

## Journey Toward Hope



Ray Perkowski and Barbara Glander exchanged their wedding vows at East Stroudsburg UMC on Monday, June 10. The two met when both were homeless, and became involved in the church's homeless ministry. Reprinted with permission of Pocono Record. Photo by David Kidwell, 2013.

BY ED KIMES

East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church's outreach with the homeless community was challenged to move to a new level in 2012. It started with a simple question about the possibility of state funds for our holiday meal for those in our community who were unsheltered and in need.

A church representative was told that we did not have a documented homeless population. Four shelters for the homeless community existed in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, but there were a limited number of beds and a number of restrictions on eligibility. The church knew there was an unsheltered population; however since the County had not participated in the national, winter one-day Point-in-Time homeless count since at least 2007, according to County records, there was no unsheltered population.

East Stroudsburg UMC was determined to participate in the count and correct the County's statistic. The first question we had to ask was how do you count people who work hard to make themselves invisible?

It turns out that the community knew where some groups of unsheltered folks lived (under a bridge and in camps in the nearby woods), but everyone assumed that these were people who didn't want housing and were content to live outside.

How were we to obtain access to them and find out if that assumption was accurate?

The answer came through the East Stroudsburg UMC soup kitchen, including a core group of individuals from the homeless community who volunteered to participate. They explained that the key is to build trust. The way to do that would be to intentionally attend soup kitchens, listen to people's stories, and remember the details of their needs.

January 30, 2013 the national, designated count day, arrived and was punctuated by pounding rain, increasing winds, and dropping temperatures. A box store parking lot, under a bridge, fields and woods in the area, streets near 24/7 locations, abandoned buildings, a local hardware store that allows homeless persons to warm up during cold days, several cemeteries, and 24/7 stores were scoured to locate and interview unsheltered homeless individuals. The local library and the mall were visited to find those who were attempting to find temporary respite from the icy rains. The team interviewed 133 individuals during that 24 hour period and were able to record stories of need and discouragement. More unsheltered existed, but could not be found that day.

Having heard the stories, the core team knew they had to be shared, giving rise to the first annual Monroe County

Continued on page 10

## Bringing the Bible to children

This summer, Pastor David T. Ryan, chair of Eastern Pennsylvania Congo Partnership and Jackie Onwu of the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to develop a Children's Ministry in the village of Wembo Nyama. Wembo Nyama is a small village without electricity or running water, but for 100 years has been the center of Methodism in the Congo. Many leaders of both the church and the government have their roots in Wembo Nyama.

Two summers ago, David and Jackie traveled to DRC with Bishop Johnson and others. Confronted for the first time with the realities of a third world country, David says he prayed asking God, "What would you have me do?" David was led to respond to the needs

of children. After consultation with Bishop Yemba and local church leaders, it was determined that a new Children's Ministry could be effective and meet the spiritual needs of children and their families. After two years of praying, gathering resources, consulting with Congolese leaders, the ministry was ready to launch.

David reports that both he and Jackie felt like they were "carried by God's grace" through every aspect of the trip. The long 25-hour flight to the capital, Kinshasa, went smoothly. Upon arrival a few days were spent in the capital, meeting with conference personnel and preparing for the journey to the interior. Miraculously, God provided training materials, written for children, in French, the language of the DRC. These



Boys line up to play games as part of the children's ministry in Wembo Nyama, DRC. were materials developed by Samaritans Purse. Before arriving, Jackie and David were aware of the material, but had no idea how to find it. It turns out a large shipment was just received in an office in the same compound as the Bishop's office. They were happy to share the

Continued on page 8

## September

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 -  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

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, Wilmington, DE. 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

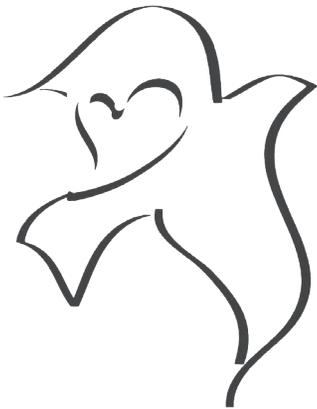
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Introduction to Adaptive Leadership with Susan Beaumont: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cedarville UMC, 1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 \$15 per person. epaumc.smartevents.com/public/events/introduction-to-adaptive-leadership

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Immigrant Welcoming Congregations: 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Hope United Methodist Church in Havertown Rapid Response Team, 267-980-3971

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21



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

## October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

The Social Principles: Our Call to Action; 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Contact: Barbara Drake, bedrake15@

aol.com. Location: West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue Reading, PA 19609-1664.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

World Communion Sunday: www.umcgiving.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Nets and Vets Golf Tournament: Skippack Golf Club on Saturday; 11:30 a.m. Arrival Time, 12:30 p.m. Shot Gun Start, 6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner. Cost: \$90 golf and dinner includes practice range, greens fees, golf cart. www.netsandvets.com.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Basic Sexual Ethics Training: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Contact: Dave Woolverton, 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 (c); 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Location: West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue Reading, PA 19609-1664. Registration Fee: \$30 per person (includes continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM, lunch and materials). Information/Registration: David Woolverton 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.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Advanced Sexual Ethics - Sexual Ethics Issues for Clergywomen: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Grove UMC, West Chester, PA. \$30 per person. More info: Beverly Andrews, hopejourney@juno.com or (717) 653-5175.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

United Methodist Student Day: www.umcgiving.org

## December

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Advent Hope: A Morning Apart for Women in Professional Ministry of the Eastern PA Conference. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. To register: Mandy Stanley Miller at mandystanley@yahoo.com (267.240.5384) or Dawn Taylor-Storm at pastordawn@stmatthewsvf.org (610-636-4064).

## January

THURSDAY - SATURDAY  
JANUARY 16-18

Marriage Encounter for Clergy and Spouses: Havre de Grace, MD. 1.5 CEU's offered for clergy. Cost: \$50 Application Fee due at registration; additional \$100, payable by October 1. Register: www.encounter.org

TUESDAY - THURSDAY  
JANUARY 21-23

Bishop's Midwinter Retreat for Clergy and Spouses: Tuesday, 12:00 noon through Thursday 12:00 noon. Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. Contact: Amy Botti, abotti@epaumc.org.

## February

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Basic Sexual Ethics: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. West Lawn UMC, Reading, PA. \$30 per person (includes continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM, lunch, materials). Contact David Woolverton, shepherd2842@comcast.net or 717-653-5493.

## March

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Faith Sharing Event: Dr. Eddie Fox. Dr. Fox, executive director of World Methodist Evangelism, returns to E.PA to inspire and encourage the evangelism ministries of our churches. Location - Wescosville: Bethany UMC.

## In Memoriam

### The Rev. Ramon Martinez

Word was received of the death of The Rev. Ramon Martinez, Retired Full Member, who passed away on July 10, 2013.

Rev. Martinez served the following appointments beginning in 1968: Chester Community; Phila: Mary A. Simpson; Downingtown; Sharon Hill; Georgetown: Mt. Pleasant; Former Phoenixville: Bethesda; Former Bethany Norristown; and Temple. He retired in 1999.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Donna Martinez and daughters: Dorothea Landis and Cynthia Martinez. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Donna Martinez, 189 North Limerick Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

Contributions can be sent to: Appalachian Service Project: Volunteer in Mission, Care of: Volunteers in Mission - Mount Joy: Chiques, 1215 E Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552-9508.

### Ms. Frances Sokso

Word was received of the death of Ms. Frances Sokso, Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

Fran was a member of Calvary Fellowship, Downingtown and a former member of Olivet United Methodist Church, Coatesville. She was well known for going above and beyond in everything she did. She accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and led a life of ministering to women. She was a Christ Servant Minister, District Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Conference, on the Board of Ordained Ministry and resource assistant for District Superintendents Susan May and Violet Fisher. She served on mission trips such as ASP. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years and involved with United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her youngest brother William Sokso, Sr.; eight nieces and nephews: Deborah Grandval (husband Jean is deceased), Andrew J Sokso, III (Monica), Denise Sokso (Long), Kelly Donahue (Jerry), William G. Sokso Jr. (Jodi), Kai Sokso, Scott Sokso (Dana), Kristina Hurley (Brian) and fifteen great nieces and nephews: Shawn Grandval, Kyle Hurley, Kara Hurley, Heather Donahue, Ashley Epright, Alec Sokso, Cerise Grandval, Brandon Donahue, Justine Sokso, Jaine Sokso, Victoria Sokso, Mathew Sokso, Laura Sokso, Rylee Hurley, Ty Hurley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her older brother Andrew J. Sokso, Jr.

### Mrs. Marguerite B. Walley

Word was received of the death of Mrs. Marguerite B. Walley of Cornwall Manor, on Saturday, August 10, 2013. Mrs. Walley was the surviving spouse of The Rev. Frank L. Walley.

Rev. Walley was a full member who served as a District Superintendent and Conference Program Director, as well as minister of: Phila.: Cumberland, Canadensis, Washington Crossing, Phila.: Bustleton, Allentown and Reading: Holy Cross before his retirement in 1977.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Phyllis W. Kennedy, 524 New York Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052 and/or to Mrs. Barbara Choquette, 129 Western Street, Lewisburg, OH 45338.

Continued on page 3



(USPS 19-604)

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

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

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

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



## A Word from the Bishop

# Fanatic for Christ



The Apostle Paul writes to the church of Corinth that he is a “fool for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10). He describes his foolish behavior as one who willingly submits to poverty, disrespect and fatigue. Other “foolish” activities includes blessing those who insulted him, enduring persecution,

and speaking kindly to people who lied about him. It is foolish by the world’s standards because in the world we want to win, be wealthy, comfortable, respected, honored, and treated kindly. As followers of Christ we are signing on to be treated as Christ was treated. This is truly counter-cultural and appears to be, fanatical.

The annual United Methodist Day at the Phillies happened once again. On August 17th over 1,200 United Methodists from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference under the capable leadership of United Methodist Men’s conference president, Ross Brightwell, came to cheer on the home team. A mass

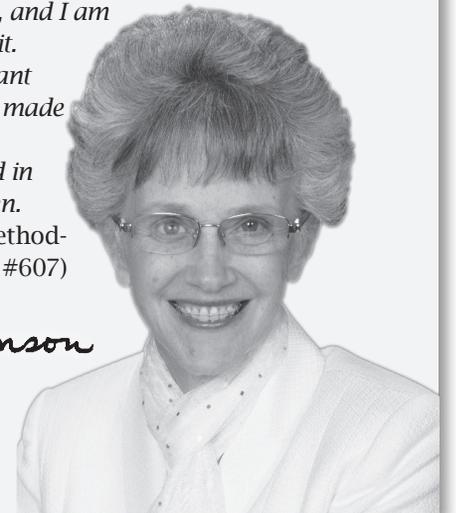
choir led by the choir of Camphor UMC and six other Eastern PA Church choirs, sang the National Anthem and “America the Beautiful” before the game began. We were greeted by a well-known personality: the Phillie Phanatic. He is the green furry mascot for the Philadelphia’s major league baseball team and his claim to fame is that he is a superenthusiastic fan of the team. With his crazy antics and dramatic body language it is clear that he is a fool for baseball. He is willing to look silly, fall on the ground, run around in circle and expend enormous amounts of energy in what must be a very hot costume on a summer night. Why? Out of love for the Phillies!!

How can we be a little more fanatical about our faith? When was the last time you were a “fool for Christ”? When did you show someone without faith what your faith in Christ means to you? Was joy and exuberance on your face? When did you allow someone else to have your money, your time, your place of honor out of love for Christ? When did you face persecution and criticism because you followed the way of Christ? If you do then you stand in line with many of the saints who have gone before you and you surely are light and salt in this world.

John Wesley was a “fool for Christ” when he wrote the Covenant Prayer:

*I am no longer my own, but Thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let I be ratified in heaven. Amen.  
(The United Methodist Hymnal #607)*

*Peggy A. Johnson*



## Realize the Dream

BY CHRISTOPHER JACOB KURIEN

On August 7th, I had the tremendous pleasure of serving on a panel along with Martin Luther King III and other local leaders at an event intended to mobilize communities to join the National Action to Realize the Dream March which was organized for August 24th to bring attention to current civil rights issues.

This year is important as it marks the 50th year anniversary of the poignant ‘I Have a Dream’ speech that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave on the steps of

the Lincoln Memorial on August 28th, 1963. Dr. King addressed many issues of injustice and inequality faced by those in his generation and though important progress has been made since that 1963 address, these issues are still very real to many of our communities across the nation. Unemployment, voting, workers and women’s rights, immigration, and environmental justice continue to be issues that many face.

The National Action to Realize the Dream March organized this year was to remember efforts started 50 years ago and to continue and revitalize efforts started by Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. On August 28th commemorations were held in Washington DC to remember the day that Dr. King gave his famous speech. I had the privilege to participate in this march and was encouraged to hear from the President and others of how the issues plaguing our communities are being addressed in various parts of the country, and how we as individuals need to continue the efforts of civil rights leaders.

It is important to reflect on how we as members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference can address and bring awareness to issues that still persist in our own communities. On the conference level we have



Left to right: Ann Jacob, Christie Jacob, Prof. Mammen Zacharia, Martin Luther King III, and Christopher Jacob Kurien attend the National Action to Realize the Dream event in Philadelphia on August 7, a part of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, D.C.

been intentional about increasing the awareness and educating our clergy and lay members about the issues of racism and racial equality in our church and society through our “Healing the Wounds of Racism” training and more recently through Changing Racism workshops. As Disciples of Christ, let us continue to bring a renewed and much needed attention to national issues related to jobs, poverty, inequality and immigration. As the Bible urges us in Micah, let us ‘seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.’

CHRISTOPHERJACOBKURIEN@THEDIRECTORofConnectionalMinistriesfortheEasternPennsylvaniaConference;ckurien@epaumc.org.

### IN MEMORIAM continued from page 2

#### Mrs. Janice (Hamilton) Fallows

Word was received of the death of Mrs. Janice (Hamilton) Fallows, former Eastern PA Conference receptionist, on August 8, 2013.

In addition to her husband, Richard P. Fallows, surviving are her children, Carol Plumley and her husband, Alan, her son Steven and his wife, Karen, and her daughter, Susan Fallows and her husband, Rob and six grandchildren.

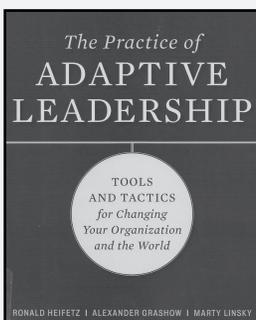
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Janice’s name to the American Cancer Society, 480 Norristown Rd., Ste. 150, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or to the Normandy Farms Samaritan Fund, address above.

## Adaptive Leadership Introduction to Adaptive Leadership with Susan Beaumont

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013, 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

CEDARVILLE UMC, 1092 LAURELWOOD ROAD,  
POTTSTOWN, PA 19465

COST: \$15 PER PERSON, OR \$10 PER PERSON FOR FIVE  
REGISTERING FROM THE SAME CHURCH  
INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACKS



Adaptive Leadership is a set of principles, strategies, and practices that can help organizations and the people in them break through gridlock, accomplish deep change, and develop the adaptability to thrive in complex, competitive, and chal-

lenging environments. In other words, it is what every pastor and active layperson needs to know in doing ministry in the fast changing world of the 21st Century! Susan Beaumont is a senior consultant with the Alban Institute located in the Washington, DC area. She is an ordained pastor in the American Baptist Church and has served as an area minister in that denomination. She has written several books about church leadership and numerous articles. She believes that



BEAUMONT

“every faith-based organization has a God-given mission that is a unique reflection of the community it serves and the giftedness of its membership,” and her teaching will reflect and present practical ideas for churches large and small. This one day workshop will introduce you to the concept of Adaptive Leadership and how its practices might benefit your church, and encourage you to do further reading together with your church leaders on this important subject. Workshop participants will:

- Understand the role of the leader in the face of truly adaptive work
- Explore 10 Key principles of adaptive leadership
- Anticipate the reactions of an organization facing adaptive work
- Frame the adaptive challenges that you face in your ministry context
- Design an adaptive intervention that invites organizational learning
- Learn seven key steps in leading an adaptive intervention

REGISTER ONLINE:  
WWW.EPAUMC.ORG/NEWS/STORIES/  
ADAPTIVE-LEADERSHIP-SUSAN-BEAUMONT

## Summer Road Trip visits new churches



Conference leaders gather to discuss new church starts in Eastern Pennsylvania as part of the Path1 Summer Road Trip: (left to right) Mike Netznik, Jim Todd, Gordon Hendrickson, Bishop Peggy Johnson, Christopher Kurien, Anita Powell, Paul Nixon, and Irving Cotto.

BY SUZY KEENAN

New Church Strategist Paul Nixon was one of a team of nine fanning out across the U.S. to visit new church starts in Path1's Summer Road Trip.

Paul covered more than 3200 miles in the Northeastern Jurisdiction in the space of three months, June through August. He visited more than 60 new churches from Virginia Beach, VA, to Portland, ME, to Eastern PA, to West Virginia.

While in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Paul visited the Parkside UMC/Transformation Christian Center, speaking with Pastor Avery Kelleher and his wife, Lisa. He went to visit the Catasauqua campus of Bethany UMC in Allentown. Speaking about Catasauqua he said, “The ministry had gone out of business. Now we are putting United Methodists back in there, and it's really taking off!”

On August 1, Bishop Peggy Johnson and conference leadership sat down with Paul to look at the current new churches and also the potential for developing future churches and ministries. Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto, superintendent for the Northeast District, said, “It was an excellent presentation by Paul Nixon. Pray that we continue to work toward a culture of healthy, relevant and contextual congregational development that will generate new communities of faith, churches and initiatives embracing all of God's people – especially the marginalized.”

New church planters, church planting teams, cabinets, conference leaders were all a part of Paul's visits during the road trip, which included worship, conversations and visioning about what they want to plant, encouragement,

and resourcing.

“Many of the church planters feel lonely or isolated in their ministry. My objective was to connect them with resources and with other people doing similar things, and to encourage them.”

Rodney Smothers, also part of the Path1 Summer Road Trip team, met three new church pastors: Myra Maxwell at the Restoration Worship Center in Philadelphia; Lydia Munoz at Plumblin/Narberth; and Angel Lopez at La Hermosa in Easton/Allentown.

In his reflections about the road trip on the Path1 blog, Paul said, “First generation immigrant populations continue to offer the most fertile evangelistic fields for United Methodist ministry in many areas. We have to stop looking at these as side projects. They are often the groups that produce the strongest new congregations.” (<http://umcnewchurchstarts.org/>)

The Summer Road Trip, an adventure of modern-day circuit riders in the Wesleyan tradition, was organized by New Church Starts (Path 1), a division of the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). Read more: [www.path1.org](http://www.path1.org).

About Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon is author of seven books on church leadership, the latest of which is titled: Multiply Your Impact: Moving from Church Maintenance to Multiplying Movement. Paul serves part-time as a New Church Strategist on the Path 1 team and part-time as a mission developer working with young urban adults in the Washington DC area.

Previously he served as Director of Congregational Development for Alabama-West Florida Conference and as the founding pastor of the Soundside Campus of Gulf Breeze UMC in northwest Florida.

**PATH 1  
SUMMER  
ROAD TRIP**



# A ministry of healing



Angy Estrada, Dr. Frank Sizer (seated) and Rev. Scott Friedgen-Veitch lead the monthly healing service at Haws Avenue UMC in Norristown.

BY REV. SCOTT FRIEDGEN-VEITCH

The air has been thick with the Holy Spirit as we have been experiencing God's presence and healing and transformation during our Healing and Worship Service held 7:00pm every third Wednesday of the month at Haws Avenue United Methodist Church, 800 W. Marshall St. Norristown Pa. 19401. We have been doing this for only six months now, and have consistently had over 100

people experience God's healing hand and blessings with each healing service. We start the evening off with music, scripture, a short homily, and testimonies that are so poignant, they cannot be invented or scripted. It is clear that it is God's healing hand at work.

After spending this past year exploring God's healing after the loss of our beloved pastor Rev. Dr. Joyce Anderson, it was clear that the Lord was nudging us in this direction. God always provides and works in amazing ways: after a 33 year absence Dr. Frank (Francis) Sizer returns to Norristown to partner with us and resume his healing ministry. Dr. Sizer is a former Roman Catholic Priest who started a healing ministry in Norristown during the 1970's and led a large charismatic church where God gifted him as a healer. Since then he has continued his healing ministry throughout the world, taught at several universities, and offered counseling at his office in West Chester, Pa.

A few of my parishioners knew of Dr. Sizer and his healing ministry, and urged me to go and experience it for myself. I went as a skeptic, but soon realized God's gifting of Dr. Sizer as I returned home anointed from the experience. I knew this was authentic, and I needed to initiate a healing service here at Haws Avenue UMC in Norristown. God opened the doors, so that Dr. Sizer would be a part of our healing ministry. We have witnessed profound healing in body, mind, and spirit, as well as in relationships. Miracles do happen. I invite you to experience God's healing hand for yourself. We have convenient parking and are handicap accessible. See you there.

ScottFriedgen-Veitch is pastor of Haws Avenue UMC; revscottfv@gmail.com

## EPA clergyman authors new book

Dr. Frank H. Billman, a member of the Eastern PA UMC Annual Conference, has authored his second book, *The Supernatural Thread in Methodism: Signs and Wonders Among Methodists Then and Now*.

In *The Supernatural Thread in Methodism*, Dr.

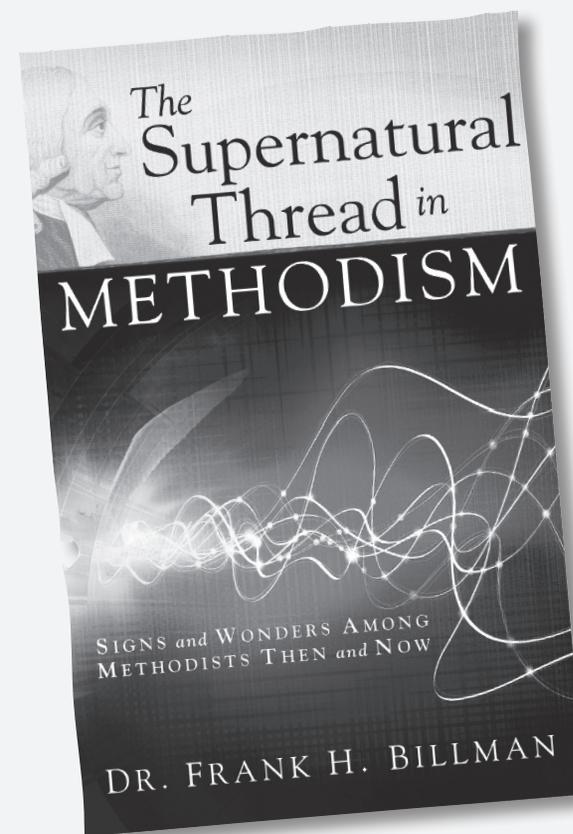


BILLMAN

Billman explores the divine supernatural element involved in the shaping and growth of the Methodist Church. Presenting historical information alongside contemporary accounts of remarkable signs and wonders around the world, he reminds us that God is able and willing to use ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes. *The Supernatural Thread in Methodism* will inspire you to reflect upon the rich supernatural heritage of the Methodist Church and remember that the same God who moved in the past can manifest His power in your life and church today.

Dr. Billman has served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church since 1979, currently serving part-time at Forest Grove UMC in Joelton, and is the Director of Church Relations at Aldersgate Renewal Ministries. He is also an adjunct professor in the doctoral program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, leading the doctor of ministry program in supernatural ministry, the first of its kind in the country. Dr. Billman has spoken at national conferences, revivals, and retreats, and led ministry teams around the world. He has published several articles as well as a second book, *Shepherding Renewal*.

The book is available for pre-order through several online stores (cokebury.com, amazon.com, cbn.com) or by calling the Aldersgate office at 877-857-9372.



## 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



LYDIA E. MUÑOZ has been involved in leading worship for 20 years, particularly in a multicultural setting and has a passion for helping to create sacred spaces and opportunities where God's Spirit and grace can be experienced



MARK MILLER is highly regarded throughout the United Methodist Church as a worship leader, teacher and performer of sacred music

## Christian fellowship wins

BY ROSS BRIGHTWELL

The spirit of Christian fellowship won over all teams at the 21st Annual United Methodist Men's Softball Tournament held on Saturday, July 20 at Mondauk Commons Park of Upper Dublin Twp. The competing teams were Fairless Hills: First, Lancaster: El Redentor & St. Paul's, West Chester: Grove, Hopewell, Jarrettsville, New Hanover and North Wales: Sanctuary.

The day began with devotions at 9:00 a.m. with all of the players gathered in a circle around the infield to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, join in prayer, hear the morning message, sing together "Rise Up Oh Men of God" and let John 3:16 ring out. The message was taken from the article "God is a Methodist" found in the recent United Methodist Men (UMM) Magazine. It is the story of the relationship between Brooklyn Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey, a Methodist, and Hall of Famer, No. 42, Jackie Robinson, who also was a Methodist. Branch Rickey testifies that it was his Methodist background that caused him to bring Jackie Robinson to the Major Leagues. Branch Rickey then went on to be the GM for the Pittsburgh Pirates where he brought up No. 21 Roberto Clemente, the first prominent Latino to the Major Leagues.

The best game of the day was the consolation game between Fairless Hills: First and North Wales: Sanctuary. Both teams were new to the tournament and had each lost their first two games. These two teams had both adult and young teenage men playing. The other teams gave them a player or two to help out. But what really was so great was seeing the way these players of all ages came together, making sure that they were first and foremost having fun in a Christian setting. I remember when I was 14, and a "steel worker" from my church in western Pennsylvania laid his big hand on my shoulder and told me that I was going to play on our church softball team. I will never forget that. As I watched the boys playing in that game Saturday alongside the men of their church, I knew what they were feeling. What a great way to reach out to our youth!

I hope that all of the churches here in the Eastern Pa. Conference will develop softball and other athletic ministries. We of the United Methodist Men are ready to help. We would really like to see the churches in the Districts come together to play each other in various sports. Please let our UMM Athletic Coordinator Clifton Hubbard (chub21@aol.com) know if you have a team of any type or if you wish to start a team.

And as I said at the beginning of the devotions at the Tournament, the least important event that would happen during the tournament would be the winning of the first place plaque. With that said I am pleased to announce that New Hanover UMC was the winner with Grove UMC coming in second.

Thank you to all for a truly great Christian, United Methodist day!



New Hanover UMC's first place softball team.

## One Body, Many Parts



(Left to right) Krystl Johnson, Melvin Carter, Jasmine Davis, Aysia Pierce, Demoss Wilson Jones III, and Britni Johnson display certificates for completing the Laity Academy Young Adult Course.

BY BRITNI MICHELLE JOHNSON

As a youth growing up in the United Methodist Church, my weekends often consisted of trips to annual youth conferences, spiritual retreats, and workshops on the Word. My spiritual growth did not come to a halt when I became a young adult. I continued to grow in fellowship with other believers by participating as a student at the Laity Academy and later became recognized as a Christ Servant Minister in 2008.

August 2-3, 2013, I was blessed with an opportunity to teach the 14 young adults who came out to attend the "What About Me? Where Do I Fit In?" course.

With added insights from Christ Servant Minister Evan Corey Jones, we shared lessons on discovering and incorporating your spiritual gifts. As a young person in the church, it

can be difficult to find a place in ministry, especially when one is trying to shift from being just a spectator to an active participant in fellowship.

The workshop, aimed at our young adults, included activities and conversation founded on the Word of God. First-time attendee Stephanie Desdunes (26) told me, "You created activities that made us think, to discover our gifts and to think about how we can further use our gifts."

Throughout the course, the fourteen young adults learned about their own

part in the body of Christ by first discovering their spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:27 reads, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Demoss Jones, age 18, said, "I learned that all Christians have spiritual gifts and that we each have different ones, but we all use them to work together to make each other better. One person has serving and another has leadership, but your serving can help them become a better leader."

God's hand was indeed over the conference and his anointing was surely on each individual who attended the young adult course. Everyone who arrived unsure of their place in ministry departed with new-found knowledge of the role they play in the body of Christ through their spiritual gifts.

BRITNIMICHELLEJOHNSONISACHRISTSERVANTMINISTER and member of St. Daniels UMC in Chester, PA.

## UM ministers with disabilities meet

BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON

How wonderful they are...these sturdy, spirit-filled souls called by God. They are often looked down upon by the able-bodied part of the Body. Many are working hard at minimum salary churches, or asked to take disability benefits or early retirement. Next to many of them are faithful spouses and sometimes faithful golden retrievers. They are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, have mental health or mobility challenges. They are young, mature, Caucasian, people of color, from all over the Connection and theologically diverse.

They are powerful beyond belief: insightful, spirit-filled, and familiar with life on the margins and have the unique heart that it brings. Many are serving on Disability Committees in their annual conferences but rarely are asked to do other kinds of things. Their identities are so much more than being the "disabled one." The church needs to wake up to their giftedness.

Pastors with disabilities work twice as hard

as any other, endure countless careless comments, face skeptical personnel and review boards, and find that the accessible accommodations needed are often sadly lacking when they arrive at a meeting. They are often gracious and forgiving. Nonetheless, they are always pushing and encouraging the church to do better, often at their own expense so that the doors of the church can open wider, so that the one that follows them can have an easier road.

Pastors with Disabilities: you are a sign of God's presence. The incarnated Christ's nail-prints did not disappear at the resurrection and our bodily human frailty is still a paradoxical, God-inspired sign of the "power-made-perfect-in weakness" reality of how things really get done in the world. All people, no matter our physical, mental or emotional state, are vulnerable to this mystery and dance between ability and disability, strength and weakness on an hourly basis. May the church see that we are all a part of the disability community in Christ, who is our wounded, yet victorious Savior and comforter and power-giver.

# Academy for Laity: Faithful Fruitful Living

BY SUZY KEENAN

The 30th Annual Academy for Laity welcomed 175 registrants to its meeting August 2-4, 2013 at West Lawn United Methodist Church in Reading.

This year's theme, Faithful Fruitful Living, was reflected in Christ Servant Minister (CSM) courses, workshops, and worship.

Bishop Peggy Johnson, who brought greetings to the assembly as part of the Friday evening opening, said, "Once again Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's laity have brought an excellent offering of courses to increase excellence in ministry. I look forward to the fruit of the labors and I pray this academy continues forever."

According to the Academy's Dean, Janet Mills, "In addition to the awesome workshops, the Saturday evening program was outstanding!" The evening event included the West Lawn Praise Team, West Lawn Saxophone Duet, a Classical/Pop/Gospel singing performance by Carolann Scheiderhan (executive assistant for West Lawn), the Anointed Liturgical Dance Group from Allentown: La Trinidad UMC, and a "Fruit of the Spirit" skit, with 9 players, adapted for our event by Janet.

The Basic Course: Preparing Local Church Servants, with Instructors Judy Ehninger, CLM/CSM, and The Rev. Samuel Kofi Ashley was filled to capacity. Workshops also included The Practice of Preaching: A Basic Course in Speaking, with instructors Rev. Jason Perkowski and Shauna Ridge, CSM, and Local Church Lay Leader 101: "What Every Leader Needs to Know" with Dr. Mary White, CSM, and Rev. Sunil Balasundaram. New this year was New Places for New People: A Hispanic Emphasis with Rev. Lilian Lucrecia Cotto and Rev. Dr. Brunilda Martinez.

According to Janet Mills, "We received excellent feedback from attendees. They enjoyed the 'Faithful Fruitful Living' theme throughout the weekend."

As a highlight of the event, Mr. Aubrey Bates, assistant dean of the academy, presented the Walter King Award to Dr. Mary White, Conference Lay Leader. The 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. Previous recipients were Bill Matthews, John Crapper and Dennis Wack.

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.

In addition to being a Christ Servant Minister, Dr. White has served as Conference Lay Leader for seven years, during which time the Conference has enhanced the ministry of the laity with training, support, and

encouragement. She is a member of Wayne UMC serving on both Trustees and Missions Committees. She also serves on numerous committees in the annual conference, jurisdiction (Episcopacy Committee), and general church (Chair of Connectional Outreach Ministry for GCFA). She is on the board of the Multi-Ethnic Center, has recently been elected a board member of the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, and is ending her second quadrennium with Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) as vice-chair of the board.

Dr. White said, "This is one of the best Academies for Laity we have had - with good workshops, all maxed out to capacity. And for the first time we held both a workshop for young adults with fourteen participating, and a Hispanic workshop. My goal is that we have everyone at the table - and that is our goal for the 2014 Academy for Laity."

SUZY KEENAN IS COORDINATOR of Communications for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: [communications@epaumc.org](mailto:communications@epaumc.org).



Walter King Award recipient Dr. Mary White, Conference Lay Leader.



Anointed Dance Group of La Trinidad in Allentown.



Breakout Session

Photos by Sherry Wack and Aneita Duglas

## Women in Ministry: Stories of Leadership

### Tuesday, October 1, 2013

8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

COST: \$60 - INCLUDES LUNCH

CEU: .45 CEU'S ARE OFFERED FOR \$10

BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON will share Biblical interpretation, identify role models, discuss sexism, reveal family issues, and open our eyes to the effects of language in our culture. Her personal stories and scriptural references will provide an informed foundation to open our day together.

BISHOP PAULINE PEIFER will share her heartfelt story of being widowed as a young pastor's wife and the journey to being a Bishop in a big and vibrant conference of the Brethren in Christ Church. Her encouraging words include, "God has a calling, and because of our unpreparedness, He gets the credit."

**WOMEN ON THE JOURNEY:  
HOW OUR STORY REVEALS OUR CALLING**  
Panelists:

- Mary Kay Alpaugh, *Volunteer Coordinator, Hospice and Community Care*
- Melissa Schlies, *past youth director at a large church*
- Dr. Janet Stauffer, *Dean of Students, Evangelical Seminary*

**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP:  
STORIES OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
Panelists:

- Rev. Helen Adams, *Pastor, Stehman's United Methodist Church*
- Dr. Laurie Mellinger, *Dean of Academic Programs, Evangelical Seminary*
- Christine Sharp, *Executive Director, World Missions, Brethren In Christ Church*

**WOMEN AS ENTREPRENEURS:  
STORIES OF NEW MINISTRIES**  
Panelists:

- Linda Crockett, *Executive Director, Samaritan Counseling Center*
- Julie Lichty, *professional career coach*
- Deb Turnow, *Executive Director, Kavanana House*

**WOMEN AND MEN LEADING TOGETHER:  
STORIES OF HOW MINISTRY IS CHANGING**  
Panelists:

- Rev. Jo Ann Kunz, *Co-Senior Pastor, Hosanna: A Fellowship of Christians*
- Rev. Dr. Anthony L. Blair, *President, Evangelical Seminary, and Co-Senior Pastor, Hosanna: A Fellowship of Christians*
- Dr. Vicki Scheib, *MACL Program Director, Evangelical Seminary*

REGISTER ONLINE:  
[WWW.EVANGELICAL.EDU/WOMEN-IN-LEADERSHIP](http://WWW.EVANGELICAL.EDU/WOMEN-IN-LEADERSHIP)

Questions: Cathy Forberger,  
[cathy.forberger@evangelical.edu](mailto:cathy.forberger@evangelical.edu) or 717-875-6120

## Retiree pens new book

**A** Masterwork of Doubting-Belief: R. S. Thomas and His Poetry is a new book by John G. McEllhenney, retired clergyperson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

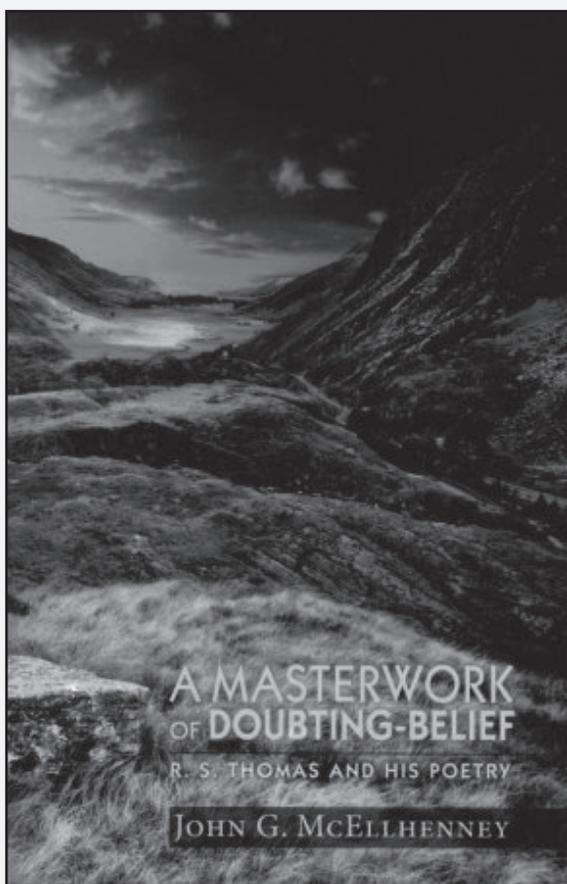
R. S. Thomas (1913-2000) was a major poet of the twentieth century. He was respected by luminaries of the literary establishment, recognized with numerous awards, and nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1996. Thomas was also a priest of the Anglican Communion who wrestled ceaselessly with problems of faith and doubt in his poetry.

John G. McEllhenney makes R. S. Thomas' poems, ministry, and irascible character come brilliantly alive in his new book, A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief: R. S. Thomas and His Poetry. McEllhenney, who developed a personal relationship with Thomas during the last decade of the poet's life, draws on his conversations and correspondence with Thomas, as well as his experiences as a clergyman and lover of poetry, and offers readers a unique experience that is part biography, part appreciation, and part religious meditation.

A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief is an important new contribution to our understanding of R. S. Thomas and an inspiring source of insights for all who struggle with their faith.

John G. McEllhenney, a retired pastor and adjunct instructor at Drew and Eastern Baptist theological schools, is also author of Cutting the Monkey Rope and coauthor of several books on Methodist history, including 200 Years of United Methodism: An Illustrated History and United Methodism at Forty.

Visit John's blog at <http://doubtbeliefrstthomas.wordpress.com>.



## Board of Pension and Health Benefits



# Clergy Retirement Planning

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

If you are a clergy person within five (5) years of retirement, make time in your schedule to attend the Pre-Retirement Seminar sponsored by the EPA Board of Pension and Health Benefits on November 7 from 9 am to 4 pm at Cornwall Manor. The day will begin with a Clergy Tax workshop open to everyone, followed by informational sessions specifically designed to help you prepare for your retirement. Representatives from the Conference Board, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Aetna, and our United Methodist Retirement Communities will be on hand throughout the day. Watch for further registration information in the coming weeks.

1. Navigate to: <https://book.go-suite.com/22107>
2. Click on "Pension Meetings with Mark Conner" in the center of the page
3. Choose an available time and schedule your appointment. *NOTE: This is a one day event for Wednesday, November 6, 2013.*

For more information contact the Benefits Office:

- Benefits Support Associate: Madeline González-López, [mglopez@epaumc.org](mailto:mglopez@epaumc.org) or (484) 762-8220.
- Benefits Officer: Jo Fielding, [jfielding@epaumc.org](mailto:jfielding@epaumc.org) or (484) 762-8213.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Additionally, Mark Conner, a representative from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, will be available at Lebanon, Church of The Good Shepherd (1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon, PA 17042) on Wednesday, November 6, from 8 am to 5 pm to meet with you individually to go over your pension projections and/or any questions you may have about your benefits and retirement.

If you are interested, please click on the following link to schedule an appointment with Mark. We ask that if you find you are unable to attend, please let us know as meeting times are at a premium.

## BRINGING THE BIBLE TO CHILDREN continued from page 1

materials, and several cases of materials were made available for the children in Wembo. French New Testaments were also purchased for just \$1 each.

From Kinshasa the team traveled to Kananga and then on to the village of Wembo Nyama, where they were greeted by Josephine Akambo Esoko, a young adult lay person (23 years old), whom Bishop Yemba had selected to lead the Children's Ministry. They were also greeted by Pastor Albertine Lupaka who will serve as the Ministry Mentor. Several days of "ground work" were done before the training took place, making sure everyone understood the proposed ministry.

Finally, the first day of training arrived. Six were chosen to be trained as "Children's Ministry Specialists." Eight others were trained as assistants, and even more people observed the training. Each morning, participants were taught strategies for teaching children from the Bible. Time and time again, David and Jackie emphasized that this was a ministry for those "willing to sit on the ground" with the children. This was something not usually done before in Wembo.

Specialists and assistants were taught how to use the curriculum and to go beyond the curriculum, developing their own, as they taught bible stories, sang songs, played games and created crafts with the children to further enhance each lesson. While some resources were brought in by the team, attention was given to using materials that were available in the village, often at no cost. Clay was gathered from the river. Scraps of cloth were found along the

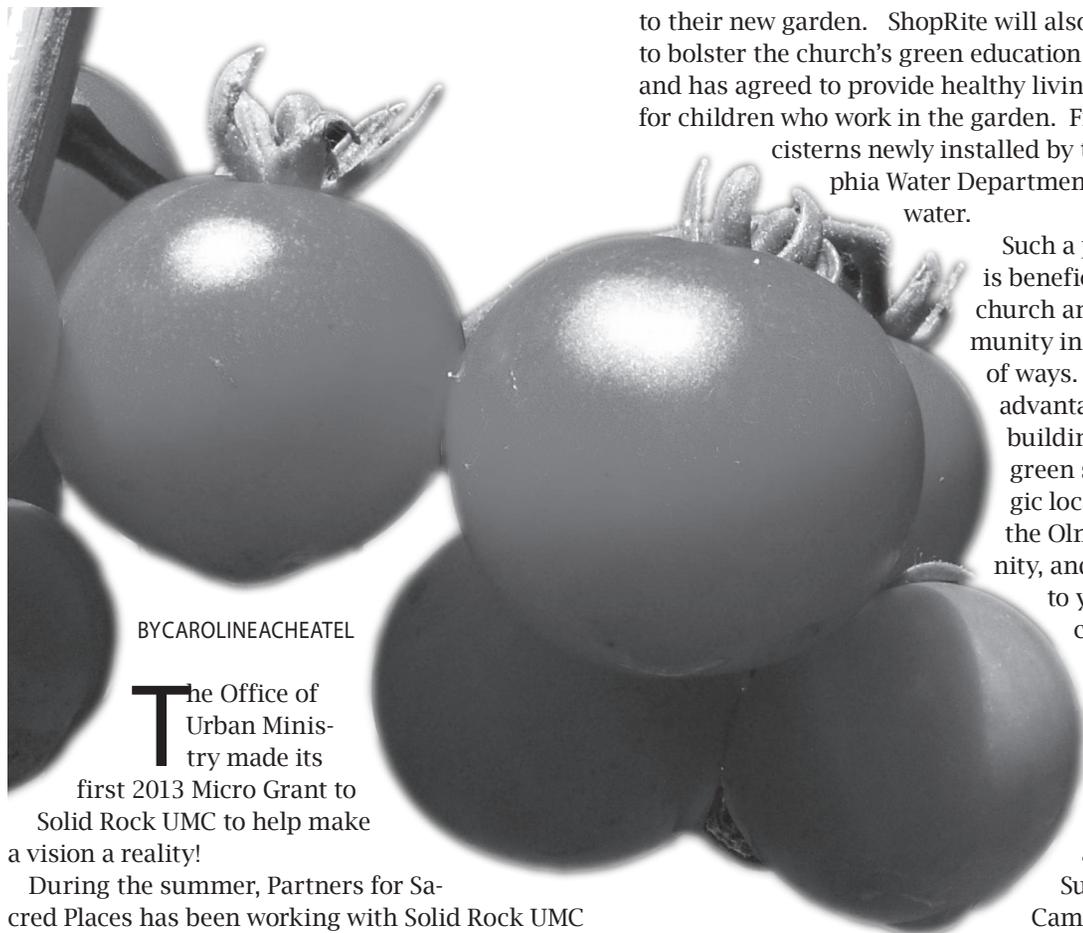
paths in the village. Small stones were collected to be used in simple games. In the afternoons, each specialist and assistant met with a group of 10 children - 60 in all - to practice what was taught in the morning sessions.

Many more children wanted to participate, so while the specialists were practicing inside under the supervision of Jackie, David and others worked with about 100 children outside - also sharing stories, songs and games.

At the conclusion of the training, the Specialists and assistants were given certificates, a grass mat, a bible and set of curriculum... and sent out to begin the work of "sitting on the ground" with children and sharing the Love of Christ through bible stories, songs, crafts and games. It is anticipated that under the direction of Josephine, more and more specialists and assistants will be trained and many small groups will be meeting.

The budget for this ministry is \$300 per month. This covers a salary for the director, the mentor, materials, transportation and communication. With this investment, hundreds of children will grow in faith. Churches, Sunday School Classes, other groups within churches and individuals are needed to sponsor a month or part of a month. Contributions may be sent by check, made out to EPA Annual Conference, with Congo Partnership/Children's Ministry in the memo. For more information, or to arrange a presentation at your church, please contact David Ryan - [pastordavidryan@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordavidryan@yahoo.com)

## Office of Urban Ministry supports Urban Garden



BY CAROLINE ACHEATEL

The Office of Urban Ministry made its first 2013 Micro Grant to Solid Rock UMC to help make a vision a reality!

During the summer, Partners for Sacred Places has been working with Solid Rock UMC to create a vegetable garden as the initial phase of the church's partnership with the Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP). The long-term goal of this partnership with POP is to plant an "edible forest" on the currently unused green space in the front of the church, back of the church, and in the green space around the parsonage by spring of 2014. When the orchard reaches maturity, the church will be able to grow and harvest an estimated 2,000-3,000 pounds of produce annually to distribute through the church's feeding program with SHARE. The Philadelphia Orchard Project has already agreed to install the orchard and work with the congregation and surrounding community to teach them how to tend

to their new garden. ShopRite will also be helping to bolster the church's green education programs, and has agreed to provide healthy living events for children who work in the garden. Finally, the cisterns newly installed by the Philadelphia Water Department will provide water.

Such a partnership is beneficial to the church and the community in a myriad of ways. It will take advantage of the building's ample green space, strategic location within the Olney community, and give access to youth that the church has attracted because of its partnership with Olney Elementary and their Summer Camp program.

Furthermore, this partnership aims to raise the congregational and denominational profile and strengthen the current programs and mission of the church by providing fresh food for local residents and engaging activities for children and young adults.

The success of the summer 2013 plantings will show POP that Solid Rock has the capacity to manage a food production and nutrition education program that makes a compelling impact in its community. This will also be a crucial learning experience for Solid Rock's congregants and leadership, who are now just beginning to gain significant urban greening experience.

## Youth & Young People's News

### Youth Leaders and Pastors: Your Input, Our Output!

We are currently gathering information for our plans for next year. In an effort to meet your ministry needs, we have put together a short survey for each church to fill out. Please take a minute to fill out our survey - tell us what you think - we need information. Plain and simple! Thank you for taking time to help EPA Young People!

[HTTP://WWW.EPAUMCYOUNGPEOPLE.ORG/YOUTHLEADERS.HTML](http://www.epaumcyoungpeople.org/youthleaders.html)

### Conference Council on Youth Ministry

Our first meeting of the New Year is Friday Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. - Saturday Sept. 28, 1 p.m.

If you are a youth interested in participating in leadership outside of your local church, we have a spot for YOU!

You will spend your time planning events scheduled, seeking God's guidance for new ideas and sharpening your leadership skills!

If you are interested, simply go to [epaumcyoungpeople.org](http://epaumcyoungpeople.org) to fill out an application. We hope to see YOU on the 27th!

### Events

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**EMBER RETREAT:** Are you overwhelmed...stressed out? Do you wish you could take a break? Come to EMBER Retreat! Get away from your daily routine and give your faith a chance to grow! We will spend the day in worship, games, hearing speakers and in workshops led by youth just like you! 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center Cost: \$10/person; includes lunch, snacks and a t-shirt Register by October 19 at [www.EPAYoungPeople.com](http://www.EPAYoungPeople.com)

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 25

**FLAME Retreat:** How do you live out your faith? What new ways is God calling you to serve? What can a teen do to serve God? Come to the Flame Retreat to learn and discuss how YOU can fan the flame of your faith! We will learn about new missions, play games and serve in missions. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Camp Innabah Program Center Cost: \$10/person; includes lunch, snacks and a t-shirt Register by January 15 at [www.EPAYoungPeople.com](http://www.EPAYoungPeople.com)



#### FRIDAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 7-8

**ABLAZE RETREAT Calling ALL YOUTH:** Come together for a retreat with youth from around Eastern PA! God is doing amazing things in your world! Come to share, grow and learn! When we each bring our gifts, the youth of Eastern Pa become ABLAZE with hope and purpose! Come to join the bon fire! Friday, 7:30 p.m. - Saturday 2 p.m. Cost: TBA; Register by February 25 at [www.EPAUMCYoungPeople.com](http://www.EPAUMCYoungPeople.com)

## Otetella Bibles delivered



Children's ministry specialists in Wembo Nyama, DRC, receive Bibles in their own language: Otetella.

Many of the people living in the village of Wembo Nyama, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, do not have access to the written Scriptures - especially not in their tribal language of

"Otetella" - that is until recently!

Thanks to contributions from EPA churches, the Congo Partnership was able to bring bibles, purchased in the capital of Kinshasa, to the village of Wembo Nyama this summer!

Transporting the bibles is difficult - but they are being brought in by our Aviation Ministry "Wings of Caring" as they have room in their cargo space. So far, 250 bibles have arrived!

David Ryan presented these bibles to the Conference Treasurer, who will oversee distributing them. Our "Children's Ministry Specialists," who just finished training, will receive twenty of them. The bibles were received with tears of joy and thankfulness. For many, it was the first time they had their own bible - in their own language. Many more people that day were asking, "How do we get a bible? We so desperately need one!"

Preachers, teachers, and our newly trained Children's Ministry Specialists will be busy proclaiming the word of God! Thank you for your generosity!

## JOURNEY TOWARD HOPE continued from page 1

Homeless Summit. Held on March 8, 2013 at the East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, representatives from all local churches and synagogues, as well as government officials, business and non-profit representatives and members of the homeless community attended.

Two members of the homeless community shared their personal stories, and the core team described the count process and the demographics of the local homeless population. The group of almost 200 then divided into eight task forces, focused on different needs and goals.

For five months the task forces have worked tirelessly to meet agreed-upon goals. A progress report given to the community in June of this year included the following:

- A Day Center was opened in a location that is accessible for homeless people
- Community meals—a new, more inclusive and dignified name for “soup kitchens”—are now scheduled at least twice a day every day.
- Fourteen churches, including two United Methodist churches and two private groups, sponsor these meals and are currently grappling with how to offer a meal on Saturday night.
- The Wesleyan Church volunteered to become the site of the cold weather emergency shelter, and a September zoning hearing has been scheduled to obtain the final approvals.
- A single-point-of-access case manager, who works at the Day Center and on the street, has been funded by a grant awarded to Catholic Social Services.
- The Animal Welfare Society of Monroe County is providing supplies and food for pets in the homeless community and has sponsored two clinics that include free vet services, vaccinations, and grooming.
- Grant applications have been submitted to secure dental services, more case management, and supplies to improve quality of life.
- The Monroe County Commissioners have appointed a Homeless Advisory Board that represents diverse expertise and backgrounds, including members of the homeless community. Goals and recommendations regarding homelessness have already been included in two key County planning documents.
- We added a ninth task force—Veterans—having



Volunteers coordinate distribution of produce at East Stroudsburg UMC's Community Meal.

# 2014 Bishop's Midwinter Retreat for Clergy and Spouses

## Midwinter Retreat welcomes Bishop Peter Weaver

January 21-23, 2014

Holiday Inn Oceanfront  
6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD

All Clergy and Spouses of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Delaware Conferences are invited to attend the Bishop's Midwinter Retreat on January 21-23, 2014.

We will welcome Bishop Peter D. Weaver to the Area along with his wife Linda. He will be the keynote speaker on well-being for life and ministry. Come and enjoy a time of square dancing Tuesday evening with the Weavers. Rev. Ron Bell and his wife Ebony will lead everyone in a hymn sing on Wednesday evening.

Early Registration ends on November 29, 2013.

The agenda is as follows:

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

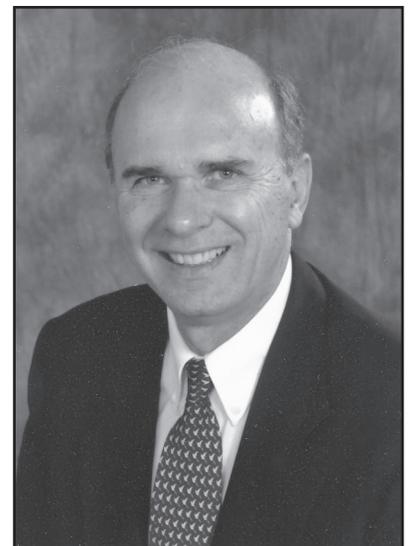
- 12:00-2:00 p.m. - Registration
- 2:00 p.m. - Opening Worship
- 3:00 p.m. - Keynote Presentation by Bishop Weaver
- 6:00 p.m. - Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. - Square Dancing and Fellowship with Bishop Peter and Linda Weaver

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

- 7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00 am - Morning Devotions
- 9:15 a.m. - Keynote Presentation by Bishop Weaver
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- Afternoon and Dinner on your own
- 7:30 p.m. - Hymn sing with Rev. Ron and Ebony Bell

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

- 7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
- Check out of rooms by 10:00 a.m.
- 10:00 a.m. - Closing Worship and Communion



BISHOP PETER D. WEAVER

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER ONLINE  
[WWW.EPAUMC.ORG/NEWS/STORIES/MIDWINTER-RETREAT-2014](http://WWW.EPAUMC.ORG/NEWS/STORIES/MIDWINTER-RETREAT-2014)

## Save the Date • Save the Date

*Eastern Pennsylvania Conference / UMC*

## Immigrant Welcoming Congregations

*5th Gathering: Statement of Commitment*

Date: September 14, 2013

Time: 3-6PM

Location: Hope United Methodist Church

1108 Steel Road (corner of Eagle Road and Steel Road)  
Havertown, PA 19083



## Breakthrough Leadership

Saturday, November 9, 2013

Hopewell UMC  
Downingtown, PA

2:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Worship at 5:25 p.m. with dinner provided at 6:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per person  
(\$5.00 discount per person for groups of 5 or more)

In every age, leadership is the key! At Hopewell United Methodist Church, we endeavor to raise up excellent, new leaders at every turn....and to hone the skills of current leaders in the places where they already serve. Our 10th Annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth event on November 9 offers training from the highest quality presenters in the Church and industry today as we pursue this goal.

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. SUE NILSON KIBBEY

*"Breakthrough Practices Of Missional Churches"*

- Director of Connectional and Missional Church Initiatives for the West Ohio Conference of the UMC
- Former Executive Pastor at Ginghamburg Church
- Author of Ultimately Responsible: When You're in Charge of Igniting a Ministry, Transformation Journal: A One Year Journey through the Bible, and the creator of the Ministry by Strengths program
- Named one of the top ten church administrators in America

FEATURING WORSHIP SPEAKER: PAT WILLIAMS

*Author & Sr. Vice President of the Orlando Magic*

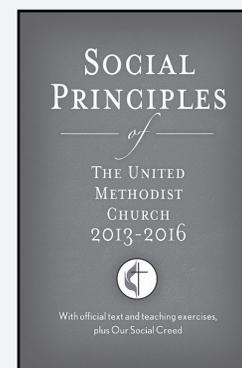
*Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Foundation*

- One of America's top motivational, inspirational, and humorous speakers, and a favorite of Fortune 500 companies
- Former General Manager of the Philadelphia 76ers, including the 1983 World Champion team
- Spent seven years in the Philadelphia Phillies organization
- A terrific leadership mentor, successful and influential executive, and active and generous Christian
- An author who knows what it takes to be successful in business, in the church, and in life

REGISTER ON-LINE AT [WWW.HOPEWELLUMC.ORG](http://WWW.HOPEWELLUMC.ORG)

## The Social Principles: Our Call to Action

PRESENTED BY THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
CHURCH & SOCIETY WORK TEAM



October 5, 2013  
9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
West Lawn UMC  
15 Woodside Ave.,  
Reading, PA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

COST: \$25  
(INCLUDES LUNCH & 2013-16 SOCIAL  
PRINCIPLES BOOKLET; MAKE  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO EPAUMC)

ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 200

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONTACT  
BARBARA DRAKE (610-446-1394)

## 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

## Standing proudly to support our youth



Photo by Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III

Members of Philadelphia's Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) and Black United Methodist Preachers (BUMP) pose with the 2013 BUMP/BMCR Scholarship winners and their families. Seated with Peggy Johnson, Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (center, seated) are (from left) Brae-

lin T. Bass of Paoli United Methodist Church, who will be attending Hampton University in Virginia; Dominique M. Howard-Diggs of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church, who will be attending Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania; Bishop Johnson; Bethany I. Callwood

of Devereux United Methodist Church who will be attending East Stroudsburg University in PA and David A. Howard-Dean, also of Camphor, who will be attending LaSalle University. Each student received \$1,000 scholarships through the contributions of participating churches and individuals.

# Camps turn focus to retreat season

BY KENNETH KUHNLE

As the summer camping season draws to a close, we have a little time to reflect on how richly blessed we are. We are able to provide a safe and spiritually sound place for our children. Hundreds and hundreds of eager youngsters come to our camps, and we are able to touch their lives, hopefully, in a meaningful way that brings them closer to our Lord and Savior.

Now we turn our attention to our "retreat" season, where we can touch the lives of people of all ages. There are planned retreats such as women's retreats, men's retreats and senior's retreats. We also can design a retreat experience for your group that is flexible enough to meet your specific needs. Contact Gretna Glen ([www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)), Pocono Plateau ([www.poconoplateau.org](http://www.poconoplateau.org)), or Camp Innabah ([www.innabah.org](http://www.innabah.org)).

We also turn our attention to planning for the future of each camp. With limited resources, each of the Camp Directors and their staff are exceptional stewards of the funds they have. They also have the need to plan for the future, for maintenance items that have been deferred, for capital improvements, and for new and improved programs. We call this our "Pathway to our Future," an initiative that has been ongoing for the last year and a half. We believe that by raising funds we can ensure that the future of Camp and Retreat Ministries is sound, and that we will

be able to continue touching the lives of thousands of people each and every year. The Pathway initiative has the goal of raising funds for additional principal payments on the remaining mortgages, providing interest savings and eventually, eliminating principal payments. We have asked local congregations for their support of this program, and many have! We have asked many individuals for their support, and they too have been generous. We are now trying to raise awareness of this program, and asking for support from more congregations and individuals. Please consider helping us by your gifts, your prayers and by your continued service.

I am happy to tell you that Carson-Simpson Farm is debt free! The small amount of debt they had has been retired. In order to grow urban participation at camp, we are working on an initiative to establish a meaningful scholarship fund. Your prayers, support, and assistance are needed as we roll out this effort.

For more information on our camps, contact Kenneth Kuhnle, Conference Camping & Retreat Ministries Development Coordinator at [kkuhnle@epaumc.org](mailto:kkuhnle@epaumc.org) or (610) 666-9090.

CARSON SIMPSON FARM  
[www.csfarm.org](http://www.csfarm.org)

GRETNA GLEN CAMP &  
RETREAT CENTER  
[www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)

INNABAH PROGRAM CENTER  
[www.innabah.org](http://www.innabah.org)

POCONO PLATEAU CAMP  
& RETREAT CENTER  
[www.poconoplateau.org](http://www.poconoplateau.org)

