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Annual Conference 2008: Building the Connection

by Suzy Keenan*

1200 clergy and lay representatives of the 465 churches of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church will gather together on Thursday, May 29 and Friday, May 30 in Philadelphia.

The Conference will celebrate the theme, "Living Connected as God's People: Building the Connection" through worship, music, and Holy Conferencing under the leadership of Bishop Marcus Matthews.

Shortened to one and a half days, the conference will be packed with dynamic worship led by Dr. Marcia McFee. Dr. McFee will design and lead the five worship experiences at the upcoming annual conference and will invite people to engage the arts in worship. She is renowned around the globe for her creative and deeply spiritual worship leading; she will also design and lead the worship experiences at the upcoming General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in Ft. Worth, Texas, April 23 to May 2. She has been a worship leader at various United

Methodist gatherings around the globe.

Annual Conference will begin at 1:45 on Thursday, May 29 with Opening Devotions, Building the Connection: God's Reign.

Opening Worship, on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm, will feature a colorful procession, inspiring music, and the preaching of Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey.

In addition to being resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, Bishop McCleskey represents the Council of Bishops on the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He is vice-president of that board and chair of its Division of Higher Education. He



is vice-president of the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. Bishop McCleskey also served as presi-

continues on page 6

Dr. Marcia McFee To Lead Worship At Annual Conference

Vital and passionate worship consistently tops the list of priorities for churches across the conference. Dr. Marcia McFee, a national worship leader and educator, will bring that vitality to worship when Annual Conference convenes on May 29. While her ministry takes various forms, including pastor's schools, seminary coursework, regional workshops and local church consultations, leading and designing worship for Annual Conferences is some of the most fulfilling work she says she is privileged to do. "This work embodies my own sense of call: building up the church and its leaders through education and inspiration, strengthening the Body of Christ for the work we must do in the world." Her presence in Eastern Pennsylvania will mark her 35th in Annual Conference worship leadership.

Annual Conference worship contains what Marcia calls the "3 R's." "From



Marcia McFee

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Calendar

- **APRIL 11-13, 2008** - 53rd Annual United Methodist Men Convocation. Theme: "Brothers in Prayer." Location: Pocono Manor Inn. Speakers: Rev. Thomas R. Albin - Dean, Upper Room Ministry and Gary Cobb - Former Philadelphia Eagles Linebacker. Leaders: David Brown - Youth Bible Study, Bill Hubbard - Christian Financial Planning and Dana E. Kuhns - Scouting. Fifty percent discount for men 19 - 30 years old. For Eastern PA Conference Men only. For more information contact Ross Brightwell at 215-643-1269 or rossbrightwell@verizon.net.
- **APRIL 11-13, 2008** - York Pa. Marriage Encounter Weekend. Clergy couples can do this and also get 1.5 CEU's by attending. At the Four Points Sheraton in York. The weekend begins Friday evening and concludes about 4 pm on Sunday. Register on line : encounter.org. Your nonrefundable registration fee of \$50.00 may be mailed to: Dick & Donna Risinger, 224 Mail Ave. Warren, PA 16365. For more information, please call Bernell & Jola Shoff at (717) 244-4848.
- **APRIL 19, 2008** - Hot Metal Bridge - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 7.
- **APRIL 23 - MAY 2, 2008** - General Conference 2008 - Ft. Worth Convention Center, Ft. Worth, TX. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. Six clergy and six lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will attend. More info: www.umc.org.
- **APRIL 26, 2008** - "Having Things In Order" A Symposium On Issues Of Aging. Presentations On Current Issues Of Aging. Featuring Experts in: Legal Matters, Health Care, Pastoral Ministry. In an "Open Forum" Format. Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon., Avon Zion United Methodist Church, 1205 E. Cumberland St., Lebanon, PA 17042; Phone: 717/272-5555. Sponsored by the UM Pastors of the Lebanon Cluster. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Lunch provided at 12:00 Noon. Total Cost is \$5.00 per person.
- **MAY 3, 2008** - The EPAUMC Order of Deacon's Presents: For The Health Of The Order, The Church, And The World. See page 15 for more information.
- **MAY 5 - 9 & 12 - 15, 2008** - 2008 Baltimore-Washington Conference License to Preach School. License to Preach School is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally, to share a common journey of faith, and be challenged in ministry. In order to participate in the school you need to be recommended by your district superintendent. The majority of the people who attend the school already have an appointment to a local church or they will be appointed during the calendar year. This does not guarantee anyone an appointment. Cost is \$700, to be paid prior to attending, includes room and meals. You are required to attend both sessions. West River Retreat Center, 5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778. More information: www.bwcumc.org.
- **MAY 29-30, 2008** - Engage Arts in Worship with Marcia McFee- Part of the Making Disciples Series. At Annual Conference.
- **MAY 29 - 30, 2008** - Annual Conference 2008. See Annual Conference Supplement.
- **JUNE 1, 2008** - Service of Ordination. First UMC of Lancaster, 29 E. Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602-4936.
- **JUNE 7, 2008** at Gretna Glen Time Away for Spiritual Nurturing--A Day Retreat for Adults Victimized by Violence. The conference is offering opportunities for adults who have been victims of violence to receive healing, comfort and hope through a one-day retreat experience. These events are offered at no cost to participants as part of an anti-violence effort initiated by Bishop Marcus Matthews in response to the rising level of violence in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Please share this information with persons you know who would benefit from this retreat. To view the brochure and registration form, go to: <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=2206>.
- **JUNE 14, 2008** - Lord, Teach us to Pray - Part of the Making Disciples Series. See page 8.
- **JULY 8, 2008** - Women In Professional Ministry will be holding a luncheon and Prayer Service for Mindy McKonly and Michele Wright Bartlow from 11 pm -2 pm at St. Matthew's UMC, 600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA. Please bring a covered dish. Dessert will be provided. We anticipate a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship. For more information: Mandy Stanley Miller at mandystanley@yahoo.com.
- **JULY 14 - 18, 2008** - NE Jurisdictional Conference. Harrisburg, PA. Twelve clergy and twelve lay delegates from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, plus three clergy and three lay alternates will attend the NEJ Conference. Thirteen annual conferences make up the Northeast Jurisdiction, and bishops for the jurisdiction will be elected at this meeting. More info: www.nejumc.org.
- **JULY 18-20, 2008** - 2008 Conference School of Mission. The Courses are: "I Believe in Jesus" (Taken by All) "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" (Elective) "Israel and Palestine" (Elective). The tentative location is The Inn at Reading. For additional information contact: Dick Howarth rwjhwh@earthlink.net.
- **JULY 26, 2008** - Weaving a Web of Connections. Part of the Making Disciples training series. For more information, see page 9.
- **JULY 26, 2008** - United Methodist Night at the Phillies - Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves at 3:55 pm. Pre-game activities will feature a United Methodist Men's Choir singing the National Anthem plus other events. If we sell over 1,000 tickets, UMM will receive a rebate of \$5 per ticket, which will benefit UMM ministry. If we break 1,500 tickets sold we get \$6 back per ticket. Last year we had one of our biggest church groups ever - over 140 persons came by bus from the Anthracite region, sat in deep center field, and had a ball!!! For more information, contact Ross Brightwell, rossbrightwell@verizon.net.
- **AUGUST 3-6, 2008** - Worship 2008 "Expressions of Grace" - Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Wilmington, DE. Classes include: Dance and Drama, Children in Worship, Preaching, Choir Leadership, Handbells, Organ, Visual Arts and Writing for Liturgy. For more details go to : www.FUM-MWA.org.
- **AUGUST 8-10, 2008** - "Growing, Sharing, and Living Our Faith." The 25th Anniversary of the Academy for Laity at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia. Guest preachers: Former EPA Conference Bishop, Rev. F. Herbert Skeete and Rev. Charles "Chuk" Yrigoyen. Special Anniversary Banquet, New Courses and more. Stay tuned for more information.
- **OCTOBER 19** - Laity Sunday. Laity Sunday focuses on the celebration of the ministry of all lay Christians, and in many local churches, Laity Sunday is observed by having laypersons lead all parts of the worship service. This would be a fitting day to recognize adults and youths who are involved in various ministries in the church and community. For Laity Sunday resources, go to: www.gbod.org.

Save these dates!

BISHOP'S ADVENT DAY APART FOR CLERGY

December 2, 2008
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, DE

BISHOP'S MIDWINTER RETREAT FOR CLERGY AND SPOUSES

January 13 - 15, 2009
Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, MD



Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World

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

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Philadelphia Area Bishop

Suzy Keenan
Director of Communications

Ileana Rivera
Graphic Design and Layout

One year subscription only \$12!



General Conference delegation recommends two candidates for Bishop



Mindy McKonly (left) and Michele Wright Bartlow (right).

The General Conference Delegation voted on Saturday, March 29 to recommend two clergy candidates for endorsement for the Episcopacy: Melinda L. McKonly and Michele Wright Bartlow. These two nominees will be recommended to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in May for endorsement, at which time the conference will vote on endorsement of these candidates. If they are endorsed, then they will be official Episcopal nominees for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Bishops will be elected at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference when it meets July 14-18, 2008 in Harrisburg, PA. For more information: www.nejumc.org

Melinda L. McKonly

Melinda (Mindy) L. McKonly is appointed to Senior Pastor, Asbury UMC, Allentown, PA (2000-present).

Describe three of your gifts for ministry and explain how you would employ these gifts as a Bishop.

I believe I have the gift of Leadership. I am the oldest of five children in my family, all girls. As the oldest, I have always been the one to see what needed to be done and to strategize ways to accomplish it. I have led congregations, small ones that couldn't see beyond survival and large ones that needed to be motivated to change the way they viewed ministry. I have assumed many leadership roles in the Annual Conference, from Camping to Finance to Ordained Ministry. My passion has been my work with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel.

As a Bishop, I see the need to help set the direction for the Church and to keep the goals and the vision before the Conference. I believe that clergy and laity alike truly desire to be Christ's body in the world. The Episcopal leader helps to enable that to happen by empowering people for ministry and through the appointment of leaders. A strong component of leadership needed in the church is accountability. Jesus said that we will be held accountable one day for our actions. I think we need to be evaluated in our ministry for the results that are accomplished now as

well.

I have the gift of compassion. I suppose there are some who have been on the receiving end of being held accountable who might not agree with that. But I see myself as a human being with all the faults and limitations that entails, and therefore have compassion, empathy and grace for others. The greatest compliment I have received in my ministry has been from people who say they can talk to me because I am real.

Leadership without compassion can become tyrannical. Along with compassion is a sense of passion for those who suffer because of injustice or hardship or oppression. As a Bishop that sense of compassion can fuel prophetic leadership in the church.

Discernment is also one of my gifts for ministry. Some might just call this intuition, but I believe that the Spirit enables those with this gift to see below the surface, to see the truth that lies within. Discernment is not just knowing all at once, but a process of listening both with the ear and the heart.

This is a great gift for dealing with people one-on-one or seeking the direction in which God might be calling the Church. The downside of this gift is in acting without getting confirmation from others or in judging before one has all the facts. For this reason, I believe it is essential for a Bishop to build a team in which people feel free to express their opinions even when they differ with the Bishop.

Michele Wright Bartlow

Michele Wright Bartlow is appointed to Senior Pastor, First UMC of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA

Describe three of your gifts for ministry and explain how you would employ these gifts as a bishop.

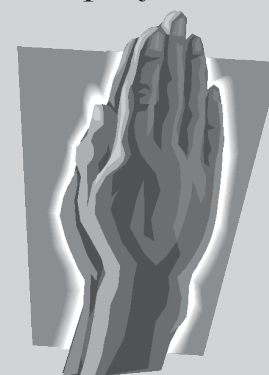
Consensus. I am a good bridge-builder, mediating and encouraging dialogue between people of diverse opinions. As bishop, it would be important not to surround myself only with people who agreed with me. I've had lots of experience in dealing with conflict and am comfortable with it. In fact, within the framework of our mission and ministry, I believe it's important to find lay and clergy leaders who will contribute something substantive to the conversation that wouldn't be there if they were not there. My goal is to continue to build bridges, to help others to talk through differences about matters of conviction.

Vision. One of my strengths in ministry is that I am able to ask the larger questions - the "balcony view". I can look at a particular cultural context from a church and discipleship perspective. In ministry, I work from informed intuition, practicing an intuitive discernment, establishing a good sense of the open and urgent questions, affirming people, and developing strategies for working. Spiritual discernment asks: what is it that God wants us to do? What is the heart of God? If we believe God really wants something from us in

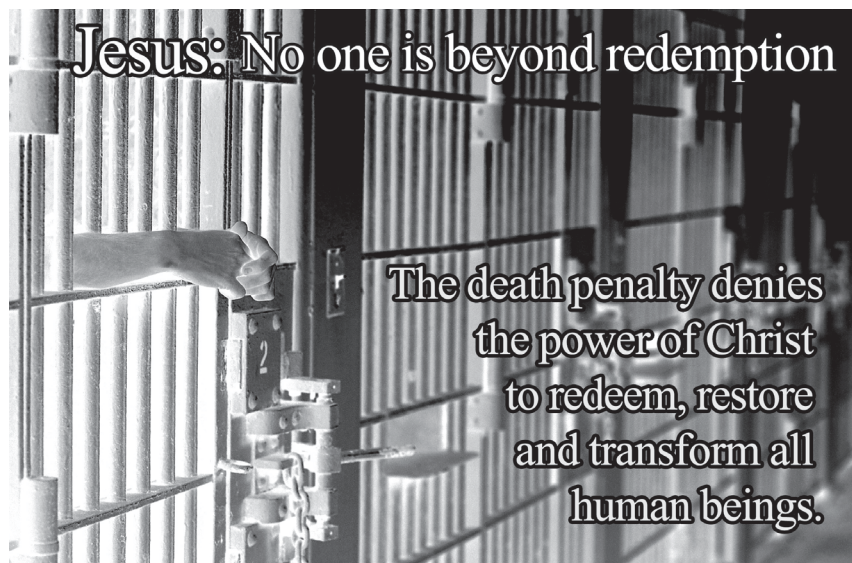
this situation, then our spiritual task is to articulate what we believe that is. As bishop, this ability to discern and approach our spiritual mission strategically would be invaluable. It would enable vision to be translated into measurable outcomes.

Motivation. Most of my pastoral experience has enabled me to resource congregational leadership: asking what these particular disciples want to accomplish and how they see their role in the church, and then equipping them to carry out the mission. I encourage people to take ownership of their faith and to work together toward a common goal. In this same way I believe I could motivate pastors and lay persons, because I have already done it in a variety of settings.

Please keep Michele and Mindy in your prayers.



U.S. state efforts advance to abolish death penalty



Jesus: No one is beyond redemption

The death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings.

by Kathy L. Gilbert

In 1985, Kirk Bloodsworth was convicted of rape and murder and sent to Maryland's death row. In 1993, DNA testing proved he was innocent.

He joined the 127 people in the United States who have been released from death rows after being found innocent of the capital crime for which they were convicted.

"Because innocent persons are sentenced to death and because there is documented racial and geographical bias, everyone should question the death penalty," said Beth Reilly, a United Methodist working to abolish capital punishment in Maryland.

Reilly's convictions come from

Scripture and The United Methodist Church's Social Principles.

"For United Methodists, a death penalty is antithetical to the New Testament message," she said. "As our state seeks to punish perpetrators of heinous crimes and as it works to protect society from those who may do harm, we, as Christians, must consider a higher calling."

In the United Methodist law book, called the Book of Discipline, the denomination states that "the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings." It goes on to state opposition to the death penalty and to "urge its elimination from all criminal codes."

The Nation in Brief

When New Jersey repealed the death penalty at the end of 2007, United Methodists were among those who squeezed into a small room at the state capitol to watch Gov. Jon Corzine sign the bill. As the governor noted at the time, grassroots advocacy groups had played a significant role in making New Jersey the first state since 1976 to repeal the death penalty through its legislature. Replacing capital punishment was the sentence of life in prison without parole. Among the groups he acknowledged was New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, which had both direct and indirect United Methodist participation, according to John Goodwin, co-chairperson of the denomination's New Jersey Area Task Force on Abolishing the Death Penalty.

While the object of "Jeopardy!" is to guess the right question, it was the answers of 17-year-old contestant Becky Krall that left the biggest

impression during a Feb. 14 appearance on the nationally syndicated TV game show. Becky, who already had pledged to put 10 percent of her earnings in the offering plate at Chews United Methodist Church, was given two chances to share about her Christian faith in the form of answers to host Alex Trebek's questions. Becky said witnessing to the faith was "a natural thing to do." Although Becky didn't win her round on the game show, she did title \$500 from the \$5,000 she was guaranteed for appearing on the show.

While professing U.S. membership continues to decline in The United Methodist Church, the number of constituents is steadily increasing, according to new denominational statistics. Membership decreased by eight-tenths of a percent over a one-year period to more than 7.9 million, according to the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration. Worldwide United Methodist lay

In the Nation

Delegates to the 1956 Methodist General Conference took the historic action of officially opposing the death penalty.

Each Methodist and United Methodist General Conference since that time has reaffirmed that position. Meeting every four years, these assemblies are the only bodies that can speak officially for the denomination. The 2008 General Conference will meet April 23-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Making strides

Tremendous strides were made in the past year against capital punishment, according to Bill Mefford, director of civil and human rights with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, the church's social advocacy agency.

"New Jersey became the first state in

42 years to legislatively end the death penalty," he said. Abolitionist legislation also was filed in Colorado, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska and New Mexico.

The number of executions in the United States hit a 13-year low in 2007 with 42 people being executed, due in large part to a challenge from two Kentucky death row inmates. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the challenge in September. The inmates allege lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment.

Mefford noted three more exonerations: Curtis McCarty of Oklahoma after 21 years on death row; Michael Lee McCormick of Tennessee after 16 years; and Jonathan Hoffman of North Carolina after 10 years.

The United States reinstated the death penalty in 1976 and since that time 1,099 people have been executed. Lethal injection is used in 35 states and by the U.S. military and U.S. government. Nine states use electrocution, five states use the gas chamber, two states executive by hanging and two states use a firing squad. Lethal injection is allowed as an alternative in most states.

California, North Carolina and Tennessee are currently studying their death penalty process, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Indiana is considering legislation that would exempt seriously mentally ill defendants.

For more on this article, go to: www.umc.org.



Beth Reilly

and clergy membership, which stood at more than 11.5 million in 2005, is still being tallied for 2006 and is expected to be released later this year. Meanwhile, the number of constituents in 2006 was more than 1.5 million, a 16 percent increase from a decade ago. Denominational records show the number of constituents has increased three of the last five years and eight of the last 10. "Constituents are the unbaptized children, youth and adults who are not members of the church, but for whom the church has pastoral responsibility," said Scott Brewer, the council's director of research. "It's a growing number, and it reflects that people aren't so big into membership any more."

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has withdrawn its support of a resolution affirming full communion with the other denominations in the Pan-Methodist Commission, and it is reconsidering having representatives on United Methodist agencies. Speaking at the March 6-8 meeting of the Pan-Methodist Commission, Bishop Earl McCloud, the ecumenical

officer for the AME Church, said the withdrawal was based on a series of events, primarily those that led up to the dismissal of the Rev. Larry Pickens as leader of The United Methodist Church's ecumenical agency.

Ginghamsburg Church, Tipp City, Ohio, has attained "mega-church" status, with multiple buildings and ministries on two campuses serving about 4,500 people weekly since the Rev. Mike Slaughter was assigned there 29 years ago. Membership stands at 1,300. The church's ministries now extend far beyond Ohio. Through its Sudan Project, undertaken in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, "we are reaching or touching a quarter million people in Darfur," the Rev. Mike Slaughter said. Slaughter spoke about that project—which has raised \$3 million in three years—during the spring meeting of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency, March 10-13 in Stamford, Conn.

Retired Liberian clergy eke out survival on pensions



The Rev. JoJoe Vah, a retired United Methodist minister, lives in a burned-out house with 17 relatives. UMNS photos by Kathy L. Gilbert.

by Linda Green

The Rev. JoJoe Vah, his mother and 16 other relatives live in a house that would be condemned by U.S. standards. The home was heavily damaged and looted by rebels during Liberia's long civil war, and now it stands as a burned-out shell.

Vah, 78, who retired from active ministry in 2002, was a United Methodist pastor for 53 years. He has no money to repair the damage to his home caused by fire, bullets, water and weather. Receiving no income other than a quarterly pension of US\$60, he and his family subsist on rice, soup made from a local nut and items they receive from others.

His grandchildren reside with him

in Buchanan so they can attend school in town. "They live in the rural area and have no means of transportation and no means to go to school, so most have to be here in the city to go to school," he says. He also cares for his elderly mother, who is in poor health.

"The only income coming in is from the Board of Pension," he says, referring to the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits. "That buys just a bag of rice to sustain the rest of the family," he says of the hundred-pound bag that sometimes lasts a month. The pension "is not enough to sustain me and my family," he says. "With the funds given to us by the Board of Pension, we purchase the rice and keep it in the room where I sleep because I can't keep it in the kitchen,"

The World in Brief

United Methodist Bishop Edward Paup has been elected to lead the church's Board of Global Ministries, which oversees global missions and is the denomination's largest agency. The election came March 11 during the board's spring meeting. He will assume the post of general secretary on Sept. 1. Until that time, Bishop Felton May will continue as the interim top executive. Paup, 62, is bishop of the Seattle area, which includes the Pacific Northwest Annual (regional) Conference and Alaska Missionary Conference, and is president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops. He said he will tender his resignation from the episcopacy, effective Aug. 31, when the United Methodist Council of Bishops meets in April.

Sister Helen Prejean, the Catholic nun who has become a symbol of opposition to the death penalty, will

receive the 2008 World Methodist Peace Award on April 2 in New Orleans. The Rev. John Barrett, president of the World Methodist Council and an ordained member of the British Methodist Church, will present the award. Prejean is the author of *Dead Man Walking: an Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, which served as the basis for a 1995 movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. The World Methodist Peace Award is presented annually to individuals or groups who have contributed significantly to peace, justice and reconciliation.

The Rev. Pamela Couture has a deep interest in peace-building efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is writing a book on the topic. Couture, the vice president for academic affairs and dean at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City,

In the World

which is outside under a roofed structure. When he was an active pastor, a small side business helped him to support his family. Since retiring, he says, "I don't have any money like before from the business when I was active. I rely only on the Board of Pension."

Offering hope

Stories like Vah's abound in Liberia. A news team from United Methodist Communications and members of the denomination's Board of Pension visited the Liberia Annual Conference in 2005 to gain a better understanding of the pension needs in that West African country. The team visited cities outside of Monrovia, Liberia's capital city, meeting with pastors and surviving spouses whose pension funds were minimal or nonexistent. Many had given 20, 30 or 40 years of service to the church. The United Methodist Church, directed by its 2000 and 2004 General Conferences, has been working to develop pension models to help pastors and church lay workers in Liberia and other countries retire with an adequate pension. The church's effort, known as the Central Conference Pension Initiative, is focusing on Africa, Eastern Europe and the Philippines.

A campaign to raise \$20 million is

Retired pastors and surviving spouses gather at St. John United Methodist Church in Grand Bassa County, Liberia, to share their stories.



Mo., was planning a research trip to the African nation in January and wondered what type of gift she could take to the people there. As a result, Saint Paul's and others developed a plan to deliver more than \$14 million worth of medicines to Congo. For helping to make the life-saving delivery a reality, the United Methodist-related seminary will present four individuals with "Good Samaritan" awards at an April 7 banquet at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. The contributions of the Saint Paul Council and Board of Trustees will also be recognized.

Two United Methodist agencies have renewed a partnership to develop distance-education systems across Africa using satellite and radio. The top executives of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry and United Methodist Communications symbolically re-signed an agreement to work together to address denominational focuses on leadership development, health, poverty and con-

gregational development. The Rev. Jerome King Del Pino and the Rev. Larry Hollon signed the agreement during the March 6-8 meeting of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The agencies initially entered the collaborative arrangement last August.

Nothing But Nets, an anti-malaria campaign of The United Methodist Church and other partners, raised more than \$18 million from 60,000 donors during its first year. A new report issued by the United Nations Foundation said the total was raised as of Dec. 31, 2007, to buy and distribute insecticide-treated sleeping nets for families in Africa. The sum includes more than \$9.4 million donated by individuals, \$3 million in matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and \$5.7 million contributed through "Idol Gives Back," a two-night "American Idol" television special benefiting organizations that help children in poverty.

This is groundbreaking and is a celebration of the church's global nature and that we are in mission together," says Bishop John Innis of Liberia. For the Liberia Conference to be chosen as the pilot project in Africa is "commendable" and "falls under the umbrella of making disciples for the transformation of the world," he says.

For more on this article, go to: www.umc.org.



Building the Connection

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dent of the Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops (2003-2004), and he is a member of the board of trustees of Duke University.

Bible Study, which opens the morning of Friday, May 30, will be led by the Rev. Kelvin Sauls of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. Rev. Sauls is well-known in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference following the kick-off workshops he led for the Making Disciples trainings, "Transformational Spiritual Leadership." He was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. Currently he leads the Office of Congregational Development of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, with a passion for congregational revitalization and community organizing in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the United Methodist Church in the U.S. Rev. Sauls serves on the national planning team for the Convocation of Pastors of African American Churches (General Board of Discipleship) and on the National Policy Committee of the Community Developers Program (General Board of Global Ministries).

Twenty-five retirees will be celebrated and recognized at a service on Friday morning at 10:45 am, Building the Connection: From Generation to Generation.

Bishop McCleskey will again preach for the Memorial Service on the evening of Friday, May 30 at 6:30 pm, Building the Connection: God's Beloved.

Offerings: Churches and members will contribute toward offerings:

Opening Worship: Hope for the Children Fund going to ministry with children in poverty in Pennsylvania and in Africa

Service of Ordination: scholarships for United Methodist undergraduate and seminary students from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Donations for Methodist Home for Children: Gift cards, to be used to purchase clothing or personal items for children (Wal-Mart, JC Penney, Sears, Target, etc.) or Hygiene kits, packed in baggies, which should include a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, shampoo and conditioner. These items will be used as part of the school based programs in 8 schools on the Methodist Home for Children campus, as well as the foster care and residential living program, which serves 600-800 children daily during the school year.

Please ask your congregation, youth groups, and Sunday Schools to support these mission projects of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Then, please bring donations and offerings to Annual Conference

The Service of Ordination will be held Sunday, June 1 at 4:00 pm at First

United Methodist Church, 29 E. Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA. The Rev. Kelvin Sauls will preach in a service focusing on Building the Connection: God's Call. Eight persons will be ordained for Elders Orders and one for Deacons Orders. Eight persons will be commissioned toward Elders Orders, and one person will be commissioned for Deacons Orders.

In Holy Conferencing, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will discuss and vote a budget for 2009. The budget reflects the move of the General Conference toward an outcome-based budget divided into four areas of ministry collaboration: Leadership Development, Congregational Development, Eliminating Poverty, and Global Health. The budget includes \$3,984,030 for Annual Conference ministry, \$1,480,938 for the World Service Fund and \$1,305,650 for other General Church Funds. The total recommended budget is \$6,770,618.

The conference will discuss and vote upon twelve resolutions including two relating to the approval of 18 ministries as Conference Advance Specials, so that they may receive supplemental funding for their ministry work. Among the resolutions is one related to the adoption of child abuse prevention education, and another on the adoption of a Safe Sanctuaries policy. Another calls for support of "One Handgun a

Month" legislation in Pennsylvania.

The conference will meet at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, 17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA. Buses have been arranged for transportation from every district, and will be free of charge.

Registration is open until April 22. Go to www.epaumc.org <<http://www.epaumc.org>> to register online securely, or mail in the form from the registration booklet.

Congregations are encouraged to support the Conference Mission Projects with offerings and donations for:

Hope for the Children

Scholarships for United Methodist Undergraduate and Seminary Students

and

The Methodist Home for Children

Marcia McFee

continued from page 1



the early Methodist days, gathering at conference was about revival—enhancing our enthusiasm and deepening our connections to God and to each

other by proclaiming and embodying the Word of God in meaningful ways. Additionally, our worship must be about renewal. Clergy and lay leaders rarely have the chance to take a deep breath and immerse themselves in worship participation without the added responsibility of leadership of that worship. At Annual Conference, we are given a chance to worship deeply and renew our spirits, our mission and our call. Finally, conference worship is filled with rites of passage—significant moments in the lives of our conference community: retirement, licensing, commissioning, ordination, memorial and, last but certainly not least, the setting of appointments when we are called once again. These services are a time for worship with 'deep soul,' acknowledging the ever-abiding presence of the Spirit, especially in times of transition in life and ministry."

Dr. McFee is a graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology and Graduate

Theological Union, where she received a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies and Ethics. "I believe what we do in worship matters for who we are becoming in the world. Worship forms and shapes us, but the question is, 'To what are we being formed?' Through praise and prayer are we connected more deeply to God? Through proclamation of the Word are we inspired and moved to discipleship in Jesus Christ?" It is her hope that the worship she is planning for EPA Annual Conference based on the theme, "Building the Connection," will do just that—build connections for mission and ministry.

Just after Annual Conference (June 16-20), Marcia is offering a continuing education and spiritual renewal event called "Elevation" for 50 clergy and lay worship leaders in her hometown of Lake Tahoe. It will further explore the theology, theories and practical applications modeled at Annual Conference. All leaders in churches of

the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are eligible for a discount, according to McFee. "Come and elevate your skills and understanding of vital worship in a beautiful setting with colleagues from across the connection." A brochure and registration information are available for download at www.marciamcfee.com or by calling toll free 877-387-7977. CEU's are available.

CONTACT:

Marcia McFee
Phone & Fax: 530-582-8000
or 510-301-8427
worshipworkshop@aol.com
www.marciamcfee.com



Making disciples of Jesus Christ

for the transformation of the world



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
of The United Methodist Church

HOT METAL BRIDGE: BRIDGE TO JESUS CHRIST

The Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community seeks to be a bridge to Jesus Christ by helping people participate in the Kingdom of God. Its mission is to be a bridge to Jesus Christ by participating in communion, welcoming all into community, listening and having compassion, growing in faith and sharing Christ's story with the community of the South Side community of Pittsburgh, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the world.

Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community is a church that was planted in the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh, fall of 2004, in a tattoo parlor. The church uses a narrative style of worship that shares the story of God through drama and the arts, as well as traditional forms of worship.

Hot Metal Bridge is part of both The United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Being connected in this way points to the church's deeper belief in the unity and priesthood of all believers. When sharing in the Lord's Supper, all who have a heart hungry for the Gifts of God are invited to come to the table and be served; no one is turned away.

Hot Metal Bridge's Philosophy of Worship

Jesus Loved a Good Story: Jesus taught the people that followed Him by telling them stories about the world around Him. In the same way we use drama as a way of sharing the stories of the Bible in new and relevant ways.

Jesus Loved To Eat: He started out changing water into wine and in the

last moments before His death shared in a meal with His friends. We too love to eat and be with friends, which is why after every service we sit down and have a meal of tacos or soup or bagels together. Through this meal, we seek to create authentic, intimate relationships with one another and with God. Communion, community and conversation are all vital elements of who we are as a church.

Jesus Loved People: Above all Jesus came to serve and love others and he expects no less from us. We seek to serve those that are in need throughout the community around us.

Pastor Jim Walker

Pastor Jim Walker is a Full Ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2003). He received his undergraduate degree from Point Park College in Pittsburgh (1991). He and co-pastor Jeff Eddings have been working together in ministry since they served together as camp counselors at Ligonier Camp in 1989. After graduating from Point Park College, they spent many years using drama to proclaim the Gospel in churches and camps across the country through a ministry called *Crosslight Productions.* They also created an outreach to elementary schools through the Pittsburgh Children's Museum-performing plays about conflict resolution, handling peer pressure, and reading. They are now serving the Lord together again, along with their families and many, many friends at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community on the South Side.

Hot Metal Bridge
Kochenderfer UMC, 1105 Kochenderfer Road
Lebanon, PA 17046
April 19, 2008
10 am - 3 pm

Jim Walker, an ordained elder in The UMC and co-pastor of Hot Metal Bridge, will share with us how this faith community goes about ministry. Birthed out of a tattoo parlor, this is



definitely not your grandparents' type of United Methodist congregation. Worship services held in the Goodwill building and Bible studies in the tattoo parlor are only glimpses of how this faith community engages people for Christ in Pittsburgh, PA. This worshipping community uses a narrative style of worship that incorporates drama and the arts, as well as traditional worship styles. Jim has a passion for the church and seeing The UMC reclaiming John Wesley's passionate missiological approach

to ministry. To see photos and learn more, go to:

www.hotmetalbridge.com

Engage the Arts in Worship

Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel
 May 29 & 30, 2008
 at Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA



Marcia McFee, will design and lead various worship experiences at the upcoming annual conference and will invite people to engage the arts in worship. Marcia will also design and lead the worship experiences at the upcoming General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in Ft. Worth, Texas. She has been a worship leader at various United Methodist gatherings around the globe. To learn more or read resources, visit

www.marciamcfee.com.

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Wesley UMC, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
 June 14, 2008
 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Margie Burger, of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, will facilitate this seminar which is designed to "encourage God's people to become a people of prayer." The session will include activities and practical applications of teachings on prayer. "More than just a teaching tool, this seminar is an opportunity for all to encounter the Living God!" Aldersgate Renewal Ministries is an affiliate member of the

General Board of Discipleship. To learn more about Aldersgate Renewal or to obtain prayer resources, visit:

www.aldersgaterenewal.org/resources/prayer/index.html.

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- Accountable Discipleship**
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 P.O. Box 820
 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

Weaving A Web Of Connections

Using Internet Technology For Effective Ministry
West Chester UMC, 129 S. High Street, West Chester, PA

July 26, 2008
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Face-to-face training from United Methodist Communications

Do you want to develop or expand a Web presence for your local church, district or conference organization? Are you interested in the latest Internet technology for ministry? Then join local church, district, and conference volunteers, staff, webmasters/servants, communicators, editors, and pastors for a Friday evening to Saturday afternoon face-to-face training event.

Through presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and vendor exhibits, you will be able to explore a variety of options for "Weaving a Web of Connections" by using Internet technology for effective ministry.

Conducted by United Methodist Communications Web Ministry Team of Nashville, TN.



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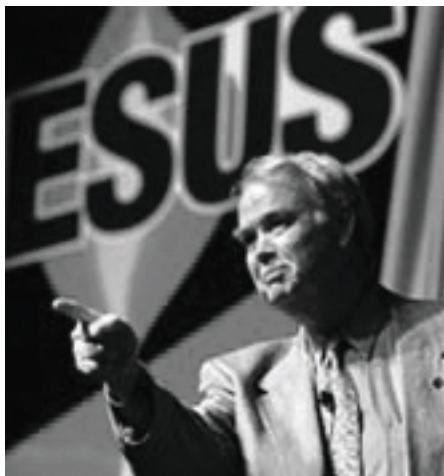
Phone: _____

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P.O. Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820**

Sharing Your Faith

September or October 2008

Dr. H. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism, World Methodist Council, and Executive Director, World Methodist Evangelism Institute will teach and "encourage lay and clergy to be about the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ." During this session, participants will gain confidence and tools to share their faith and Christian witness with others. To learn more about this, Dr. Fox and the World Methodist Council, visit:



www.worldmethodist.org/aboutwmc.htm

Peace with Justice Sunday May 18, 2008



Witness to God's hope for a faithful, loving world.

Your offering gives The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for peace and justice at home and around the world.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?"
--Micah 6:8b, NRSV

For more information, visit:

www.umcgiving.org

50 Ways to Build Strength

Need practical, actionable strategies to reach people more effectively? The popular "50 Ways to Build Strength" series provides tips for building strength in areas of ministry that are vital to church growth. Each 50 Ways selection, in four pages, offers practical tips and suggestions for improving and expanding your ministry, as well as additional resources for further information. Print and share them with leadership in your church!

- 50 Ways to Build Strength Caring for Children
- 50 Ways to Build Strength Caring for Youth
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Participation
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Welcoming New Members
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Adult Education
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Communication
- 50 Ways to Build Strength Church Finances
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in Encouraging Faithful Giving
- 50 Ways to Build Strength in your

- Annual Stewardship Campaign
- Commentary on Pew's U.S. Religious Landscape Survey

The release of the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life continues to draw commentary in both the church and the mainstream press; and Lovett Weems has been asked frequently for comments and analysis. Weems was quoted in the March 7 edition of The United Methodist Newscope where he noted that UMs are vastly over-represented among whites and among families with incomes above \$50,000, according to the Pew Survey. A February 29 Associated Press article also cited Weems saying that growing churches have both a clear sense of identity and meet people's needs in a changing culture. To read more about the Pew Survey go to: Pew U.S. Religious Landscape Survey: <http://religions.pewforum.org>

Changing Religious Traditions: Not New but Accelerating by Lovett H. Weems: www.churchleadership.com

Tips to Encourage Young People in Your Church

The United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has developed several resources to help congregations welcome younger people and to ease the process of candidacy for younger persons exploring a call to ordained ministry. A series of tip sheets found on the "Explore Calling" website, www.explorecalling.org, provides recommendations to congregations, Boards of Ordained Ministry, and younger candidates themselves. "Young people bring unique gifts ... as a generation, and as individuals. Take the time to talk about what those gifts are and how to incorporate them into your church life," says their tip sheet on Young People in Local Churches.

The Power of Story: Living Into God's Reign

A national conference for leaders in multiracial/multicultural congregations will be offered April 26-29, 2008 at Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan. The Rev. Jacqueline Lewis, Ph.D., is the conference organizer. Lewis is the author of *The Power of Story: A Guide for Leaders in Multiracial and Multi-*

cultural Congregations, a book being published this April in the "Discoveries: Insights for Church Leadership" book series, a partnership of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Abingdon Press. The April conference includes presentations by The Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus, The Riverside Church, and The Rev. Eric F. Law, a leading author on multicultural communities. For schedule details or to register, go to www.middlechurch.org/multicultural.

Link the Lewis Center to Your Website or Blog

Thanks to all of you who have added www.churchleadership.com as a link to your church website or to your blog. We encourage others to do the same. The Lewis Center's website provides news and information about events, programs, resources, and recent research. Past Leading Ideas material is archived by topic and author, and the popular "50 Ways" series of resources for building congregational strength can be downloaded free of charge.

For more information, go to: www.churchleadership.org.



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215-675-0103

Pilgrim Gardens
7023 Rising Sun Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111
215-745-3517

www.WEL.org

CONFERENCE BUILDS ANTI-VIOLENCE EFFORT

Each day, the news reports of violence in our community and world are sadening. As United Methodists of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, we are striving to lead lives of shalom in our homes, on our jobs, in our communities and world. In addition to the numerous ministries led daily by local congregations, the conference is providing grant funds to promote peacemaking by countering violence and sponsoring day long retreats for persons victimized by violence.

Congratulations to Janes Memorial United Methodist Church for being the first grant recipient of the End the Violence Now Grant! Through the Shalom Arts Academy, this congregation will create and implement an after-school arts program targeting at-risk children ages K-12, through arts education and group skills training. Slated to begin in the fall of 2008, this project will offer after-school instruction in voice, dance, and dramatic arts. This congregation already enjoys a strong relationship with Fulton Elementary and Germantown High School.

*Time Away for Spiritual Nurturing
A Day Retreat for Adults Victimized by Violence
June 7, 2008 at Gretna Glen*

The conference is offering opportunities for adults who have been victims of violence to receive healing, comfort and hope through a one day retreat experience. These events are offered at no cost to participants as part of an anti-violence effort initiated by Bishop Marcus Matthews in response to the rising level of violence in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Please share this information with persons you know who would benefit from this retreat.

To view the brochure and registration form, go to: <http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=2206>



Walls of injustice continue to divide Palestine/Israel

A Commentary by Margaret Harris

My journey started in October 2006 in Nashville, when I heard Elizabeth Corrie, a United Methodist from Atlanta, tell a gathering of United Methodists the story of how her cousin, Rachel Corrie, had been crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer three years earlier. Rachel had been protesting the demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza strip. I couldn't get Rachel Corrie's story out of my head. I wanted to learn more about the conditions that had brought about this tragedy. This inspired me to go on the January 2007 General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) Education, Mission and Advocacy trip to Israel/Palestine.

I was the only person from the Eastern PA Conference to journey on the trip. When I returned, I kept talking to people about the trip, encouraging them to make the journey, too.

A year later, in February 2008, seven persons from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, including me, headed to Israel/Palestine with GBGM. There were over 90 participants from all over the world, including Germany, the Philippines, Estonia, and Kenya. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference had the most representatives: Judy Claude, Laura Jones, Sue and Reinhard Kruse, John and Kim McGrath, and me.

The February 2008 Peace and Justice trip to Israel/Palestine was the fourth GBGM trip to Israel/Palestine under the leadership of David Wildman. Unlike most church tours of the Holy Land, which focus on visiting Biblical sites, these trips focused on getting to know the people living in the land today, particularly the Palestin-

ian Christians, and learning about the problems they face. Most Christians are more familiar with the injustice during the Roman occupation of the Holy Land two thousand years ago than the injustice today under Israeli occupation.

Three things were remarkable above all: the wall, the destroyed Palestinian villages, and the Israeli settlements.

Israel's so-called Separation Wall confronted us as soon as we left Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. This wall, the first major visible sign of injustice, is twice as high as the Berlin Wall in many places, and already over 400 miles long and growing daily. This wall is justified by Israel as necessary to protect Israel from Palestinian attacks. I question the validity of that.

If the reason for the wall is defense from the Palestinians, you would think that the wall would be built on the border between Israel and Palestine, but much of it is not. A lot of it is built on Palestinian land. This gives Israel illegal ownership and control of Palestinian land. Palestinian farmers thus lose their olive trees and land.

The wall does not simply separate just Israelis and Palestinians, it separates Palestinians from other Palestinians. It often surrounds Palestinian villages or Palestinian neighborhoods, isolating Palestinians in one village or neighborhood from their Palestinian neighbors. People are unable to visit their families and relatives. In Jerusalem, we saw the wall separating a neighborhood of Palestinian Christians from the Palestinian Christian elementary school, which the children attend. Sometimes it cuts right through a school yard, making it impossible for children to use their own school yard.

As a speaker from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said, "No one disputes Israel's right to protect itself. They have every right to put a wall up on their border. But that's not what they did. They don't have a right to put up the wall in Palestinian territory."

We visited Biram, one of the over 400 Palestinian villages destroyed by Israel in 1948. Our guide, Tommy Magdal, gave us a first-hand account of his experience as a child living in this Palestinian Christian village and being driven out by the Israeli army. He told a heartbreaking story of how his family, along with everyone else in the village, was forced by the Israeli army to abandon their homes and land. They were told they could return in a week. They slept outdoors for the week, awaiting permission to return. However, when they tried to come back, they found the army had destroyed their homes and they were forbidden to return. They are still waiting to return today. The village remains destroyed and abandoned. To add insult to injury, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled in favor of the villagers. However, the army overruled the Supreme Court, claiming the need for security. Strangely enough, Israel allows the former inhabitants to bury their dead in the village cemetery. The living are forbidden to return or rebuild their homes or farm their confiscated land, but the dead are allowed to return.

When it comes to Israeli settlements, you might have a picture in your mind of a few religious zealots living in primitive conditions in the desert in defiance of the Israeli government. Nothing could be further from the truth! There

are over 500,000 Israelis living in settlements. Most of the settlements are luxurious modern suburban developments with shopping malls, high-rises, and swimming pools. Rather than trying to stop or limit the settlements, the Israeli government offers financial incentives to people to move to the settlements. Most settlers are secular and do not move into the settlements for religious reasons. They move to the settlements because they are cheap and convenient.

So what is the problem? The problem is that all settlements are on Palestinian land. The settlements rob the Palestinians of their land. Then, to make matters even worse, Israel restricts the Palestinians further, with the excuse of security for the settlers. A particularly egregious policy is that most of the main roads are for Israelis only. Palestinians are not allowed to use roads on their land.

Want to learn more about this situation and how you can advocate for change? There is a wonderful opportunity to learn more at the North American Friends of Sabeel Conference held at Villanova at the end of April. There will also be another General Board of Global Ministries trip to Israel/Palestine in 2009. Additionally, if you can't make it to the Sabeel Conference or Israel/Palestine, come to the School of Christian Mission this summer and take the course on Israel/Palestine. Finally, members of the EPA group who went on this trip would love to tell people about our experiences. If you would you like one or more of us to come to your church and talk, please contact me at mharris@voicenet.com.

Early Response Team training

JUNE 6 & 7, 2008
Camp Innabah

Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill the need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church. They are neither the first response emergency workers nor the traditional VIM repair and recovery teams. Rather, these are the folks who go in and make the homes safe, sanitary and secure by mucking out, removing damaged drywall and carpeting, treating for mold, cutting up fallen trees, etc.

These teams were first created by the United Methodist Church in the mid 1990s and they have been a cooperative effort between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). A covenant was formed between the two groups in 2007. All ERTs must be trained by authorized UMCOR trainers and it is absolutely necessary that each member of an ERT have the basic ERT training.

Over 200 people in our conference have

received an overview of ERTs in the abbreviated VIM training that was held after Hurricane Katrina. The training will be held on Friday evening and all day Saturday, June 6 & 7 at Camp Innabah. The cost will be \$100 per participant which includes course materials, a light dinner on Friday evening, three meals on Saturday and overnight accommodations on Friday. The training will be conducted by three of our members who have recently been through "Train the Trainer" training and will be observed by an UMCOR trainer in order to obtain their certification. Please consider participating in this event. It is not a matter of "if" a disaster will occur but "when" it will occur.

Time: Friday, June 6 from 6:00 PM until 9:30 & Saturday, June 7, all day through dinner. Place: Camp Innabah, Spring City, PA. Cost: \$100 each

To register, contact: Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960; Phone 215-723-8367; Fax 215-723-2945; e-mail bbotti@entermail.net

The Philadelphia Sabeel Conference

"In Search of a Homeland: The Quest for Place & Peace in the Middle East"

A comprehensive conference of lectures, panels and workshops on Palestine and Israel.

Connelly Center, Villanova University, Villanova, PA

Friday April 25 to Noon -5:00 pm and on Saturday, April 26, 9:00-5:00.

Sabeel is a Jerusalem-based ecumenical peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians, promoting non-violence, human rights, international law, and teachings on justice and peace building.

Rev. Naim Ateek, director of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, will give the keynote address on "Christian Strategies for Non-Violent Peacemaking."

Fifteen informative and eloquent speakers from the U.S. and abroad, including Marc Ellis, Jeff Halper, and a workshop by the Philadelphia Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. Topics include a more accurate history of the issue, the current reality under occupation, the environmental impact of war, Palestinian literature, the role of Lebanon, understanding Islam, non-violence, Christian Zionism, pilgrimages, outlook for the future, and Jewish anti-occupation activism here in the U.S. Show featuring film, art and photography.

Register (for all or part of the conference) online at www.FOSNA.org or contact David Yeaworth at 610-525-2776 or email d.yeaworth@worldnet.att.net.

Workshop takes worship to new heights: Marcia McFee leads "Elevation" Retreat in Lake Tahoe

Deep lake water and lofty mountains become biblical metaphors for the CEU-certified worship workshop being offered by well-known worship professor and workshop leader, Dr. Marcia McFee. The spectacular setting of Lake Tahoe and McFee's decades of experience leading, studying and teaching worship will give 50 clergy and lay leaders involved in worship a deep experience of the theology and practice of worship.

"Elevation," Dr. McFee's next CEU event in Lake Tahoe, is scheduled for June 16-20, 2008. Past participants described the 5-day event as "inspirational," "helpful," with "so many ideas to take home and apply right away."

A 2007 study by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) showed that 85% of Conferences in The United Methodist Church require continuing education by clergy. McFee notes, 'Elevation' gives pastors and lay worship leaders CEU credits as they deepen their understanding of worship and enhance their ability to engage congregations in meaningful worship. Exciting global worship resources are available and 'Elevation' helps leaders to incorporate these vital expressions with integrity, depth and full participation of the people."

Worship and congregational development topped the list of popular subjects for continuing education events, in the GBHEM study. The study revealed that Annual Conferences want "increasing effectiveness and vitality, spiritual formation, nurturing leaders, development of new skills and clarity in preaching and mission."

McFee responds,

"When leaders of worship take time apart for enhancing design and leadership skills in a context where the theological and spiritual aspects of worship leadership are woven into practical application, each one of these goals is addressed. As 'Elevation' inspires and equips leaders, it also nurtures a hunger for continued learning because there are so many emerging resources and ideas about worship."

The study identified concern about the effectiveness of one-time continuing education events. To this end, "Elevation" includes on-going learning through seasonal teleconferencing and internet resources based on the liturgical year. McFee explains: "One of the tenets I teach is 'plan ahead.' But worship is not the only thing that staff are responsible for in their ministry settings. I want to begin supporting busy clergy and lay worship planners with easy-to-access inspirational helps in jump-starting the creative process for a season as well as offer ways for participants to continue to resource each other."

Completion of the "Elevation" schedule fulfills the requirements for 2.5 CEU's and includes significant time for spiritual renewal in the beauty of the Lake Tahoe region. A brochure and registration information are available for download at www.marciamcfee.com or by calling toll free 877-387-7977. Multiple registrants from a church receive discounts.

Elevation!

Classifieds

PART-TIME YOUTH LEADER - spiritually-mature leader wanted with good communication skills and knowledge of traditional Christian theology to lead the youth of both the Church and community to Jesus. Hours are approximately 20 hours per week with a salary of \$8,000-\$12,000 (commensurate with experience). For an application, please call Campbelltown UMC at 717-838-4971 or e-mail campbelltown@netzero.net.

SE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - duties include correspondence, filing, database entry,

event organization, e-mail communications, assisting Superintendent in 80-church district of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. For job description: www.epaumc.org. Send your resume to: The Rev. Christopher Kurien, 1725 Breckenridge Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Part-time) - responsible for oversight the children's ministry (sixth grade and under) to ensure a smoothly operating, safe and effective program. Programs involve primarily

Opportunities at Carson Simpson Farm for the Spring

"Back to Camp Day"

DATE - April 26
DAY - Saturday, 10 AM - 1 PM
Cost - \$20 per camper

Former campers are invited to attend a fun-filled morning and lunch with their old camp buddies. Campers will participate in games, arts and crafts, and of course Gaga. They will re-connect with old friends and staff. Don't miss this exciting opportunity.

Call for more information 215-659-0232

Silent Auction -

DATE - April 26
DAY - Saturday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Carson Simpson Farm will be having a silent auction during Back to Camp Day. Adults only are invited to bid for items that will be on display. Bidding will end at 1:00 PM and all items will be available at that time to take with you. You do not have to be present at 1 PM to win. Payment is expected at the time of pickup. Items could include, but are not limited to: Sports memorabilia, Movie tickets, Restaurant gift certificates, Local store gift certificates, Gift baskets. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, contact the camp before April 15 at 215-659-0232. Come out and support this worthwhile event!

"Open House"

DATE - April 27, 2008
DAY - Sunday, 1 - 4 PM

This event is designed for the new or prospective camper. It is a time to take a tour of the camp property and to get acquainted with the facility. Come meet the Director and some of the staff. You may also register during this time.

Any questions please call the camp, 215-659-0232

"Programming on a Shoe String" Workshop

DATE - May 3, 2008
DAY - Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 Noon (continental breakfast included)
WHERE - Carson Simpson Farm
COST - \$10.00

Are you an adult in the church who loves your school age kids, wants to start a new program or beef up an existing one? Is your church low on money and cannot purchase another thing?

Come and join the program staff at CSF for an interactive morning. We will be sharing some history, what has worked and has not, introducing methods to use existing curriculum that is already at your church and places to look for resources. This workshop is designed to encourage and empower the children's worker to refresh existing program or venture into something without concern for finances. All are welcome.

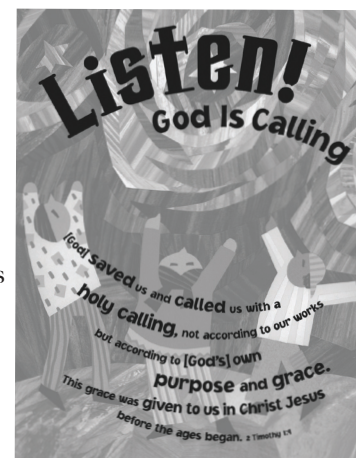
Call the camp to register at 215-659-0232

Or send check for \$10 along with name, address & phone to:

Carson Simpson Farm, 3405 Davisville Rd., Hatboro, PA 19040

the Sunday School experience, but also special events throughout the year. The director will recruit, train, support and encourage leaders who will touch children's lives with God's love, teach them God's Word and provide fellowship with God's people. Salary is negotiable. At least 15 hours/week. Contact: Sanctuary UMC, 215-699-9331; info@sanctuarychurch.org; www.sanctuarychurch.org <<http://www.sanctuarychurch.org>>

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - part time position involving 20 hours per week. Salary is nego-



negotiable, commensurate with experience. Responsibilities include the following: coordinating and directing a strong, well established youth program; recruiting and orienting volunteers to assist in the program; attending staff meetings; other activities as needed (i.e. communication regarding youth events, counseling, assisting with Confirmation class activities). Send a resume or contact for further information. Contact: Pastor James E. Carver, Sanctuary UMC, 1346 East Prospect Avenue, North Wales, PA 19454. jim.carver@sanctuarychurch.org

Partners for Sacred Places

Philadelphia Regional Fund For Sacred Places Announces Grants Totaling \$400,000 – Philadelphia Area Historic Sacred Places Begin Critical Repairs and Renovations

Historic religious properties in the Philadelphia area are getting a financial boost for restoration efforts. The Philadelphia Regional Fund for Sacred Places, administered by Partners for Sacred Places, is granting five awards totaling \$400,000 to local congregations this fall.

Congregations must dedicate grant funds to the renovation of their older religious buildings. The urgent repairs include stabilizing falling spires, repairing crumbling walls, leaking roofs, and sagging windows, as well as upgrading life safety systems. Congregational leaders are announcing the awards in separate events within their churches.



The five Regional Fund grantees are:

- Arch Street United Methodist Church, Center City Philadelphia
- Church of the Advocate, North Philadelphia

- First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Northwest Philadelphia
- First Unitarian Church, Center City Philadelphia
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Ardmore

Each congregation must match its grant by leveraging member and/or community support in order to receive

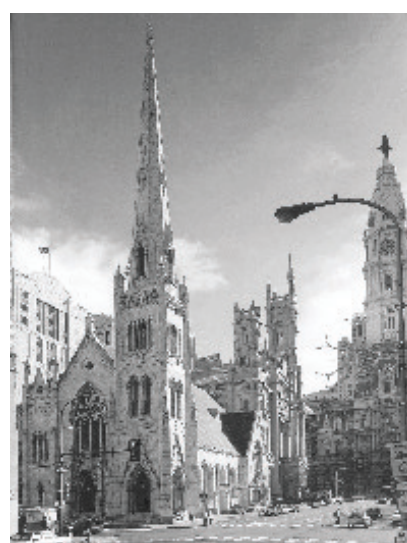
the funding from Partners for Sacred Places' Regional Fund.

"The Church of the Advocate's mission to the community cannot be advanced without stewardship of its architecturally and socially significant buildings," explains Church of the Advocate's Development Director Barbara Stechert. "Partners for Sacred Places has offered us unwavering support, guidance and friendship in the years since the restoration and building efforts have begun."

"Partners is proud to extend the reach and impact of the Fund by helping these churches; each has enormous cultural and community value," states A. Robert Jaeger, Executive Director of Partners for Sacred Places.

To apply to the Regional Fund, congregations must have a building of historical significance, strong and committed leadership, and a comprehensive plan to address their repair needs. Additionally, they must play a major role in neighborhood stabilization; combined, the five congregations provide space and other resources valued at about \$939,500 annually to support the social services in their buildings.

The Philadelphia Regional Fund launched in May 2006, and is the largest fund of its type in the nation for funding and technical training for historic, community-serving sacred places. The William Penn Foundation and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are among the individuals, foundations, and governmental agencies providing support for the Regional Fund.



Arch Street UMC

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, non-sectarian, non-profit organization devoted to helping congregations and their communities sustain and actively use older and historic sacred places. Partners provides

assistance to the people who care for sacred places while promoting a new understanding of how these places sustain communities. Founded in 1989, Partners is headquartered in Philadelphia. For more information, please visit: www.sacredplaces.org.

The William Penn Foun-

ation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that foster rich cultural expression, strengthen children's futures, and deepen connections to nature and community. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance a vital, just, and caring community. Learn more about the Foundation online at www.william-pennfoundation.org

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission is responsible for operating and maintaining historic museums statewide and works to ensure that the Commonwealth's most precious treasures are saved for future generations by preserving Pennsylvania's historic landmarks. For more information, please visit: www.phmc.state.pa.us.

Partners for Sacred Places *1700 Sansom Street, Tenth Floor * Philadelphia * Pennsylvania * 19103; Phone: (215) 567-3234 * Fax: (215) 567-3235 * www.sacredplaces.org



Elementary Choir at First UMC of Germantown

IRS Certifies Lebanon Valley College Volunteers to Offer Free Tax Return Help

Lebanon County taxpayers who need help with their federal, state, and local tax returns can get that help for free from certified, volunteer tax preparers at Lebanon Valley College, a United Methodist-related college in Annville, PA. Simply call 717-867-6054 for an appointment. On "Super Saturday", April 12, "walk ins" are welcome without an appointment from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at LVC's Faust Lounge in the Mund College Center. Twelve Lebanon Valley College student volunteers and one business faculty member have been certified by the Internal Revenue Service to provide these services.

The Lebanon Valley College Institute for Financial Literacy (LVCIFL) was created in the spring of 2007 to provide financial planning and counseling to residents of Lebanon County with low and moderate incomes. LVCIFL

offers its services by appointment, generally on Tuesday and Thursdays throughout the tax season, as well as at other mutually agreeable times.

In the summer of 2007, LVCIFL entered into a partnership with the Community Action Commission in Harrisburg, the Lebanon County United Way, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue to train students at various local colleges, universities, and law schools to provide free income tax services for low- and moderate-income taxpayers. It's called the "Money in Your Pocket" program.

The program's certified professor

and on-site director is John Grigsby, an assistant professor of business administration at LVC. The LVC student volunteers trained for the program with students from Widener Law School and Shippensburg University. They completed a comprehensive training program and passed a grueling examination before they could be certified to assist taxpayers with federal, state, and local tax returns.

Grigsby and Shaylene Scheib of the Lebanon County United Way, who graduated from LVC last year, and Anthony Beccone, a senior accounting student at LVC, were recently inter-

viewed about the program by Comcast Newsmakers, a five-minute interview program airing on CN8's Headline News that provides news and information from people making a difference. Their interview will be featured on numerous occasions beginning in the next week or so.

In addition to tax preparation, LVCIFL offers free e-File services for both federal and Pennsylvania tax returns, including direct deposit of refunds.

For more information on Lebanon Valley College, go to www.lvc.edu.

Lebanon Valley College

Since 1866



Celebrating 100 years of men's ministry

The year 2008 marks the 100th official anniversary of men's ministry in The United Methodist Church, and celebrations are planned for General Conference when it meets in Fort Worth, TX in April, and in Annual Conferences across the United States.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will celebrate the 100th anniversary at its 53rd Annual United Methodist Men Convocation, April 11-13, 2008. The convocation, with a theme of "Brothers in Prayer," will be held at the Pocono Manor Inn.

Men's ministry was a part of all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church. In 1908, at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, the Methodist Brotherhood was approved, making men's ministry an official part of the denomination. Prior to 1908, more than 1,500 Methodist Episcopal churches had men's ministry units under a variety of different names. Likewise, the United Brethren Church began the Otterbein Brotherhood at its 1909 General Conference. The Evangelical Church organized the Albright Brotherhood in 1931, named for Jacob Albright, founder of the denomination.

Today, the mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve Him, to grow spiritually, and seek daily to do His will. Headquartered in Nashville, TN, about two blocks from the United

Methodist General Board of Discipleship, the commission offers training and retreat opportunities, provides an online devotional and resource guide called Power Tools, supports the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, and works closely with Boy Scouts of America. It makes available Strength for Service devotionals, which are given to armed services chaplains and personnel, as well as firefighters, police, and other public servants.

Across the United States, there are more than 250,000 United Methodist Men in 7,000 chartered units in local churches.

The 100th Anniversary of United Methodist Men celebration includes special monthly observances for local units:

- April – United Methodist Men's relationships with the other United Methodist Church agencies.
- May – Strength for Service: The commission has printed 250,000 copies of this World War II devotional, and has given them free of charge to U.S. military and community service personnel.
- June – Celebration of John Wesley's birthday (June 17, 1703), the Holy Club, John Wesley Fellows and Band of Brothers.
- July – UMM working in the mission of the church, including hunger-relief efforts in conjunction with the Society of St. Andrew.

•August – Lifting up the men at the local level.

•September – Prayer Ministries: UMM gives an annual gift of \$25,000 to The Upper Room Prayer Ministries.

•October – Expressing appreciation of pastors and bishops.

•November – Evangelism and spiritual life, mentoring relationships (especially the Amachi program), and providing Faith-Sharing New Testaments.

•December – Men's Ministry Specialist, growing UMM on the local and conference levels with tangible goals, and Legacy Builders, a program that calls for men to step up to the plate in support of the missions and ministries of United Methodist Men.

The United Methodist Church encourages local churches to celebrate a Sunday during the year to recognize United Methodist Men and its ministries. A worship service and bulletin insert are available which you may use on this special day celebrating 100 years of men's ministry.

Check the General Commission on United Methodist Men website for the 100th anniversary bulletin insert and other resources for men's ministry in your church: www.geumm.org. Also check the website for information on the upcoming 10th National Gathering of United Methodist Men which will be held July 10-12, 2009 at Belmont

University, Nashville, Tennessee.

United Methodist Men of The Philadelphia Area will sponsor UM Night at the Phillies on July 26 at 3:55 p.m.

- Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves. At least \$5 from each ticket sold will benefit UM Men Ministries. The UMM President of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, Mr. Charles Brummel, will throw out the first pitch. A UMM chorus will sing the national anthem and a UMC Boy Scout Troop will present the colors. For a ticket order form, go to the Calendar of Events on www.epaumc.org.

For information on Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Men, or if you would like to start a United Methodist Men group in your church, contact Ross Brightwell, 1050 Limekiln Pike, Maple Glen, PA 19002; 215/643-1269; or rossbrightwell@verizon.net.



United Methodist Men 100 Years of Men's Ministry

Philadelphia Honors King Legacy with First-Ever Bridge Walk for Peace

Individuals representing faith, business, non-profits and community to stretch across Ben Franklin Bridge at 7:01 PM on April 4th commemorating hour of assassination.

On April 4, 1968 at precisely 6:01 PM Central Standard Time, an assassin's bullet ended the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, TN. But instead of ending a movement, the incident launched the legacy of Dr. King's work for achieving peace throughout the world.

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the assassination, individuals and organizations were recruited to form a human chain in the shadow of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge to be in place at exactly 7:01 PM (the time that Dr. King was assassinated 40 years ago in Memphis, TN) honoring the ongoing need to connect

to each other as we work toward peace throughout the world.

According to Rev. Dr. Donna L. Jones, pastor of Cookman United Methodist Church and one of the Bridge Walk's organizers, the Walk is the first of several programs to be conducted over the course of the year that focuses on achieving the Beloved Community about which Dr. King spoke of, worked and died for.

"The concept of Beloved Community is one that influenced much of Dr. King's work in which all of us would have enough and no one lives with too little," Dr. Jones said. "If we work toward this goal of mutual respect, we could reduce the incidences of violence, poor education, limited job opportunities and military conflict that continue to plague our society."

Participants gathered at Frank-

lin Square Park at 6th & Arch at 3:00 PM to register for the Walk. A brief rally was held at 5:30 with speakers that may include Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia and Mayor Gwendolyn Faison of Camden, NJ along with individuals who worked and walked with Dr. King in his march for peace. Then the participants met near the Philadelphia side of the Ben Franklin Bridge to be in place at 7:01 PM (the time that Dr. King was assassinated), stretch their arms linking to one another and join in 40 seconds (one second for each year of the anniversary) honoring the work yet to be done in achieving the Beloved Community.

The event was supported by the Delaware River Port Authority and the City of Philadelphia.

For more information contact: David W. Brown; (215) 893-0856

or (856) 397-5437 (cell) or Dbrown@BrownPartnersmm.com, or to www.bridgewalkforpeace.org



The Rev. Dr. Donna L. Jones

Curriculum invites children to build 'rock solid' faith

by Kathy L. Gilbert*

Hank the Hammer and friends will help children build a "rock solid heart of faith" with a new Sunday school curriculum being offered this fall by the United Methodist Publishing House.

"Rock Solid: Building a Heart of Faith" will invite children ages 3-13 to lay a solid biblical foundation and construct a personal relationship with God.

The cornerstone of "Rock Solid" is Matthew 7:24, the story of the wise man who built his house on rock. It includes multisensory activities, crafts, stories and games, supplemented by an interactive Web site at IAmRockSolid.com.

"Faith cannot be taught; it must be caught," said Marj Pon, managing editor of church school publications, in a presentation to the Publishing House board of directors during its spring meeting March 18-19 in Nashville.

"We want to create a faith experience each week."

The new curriculum replaces Exploring Faith, which has been offered for the past eight years. Rock Solid incorporates language based on a faith-building model instead of a school model and uses, for instance, words like session instead of lesson, leader instead

of teacher and group instead of class.

The curriculum will be ready to ship to churches in June. It includes a leader guide, kids books, a resource packet and musical CD. A fun pack with craft ideas is available for younger age levels, a puzzle book for older children and a drama book for "tweens."

Rock Solid is less expensive than Exploring Faith. The leader's guide costs \$2 less per book, and the kids book \$1 less.

Reporting on other Publishing House products, Linda Tozer and Marilyn Thornton, editors of Vacation Bible School resources, said the 2008 VBS Beach Party had exceeded \$1 million in sales during February. Walk It Out, a multicultural VBS offering, reached more than \$70,000 in sales by the end of February and is running ahead of budget and sales of last year's program.

"This was a first-time-ever achievement for the corresponding sales period and suggests we have a major hit on our hands," said Neil Alexander, president and publisher, of the Beach Party product.

Competitive environment

In recent years, the Publishing

House has faced tough competition in the publishing industry, in addition to soaring costs.

In July 2007, a 2 percent decline in annual sales forced the publishing agency to lay off 3 percent of its workforce. In February 2008, staff was restructured and leadership assignments changed to support a need for "bench strength" and a desire for a less hierarchical culture, Alexander said.

Second-quarter sales and expenses ended with a net operating revenue of \$2.2 million, "which is well ahead of our plan," Alexander said.

"We are grateful for this good news as it provides encouragement for the challenging work through the remainder of the fiscal year while we interact with an uncertain national economy and precariously small margin of error to achieve our end-of-year net operating revenue."

Honoring the publisher

Alexander's 20 years at the Publishing House was celebrated March 18 at a surprise banquet organized by staff and directors.

"Our products reach

hundreds of thousands of people every week," he said. "What is particularly gratifying is experiencing the depth of love of God and neighbor that motivates and sustains those involved.

From the Sunday school teachers to the worship planners, from editors to the Cokesbury store associates, there is a driving passion to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a sin-sick world.

"That's made 20 years of this work challenging, exhilarating and profoundly satisfying."

*Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.



"LET IT BREATHE ON US: AN ELDERS' DAY APART TO CATCH OUR BREATH - AND GOD'S!"

Monday, April 28, 2008
9:00am-3:30pm
Mariawald Renewal Center
Shillington, PA

Take a day in between Easter and Pentecost for a day of renewal; this day is especially for elders to come together for mutual support and encouragement.

Our time together will include:

- Worship and singing
- Celebration of our joys in ministry and support for our struggles
- Fellowship around a shared meal and shared stories.
- Prayer for one another and for all elders of our Conference, including those who have recently left
- Quiet reflection as well as small group conversation
- Honoring of elders who have retired during the past 5 years and those who were ordained within the past 5 years
- Possibility of extending retreat time with an individual overnight stay

-- Sponsored by the Committee for the Order of Elders

Cost for the day (including lunch): \$25.00
(make checks payable to: EPA Elders Retreat)

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for walking outside; bring your ordination stole, a Bible and hymnal, and a journal.

Send your reservation and check to Nancy Ross at: pastor.nancy@yahoo.com; 113 S. Springfield Road, Clifton Heights, PA 19018; 610-623-5781

The EPAUMC Order of Deacon's Presents:

For The Health Of The Order, The Church, And The World

What: A One-day Retreat for Deacons

Who: All Ordained Deacons, Probationary Deacons, and Deacon Candidates

When: Saturday, May 3rd 9:00AM - 3:30PM

Where: United Methodist Church of the Open Door, 210 South Broad Street, Kennett Square, PA

Cost: \$10.00

R.S.V.P. Deacon Ben Hartley @ 484-384-2984

Summer Camp 2008

Listen!

God Is Calling

[God] saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to [God's] own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. 2 Timothy 1:9

Carson-Simpson Farm • Gretna Glen • Innabah • Pocono Plateau

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference The United Methodist Church
CALL US (TOLL FREE) 1-877-UMC-CAMP • VISIT US ON-LINE www.epaumc.org/camping

United Methodist Night at the

76ers

Lower Level Ends

(Sections 106-108 and 118-120)

UM Cost - \$31.00

Box Office - \$52.00

To download a ticket order form, go to:

www.epaumc.org

Mezzanine Corners

(Sections 204-205 and 209-210a)

UM Cost - \$20.00

Box Office - \$30.00

or contact Jim Wilkin at

1-800-828-9093 or

jim.wilkin@epaumc.org

A donation will be made to the conference for each ticket sold.

Friday, April 11, 2008



7:00 p.m.

VS



Appointments

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Dawn Taylor-Storm from White Haven UMC to Valley Forge: St. Matthew's UMC

Amy Smith from Lehman Memorial (Assoc.) to Phoenixville: First UMC

EAST DISTRICT

Janice Puliti from Ivyland: St. John's UMC (Assoc.) to Ivyland: St. John's UMC (Senior Pastor)

Richard Rogers from Lickdale: Trinity UMC to Jarrettown UMC

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Paul Crikelair from Goodwill UMC to Cherry Valley/Poplar Valley UMCs

Robert Hachtman to Bethlehem: Fritz UMC

Gene Boyer from Allentown: Emmanuel UMC to Black Creek UMC

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Brian Albert from Lebanon: Ebenezer UMC to Shamokin: First UMC

Alice Ann Bonham from Ridley Park UMC to Lebanon: Trinity UMC
Rodney Shearer from Northeast District to Lebanon: Kochenderfer's UMC
Timothy Anderman from Mont Clare: Otterbein UMC to Lickdale: Trinity UMC
Mark Dricker from Schaefferstown: Zion UMC to Lebanon: Ebenezer UMC

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

David Eckert from Phila: Germantown, First UMC to Drexel Hill UMC

Ryan B. Wieland to Ridley Park UMC

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

John Longmire from Quarryville: Memorial UMC to Hempfield UMC

John Laughlin from Lebanon: Kochenderfer's UMC to Millersville: Grace UMC

John Keretzman from Elverson UMC to Quarryville: Memorial UMC

Rene Perez from Director of Outreach and Church Multiplication Ministries and Director of Latino Ministries to Lititz UMC

Rodney Miller from Tamaqua: First/Salem UMCs to Neffsville: Long Memorial UMC

Debra J. Davis from Bird-in-Hand UMC to Lancaster: Otterbein UMC

Randall Smith to Mt. Joy: Chiques UMC (effective April 1, 2008)

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

JULY 26, 2008



VS



For more information contact Ross Brightwell at

3:55 p.m.

rossbrightwell@verizon.net