The Children's study is Hugging the World: Faith Hope and Love in Action.

United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, pastors, chairpersons of local Work Areas on Mission and all laity interested in mission should attend. The cost for adults is \$130 and includes meals. Youth and children attend at a reduced rate. For more information, the school website is www.gbmg-umc.org/umw-epac/SOCM.htm, or contact Joan Sowers at gsowers@mbcomp.com or 717-272-4279.

7th Annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth



Saturday, November 6, 2010
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Hopewell United Methodist Church
Downingtown, 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 Conshohocken UMC.

Creation: Do We Care?

"Creation care" is more than a trendy cliché 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 a 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 Maticavage, 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



Retired-Active-People (RAP), offers older adults from West Grove an opportunity to gather once a month for lunch and a speaker as part of West Grove UMC's ministry with 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 outreaches 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 to 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

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 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.

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.

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 Wisner Ott 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



Pantry items and kitchen utensils stock LUMINA's SuperCupboard.

at Gretna Glen, for 1st to 6th graders. St. Paul's Kids' Night kids are invited to attend the Vacation Bible School at New Holland: Evangelical United Methodist Church. A fresh air outing for inner-city children to a special park near Bainbridge has become an annual event hosted by members of Ludwig UMC. Existing Program ministries which continue during the summer include the School Uniform Clothing Bank, SuperCupboards, and Professional Clothing Bank.

For more information, contact LUMINA: 717/394-8412 or www.luminaoutreach.org.

Appointments

Continued from page 4

- Amy Banka - from Fallsington UMC to Stroudsburg: Faith UMC
- Timothy Fisher - from Avon Zion UMC in Lebanon to Reeders UMC
- Robin Fisher - from Bethany UMC to Effort UMC
- Bernard J. Kefer - from Lancaster: Community UMC to Mohnton: Calvary UMC
- Richard J. Rimert, Jr. - 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 Leave of Absence
- Johnson E. Dodla - 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
- Robb Faller - from Pottstown: 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

 27th Annual Academy for Laity <i>Growing, Sharing, and Living our Faith - in the local Church, in the Community, and in the World.</i>		Registration Form	
<p>Please complete a <u>separate form</u> for <u>each</u> registrant. Photocopy this blank form for submission of additional registrants Registration form also available on the Christ Servant Minister website: www.gbkm-umc.org/csm.</p>			
Name:		Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
Street Address:		Home Phone:	
City, State, Zip:		Work Phone:	
Church Name:	District:	E-mail Address:	
Roommate Name (s):		Classification: Laity <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy <input type="checkbox"/>	
Course Registration Registration fee includes hotel, 3 day meals and selected classes.			
BASIC COURSES: Select either course <small>(Basic Course Manuals will be mailed to registrants prior to the Academy)</small>		Basic Course: <input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs <input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box if we may assist you with any special needs.	
ADVANCED COURSES: Select 1 Advanced course <small>(Required texts indicated, in course description, for Advanced Courses may be purchased at Cokesbury Bookstore or online)</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults: Is Anybody Listening (ages 18-28) Rev. Georgette Hall Peterson & Rev. Hanna Adair Bonner	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Time To Get Beyond the Worship Wars - It's About Entering Into God's Presence Rev. Chris Brady	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with "Crisis: In the Body of Christ - A Caring Workshop" Rev. Bev Andrews	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with the Poor - A Wesleyan Perspective in the 21st Century Rev. Misty Fuller	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Leading in Mission Outreach Kevin Goodwin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism, Not Just a Testimony Brenda Tildon, CSM			
Basic Course Requirements		Basic Course Items: <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course Manual <small>(same fee for either Basic Course)</small>	Fee: \$5.00 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course Letter of Recommendation Form signed by pastor			
REGISTRATION Check One: Fulltime registration includes a room with 2 beds, breakfast, lunch, AND Saturday evening CSM recognition dinner (each person pays registration fee). Commuter registration includes breakfast, lunch AND Saturday evening CSM recognition dinner.		<input type="checkbox"/> Fulltime Single Room (1 person/room)	\$295.00 <i>one person</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fulltime Double Room (2 persons/room)	\$200.00 <i>each person</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commuter (cost per person)	\$150.00 <i>each person</i>
Make check or money order payable to EPA Conference		Registration Amount Enclosed:	\$ _____
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 Ehninger 2620 Gracie Lone Macungie, PA 18062 (610) 965-2290	
<i>Note: It is very important to register early because space is limited for some courses.</i>			
Partial scholarships are available. For EPA Laity Scholarships contact Fran Sokso at (610) 269-3192 or fsokso@juno.com; For Reta Barto Laity Academy Scholarships contact Verna Colliver at (215) 855-0797 or vcolliver@dwnet.org			
Scholarship deadline July 9, 2010			

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.