

## Working together as the Body of Christ



Bishop Peggy Johnson speaks in American Sign Language during worship at the Deaf village in Leveque, Haiti.

BY BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON

The word “Haiti” means “land of high mountains.” That was my first impression as our 737 jet began to descend into the Port Au Prince International Airport a few weeks ago. I was recently (Sept. 7-14) part of a “Volunteer in Mission” team with 9 other people from the Eastern PA and the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences. Our team leader, Ms. Marie Van Der Wall, the mission secretary from Pen-Del, had led teams there a number of times and

I was grateful for her expertise and preparation for our team’s experience. The United Methodist Committee on Relief hosts as many as 240 “Volunteers in Missions” groups each year for the purpose of helping to rebuild the many structures that were destroyed in the January 2010 devastating earthquake. More importantly than that, we were there to build relationships with the people and to understand better the many complicated issues that has made Haiti the poorest nation in the hemisphere and what Christians of good will from all over the world are doing to

empower this tenacious nation to rebuilt and thrive.

Our team was assigned to help work on the building of a church in the town of Leveque, which was located an hour away from the capital city of Port Au Prince. This church and the school next to it, were heavily damaged in the earthquake but blessedly no one died in the tragedy. Children just happened to have been sent home at the close of classes a short time before the quake hit and teachers, who could have been in the building, just happened to not be in the building when the walls came crashing down. Stories like this were a source of wonder to us. But there were also reminders of the thousands who died during this tragedy as well. As many as 316,000 are estimated to have lost their lives in the earthquake and millions are still homeless.

The church and school in Leveque were owned and operated by the Methodist Church of Haiti. The United Methodist Church is partnering with them as well as numerous other Methodist and non-Methodist organizations and denominations. One of my overall, most important impressions from this trip was this: we, as the Body of Christ, need to work together with one another. No matter our differences culturally, theologically or otherwise, Christ is the head of the Body and only as we work together can we accomplish God’s work for us on earth. The things that divide us are never as important as the high calling of peace-making, cooperation and doing works of justice, mercy and kindness.

During the week we lived in Leveque we were present for the dedication of the school, which will soon be a place of education for 300 students who live in the community. Church officials from as far as England came to this event. Great care went into

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## On Christians sharing their faith

BY CHRISTOPHER KURIEN

Communicating with one another by Email, Texting, Facebook, or Tweeting seems to be our preference over face to face conversations; even phone calls. In some ways this has contributed to a loss of vitality in human relationships and community life in the U.S. – even in church life. In other parts of the world, where technology may not be so advanced, there continues to be a sense of community. This is very evident in the church, where the community of believers gathers to worship and then disperses into their neighborhoods to share their faith in face to face conversations. One must ask if there is a connection between our preferred means of communicating and the dwindling membership of churches in the

West compared to the growing membership in places where faith-sharing is a face to face experience.

This led me to ponder upon the Great Commission, which appears in the Gospel of Matthew. Here Jesus commissions us to be his representatives in the world: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” The Great Commission is therefore not

an option but rather it is a mandate for Christian discipleship. How are we to fulfill this mandate of reaching out to others in the name of Christ? When I was the superintendent of the Southeast district, a dwindling congregation was on the verge of closing. I prayerfully asked for this church to be given one year to launch its ministry before any steps be taken to sell the church building. The newly appointed lay pastor Avery Kelleher, and later the new members of Parkside United Methodist Church took the Great Commission to heart. In that time, God worked a miracle through their hard work. Today, sixty new United Methodists actively participate; many of them had no church affiliation or experience.

**Faith Sharing**  
Training and Rally

Continued on page 9

## October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

**Dialogues on Homosexuality:** Gain a better understanding of the issues that will enhance the unity of the Church. St. Matthews Valley Forge (C and SE Districts) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please reserve a spot: <https://epapendelarea.smartevents.com/homosexuality-dialogues> or 610-666-9090, ext 232.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

**Nets and Vets Golf Tournament:** 12:00 noon arrival time, 6:00 p.m. Buffett dinner. Cost is \$90 for dinner and golfing (practice range, greens fees, golf cart). Skippack Golf Club. Event Information and Registration: <http://www.netsandvets.com/reservation.html>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

**Moneywise Empowerment Tour:** Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, 750-762 Charles Albert Tindley Boulevard (South Broad Street), Philadelphia, PA 19146; 215-735-0442; 215-735-3422 (fax); [www.tindleytemple.org](http://www.tindleytemple.org).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

**World Communion Sunday**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 - MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 8

**PA Anti-Poverty Summit III:** Camp Hill United Methodist Church. Register at [www.umadvocacypa.org](http://www.umadvocacypa.org). For more information, [sdrachler@umadvocacypa.org](mailto:sdrachler@umadvocacypa.org).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

**UMW Annual Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Grove UMC, Grove & Boot Roads, West Chester, PA 19380-1112. Keynote Speaker: Bishop Peggy Johnson!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

**Basic Sexual Ethics for Clergy:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609. Cost is \$30 and includes a light continental breakfast, lunch and all materials. Please contact Dave Woolverton at [shepherd2842@aol.com](mailto:shepherd2842@aol.com) or (717) 653-5493 for more information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 - SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 27

**Beams of Heaven World Premier:** This play, written by Clinton Jackmon, will highlight the vision, witness, ministry and music of the late Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, founding pastor of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, in Philadelphia, PA. More information Tindley Temple UMC office at 215-735-0442.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

**2012 Planting Seeds:** Hopewell UMC, 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, PA 19335. More information and to register online: [www.hopewellumc.org](http://www.hopewellumc.org)

## November

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**Advanced Sexual Ethics:** Proactive

Approaches to Clergy Self-Care: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at West Lawn UMC, Reading, PA. Contact person: David Woolverton at [shepherd2842@comcast.net](mailto:shepherd2842@comcast.net) or 717-653-5493.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**Faith Sharing and Evangelism Workshop:** with Dr. H. Eddie Fox, Executive Director, World Methodist Evangelism Institute. 8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee | 1:30 p.m. Rally. Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Road, Allentown, PA 18106. Cost: \$10/person. More info or to register: <http://www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/2012-faith-sharing-nov>.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**Native American Worship:** 3:00 p.m. Join the EPA Conference Committee on Native American Ministries for another great time of worship. Camp Innabah, 712 Pughtown Road, Spring City, PA 19475.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Basic Sexual Ethics Training:** Boundaries Training for Pastors: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James St., Lancaster, PA. Register online at [www.lancasterseminary.edu](http://www.lancasterseminary.edu) or on day of training.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Adjourned Session of Annual Conference:** Vote on the 2013 Budget. Hempfield UMC, 3050 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## In Memoriam

### Mrs. Rebecca Esther Womer Taylor

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Rebecca Esther Womer Taylor, wife of retired Elder, Dr. Benjamin T. Taylor.

Dr. Taylor served the following appointments prior to his retirement in 2009: Philadelphia: Bridesburg; Philadelphia: LaResurreccion-Lindley; Narberth; Former Philadelphia: Roxborough, First; Paradise: St. John's; Oxford.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, B. Theodore Taylor, Jr., and Russel Womer Taylor; and five grandchildren, Allison, Caitlyn, Devi, Ali and Russel.

On-line condolences: [www.elcollinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.elcollinsfuneralhome.com).

### The Rev. Roy P. Kramer

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Roy P. Kramer, 77, on Monday, July 9, 2012.

Rev. Kramer was a full member of the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference, transferred to Eastern PA in 1988, and retired in 2002. In retirement he was serving Phila.: Bethesda.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and children: Kathleen, Beverly, Roy, Tracy, and Jennifer.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Phyllis Kramer, 1505 Waterford Road, Yardley, PA 19067-5425.

### The Rev. Arthur L. Brandenburg

Word has been received that retired elder, Rev. Arthur L. Brandenburg passed away on July 15, 2012.

He served: 1955 Duke University, Methodist Chaplain, 1961 Yale University, Wesley Foundation, and he served as South District Superintendent from 1985 - 1991. Churches served include 1970 Germantown: First, 1973 University City: Calvary, 1991 Bala Cynwyd. He retired in 1996.

Rev. Brandenburg is survived by his wife, Becky, and son, Mark. Condolences may be sent to their home: 4610 Osage Ave. Phila, PA 19143.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to Calvary UMC, 801 South 48th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

### Mrs. Patricia Souders

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Patricia Souders on May 27, 2012. She was the wife of the late Rev. Bruce Souders, who passed away on February 12, 2012.

Rev. Souders served two churches in Ohio, and Former Lebanon: Memorial. While appointed to Extension Ministries, 1947-2006, he served as professor and director of Public Relations at Lebanon Valley College, and then moved to Shenandoah College, Winchester, VA, as head of the Humanities, English, and Philosophy Departments.

Mrs. Souders is survived by her son Mr. Gregory Allen Souders. Condolences may be sent to him at: 208 Stafford Drive, Winchester, VA 22602-7431.

Continued on page 3

## Bishop's Days on the Districts

OCTOBER 3 - CENTRAL DISTRICT:

8:30 am Douglassville: Hope  
2:00 - 4:30, Open House at District Parsonage  
6:30 - 8:30 Imagine No Malaria  
Celebration at Norristown: Haws Ave  
Contact: (215)878-4607 or [ddalton@epaumc.org](mailto:ddalton@epaumc.org)

OCTOBER 9 - SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

12:00 noon, Clergy - Simpson Meadows, Downingtown  
7:00 pm - Clergy - Hamorton UMC, Kennett Square  
Contact: 610-436-4277 or [lgeorge@epaumc.org](mailto:lgeorge@epaumc.org)

OCTOBER 10 - EAST DISTRICT

9:00 am at Lehman Memorial, Hatboro  
Contact: 215-914-2130 or [ckrall@epaumc.org](mailto:ckrall@epaumc.org)

OCTOBER 11 - NORTHEAST DISTRICT

9:00 am at Allentown: Asbury  
Contact: 610-395-6661 or [nesuper@rcn.com](mailto:nesuper@rcn.com)

OCTOBER 16 - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

8:30 am, Quarryville: Wesley (breakfast)  
12:00 noon, Lancaster: Community (lunch)  
3:30 pm, Ephrata Hope (afternoon tea)  
7 pm Mount Hope, Quarryville  
(coffee and tea)  
Contact: 717-569-9673 or [cmclaughlin@epaumc.org](mailto:cmclaughlin@epaumc.org)

OCTOBER 17 - NORTHWEST DISTRICT

8:30 am, Clergy - Breakfast: Jonestown UMC  
12:30 pm, Clergy - Lunch: Shamokin: St. Johns  
7:00 pm, Everyone - District Mission  
Rally at St. Paul's UMC in Pine Grove  
Contact: 570-624-1471 or [NorthWest4@verizon.net](mailto:NorthWest4@verizon.net)



(USPS 19-604)

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The United Methodist Church  
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Published 4 times per year.  
Annual Subscription \$12.

Please submit articles for publication by the 10th of the month  
to: EPAUMC, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482 or via email to  
[communications@epaumc.org](mailto:communications@epaumc.org)

Periodicals postage paid at Norristown, PA 19403.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: NEWSpirit at  
EPA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.



A Word from the Bishop

## Go-Sow-Lo: a faith sharing message

"Go-Sow-Lo" sounds like another version of "Do-Re-Mi" (a whimsical song about how to sing from the Broadway musical "The Sound of Music.") In a way "Go-Sow-Lo" is a song, a song about how to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is written for us in the "Great Commission" from Matthew 28:19-20. Jesus said "Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (King James Version)

Making Disciples is the main goal of the church. It is why we have church; it is what we should always be doing at our churches first and foremost. It is my duty as your bishop to keep this "main thing, the main thing." As I begin a new quadrennium (4 years) among you in the Philadelphia Area, I say "Go-Sow-Lo!"

1.) "Go" The first word of the Great Commission is "Go." Those are the first two letters in the word "Gospel." It is impossible to keep it for yourself if you truly have experienced the saving power of Christ in your life. Forgiveness, new spiritual life, and the promise of heaven is the news that the whole world needs to know. The church alone brings these spiritual gifts to the world.

In the Book of 2 Kings 7:3-10 is the account of some lepers who were starving to death during a siege of Jerusalem. The Aramean army camped outside of the city and did not allow food to come in or people to go out. Lepers were particularly ostracized because of their contagious skin disease so they were desperate enough to go out to the camp of the Arameans to see if they could possibly get help. They reasoned that they had nothing to lose since they would die in Jerusalem if they continued to do nothing. So, they went to the camp and were shocked to find that the enemy soldiers had vacated the premises and they were able to help themselves to all the food and riches they wanted. After a while they said to one another, "What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty, therefore let us go and tell the king's household."

We have more important news than where to find food. We have the spiritual "bread of life" in Jesus

Christ that we should not keep to ourselves. The lepers remind us: "if we are silent we will be found guilty." Where can you go to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ? Go where people are most separated from the love of God. Go to prisons and hospitals and nursing homes and remote mission sites in the world. Go to young people and old people and people that don't look like you. Go with the simple truth that in Christ there is life, real abundant life for all people. Tell your story and don't forget to invite people to receive Christ.

2.) "Sow" I like the King James Version of the "Great Commission" because it emphasizes the "sowing" of the word. It says two times that we are to "teach." We are to teach all nations: that means everyone. We are to teach people to observe all of Christ's commandments. In order to teach something you must first know it. I remember volunteering to teach roller-skating to a deaf-blind teenager. The only problem was that I did not know how to roller-skate myself but I volunteered because the girl wanted so much to do it. So I had to go and practice first. In like manner we need to learn what Christ has commanded us through study of the scripture. Are you in a Bible study? You can never stop learning this book. The insights are many and deep and the fruit of it comes in real life-changing ways when we obey its commands. So learn all you can and then go and "sow" the Word. The best way to make disciples is to teach. We need to be like the sower in the parable, (Matthew 13) who with great abandon tosses seeds of the Word everywhere, on good ground and bad. Some of the sown seeds fell on good ground and produced an abundant crop. Some did not. We are asked to sow and God will send the rain and the sunshine. Teaching brings great joy because you are sharing in the very heart of the ministry of Christ when you do.

3) "Lo" In the King James Version of the Bible it says "lo" in many places but we don't say the word "lo" in modern times. It is an old English expression that is an abbreviation of the word "look." The expression "lo and behold" literally means "look and take a good long look." When Jesus says "Lo, I am with you always" he is saying "Look! Take notice, pay attention, I, Jesus am with you always."

We often don't stop and look and take into account that Jesus is with us as we do his work of evange-

lism. Instead we act like it is all on our shoulders and it feels overwhelming and then fear, doubt and apathy sets in. How many of our evangelism committees have this heaviness about them? That is because we don't "look" around and see that the Savior's power and presence is with us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in the letter to the Philippians "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) He wrote this from a prison dungeon with none of the comforts of life except for the offering that the Philippians sent his way. The empowering presence of Christ was strength for him as he continued his ministry even from a jail cell.

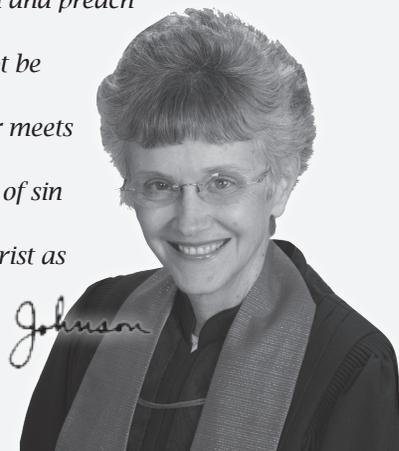
Remind yourself of the overcoming and all-powerful-presence of Christ that is available to you as you do the work of the Lord. It is not easy work, persecutions and sacrifice are a part of it but Jesus is there to help.

We should also strive to be the presence of Christ for people in need. When they "look" at you they see Jesus as you do his works in this world. I remember bringing a group of people on a mission site some years ago. As the team carried in the supplies and the food the children from that project stood by the door and shouted, "Jesus is here." What a humbling, awesome thing to hear. May people see Jesus when they look at you.

Please be about the work of evangelism in your churches and your communities and sing the "Go-Sow-Lo" song as you go:

*"Go" to everyone on earth  
"Sow" the Word, the holy word  
"Lo," the Lord will undergird  
"Sow" the Word and preach  
new birth  
"Go" and do not be  
afraid  
"Lo," the Savior meets  
your need  
"Sow," the debt of sin  
is paid  
And preach Christ as  
Lord indeed*

*Peggy A. Johnson*



## In Memoriam

Continued from page 2

### The Rev. Barry A. Wolfe

Word has been received of the death of Rev. Barry A. Wolfe, 68, on Saturday, July 21, 2012.

Rev Wolfe served the following appointments: Byfield, MA; Lincoln St., Shamokin; Asbury, Allentown; Hope, Ephrata; First, Lancaster; and Grace, Millersville. He retired in 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Rona; children: Christina and Jonathan; and 6 grandchildren: Jory, Mason, Joshua, Ella, Olivia and Madison.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Rona Wolfe, 1817 Wilderness Road, Lancaster, PA 17603. Send dona-

tions to Hospice of Lancaster County, 685 Good Drive, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125.

### Mrs. Irma Shearer

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Irma Shearer, age 96, spouse of Rev. Daniel L. Shearer, on Sunday, July 15, 2012.

Rev. Shearer is a member of the Susquehanna Conference, but had served two churches in Eastern Pennsylvania as an EUB pastor: Silver Spring and Ephrata: First.

In addition to her husband, Daniel, she is survived by her sons Daniel, Fred, James, and daughter Patricia Ann Shearer Larthey; eight grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to First U.M. Church, 68 N. Church Street, Ephrata, PA 17522, United Theological Seminary 4501 Denlinger Rd, Trotwood, OH 45426, Mission Central of the Central Pennsylvania Conference 303 Mulberry Dr., PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2053. To sign the guestbook go to [www.hbfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hbfuneralhomes.com).

### The Rev. Paul M. Harris

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Paul M. Harris, retired Elder, on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 in the Health Center at Cornwall Manor.

Rev. Harris served the following appointments: Former Glendon, Raubsville, Tannersville Cir., Catasau-

Continued on page 11

## Evangelical Theological Seminary trains UM Pastors



BY REV. CHRISTOPHER FISHER

**E**vangelical Theological Seminary (ETS), located in Myerstown, PA has been officially re-approved by the United Methodist University Senate to educate UM ministerial candidates. The decision, received at the beginning of February, 2012 in response to a thorough re-evaluation of the school, contains no caveats, conditions, or time limits, and certifies ETS' continued approval to train UM ministerial students for the next quadrennium (non-UM schools must be re-certified every four years by the University Senate as a matter of normal procedure). The Senate's approval letter expressed gratitude for the Seminary's "faithful work and commitment commitment to theological education" and sent "warm greetings and prayers for a fruitful ministry."

While the Seminary never did lose approved status, it entered a probationary status in late 2010, when the United Methodist University Senate informed the Seminary that its 15-year history as an approved seminary was to cease, as they were encouraging United Methodist ministerial candidates to attend UMC-owned institutions. On hearing of the possible de-listing, a large group of UM students, alumni, teachers, regional UM clergy and friends, including Philadelphia episcopal area Bishop Peggy Johnson, began protesting the Senate's decision, drawing attention to the school's unique theological and geographical contributions to the church, and the quality of the leaders the School was sending out to serve in the church. The Seminary went through an appeals process initiated by former President Michael Sigman which included video conferencing and a campus visit by University Senate representatives, first winning a one-year extension and then full unconditional re-instatement as an approved seminary after the Senate's joint session in late January, 2012. The good news was communicated to the school's new president, Dr. Tony Blair in February 2012.

United Methodist students comprise approximately one quarter of ETS' student body, representing the largest single denominational grouping at the school. In addition, the Seminary is the only formal theological training school in the Lebanon and Susquehanna Valleys, making theological training accessible and practical for regional local pastors and students who could not otherwise get their theological education. More than that, the Seminary has provided a transformative theological education with a distinctly Wesleyan and evangelical focus to the United Methodist churches of the region, meeting a unique set of needs of the denomination.

ETS is now offering a new distance education program, a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation, as well as a new venue for its Master of Divinity program at the Harrisburg Institute of Messiah College, through a new partnership with that institution.

To find out more information about the seminary, check out its website at [www.evangelical.edu](http://www.evangelical.edu). CHRISTOPHER L. FISHER IS ETS DIRECTOR of United Methodist Studies.

## Lancaster Seminary approved for theological education

BY CHARLES YRIGOYEN

**W**e are pleased to announce that Lancaster Seminary has received an invitation from the University Senate of The United Methodist Church to continue to prepare students who have been called by God into the ordained ministry of our church. Under the leadership of the seminary's new President, Dr. Carol E. Lytch, the Seminary moves ahead to provide the theological training for ministry in the 21st century.

For several generations Lancaster Theological Seminary has trained candidates for ordination in our Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and our neighbor Conferences. In the academic year just concluded sixteen United Methodist students pursued theological education at LTS.

Every one of those students benefits from the Seminary's strengths and its commitment to offer United Methodists outstanding educational and spiritual growth experience. It does so by providing

1. First-class instruction offered by a superb faculty in the basic disciplines of biblical, historical, and theological studies as well as the practical areas of pastoral care, Christian education, worship and liturgy,



preaching, clinical pastoral education, leadership in church and community, and international cross cultural experience. The Seminary also arranges for every UM student to fulfill the Disciplinary requirements of instruction in United Methodist history, doctrine, polity, worship, mission, and evangelism.

2. A fellowship of United Methodist students who form a covenant group which meets regularly during every semester to support spiritual growth.
3. Worship held weekly in the seminary chapel including celebration of the Lord's Supper.
4. Services of the Director of United Methodist Studies who maintains contact with every UM student and who counsels and assists them with matters related to their preparations for written and oral presentations to District Committees on Ministry and the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Lancaster Seminary cherishes its partnership with United Methodism and seeks to nurture for years to come.

THE REV. DR. CHARLES YRIGOYEN, JR. IS DIRECTOR of United Methodist Studies for Lancaster Theological Seminary.

## United Campus Ministry reaches young adults

BY KRISTIN SHROM-RHOADS



**"P**eter, if you love me, feed my sheep!" This summer, it became known to United Campus Ministry that many of our Millersville University students are

going without food for 1-3 days a week. While we know that this scripture was talking about spiritual feeding, we are now planning to work together with Millersville University staff and students, other campus ministries, and community churches to make sure that our students have enough to feed their physical selves too. It can simply be the student does not have enough money to buy food. In some cases, a crisis has resulted in short term poverty. Many of our students are looking for work.

You can provide food items like pasta, red sauce, soup, granola or fruit bars, lance crackers, canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, canned fruit or fruitcups, and canned veggies. We will be collecting them through September

and October. A cash gift is also welcomed. Contact me at 717-872-6840 to arrange a drop off time.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24 at 6:30pm. Anyone who is interested in helping as an advising member of the project is welcomed. Please RSVP.

This season, thanks to the creation of a full-time pastoral position, I was able to be present with many more students as they prepare for coming back to Millersville University as leaders this fall. I have been involved in facilitating team-building and discussions on spirituality with over 150 students. In the next weeks, I have also been invited to partner with the Wellness Center to teach all incoming students about risks of sexual assault and the importance of good communication skills and respect. As a minister who connects to the University through the student affairs team, I will play many roles with students in the coming year. The blessing is for me to be present with students so that they know who I am and that I care for them as a whole person. When they are in a life struggle or having questions of faith, there will be fewer barriers to approaching me for pastoral care and support. By investing in this ministry, you are investing in the students. Thank you!

To support the Millersville United Campus Ministry, contact [kshrom-rhoads@millersville.edu](mailto:kshrom-rhoads@millersville.edu) or 717-872-6840.

# Challenged and Inspired



BY SALLY W. OTT

When 9 year old José was given the opportunity to participate in an outing which one of our country churches provides at a park in their community each summer, his mother quickly returned his registration form in an envelope on which she wrote, "Thank you so much. I appreciate the chances you guys give José. I can't really do much with him but you guys give him a chance." (This mother loves her children dearly, but has health issues.)

LUMINA's ministries with children have an impact on children and their parents alike.

Each Monday night during the school year, inner-city children gather for Kid's Night in the fellowship hall at El Redentor & St. Paul's UMC in Lancaster. We have Bible Stories, music, crafts, games, and refreshments - all in a caring Christian environment.

Seven different groups of volunteers from UMCs on the Southwest District plan and lead this vital ministry in 5 week segments. Each group brings 10-12 volunteers to cover each night of their segment. Groups adapt a VBS curriculum or develop their own curriculum. Some have been honoring this commitment for over 15 years!

Another group of volunteers come regularly just to provide continuity. We are familiar faces. We provide transportation. At the end of each evening we have a closing circle, to debrief, plan ahead, and most important, to pray! One evening one of our volunteer servants prayed, "Lord, I know I come here to give, but I always get so much in return."

This summer we initiated a new partnership with the church which houses Kids' Night - Lancaster: El Redentor & St. Paul's. We combined the church's Christian Community Club (CCC) with LUMINA's Kids' Night for our week of Community Day Camp. This year we had 60 children - twice as many

as last year!

As a reward for regular attendance and good behavior at Kids' Night, we provide camp scholarships for children and youth to attend residence camps at Gretna Glen. Parents pay \$10 for each child who goes to camp (we remind them that it would cost them at least that much to feed their child/ren if they were at home that week). Camp scholarships cover the balance, and are provided by mission-minded individuals and congregations. LUMINA provides transportation to and from Gretna Glen.

This year we had a total of 25 campers from our Kids' Night and Youth Ministries.

After many years of praying for a ministry with children who have completed sixth grade, a small group of totally dedicated adults stepped up to a youth group, which meets at the same time as Kids' Night in a different room. Recently youth had a trip to Conestoga View, a local personal care facility, with a volunteer and her dog, to witness pet therapy. Also four youth were blessed to be the guests of Hershey First UMC, spending a Thursday in Hershey Park, followed by an evening meal and movie at the church. On Friday morning, we rode the trolley and enjoyed the ride through Chocolate World.

As I write, we are busy circulating registration forms for our Kids' Night and Youth Ministries for the 2012-2013 school year. This is a wonderfully inclusive, multi-cultural ministry. Over 200 volunteers are blessed to be involved each year!

**"Each generation, time again is on our side ... Hope is in the children."**

**Hubert I. Bermont**  
From All God's Children

How can people engage in this ministry? Volunteer! Donate funds or school and craft supplies! Pray: All of LUMINA's ministries are undergirded with scripture and prayer.

When someone asks me, "How are you, Sally?" I often respond, "I'm challenged and inspired."

Perhaps this article explains my response! We're all challenged and inspired by Jesus telling his disciples "Let the children come unto me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

## New conference staff

### Rev. Gordon Hendrickson



Gordon is hired as Part Time Coordinator, Congregational Development. Rev. Hendrickson is an ordained Elder of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and has been in charge of short-term mission projects for ACTS6 and Bethany UMC in Wescosville, Dean of the EPA Conference Licensing School, Dean of the Wesley Seminary Phila. Area Extension School for the Course of Study, Director of the Meru, Kenya Licensing School for Pastors, and supervisor of Saving God's Children Ministry. He previously served as senior pastor of St. George's UMC in Philadelphia, founding pastor of UMCR in Lionville, and senior pastor of Coventryville UMC in Pottstown. Rev. Hendrickson has a BA in History from Albright College and MDiv from Duke Seminary. He is married to Karen Nowak and they have one daughter, Heidi.

### Rev. Esdras Seda



Esdras is hired as Part Time Coordinator, Latino Ministry. Rev. Seda has been a Local Pastor appointed to Holy Spirit Church in Philadelphia for six years. He is also presently studying for a Masters in Divinity at Palmer Seminary. As a Local Pastor, he guided two congregations to a merger, served as board member of Philadelphia Hispanic Clergy and of ESPERANZA, a community development organization that offers housing, job training, charter school, cyber school and college. He has organized outreach events in Philadelphia such as Convey of Hope, family festivals, and personal evangelism in the difficult streets of Philadelphia. He and his wife, Eva, have been married for twenty-four years.

### Ms. Suzy Keenan



Suzy is hired as Part Time Coordinator, Communications. Suzy has served as Communicator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for twelve years. During this time, she created the newspaper NEWSpirit, led the redesign of the Conference website three times, introduced email communications, introduced the conference to Social Media through Picasa, Facebook, and Twitter, and recently had a mobile app created (for iPhone and Android phones and tablets) for the Conference by Ourchurchvideos. She developed a crisis communications plan, served as spokesperson for the Conference during church trials, obtained grants for radio, TV, and newspaper advertising, and led trainings on welcoming ministry. She received the Award of Excellence from the UM Association of Communicators in 2009 for one of her photographs, and has had multiple articles published in UM communications: Response Magazine, Interpreter Magazine, UM News Service, and the UM Reporter. She has three children: Katie, 25; David, 22; and Sarah, 15.

### Ms. Myra Maxwell



Myra is hired as Part Time Coordinator, Urban Ministry. Myra has served as Lay Supply Pastor of St. Luke's Restoration Worship Center in Philadelphia since 2009. During that time she has also been director of Victim Services for the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia. Her skills include community outreach, case management, supportive counseling, training, victim advocacy, public speaking, grant writing, and community organization. Myra has been a radio show host for WURD AM. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Jameson Christian College and has taken classes at Lincoln University and University of Phoenix. Myra is a board member of the PA Council of Churches and is PA State President of Church Women United. She is married to Gary Maxwell, Sr., and they have five children: Jeanne, Taneha, Chalynn, Chrisstina and Gary, Jr.

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# Working Together

Continued from page 1

the preparation of this solemn occasion. Despite the poverty there were simple but lovely decorations, neat rows of pews set up in the cleanly swept courtyard, certificates of appreciation, many speeches and a reception with cake and bottled sodas (an extreme luxury). The combined efforts of all these church groups and organizations made this happen. It was a wonder to behold. O church, can't we do a bit more of this kind of thing here in the United States? In our annual conferences? Are our differences and squabbles all that important that we would allow that to prevent the greater work from happening?

Most of our time was spent helping to rebuild the church which was in front of the newly completed school. We slept in the school in cots and had bucket showers, no indoor plumbing and electricity for no more than 2 hours a day. The food, however was exquisite Haitian cuisine, prepared each day by a Haitian woman who worked wonders on a tiny rented stove. We were treated to wonderful fresh fruit, rice, beans, goat, chicken, plantains, and a host of casseroles and sweets. Guava jam became a team favorite and the coffee was strong and delicious.

When we were not digging on the large piles of dirt and tossing chunks of broken concrete into a pile on the work site, we were off on a tiny hill not far from the worksite in what was known as the "Deaf Village." It was only God's providence that sent us to work in Leveque. There was no other explanation for us being sent to a place only a mile from a new settlement of 60 deaf families who had been displaced by the earthquake but were now rebuilding their lives together in a community designed to give each a new career and a new life. Again a number of church groups and non-profits have been working together for the last two years to help these very disadvantaged Haitians find work, a religious community, a water system and even basic computer accessibility. Our team was led to the Deaf Village on foot by a guide who believed that it was a 20 minute walk from our worksite. An hour later we finally found the first person who was deaf living in a cement hut. Since I am fluent in American Sign Language and the deaf people of Haiti sign a very similar language (French sign, which is the mother language of American Sign) I was able to communicate with this woman in the hut and she led our team to the deaf leaders of the village.

The deaf leaders explained about their life, how they managed on very little means and how each one



**The Methodist Church in Haiti owns and operates the United Methodist Church in Leveque, Haiti. The Philadelphia Area team helps to build the foundation.**

was setting up a small business (selling paintings, making beads, sewing clothing, making popcorn) to support themselves. Another group known as "410 Bridge" happened to be visiting at the same time we were there and we learned of their efforts to get a water system brought into the village and how they are doing computer training and other forms of education. They had a deaf pastor there as well. He was one of their own who they felt God had called to be their spiritual leader. William was being trained in Biblical studies by an itinerant deaf Bible teacher who came a few times each year to teach him how to be a pastor. Frazier UMC in Alabama heard about this and donated money for the building of a chapel in the village. This chapel is still under construction but it will be the center of spiritual life in the future. These people live on so little and yet they are happy and prosperous and full of the hope. O church, we have so much of the world's goods and yet we whine and complain and compete for more dollars for our luxuries. How much better off we would be if we lived on less and shared what we had so that others could simply live.

During our visit to Haiti we were very impressed with the deep spirituality of the people. We worshiped with the hearing people who had services at the Leveque School as they are waiting for their church building to be completed. Their worship was full of passion, spirit and the joy of the Lord. They prayed with all of their heart. Although we did not understand the Creole language we knew the language of God's power and presence in worship. Our translator explained to us the practical nature of their faith. They depended on God for everything and they lived a life of thanksgiving for all that God is doing for them. I had the privilege of preaching at the service (with the help of our translator). People gladly received the Word of God and you knew that the living presence of Christ was with them. We shared in Holy Communion with them and Christ was both present and working to unify us as we worshiped together.

Later that week we worshiped at the "Deaf Village"

along with the team of "410 Bridge." There we also shared in Holy Communion. Our team performed a Bible drama about the Raising of Lazarus (John 11). The people cheered when Jesus called out (in sign language) "Lazarus, come out of the grave." The resurrection power of God burst into the little tent where we were worshiping. During the Lord's Supper we experienced our oneness with one another and Christian love and fellowship was expressed by exuberant hugging during the "passing of the peace." There were few dry eyes during the deaf worship service. The glory of God filled the tent. O church, what power there is when people depend solely on God and are not comfortably self-reliant on their material possessions. We in America are the really poor people. We are "rich in things but poor in soul" compared to our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

As we were getting into our "tap-tap" (a taxi that is something like a closed in pick-up truck) a deaf woman ran up to me and signed "my baby is sick, very sick, no one can make her better. Can you heal my baby?" How sad. My heart ached for that young mother, helplessly watching her child suffer. There are no medical services in the "Deaf Village." Daily there is a thin line between life and death. I had to get on the tap-tap and was not able to help her but that is my final thought. The work never ends. There are additional things I need to do in Haiti to find ways to help and empower. I will pray for them but also plot some new ways to get a mobile clinic to come to see them. Doing this would give me more joy that anything else I can think of at the moment.

Do you want to find true joy? Help someone in need. Give yourself and your means away so that others can live. Watch God use you in ways you cannot imagine. And when you do that you have just been on a trip to Haiti, "the land of high mountains."

Psalm 121 says "I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." As we give help we find our own help and sustenance for the most important things in life.



**The Philadelphia Area team:**

**Back row (left to right): Christopher Kurien, Marie Van Der Wall, Aileen McElhaney, Bishop Peggy Johnson, Shauna Ridge, Jim Todd**

**Front row (left to right): Haitian interpreter LaMer, Bill Westbrook, Boyd Etter, Kevin Rutledge**

*"In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these..."*



When you give a financial gift to Methodist Services

- A child without insurance receives counseling
- A homeless family can move into permanent housing
- A student can attend an after-school program
- A mother and her children can receive temporary shelter

*You have done it unto me!"*  
(Matthew 25:40)

For more information on how you can help make a difference in the lives of children and families please contact:

Methodist Services  
4300 Monument Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19131  
215-877-1925, ext. 116

## City children find fellowship in camp



BY BETTY KENNEDY

**O**ur team at St. Phillips UMC in Philadelphia began planning for a camp program for our children last October. As each month went by we planned, and hoped, and prayed for a great week of camping for the kids. Working with Ray Neitz, Meg Neitz and JoAnne Carroll at Carson Simpson Farm we got to know them as special people who care about the children and the program. The staff wanted a loving/safe place to share Jesus with our children.

This summer we went to Carson-Simpson Camp with one goal in mind: to learn about Jesus and to have fun. We were joined by the children from Bickley's New Beginning UMC for a week of Christian camping and fellowship.

On Monday July 9TH, we first met at St. Philip's

UMC and then off to camp we went. We checked in at camp with twelve of our children: three experienced campers and nine new campers. At the campfire on Thursday we all joined hands in one large circle demonstrating we are one in Christ, finding the Lord's love and understanding for the children. By Friday, the children did not want go home! However, our return home was with new understanding of how to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

If there is one message from the week of Camp at Carson-Simpson, it is that we need to take a lesson from our children in believing in God and yourself. Our theme at camp was "GRACE."

Learn more about Carson Simpson Farm: [www.csfarm.org](http://www.csfarm.org).

BETTY KENNEDY IS CHAIR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION at St. Philip's United Methodist Church.

## Dennis Wack receives Walter King Award



**Dennis Wack receives Walter King Award.**

**T**he Walter King Award is presented annually at the Laity Academy to a Christ Servant Minister in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church who exemplifies the principles and missions

of the Christ Servant Ministry. The award is named for the late Walter King, who was a faithful member of Camphor UMC in Philadelphia, PA, for many years. He was a Christ Servant Minister and the treasurer of the Conference's Laity Academy. He served on many Conference Boards and ministries and was the Conference Vice-President of the United Methodist Men.

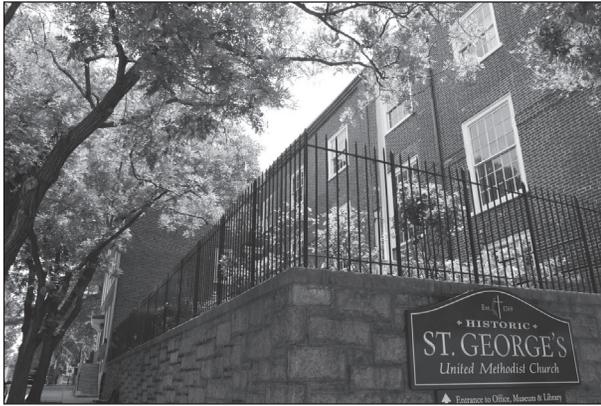
Christ Servant Ministers are persons who have met the requirements for Certified Lay Speaker defined in the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, and serve the denomination through not only speaking, but through leading and caring ministries in the churches and extension activities, such as in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, shelters and through feeding programs. They augment the work of clergy by

carrying the Word of the Gospel into the sanctuaries and out into the world.

More information on the Christ Servant Ministry program can be found online: <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/csm/>.

Dennis Wack, a member of Evansburg UMC, working hand-in-hand with his wife, Sherry, created YouTube videos that explained the meaning of particular Scripture by expounding on the value of the theological content, relating it to today's lifestyles. The approach is one Christ Servant Minister's method of delivering the message in a peaceful setting, using the contemporary communication medium of YouTube, a highly available and highly viewed social medium. This method represents the beginning of a series of inspirational messages to reach out to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

# St. George's and Mother Bethel receive Distinguished Service Award



**Historic St. George's United Methodist Church.**

St. George's United Methodist Church and Mother Bethel AME Church were recognized by the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) for their efforts that resulted in the Great Gathering, a service of reconciliation. Robert Williams, General Secretary of GCAH, presented the Distinguished Service Award to the two congregations at a banquet in Philadelphia on Saturday, September 15.

The Great Gathering was held on October 25, 2009, and marked when the two congregations came together to heal a history of divisions that began two centuries ago.

That history started in the 1780's when Richard Allen and Absalom Jones became the first African-American lay preachers at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, licensed by Francis Asbury, Methodism's first bishop in America. The growing number of African members brought in by Allen and Jones led to the building of a balcony, completed in 1792. With the balcony came segregated seating. One Sunday when Jones was forcibly moved by a church trustee from where he was praying, Allen and Jones led a walk out of the African-American members. Allen began Mother Bethel Church, whose struggles with the overseeing church, St. George's, continued with a "long, distressing and expensive lawsuit" over rights to self-determination. In 1816, the Supreme Court decided in favor of Mother Bethel, and Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal denomination.

General Secretary Williams made these remarks when presenting the Distinguished Service Award: "One time of worship cannot alter the past but it

can begin to create a different future. There may be numerous examples of congregations worshipping together but none can have the symbolic and historic messages that this gathering embodied. The pain and the impact of the walkout has reverberated for more than two centuries. But it has also given rise to a great church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. "

Williams continued, "The Distinguished Service Award has been given for twenty years to individuals who have served the ministry of memory," Williams said. "These persons have been leading professors, authors, historians, and servants of the church. For the first time, the General Commission decided that the Great Gathering of these two congregations was such a significant and historic event that the Distinguished Service Award should go to these two congregations. We honor the courage and vision of the two pastors and their willingness to write a different history going forward. We recognize that Pastor Fred Day extended the invitation to Pastor Mark Tyler to preach and that Mark offered to have his entire congregation join with him in coming to St. George's. We honor the willingness of one congregation to host and the other to journey a few blocks in space but a great distance in memory. This moment of worship has also been followed up by other events including St. George's coming to Mother Bethel for the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Richard Allen."

Williams continued, "But this event we honor tonight is but a marker on the road that looks back to discriminatory acts and forward to that day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. This is to be a marker to what lies ahead in the quest for racial justice and the end to discrimination in whatever form it presents itself. It is right, good, and proper that the agency charged with the historic interests of The United Methodist Church remember those events of the late eighteenth century and about 220 years later, honors an event that seeks reconciliation and offers an expression of commitment to break down the walls that divide the human community."

For more information on Historic St. George's UMC in Philadelphia or to plan a visit to the church and museum, go to: [www.historicstgeorges.org](http://www.historicstgeorges.org). For more information on GCAH, go to [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org).

## Faith Sharing

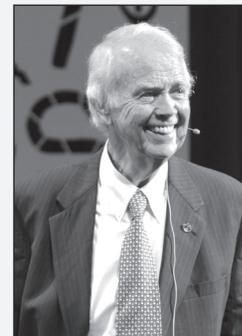
Continued from page 1

These are individuals who are in no way different from you or me. They are ordinary folks with similar challenges of life, who have taken the mandate that Jesus gave us seriously. Every other denomination in the area has given up on the Parkside community, but this little church is growing, thriving and helping to meet the needs of people, some of who live on the streets.

This kind of faith sharing and evangelism is what is needed today. Do you think we can rise to the challenge?

I grew up in India as the son of missionary parents. Their passion in bringing people to Jesus Christ broke down barriers of religion and the caste system, which was prevalent in India. They shared their deep faith in Jesus Christ even when they received threats and opposition from zealous non-Christians. In this way they were able to plant numerous churches, and bring many hundreds of new Christians to discipleship.

In our context, it doesn't matter where we share our faith. Recently, God opened a door for me to share my faith while at the mall. A young man, curious by my looks, asked me if I was from India and assumed I was a Hindu. Interested in continuing this conversation, I told him that although I am a proud American, I grew up in a Christian family in India, and in fact that I am a pastor. He was shocked! We got to talking and I was able to ask him about his faith. He explained that he had only been to church two or three times in his life. I saw this as an opportunity to share my faith with him. I told him about God's love and grace and we ended with a prayer



**DR. EDDIE FOX**

that touched his heart and brought him to tears.

As Christians, it is a part of our discipleship to share our faith, but many in our churches have lost the passion to evangelize. Instead a good number of United Methodists seem to see church as more of a weekly social gathering or ritual. So let's renew our

passion for faith sharing and evangelism! The Faith Sharing Event and Rally on November 3 is a fabulous opportunity for our churches to bring persons with a heart for evangelism to learn from Dr. Eddie Fox. As Executive Director of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, Dr. Fox travels around the world bringing his inspiring message and practical information that you will be able to use in your congregation. You will enjoy his great sense of storytelling and humor, into which he brings the truth and profound wisdom.

Please take an opportunity to invite persons in your congregation to this important conference event. Contact Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien: [ckurien@epaumc.org](mailto:ckurien@epaumc.org).

### Faith Sharing Training and Rally NOVEMBER 3

Bethany UMC in Allentown, with Dr. Eddie Fox.  
Register online: <http://epaumc.org/events/calendar/2012-faith-sharing-nov>

## Faith Sharing Training and Rally

### Registration

Register online at [www.epaumc.org/events](http://www.epaumc.org/events) or return the form below to EPAUMC, c/o Faith Sharing Event, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482. .5 CEUs awarded to each participant.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ people attending \_\_\_\_\_ books at \$12/book.

Pay by Check: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Resources

### CATCH

#### An Invitational Evangelism Program from Church of the Resurrection

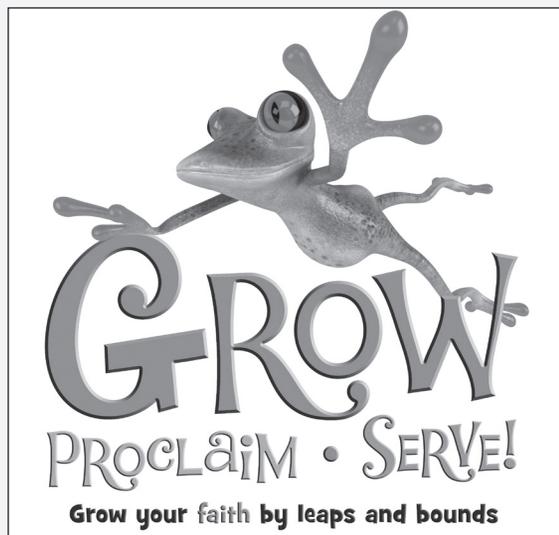
Do you sometimes feel that you're spinning your wheels trying to attract visitors and welcome them into your church? Help is on the way.

Catch is a comprehensive program for invitational evangelism developed by the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, one of the fastest-growing churches in the U.S. This newly revised and updated resource shows you how to attract visitors to your church, connect them with your faith community, and help them learn to know, love, and serve God. The Catch program has three phases:

**Planning Phase:** Using the Program Guide with DVD-ROM, the pastor and church leaders learn about the program, then set a vision and plan for using it in their congregation.

**Teaching Phase:** Four-week period to get church members on board through small groups and worship. Small-Group Participant Book and Small-Group DVD with Leader Guide will help get the congregation informed and excited about the new evangelism effort.

**Implementation Phase:** Using the Implementation Guide, church teams carry out the plan. This guide includes step-by-step directions for changing church culture and beginning to invite and welcome people outside the church.



### Grow, Proclaim, Serve

#### The New United Methodist approved Sunday School Curriculum

Grow, Proclaim, Serve! Grow Your Faith by Leaps and Bounds incorporates Bible stories, activities, crafts, media, and games into a full faith experience for children. With Grow, Proclaim, Serve! children will develop the skills to unlock the Bible message and grow their faith by leaps and bounds.

With Grow, Proclaim, Serve! as children grow in mind and body, they also grow in heart and soul. Grow, Proclaim, Serve! will nourish and enrich children, from birth through tweens, in faith so they can proclaim the good news of God's love and serve God and neighbor. Children will realize their faith goes with them as they grow.

For more information contact your local Cokesbury representative: Steve Toombs - [stoombs@cookesbury.com](mailto:stoombs@cookesbury.com); (888) 900-0900

## Olde Main at Simpson House a United Methodist Historic Landmark



Left to right: The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Williams, Gen. Secy. of the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History; The Rev. David Adam, Director of Church Relations, Simpson Senior Services; Roseann M. Smith, Simpson House Executive Director; Kim W. Williams, Simpson Senior Services President and CEO; Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, United Methodist Susquehanna Annual Conference, The Rev. Bob Walk, Simpson House Chaplain.

**H**istory was made again at 2101 Belmont Avenue! For the first time in its history, the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church selected a retirement community to be designated a United Methodist Historic Landmark. In conferring the designation the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Williams General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History acclaimed, "The Olde Main Building at Simpson House has served faithfully for more than a century. If the walls could talk we could learn so much from the people who have lived and served here. It is only fitting and timely that the distinguished history and ministry of Olde Main be designated a Historic Landmark."

The building which was constructed between 1898 and 1899 is itself historic, but also represents a history that can be dated to an earlier era. The roots of the Simpson House ministry are traced back to the year 1865 and the end of the Civil War. The ladies of Philadelphia were noted for giving care to the sick and wounded from the battlefields. With the return of peace, these energies could be channeled into other directions.

Mrs. Jane Henry, the widow of the Reverend John Henry of the Philadelphia Conference, focused the attention of the ladies upon the needs of older Methodists in the City of Philadelphia. Jane Henry was mindful of the needs of some of the older persons in area congregations. It was that concern which created her vision of a home for older people within

the Philadelphia Conference. When she approached Bishop and Mrs. Matthew Simpson to share her vision, she selected two eminently qualified listeners. It was through the help of Bishop and Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Henry was able to interest many in her dream. The Ladies' Christian Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia had worked diligently to meet needs created by the Civil War. On June 14, 1865, through the efforts of Jane Henry, the Simpsons and others, a special meeting was convened. At that meeting, the Ladies' Christian Commission came to an end, and a new organization was created and named: The Ladies' United Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Philadelphia for the benefit of AGED AND INFIRM Members. This society became the founding mothers of Simpson House.

In accepting the designation on behalf of Simpson Senior Services, Mr. Kim W. Williams, President and CEO acknowledged the efforts of The Rev. David R. Adam, Director of Church Relations in seeking and receiving the United Methodist Historic Landmark designation. Williams emphasized, "This is a very important occasion. The designation of Olde Main as a United Methodist Historic Landmark honors not our work; but the work of women and men who heard a distinct call to action in 1865. We are honored today to celebrate the recognition of their extraordinary vision and impact. Thank you for this honor and for this ceremony to commemorate Olde Main."



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## Bus Tour of Carlisle Indian School



BY SHERRY WACK

On the morning of May 21st, 2012, the Eastern Pennsylvania Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) sponsored a bus trip to the Carlisle Indian School. Eighteen persons met at the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Center in Valley Forge, PA, and boarded two rented vans for the trip, and two others met us in Carlisle.

Our first stop was the Cumberland County Historical Society, where we met our very knowledgeable guide, Barbara Landis. The second floor of the Historical Society has a large room dedicated to the Carlisle School and contains many photographs of students, athletes, teachers, and, of course, the founder, Richard Henry Pratt. On display are samples of students' art, crafts, and writing. Trophies adorn the athletic case along with photos of their great football team, which featured Jim Thorpe, winner of the pentathlon and decathlon in the 1912 Olympics, named the Greatest Athlete in the World.

After Pratt's military experience with Indians on the western reservations and then with Indian prisoners, he became convinced that the best course of action to protect and provide for the Indians was to remove them from their "savage" culture, immerse them in white man's culture and teach them a trade so they could assimilate into white society. His experiment to "kill the Indian and save the man" began in 1879 at an abandoned military barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 18 miles southwest of Harrisburg. Pratt recruited the first students from Dakota Territory by convincing the chiefs that if they knew how to read the

white man's letters, they would not have been swindled out of their land. Carlisle became the model for 26 other Indian schools around the nation. It functioned for nearly 40 years, but was then conscripted for use by the Army during WWI.

In the afternoon, we proceeded to the school, which is now an Army barracks, which required a photo ID for security. Unfortunately it was raining, and we drove through the campus with our guide on speaker. Just inside the entrance gate is the cemetery, which we did not tour due to the weather. We did visit the Jim Thorpe Gymnasium, which was state-of-the-art when it was built, with a running track on the second level. We walked to the bandstand in the center of the campus where Ms. Landis shared stories of the Indian students and the school.

"I had been visiting the cemetery of the Indian School for many years because we always knew we had relatives who were taken there from South Dakota at the very beginning of the 'experiment,'" said Sandra Cianciulli, a member of the Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). "Meeting Barbara Landis, Carlisle Indian School historian, helps these hallowed grounds come to life."

We all came away enlightened with knowledge of the plight of Native American children at the turn of the last century.

For more information on the EPA Conference CONAM, contact the Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, ckurien@epaumc.org.

### Upcoming CONAM events:

OCTOBER 18, 19, 20

**Northeast Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee meeting:** hosted by Grace UMC in Carlisle, PA, this will include a tour of the Carlisle Indian School on Friday, Oct 19, and a luncheon Saturday featuring food items produced by Native American owned companies.

NOVEMBER 4

**2nd EPA Conference Native American Worship Service:** at Camp Innabah at 3:00 p.m.

## A fresh start for the school year

On Saturday, August 18, 2012 Tabor UMC of Woxall, PA provided backpacks filled with school supplies to 37 students from the community. Some responded to fliers, while others found out about the event through word of mouth.

Tabor's Outreach Committee sponsored the event enlisting the help of the congregation to gather supplies. In 4 short weeks the congregation collected over 1,000 supplies and \$350 in donations to purchase more supplies.

While the event was small it served its purpose: to place tools for a successful school year into the hands of those who need them. Families struggling with financial hardship came to the church for a family movie and an opportunity pick out their backpack and school supplies, all completely free of charge. Twelve students along with their families attended the event with another 25 students receiving supplies outside of the event.

A good education is proven to make a difference in the fight against poverty. The hope is that by giving students the opportunity to be excited about the beginning of the school year they will be excited about their education; hopefully disrupting the cycle of poverty and eventually ending it.

Plans are already underway to make the 2013 event larger. Everything from haircuts, vision tests, gently used clothing sale and fun activities are being explored.



## In Memoriam

Continued on page 11

qua: Grace, Slatedale: First, Steelton: First, Steelton: Mr. Zion, Eddystone, Darby: Mt. Zion, and Springfield: C.C. Hancock. He retired in 1981.

He is survived by his wife, Jane B. Harris of Cornwall; children, Priscilla Yagel, Sharon Brucker, Joanna Stewart, Deborah Harris, and Rev. David Harris of Palmyra; grandchildren, Matthew, Mark, Jennifer, Kirk, Jessica, Gregory, and Jeremiah; and great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Jane Harris, PO Box 125, Laurel Place Apt. 203, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Church of the Good Shepherd (Outreach ministries), 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon, PA 17042; or Cornwall Manor (Health Center Fund), Development Office, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016 or online [www.cornwallmanor.org](http://www.cornwallmanor.org).

### Mrs. Ethel R. Lewis

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Ethel R. Lewis, who passed away on July 29, 2012 at age 103. She was the widow of the Rev. Frank S. Lewis.

Rev. Lewis was a full member of the Susquehanna Conference. He also served churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Palmerton, Ephrata, and Ephrata: Hope.

She is survived by daughter: Karen Hosman and son: Robert J. Kelly.

Condolences may be sent to Karen Hosman at 2258 Capri Drive, Clearwater, FL 33763.

### Mrs. Mary D. Klinger

Word of the death of Mrs. Mary D. Klinger, widow of the Rev. Galen Klinger, on July 31, 2012.

Rev. Klinger served Shenandoah, Reading: Ebenezer, Shenandoah, Ashland: Girardville, Ashland: First, and Denver: Trinity. He retired in 1991, and died in 1997.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Galen, and her son, Galen Paul Klinger. She is survived by three grandchildren: Christine Klinger, Katelyn Klinger and Kellie Sitzpatrick.

Condolences to: Christine Klinger, 139 Isadore Lane, Martingburg, WV 25404.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Pine Grove: St. Paul's, E Pottsville Street, Pine Grove, PA 17963.

## Appointments

### Bishop Peggy Johnson announces the following appointments:

- Rev. Joan Pacocha: to Lebanon: Ebenezer.
- Mr. Joseph Martin, Certified Lay Minister to: Fallsington
- Mr. David Ryan, Certified Lay Minister to: Phila.: Kensington (Old Brick)
- Mr. Jeffrey Lundblad to: interim Lay Supply Pastor of Malvern

# Northeastern Jurisdiction elects three bishops



The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference delegation poses on the stage at the recent Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Photo by Richard Vance.

BY JIM TODD

Meeting July 16-20 in Charleston, WV, delegates of the Northeastern Jurisdiction elected three new bishops to replace retiring bishops.

The retiring bishops were: Bishop Peter D. Weaver, serving the Boston Area, Bishop Jane A. Middleton, serving the Harrisburg Area, and Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, serving the West Virginia area. Bishop Weaver served the Philadelphia Episcopal Area from 1996-2004. Bishops are not assigned to annual conferences, but to episcopal areas. In many cases, the episcopal area encompasses only one annual conference, but in the case of the Philadelphia Area, it encompasses both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference.

Our episcopal area is the only one in the Northeastern Jurisdiction which includes more than one annual conference, and our bishop must preside over two annual conference sessions, two Cabinets, and two sets of organizational structures with different histories, focuses, and cultures.

The United States is divided up into five different Jurisdictions, with the Southeast Jurisdiction being

the largest in terms of membership, and the Western being the smallest. Each Jurisdictional Conference meets after General Conference (General Conference met April 24-May 4, 2012), and every four years.

The primary focus of jurisdictional conferences is the election of bishops; however, two jurisdictions, the Western and North Central, had no need to elect bishops this year due to the combining of annual conferences into larger episcopal areas. The Southeastern Jurisdiction, on the other hand, elected five new bishops, including the first Asian American bishop in that jurisdiction.

Because the episcopal area boundaries stayed the same in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, and because of the three episcopal retirements, three new bishops were elected in a record 35 ballots. A new electronic balloting procedure greatly streamlined the voting at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference, though the record number of ballots indicates it was no easier to elect a bishop this time than before!

Here are the bishops recently elected, and where all the nine bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction will serve, beginning September 1, 2012 (Conferences in parentheses):

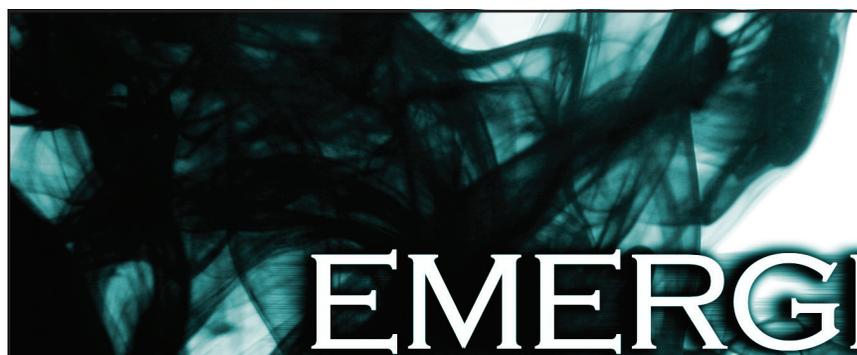
1. Boston (New England): Sudarshana Devadhar
2. Harrisburg (Susquehanna): Jeremiah J. Park
3. New Jersey (Greater New Jersey): John R. Schol
4. New York (New York): Martin D. McLee (just elected)
5. Philadelphia (Eastern Pennsylvania, Peninsula Delaware): Peggy A. Johnson
6. Pittsburgh (Western Pennsylvania): Thomas J. Bickerton
7. Upper New York (Upper New York): Mark J. Webb (just elected)
8. Washington (Baltimore Washington): Marcus Matthews
9. West Virginia (West Virginia): Sandra Steiner Ball (just elected)

The bishops themselves do not decide where they are assigned. There is a Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee which meets late into the night on the Thursday night of the quadrennial jurisdictional conference to decide where each bishop will be assigned. This committee is made up of the first elected lay and clergy delegates from each annual conference. The committee also meets each year in September and functions as a support group for the bishops of the jurisdiction. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has been represented on this committee the last four years by the Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow and Judith Ehninger. Immediately at the close of the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference, the Rev. James B. Todd and Dr. Mary White began their four year tenure on the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee.

Finally, there is a Council of Bishops, and various Colleges of Bishops. The Council of Bishops is made up of all US and international bishops, both retired and active, and meets twice per year. The Colleges of Bishops are based on the jurisdictional boundaries. The Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops includes all nine active bishops and seventeen retired bishops. Among the retired bishops, four were elected out of Eastern Pennsylvania: George W. Bashore, Violet L. Fisher, Susan W. Hassinger, and Alfred Johnson. Three more of the retired bishops have served our episcopal area: F. Herbert Skeete, Susan M. Morrison, and Peter D. Weaver.

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held again in 2016 in Lancaster, PA.

REV. JIM TODD IS SUPERINTENDENT of the Southwest District, and was first elected clergy delegate from Eastern Pennsylvania to General and Jurisdictional Conference.



# EMERGENT CHURCH

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Pastor Jim is a fully ordained elder in The United Methodist Church who works with the Western Pennsylvania Conference doing congregational development.