Nearly 1,000 members of The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference met May 16-18, 2013 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA, with the theme, “Wholeness: Physical, Spiritual, Relational.” Annual Conference opened with District Celebrations. Each of the six districts presented news of their churches’ ministries, and the many outstanding ways churches are reaching out with the compassion of Christ in their communities.

Bishop Peggy Johnson led Opening Devotions, noting the 275th anniversary of Aldersgate Day on May 24, 2013, when John Wesley’s heart was “strangely warmed.” She encouraged listeners to be “fired up and ready to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth.”

Dr. Mary White, Conference Lay Leader, presented the Laity Report, saying, “It’s time to be the church. It’s time to fill the gap. It’s time to put on our armor, get up out of the pews, and reach out to those that are un-churched in the community.”

The Rev. Jim Todd presented the Superintendents’ Report, calling for all to be “relentlessly outwardly focused.” He said, “Those we are called to serve are those outside the walls of our church. We bear the light of Christ and we need to be an example in our own lives.”

The conference welcomed Gary Harke, executive director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Steve Drachler announced organizational changes for United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania, effective July 1, when it will become a ministry under the direct guidance and oversight of Pennsylvania’s three bishops.

Conference Statistician Gordon Yocum said that worship attendance declined over last 5 years on all districts, but the rate of decline has slowed, and 62 churches report an increase of 10% or more.

The Denman Award for outstanding evangelism efforts went to two persons: Aaron Smith (laity honoree) of Woxall Tabor UMC, and Rev. Ralph Stevenson of Bethany UMC. (See page 5.)

The Kim Jefferson Award for 2013, presented by the Office of Urban Ministry, went to New Vision United Methodist Church in Philadelphia. (See page 9)

Bishop Violet Fisher preached for the Memorial Service on the evening of Thursday, May 16, when the conference remembered deceased bishops, clergy, spouses, lay members and staff. “Tonight we stand on the giant shoulders of those who have gone before us,” she exclaimed. “God, I thank you that they were faithful when they received $40 a month; that they were faithful preaching on the street corners; that they were faithful preaching on the street corners; that...”

Continued on page 6

Casa del Pueblo helps lead effort to end malaria

Members of Casa del Pueblo, a United Methodist Latino ministry at Lehman UMC in Hatboro, PA, joined the movement to support the work of Imagine No Malaria on Saturday, June 1, when they hosted a community fair.

When Pastor Luky Cotto brought the idea to her church, the leadership loved the idea of helping mothers in Africa. They also liked the idea of leading the way for Latino churches and ministries in supporting the denomination’s effort to end malaria.

According to Rev. Cotto, at the initial planning meeting, one of her members, Luzbenia, from Honduras, said, “Pastor, when I was little I had malaria myself and I almost died. I really want us to help!” One after another...
**NEW Spirit!**

_The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church_

980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

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

### July

**Saturdays, July 20**

**EPAUMC Softball Tournament:**
Mondauk Commons Park, 1451 Dillion Rd., Amberly, PA 19002.
9:00 a.m. inspirational devotions service; games at 9:30 a.m. $32 per registration and $20 per game. Double elimination with all teams guaranteed three games. Registration/Information: Ross Brightwell at rossbrightwell@verizon.net. Ph. 215/643-1269.

**Tuesdays, July 23**

**Basic Sexual Ethics Training:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Contact: Dave Woolerton, shepherd2842@aol.com. Location: West Lawn UMC, Reading PA. Registration Fee is $30 per person (includes continental breakfast starting at 8:30 a.m., lunch, materials). Workshop facilitator: Dr. Donna Fiedler and Rev. Ricky Ayala.

**Friday, July 26 - Sunday, July 28**

**Mission U:** Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, PA. Dean: Mary Ann Repsher, rep164@frontiernet.net; Asst. Dean: Susan Dziuk, dzuki15@verizon.net.

### August

**Friday, August 2 - Sunday, August 4**

**30th Academy for Laity:** Friday 4:30 p.m. - Sunday 12:30 p.m. Contact: Aubrey Bates, aubreybates@verizon.net. Location: West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue Reading, PA 19069-1664. Registration Deadline is July 8, 2013.

**Saturday, August 17**

**United Methodist Night at the Phillies:** United Methodist Night at Phillies - Game time: 7:05 p.m. Net proceeds from each ticket sold through this event will benefit Conference UMM Ministries. Tickets, please visit www.phillies.com/methodist and use the promotional code on the website. Deadline to order is Friday, July 5th!

### September

**Monday, September 9 - Tuesday, September 10**

**Planned Giving School:** Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic UMF. Simpson UMC, Wilmington DE. Information: (800) 828-9093, 2008.

**Wednesday, September 11**

**Large Membership Church Event:** with Susan Beaumont, senior consultant with the Alban Institute and author of Inside the Large Congregation. Aldersgate UMC, Wilming- ton, DE. 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Saturday, September 21**

**Basic Sexual Ethics Training:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Contact: Dave Woolerton, shepherd2842@aol.com. Location: West Lawn UMC, Reading PA. Registration Fee is $30 per person (includes continental breakfast starting at 8:30 a.m., lunch, materials). Workshop facilitator: Dr. Donna Fiedler and Rev. Ricky Ayala.

**Tuesday, October 22**

**Advanced Sexual Ethics:** Leading Between the Lines (©): 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Location: West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue Reading, PA 19069-1664. Registration Fee: $30 per person (includes continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM, lunch and materials). Information/Registration: David Woolerton shepherd2842@comcast.net or 717-653-5493.

### November

**Friday, November 1 - Sunday, November 3**

**Changing Racism:** Friday 6:30 p.m. - Sunday 3:00 p.m. Contact: Amy Botti, abotti@epaumc.org. Location: National Christian Conference Center, 1485 Valley Forge Road, Phoenixville, PA 19481.

### December

**January 21-23, 2014**

**Mid-Winter Retreat:** Ocean City

**March 8**

**Faith Sharing Event:** Dr. Eddie Fox. Dr. Fox, executive director of World Methodist Evangelism, returns to EPA to inspire and encourage the evangelism ministries of our churches. The first event, in March of 2013, was attended by over 300 clergy and laity, who requested this repeat event. At Wescosville: Bethany UMC.

### In Memoriam

**Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglas, Jr.**

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglas Jr., Elder of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, on April 1, 2013.

Rev. Douglas served the following appointments: Chester: Grace; Phila: Eastwick; Phila: Emmanuel; Extension Ministries (Chaplain for the Methodist Home for Children); Phila: Devereux Memorial; Phila: Camphor Memorial. He had been serving Mont Clare: Otterbein since July 1, 2012. Fred is survived by his wife, Valerie, and children, Steven and Tezrin.

Condolences: Mrs. Valerie Douglas, 1001 Ashley Road, West Chester, PA 19382.

**Rev. Bob Edgar**

Word has been received of the death of The Rev. Bob Edgar on April 23, 2013.

In May 2007, Rev. Edgar was named president and CEO of Common Cause, a national nonpartisan, non-profit “citizens” lobby working to make government at all levels more honest, open and accountable. Bob served as secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA for seven years, in the US House of Representatives for six terms, and as president of the Claremont School of Theology for ten years. Bob received a BA from Lyons College and a master of divinity degree from the Theological School of Drew University. In the 1960’s he was campus minister at Asbury Ministry at Drexel. He is survived by his wife, Merle, and three sons: Andrew, David, and Rob.

Condolences: Mrs. Merle Edgar, 9704 Woodcarver Court, Burke, VA 22015.

**Rev. Josiah H. Werner**

Word had been received of the death of The Rev. Josiah H. Werner on April 27, 2013.


He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, and his children Doug- las, Jeffrey, and Rebecca.

Memorial contributions: Cornwall Manor or Covenant UMC. Condolences: Mrs. Beatrice Werner, at her home address PO Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125.

**Mrs. Rita Ann Glover**

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Alice K. Keller Stoner, on February 23, 2013, wife of retired elder, The Rev. Samuel H. Stoner, passed away on February 23, 2013.

Rev. Stoner, whose 100th birthday was in July 2012, served Manheim: Salem, Falmouth and Lykens: Grace. Condolences may be sent to: The Rev. Samuel H. Stoner, Fieldcrest Apt. # 104, P.O. Box 5093, Lancaster, PA 17606-5093.

A funeral service was held at Brethren Village Chapel on March 1, 2013. Contributions may be sent in Alice’s memory.
My family and I turned out on June 1 - a wonderfully sunny day - for the first Gretna Gritty event at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center. We were amazed to see more than 200 runners and walkers ready to participate in what they called “a 5K adventure run and walkathon.” There were also about 150 family members, Gretna Glen enthusiasts, and community members there to cheer on the participants. According to camp staff, half were folks that had minimal prior association with camp - that was surprising and exciting!

Gretna Glen hosted this event as part of the Pathways Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to pay down camp mortgage debt so that the camp can operate efficiently, without being saddled down with a high monthly mortgage payment.

It certainly was a gritty event! Runners and walkers (ages 13 and up) had to swing from a rope swing, jump over fire, slog through mud, and cross a stream - just a few of the fifteen obstacles. And they had fun doing it!

A volunteer came to the camp with this creative idea for a fundraiser.

Gathering a team of 50 volunteers, they set the goal for each participant to be $50, with a challenge goal of $250. The overall goal was $25,000 for Pathways, which they actually exceeded!

Lou Rossi, who said his life was transformed by his childhood summer camp experience at Gretna Glen, set a goal to raise $2000. He ended up - through his passionate testimony - raising more than $4000.

With 20 corporate sponsors and four fire companies on site, the Gretna Gritty truly became a community event. The response was so positive that they are planning for 600 participants next year!

There were many persons there that day - including Mr. Rossi - whose lives have been touched by summer camp. So, I ask, how can your church creatively raise funds for scholarships so that you can sponsor a child to attend a life-changing experience at one of our four beautiful conference camps: Carson-Simpson Farm, Innabah, Gretna Glen, and Pocono Plateau.

Camp is now in full swing, but there is room for many more children and youth! Please download and share the summer camp video to learn more: http://www.epaumc.org/camping.

CHRISTOPHER JACOB KURIEN IS THE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Contact him at (484)762-8230 or ckurien@epaumc.org.
Laity Session 2013

The 227th Annual Laity Session was held on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. until noon at Asbury United Methodist Church, Allentown, Pa, with over 200 lay persons in attendance. The theme for session was "Disciplines: Called to New Action, Drawing New People!". The keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Fred Allen from the General Board of Discipleship, Director of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is a program designed to assist United Methodist churches with predominantly black congregations become effective in mission and ministry. It does this by linking successful congregational resource centers with congregations that are in search of new ideas and revitalization. Dr. Allen's urges people of all races, religions, classes, and stations in life to put aside their differences; to break down barriers that divide our communities and to join hands in a spirit of Christian unity. The laity gave Dr. Allen a standing ovation for his excellent message.

Bishop Peggy Johnson joined us with special greetings after attending the clergy session. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Fred Allen from the General Board of Discipleship, Director of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is a program designed to assist United Methodist churches with predominantly black congregations become effective in mission and ministry. It does this by linking successful congregational resource centers with congregations that are in search of new ideas and revitalization. Dr. Allen's urges people of all races, religions, classes, and stations in life to put aside their differences; to break down barriers that divide our communities and to join hands in a spirit of Christian unity. The laity gave Dr. Allen a standing ovation for his excellent message.

A memorial service was prepared to honor laity deceased since last annual conference. The service was written by George Hollich, member of the Board of Lay Ministry and director of the Christ Servant Ministry program. Bishop Peggy Johnson joined us with special greetings after attending the clergy session. Bishop Johnson supports the laity in all of our gatherings.

Adaptive Leadership

BY GORDON HENDRICKSON

When Jim Griffiths met with the Cabinet and church start pastors to talk about satellite ministry, he talked continually about forcing churches to focus outwardly. Too often, we forget we are not appointed to a local church but to a community in which the local church building resides. It is our job to define our community and then to do ministry to meet their needs. Too often, we look at the needs of our local church and forget we exist to serve not ourselves but our communities. One of the best ways to force outward focus is to use worship as a vehicle to reach others not in our local church. In growing churches, worship is the number one way to reach others. Yes, there are others such as Bible study, small groups, missions, education, music, sports, self-help groups, etc. But worship is still the best way to reach others.

We used to apply the 80/20 rule to worship services. When you reach 80% capacity of seating, you planned a new worship service. Now we know better. It is time to start a new service when we realize other people outside of our local church want something new and different from what we offer. Who are these people who live in our communities and what type of worship would they want? What time would they want it? Now comes the real homework. Perhaps use MissionInSite (demographic service free to local churches) to see who these people are and what they their preferences are. Perhaps, go out and talk with them to get this information.

You see the outward focus! It could get uncomfortable if they like music your church doesn't or a different style of preaching, or new technology you don’t know anything about, or on a day and time you think is sacrilegious. Are you getting uncomfortable? Turn the heat up and start to have conversations about doing this!

How can my small or middle size church do this? We don't know what to do! We don't have the resources! We don't have money! The first place to begin is to pray. Without prayer nothing will be successful. We are limited but God is limitless! Don't look at the mountain but look to God. If we are people of Faith and Spirit then we must ask God to show the way. It may take time. We may have failures, but we must try.

I am talking to churches doing worship really well with many different styles. They said they would be interested in helping other churches who really want to try to add another type of worship service. I am sure there are others who will read this and want to help, too. As we begin to strategize to accomplish this vision in the next several years, I will be looking for people and churches to help. Please email me at gordonacts6@gmail.com or call me at 267-258-9507 if you would like to be a part of this mountain-moving experience.

Arch Street opens community music center

IN RESPONSE TO THE growing demand for arts programs in the community, Arch Street United Methodist Church (ASUMC) has opened a music center with activities for individuals and families throughout the Philadelphia area.

Under the leadership of Arch Street's Music Director Andrew Monath, the Community Music Center will offer a range of programs designed to meet the needs of various members of the community and their interest in music arts.

"With more schools cutting back their music and arts programs, we are hoping to offer an affordable and accessible alternative to the community," Monath said. "Music can provide an excellent teaching tool while bringing resources to individuals and families of every walk of life."

The Arch Street Community Music Center offers voice and piano lessons starting at a reduced rate of $20 per lesson. Starting in June, the Center will offer a Community Dance program every Saturday morning from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM beginning June 1st through July 20th. Under the direction of Rhonda Moore, a member of Arch Street UMC and a professional dance instructor, the classes are 45 minutes each (10:00 - 10:45; 11:00 - 11:45 and; 12:00 - 12:45) for eight weeks at $10 a class or $80 for the 8-week program.

The Music Center will launch its "Enchanted Music Together" program in which children from infant to age seven will receive music lessons with their parents and caregivers. Directed by Anna Simons, the Music Together program is offered in three regular semesters of 10 weeks each in the Fall, Winter and Spring at $195 per participant; the Music Theater Camp for $150 per participant; or both programs for $250 per participant for full day experiences.

In the Fall, the Music Center will launch its "Enchanted Music Together" program in which children from infant to age seven will receive music lessons with their parents and caregivers. Directed by Anna Simons, the Music Together program is offered in three regular semesters of 10 weeks each in the Fall, Winter and Spring at $195 per participant; the Music Theater Camp for $150 per participant; or both programs for $250 per participant for full day experiences.

In the Fall, the Music Center will launch its "Enchanted Music Together" program in which children from infant to age seven will receive music lessons with their parents and caregivers. Directed by Anna Simons, the Music Together program is offered in three regular semesters of 10 weeks each in the Fall, Winter and Spring at $195 per participant; the Music Theater Camp for $150 per participant; or both programs for $250 per participant for full day experiences.
Deacons in Full Connection, along with those in the process toward ordination, gathered at Simpson House with Bishop Peggy Johnson for their annual retreat in preparation for Annual Conference.

Twenty-two participants attended which included six candidates and 15 ordained and provisional deacons from the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences representing the largest single gathering since the Order was established with the 1996 General Conference, according to the Rev. Susan L. Worrell who chairs the Order.

“We are so pleased to have such growing interest in the Order of Deacon,” Rev. Worrell said. “The Order of Deacon here in Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware is attracting a diversity of interest as reflected in age, ethnicity and ministry which is consistent with what we’re seeing nationally throughout the denomination.”

The gathering included team-building exercises, a sharing of information and developments in the Order as well as a finalizing of plans for the upcoming Annual Conferences.

There have been many developments that have occurred with the Order of Deacons within both Conferences as well as on a national level. Locally, more deacons are being deployed in the life of the denomination through our formal gatherings in demonstrating our liturgical role. Deacons are also being appointed to ministries ranging from AIDS education to behavioral counseling, communication to corrections. Nationally, the Order is welcoming a new leader at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) in the Rev. Victoria Rebeck who oversees issues related to Deacons on a national level. Rev. Rebeck replaces the Rev. Anita Wood who retired in February after decades of exemplary service on behalf of the Order. In addition, the denomination is anxiously awaiting the release of “A Deacon’s Heart II” which is the second edition of the ground-breaking book, “A Deacon’s Heart” authored by Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann Crain and Jack Seymour that is considered the most comprehensive treatment of this distinctive ministry. The new edition will also feature some of the unique callings of some of our Deacons in the Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware Conference. The announcement of the new publication was made in April at the Deacon Dialogue 2013 which is a national conference held at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Chicago in which members of our Annual Conference joined Deacons from throughout the country for fellowship, planning and professional development.

One of the highlights of the gathering at Simpson House was an emotional worship service and communion led by Bishop Johnson as a fitting sending forth of those gathered. Following the worship experience, the deacons and candidates gathered with the Bishop to strategize around various issues. Most notable, the Order has grown to the point that the group affirmed establishing the office of Vice Chair of the order to assist in the programmatic and development needs of the ordained and candidates. A selection will be made at the Deacons lunch gathering to be held at Eastern PA’s Annual Conference. The deacons expressed their appreciation for Bishop Johnson’s advocacy and commitment to raise awareness of the ministry of the deacon by having a deacon assist her whenever she visits a local church.

Two persons honored for evangelism efforts

For more than thirty years, The Foundation for Evangelism has worked with annual conferences to celebrate outstanding personal evangelism ministry of United Methodist Clergy, Lay and Youth by sponsoring the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism Award. Evangelist Harry Denman formed the Foundation in 1949. His vision grew out of his conviction that it was possible, in God’s time, for the whole world to turn to our Lord.

Since 1998, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has answered the call of the foundation by honoring the outstanding evangelism efforts of clergy and lay persons who enable The United Methodist Church to fulfill its mission of transforming the world through the making of disciples for Jesus Christ.

This year’s recipients are:

Aaron Smith
Lay Honoree, Of Woxall Tabor UMC

Aaron’s passion and zeal for leading others to Christ incited his starting IMPACT, a weekly Sunday evening service at Tabor UMC with a young-adult focus. He has served as a source of great inspiration, stirring in them a desire to see their generation rise up and make a difference in a world in need of love, compassion and mercy.

Reverend Ralph Stevenson
Clergy Honoree, Of Bethany UMC

Pastor Stevenson lives out his evangelistic call through personal interactions, leadership, and ministry, freely sharing Christ with countless people. The Church he serves has grown to be the largest church in the northeast jurisdiction.

Leading from the Heart
Music for the 21st Century
featuring
Mark Miller and Rev. Lydia Muñoz

Saturday, September 21
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Concert at 5:25 p.m.
Hopewell UMC, Downingtown PA

Information: (215) 878-4607 or ddalton@epaumc.org
were faithful serving in the soup kitchens. Question is: do we have the same zeal - the same zest - or do we do it because somebody expects it?”

Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Western Pennsylvania Conference spoke on the morning of Friday, May 17. “Scripture longs to be put into action,” he said of the United Methodist Church’s Imagine No Malaria ministry whose purpose is to eliminate malaria death in Africa by 2015. To date, $50 million has been raised toward the goal of $75 million, which will provide resources, delivery systems and support in fighting malaria. “It’s not just about malaria; it’s about evangelism and giving people hope,” he said.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, Director of Connectional Ministries, led the Celebration of Ministries, spoke about the Evangelism training and the recent missions celebration, and introduced new and returning program coordinators, who spoke of their area of conference ministry. Camp directors shared camp news and an inspiring video to promote summer camp.


On the evening of Friday, May 17, the Service of Ordination included the preaching of Bishop Peggy Johnson. “Tonight we ordain and commission souls for ministry. It is the highest and most holy night of the conference year in my opinion. Lives are being offered up to God for holy service and true personal sacrifice,” she said. “I am here to tell you what you already know: you will encounter a goodly number of trials on the journey (you have already, I’m sure) but God, OUR GOD is surely your strength and your song. Strengthen yourself through prayer, through time away with God, and through the heart of worship and service.”

One person was commissioned for Deacons orders: Erin Antrim Maurer; eight persons were commissioned for Elders orders: Helen L. Adams, Tawny Leigh Bernhardt, Andrea S. Brown, Sarah Jane Fernsler, Karyn Gerber Fisher, Jennifer Sara Sauerbrun, Jared Earl Stine, James H. Wilkin. Tiffany Lynn Bidwell was ordained deacon, and Ethel Fullen Guy, Daniel E. Lebo, and Eric Steven Yeakel were ordained Elders. Bishop Johnson noted the absence of the late Rev. Joyce Anderson, who was to have been ordained this year. On the morning of Saturday, May 18, Rev. Dr. Kirk B. Jones gave an inspiring message on “Self-Care Strategies” as part of the conference Wholeness theme. Dr. Jones realized at one point in ministry that he was in personal burnout. Dr. Jones shared three strategies to “burn bright without burning out”: get to the back of the boat more often (to get away from the pressures of ministry); live at a sacred pace; and be as purposeful about your leisure as you are about your ministry.

Wholeness emphasis: Five Deacons and one Elder took an HIV test to raise awareness that June is HIV Awareness month. Tai-chi classes and a prayer labyrinth offered times for physical and spiritual wholeness. Penn-Jersey Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross held a blood drive and thirty-seven donors participated. Delegates packaged 19,848 dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals to be distributed to schools and orphanages in Cambodia by Stop Hunger Now.

Communications included live video streaming, posts on the conference website, Facebook, and Twitter. Services included American Sign Language translation, assistive listening devices, on-screen transcription of the spoken word, and a big-screen reader. Prior to the opening, Eastern Pennsylvania Renewal Fellowship led a prayer walk. The Order of St. Luke held morning communion in the Prayer Room.
OFFERINGS RECEIVED:
- Project Tariro: $3,235.52
- Scholarships: $3,939.81
- Imagine No Malaria (collected by a pesky mosquito): $1,242.22
- Imagine No Malaria - Offering: $9,037.28
- Camping Envelopes: $2,690.00

BUSINESS
Conference members voted on four Constitutional Amendments, and eighteen resolutions. Among the approved resolutions were: creating a Mission ConneXion, and second-mile giving for twenty-eight ministries. Not approved was redistricting recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee; the conference will continue with six districts.

The 2014 Budget was approved (as related to six districts), including $2,899,339 for conference ministry, and $2,395,272 for General Conference ministry, totaling $5,294,611.

Thank you to volunteer reporters: Suzette James, Myra Maxwell, Mark Moore, Bob Shank, and Denise Harris; and to volunteer photographers: Jim Mundell, Sabrina Daluisio, and Paul C. Davis.

2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The 2014 Annual Conference will be held May 15-17, 2014 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA.

For more information, including links to photographs, videos, sermon texts, resolutions, and more, go to: http://www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference.

SUZY KEENAN, COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS for The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church: skeenan@epaumc.org.
Camps in full swing

Summer is here, and that means that our camps are open and the campers are having a great time. Were else can we send our children that provides a safe, Christian environment, with so much to do!

STILL TIME TO REGISTER

There are still openings for day and overnight camps. From 4 years old through 12th grade, we have something for everyone.

Concerned about the cost? Check with your local church to see if camperships are available. If not, check with the camp, they may be able to help. Another way to save is to "bring a friend". Some of our camps offer a discount if you bring a friend.

SUPPORT OUR CAMPS

Whether or not you have a camper in your family, you can support the camping ministry through your prayers, by volunteering, and by your financial gifts. Consider a gift to the camp of your choice to help support this important ministry.

Grotto Glen 717.273.6525 www.grottaglen.org
Pocono Plateau 570.676.3665 www.poconoplateau.org
Carson-Simpson Farm 215.659.0232 www.csfarm.org
Camp Innabah 610.469.6111 www.innabah.org

2013 Urban Summit: "God Has Not Left His Cities"
April 12 & 13, 2013
Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church
56th & Wyalusing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

"And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." ~ Jeremiah 29:7

REV. MYRA MAXWELL

On Friday, April 12, 2013, The Office of Urban Ministry in collaboration with members of The Urban Commission, The EPAUMC Conference, Central District Office, BMCR, The Latino Commission, BUMP and others came together for the Office’s first Urban Summit. This was certainly a time of Building God’s Community in urban areas.

The Summit’s theme, “God Has Not Left His Cities,” attracted more than 100 participants from Peninsula-Delaware, Pittsburgh, Western PA, Susquehanna and, of course, our own Eastern PA Conference.

The opening devotions were given by Bishop Peggy Johnson and prayer by Dr. Christopher Kurien, who was joined by words of welcome from Dr. Anita Powell, Central District Superintendent and Rev. Alfred Jones, Jr., of Camphor Memorial UMC, our host church.

Friday’s opening worship message was delivered with passion by The Rev. David Tatgenhorst of St. Luke UMC in Bryn Mawr which set the pace for our summit. We had the opportunity to see the importance of the work of urban churches in and around the state. The first plenary session “Healing Communities: A Framework for Ministry with Those Affected by Crime and Incarceration,” was led by Rev. Harold D. Trulear. Healing Communities is a congregation based model for ministry that applies existing strengths and resources of communities of faith to person and families affected by crime and incarceration. The workshop described ways of mobilizing congregations around their own members impacted by jail, prison and reentry by (1) reducing shame and stigma, (2) promoting reconciliation, responsibility and restoration, (3) linking with social services, (4) providing networks of support and (5) developing strategies and mobilizing people of faith to advocacy for criminal justice reform.

Concurrent sessions were held in the morning around the topics “Starting a GED/ABE Program” led by Ms. Marineeta Smallwood of Camphor UMC and “Heeding God’s Call: Our Role in Gun Violence Prevention” led by The Rev. James McIntire of Hope UMC which focused on ways that people of faith can work to end gun violence.

Following lunch, additional workshops were held around the following topics:

- Building Compassionate Communities – Promoting Mental & Emotional Well-being in our Congregations by Ms. Kameelah Rashad which helped to highlight the strong positive connection between spirituality and mental health, reduce stigma related to mental illness and addiction and raise awareness about the importance of faith-based communities promoting mental health and emotional well-being amongst members of the congregation.
- Cultural Literacy in a Multi-Cultural World by The Rev. Dr. Anita Powell, Central District Superintendent, which helped participants expand their awareness and heighten sensitivity as we share a common humanity while being culturally unique
- After School Programs by Ms. Kyndal Chase which was showed participants how to effectively create after school programs in their churches.

A Plenary session concluded the afternoon with a presentation by Partners For Sacred Places who shared their work for helping congregations to re-purpose their church buildings to support community-based activities. The first day ended with a fellowship dinner and an inspiring dinner concert.

On Saturday, Day Two opened with a Plenary Session on how to conduct Congregation Bible Study led Dr. Michael Roberts, Sr. Following the session, concurrent morning workshops were held on the following:

- Understanding Poverty by The Rev. Gregory Holston of New Vision UMC which examined the dimensions of poverty through statistical information and stories from those who live in poverty.
- The Church’s Call to Respond to HIV/AIDS by The Rev. Dr. Deborah Tanksley Brown, Deacon with the Hub of Hope and Church of the Open Door UMC, participants engaged in an exercise to set the stage for understanding the varied losses, stigma, and discrimination people living with HIV/AIDS experience on a daily basis.
- Mission of the VA Chaplain Service by The Rev. Cookie Bracey (retired) examined Veterans Services and resources available at the VA Medical Center in Philadelphia.

The Urban Summit also included a separate youth track entitled, “Yo! Listen Up!” led by Victor Gimenez of New Vision UMC and Jordan Harris of Arch Street UMC which enabled youth to talk about urban issues and how they view the world today.

The Summit concluded with a panel discussion with Urban Commission and a closing worship and Communion led by Dr. Powell and Rev. Alfred Jones, Pastor at Camphor in sending forth the participants looking forward to next year’s Urban Summit.
Effective urban ministry award

BY MYRA MAXWELL

The “Kim Jefferson Award” for 2013, presented by the Office of Urban Ministry, went to New Vision United Methodist Church in Philadelphia. Rev. Gregory Holston, Pastor, and Ms. Jean Kershaw, Lay Leader, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation.

New Vision is the merger of Mt. Carmel and Tioga UMC Churches. The church’s ministry and outreach includes hosting Breakfast Ministry, which feeds approximately 75-100 people on the first and third Sundays of every month. Food Pantry provides food for 65-100 people every 2nd Saturday. New Vision partners with the Philadelphia Department of Commerce and 25th Police District and established a cleaning company to provide additional street cleaning in the Germantown & Erie area and greater job opportunities in the community. The Thanksgiving Ministry provided dinners for over 200 individuals and the Christmas Ministry had two celebrations in which over 700 people were given toys, Christmas gifts, dinner, food, and clothing.

New Vision is a member of P.O.W.E.R (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) which includes forty houses of faith organized to fight for good jobs, good schools, and a fair immigration policy. Rev. Holston and New Vision co-chaired the the recent P.O.W.E.R convention, which had over 3500 people in attendance. The organization’s efforts includes advocating for a living wage for airport workers at Philadelphia International Airport.

This non-monetary award is presented by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Urban Steering Committee for significant and effective urban ministry. The award is named in honor of the late Reverend Kinmoth “Kim” Jefferson, a member of the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference who served in the Office of Urban Ministry of the General Board of Global Ministries. He was a member of the Field Staff for 7 years and Executive Secretary for 18 years. Kim was a pastor in Newark in the 1960’s and has served on numerous committees in both United Methodist and Interdenominational/Interfaith Relationships.


Mission U
(formerly School of Christian Missions)
Lancaster Bible College
901 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601
July 26-28, 2013

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Dean: Mary Ann Repsher, repl64@frontiernet.net
Asst. Dean: Susan Dziuk, dziuks1@verizon.net

Stewardship Campaign helps local churches

BY Denny EmRICK

When Resolution #2012-21 was presented and adopted by the Annual Conference in 2012, its intent was to not only stabilize billing to local churches for the Pre-82 Retired Clergy Pension, but also to produce the funds needed to pay off the liability prior to 2021. The ambitious three parts of this plan are dependent on each other to achieve success. Cutting conference expenses, using part of the proceeds from the sale of closed local churches, and launching a $3,000,000 capital-stewardship campaign would produce that result.

Rev. Gregory Holston, Pastor, and Ms. Jean Kershaw, Lay Leader, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation.
MEMORIALS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
to the Brethren Village Chapel Fund, 3001 Lititz Pike, P.O. Box 5093, Lancaster, PA 17606-5093.

Rev. Ira C. Fortna
Surviving, are his wife, are 5 children: Tammy Ober of Mt. Joy, Joe husband of Nancy Walton Fortna of Quarryville, Janelle wife of Chuck Zimmerman of Columbia, Terri wife of Bill Hinshillo-wood of Collegeville, Brandon Fortna at home; 9 grandchildren; and a sister: Marian Brownlow of Norristown, PA.
Contributions: Wesley UMC, P.O. Box 364, Quarryville, PA 17566.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, widow of Rev. Alexander K. Smith, on May 12, 2013.
A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 29, at 3 p.m. at Zerr Chapel, Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, PA.

Mrs. Carol Dissington
Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Carol Dissington, wife of Rev. Paul W. Dissington, retired elder, on June 6, 2013.
She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Paul, children Susan Schimmel and Thomas Dissington, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Ruth Dearstyne
Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Ruth Dearstyne, 87, wife of the Rev. Kenneth E. Dearstyne, retired elder, on May 6, 2013. They were married nearly 65 years.
Rev. Dearstyne served in the Western NY, Troy & Eastern Pennsylvania Conferences, mostly as Chaplain for the US Army, Air Force, and the Coatesville Veterans Hospital, and retired in 1990.
She is survived by her husband of nearly 65 years.
Continued on page 11

Casa del pueblo
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Members geared up for the event, donating food. With funds donated by Casa del Pueblo members Bill and Viria Waltz, Jose and Carmen Rivera from La Fortaleza Physical Therapy in Philadelphia, and by Lehman UMC member, Beverly Laws, they were able to rent a fair trailer with a moon bounce from the American Baptist Church, which hosts evangelistic fairs.
The day of the fair was sunny and hot. “Everything was great – except the weather – it was really hot!” said Rev. Cotto. “We had a really good group for about 2 hours, and collected more than $1,400.” Children loved the moon bounce and the game tables and the delicious food. Everyone loved the snow cones and cold sodas in the 90 (plus) degree weather.
In Casa del Pueblo’s planning meetings, Rev. Cotto suggested if they collected more than $1000, then they would put the extra toward summer camp, and so $400 will also go toward Latino Week of camp at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center.
A few people from the community attended the fair who are not members. Casa del Pueblo is following up with them to invite them to come for worship. “Seeing our flyers, a lady from the community asked to help, and she helped with the ice cream, and is now attending one of our faith communities,” Rev. Cotto explained. “We meet in different homes around the church, like a Bible study. We meet, we laugh, we study, we pray. People like it not being in the church building.”
Speaking about the overall effort, Rev. Cotto said, “It’s not just about the funds, but the sense of working together and helping those far away that we do not know. It’s preparation for bigger things that we will do.” Encouraged by the ministry’s enthusiasm for the event, Rev. Cotto said Casa del Pueblo plans to have a big event every year for missions.
Suzy Keenan is Coordinator of Communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: communications@epaumc.org.

At Genesis Funds we take a “disciplined” approach to socially responsible investing by constructing your investment portfolio in line with The United Methodist Book of Discipline. We call it Mission-Driven Investing.
Our team combines superior service and expertise to match your assets and risk preference to your mission. To add more mission to your church investments, please call the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation at 800-828-9093 ext 2008. For more information visit: www.midatlanticfoundation.org

Your church has a sense of mission. Shouldn’t its investments?
Five tips to get through the summer exodus

By Suzy Keenan

Traditionally, Memorial Day begins the dreaded summer season – the exodus of worshippers as they drift away for vacations far (and near). Worship and Sunday School attendance drops, and so do offerings.

It’s too bad managers can’t pack up and take church along with them as they leave for faraway places... unless they are one of the 136 million smartphone users in American today - then they can connect with you wherever they are.

Here are five technology tips that might help your church connect better over the summer with members on the go, potential visitors, and new persons in your community.

- **Update your online calendar:** this is probably one of the most useful pages on your website. If you do not yet have one, set up a Google calendar, which is easy to update and which can be embedded on your website. Give key staff and volunteers access to help keep the calendar up-to-date. Include all of your worship times, choir rehearsals, mission meetings, youth group and Sunday schools times. This information is helpful to members and to persons who intend to visit your church.

- **Live stream your worship service:** this is easier to do and more cost-effective than you think. Techshop now offers affordable live streaming in partnership with OCV, a leader in communications technology for churches. You will need a camera (webcam, camcorder) and a computer with Internet connection. Don’t have the funds? Have low-cost solutions for online donations.

- **Extend your reach with mobile apps:** Within a few years, nearly 200 million people in the U.S. with use smartphones as their primary means of communication. Most users download apps (average of 40 or more) to connect with their favorite places, organizations, and events. What if your church were one of them? Members of all ages could check your calendar, set reminders to read your daily prayer, see live streaming of your worship, share and “Like” your social media, and even donate right from the app. Techshop now offers discounted pricing on mobile apps through www.myUMCapp.com, making mobile communications affordable.

For more information, contact Suzy Keenan, skeenan@epaumc.org or 610-620-5100 (cell).

---

Bishop’s Days on the Districts with Bishop Peggy Johnson

Please reserve the day for your district and plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming on times and locations.

Central District
October 2, 2013

East District
October 3, 2013

Northeast District
October 22, 2013

Northwest District
October 23, 2013

Southeast District
October 29, 2013

Southwest District
October 30, 2013

---

Sponsor a child for summer fun

United Methodist Neighborhood Services in Philadelphia is looking for persons to sponsor a child for the upcoming summer day camp.

For the twenty-five children who will be traveling with the camp, an exciting time is planned. This will be the third "Day Trip Camp" for neighborhood children of North Philadelphia.

As part of the program, children have Bible study, prayer, and a time of devotions in small groups. The children have fun, and are taught about ministry and what it means to love and respect each other.

Through the Neighborhood Center’s camp, inner city children will have seven day trips for fun and excitement. At the Camden Aquarium, children will explore the world above and below the ocean’s surface. In the Academy of Natural Sciences, they will enjoy the world of nature: live animals, minerals and gems, and human culture, including an Egyptians mummy. The third trip to the Please Touch Museum is the first museum designed for children ages seven and younger. At Bartram’s Garden, we will explore John Bartram’s 18th century home, barn, and a cider press carved from bedrock. The fifth trip to the Philadelphia Zoo is the home of 2000 creatures great and small. The Neshaminy State Park, which takes its name from Neshaminy Creek, is a park measuring 339 acres, a wonder of nature and open fields for play. During our late trip to Clementon Park, the children will enjoy rides, good food, games and water sliding.

If you would like to sponsor a child for the cost of $150, please contact Dr. Mary White, executive director, United Methodist Neighborhood Services, 804 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130; mwhite9891@aol.com or 215-236-0304.
2013 Academy for Laity
Faithful, Fruitful Living
Friday, August 2, 2013 4:30 p.m. to Sunday, August 4, 2013 12:30 p.m.

West Lawn UMC
15 Woodside Avenue, Reading PA 19609
Registration Deadline - July 8, 2013.

More information:
https://www.epaumc.org/calendar/events/2013-laity-academy