



Preceding Events

Local Church Leaders Workshops Turn Out Record Numbers



The rescheduling of the workshops from January 22nd to February 26 raised the registration count from 250 to 300. The workshops were held at St. Mark's UMC in Easton. Sessions included: Worship, Lay Leaders, SPRC, Finance, and Church school.

Black History Reflections

Each Sunday during the month of February at New Revived UMC (Rev. Turhan L. Potter, pastor), reflections were shared by Lay Minister Deborah Wooden.

Eloquently dressed for the occasion, Minister Wooden shared historical information of: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; William Joseph Symon; Moses Hogan and Carter G. Woodson.



Succeeding Events

Soup and Sandwich Supper

On April 3, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., a soup and sandwich supper, with a slide show to follow, will be held in Wheatley Hall (behind Saint Paul's UMC – the Rev. Howard Brooks, Jr. pastor) in Greensboro.

Please note that soup, beverages and bread will be provided. Please bring a sandwich filling (meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes), chips, or a dessert.

Kate and Ray Breeding will be showing slides of their trip to the Midwest and an offering will be received to benefit Native American Ministries, under the auspices of the United Methodist Church. All are welcome!

... More To Come ...

2005 Spring Lay Academy To Graduate Approximately 192

March 14th is the date set for the joint graduation service for some 192 persons who registered for classes in three schools within the Easton District. On February 14th and 16th students collectively embarked on a journey of spiritual enlightenment. Various courses were offered at

schools in three locations (Centerville, Chestertown, and Cambridge), and include: Basic Lay Speaking; Revolutionizing Stewardship; Lay Speakers Lead Prayer; The Purpose Driven Church; and Developing the Leader Within Us. The graduation will be held at St. Marks UMC in Easton.

... On Journeying ...

We are moving on into the second portion of Lent and I'm still seeking a greater understanding and searching for the perspectives of others. I came across a couple of insightful perspectives from Christians throughout the Easton District. The first being that of Pastor Cynthia Burkert (Faith Chapel/Trappe UMC Churches):

"Lord Have Mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy." The church has prayed this prayer since its earliest days. It is especially appropriate during Lent, which began on February 9th this year. We pray to God to have mercy on us, and to forgive our sins.

In some parts of the church, Lent is a time when people sacrifice or "give up" something: candy, sweets, coffee, television, or in the case of one of my family members, potato chips! But Lent is also a time when Christians take on spiritual disciplines, such as fasting, prayer, study of the Scriptures, and worship. Often these disciplines are accompanied by special offerings.

None of these sacrifices or disciplines has much meaning, however, unless we practice them as a way of drawing nearer to Jesus Christ. As we practice a Lenten discipline, as we are obedient to the discipline we have chosen to follow, we remember Christ's obedience to God, his sacrifice for us, and forgiveness of sins that we receive through him. No Lenten discipline has any meaning, unless we practice it in recognition that death did not have the final word: Easter happened! The tomb was empty! God in Christ overcame death, on behalf of all of us!

Pastor Cindy invites each of us this Lenten season to participate with the church in a spiritual discipline of prayer and meditation and to offer alms. Following, you will find suggested daily prayers and devotions. If you did not begin this Lenten Season by offering your confession to God asking for mercy and forgiveness of sins, do so now! Then each day, either begin or end your day with the prayer or devotion suggested. As a practice of Lenten stewardship, and in recognition of God's gifts to you, you may wish to offer small daily gifts (25 cents, a dollar, or whatever you can do daily) to be returned during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday, March 27.

March 11 – Give thanks to God for food and shelter.

March 12 – Pray for African Christians walking to worship.

March 13 – Pray for our Administrative Council and its decision-making.

March 14 – Pray for those who are in prison.

March 15 – Give thanks to God for our friends.

March 16 – Pray for teachers.

March 17 – Pray for our choirs

and musicians.

March 18 – Pray for those who are oppressed by alcohol or drug addiction.

March 19 – Pray for our neighbor churches.

March 20 – Palm/Passion Sunday. Pray for someone you will invite to Easter worship.

March 21 – Give thanks to God for the seasons.

March 22 – Pray for those struggling with mental illness.

March 23 – Pray for the children who receive our shoeboxes in 2004.

March 24 – Holy Thursday. Give thanks to God for Holy Communion.

March 25 – Good Friday. Thank God for the faithful witnesses who recorded our scriptures.

March 26 – Thank God for seeing you through your Lenten journey.

May God bless you with a renewed faith in the One who has brought you this far and who will see you through, until the end! Your sister on the journey, Pastor Cindy.

The second perspective comes from Rev. David Doraisingh (Sudlersville UMC Charge):

"Lent is a season of preparation." Jesus spent forty days in the desert. It is time for us to spend forty days in God's presence. The forty days of Lent are an opportunity. You may ask, an opportunity for what? The Lent season is an opportunity to transform us with God's power and to emerge on Holy Week as a repentant and empowered people.

It is a time to let go of excuses for shortcomings and failings. On February 9th, we all should have asked God to show us what we truly look like. We all needed to repent, we all needed to confess our sins but Christ's message of forgiveness overcomes all sin and his resurrection frees us from ourselves. The empty tomb turns our attention from what is wrong with us to the abundant life that Christ offers.

I would like to close with the word of John the Baptist who said, "Christ must increase, and I must decrease." John 3:30. Or to put it another way, "This is the assigned moment for him (Jesus) to move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines."

May the spiritual transformation that takes place in our lives this Lent enable everyone to see Christ in us. Keep looking up! Rev. D.

From the Lay perspective, I came upon a message from Judy Gleaton (Union UMC – Rev. David G. Heistand):

"Whoever drinks the water I give you will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life." John 4:14.

As I read this scripture story of the woman at the well, I was reminded that I had purchased Max Lucado's new book, **Come Thirsty**, in the Fall.

With all the holiday activities, I have not yet even opened the cover (so much for New Year's Resolutions!).

I began to ask myself some hard questions: Am I thirsty for God? Am I as thirsty as those who founded this church 225 years ago? Am I thirsty enough to make a sacrifice for others, and for my church? Have I forgotten my promise of Time, Talent and Treasure? Have I become distracted as Pastor David said last week, and put God aside for other pressing matters? Have I said, God, I will talk with you later after I've finished the dishes, vacuumed the house and talked with my friends? Are these some questions you may have asked yourself?

As I nailed my paper to the cross on February 13th, the first Sunday in Lent, I realized I have so much to think about. I am sure you do also. Will you "give up" something you love for Lent (not broccoli as the small child said)? Or will you give of yourself to others with a sacrifice of time and energy? Will you really listen to those who just need to talk to someone? Will you be thirsty for the Living Water?

This Lenten Season, won't you seek to quench your thirst with Jesus Christ? He is waiting for you to come to him and drink from the cup that never runs dry. Grace and Peace, Judy.

Last but certainly not the least, Sunday morning worship, along with all of the above, satisfied my quest for a better understanding of the Lent Season:

Pastor Potter (New Revived UMC) told our congregation to give God your heart during Lent. Don't give up your cokes, your chips, your coffee, or your candy. Joel 2:13 states render your heart-not your garments. Give away that negative spirit (anger, greed, hatred, lust, gossip, etc.) Ask God to create a clean heart, a right spirit from within. Repent, Repent, Repent! When seeking God's face, request knowledge and salvation. Don't let go until you get your blessing. Promise God you will serve until death. "Sound The Alarm-Its Time For A Revival!"

Ask for a new anointing. Let a revival start from within us, for hearts are changed during a revival. Lent is a time to perform spiritual surgery on our lives. Ask God to take away anything that is not pleasing. We must cast down all that exalts higher than Christ.

Three characteristics to bring us into a right relationship with God:

- Confession of our sins
- Repent-turn away from the things that snare us
- Know we are restored by God's grace

SOUND THE ALARM — ITS TIME FOR A REVIVAL!

DISTRICT-WIDE REVIVAL
for
CLERGY and LAITY COMMUNITY
of the
SALISBURY DISTRICT

"DIVINE ASSURANCE"

The Messenger;
Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris



Friday, April 29, 2005
Contemporary Worship
Stevenson UMC, Main Street,
Berlin, MD

Saturday, April 30, 2005
Traditional Gospel
St. James UMC, Rt 413, Westover

7:00 O'Clock P.M.
(Praise and Worship begins at 6:45PM Nightly)

Music by: The abundance of gifts across the District

You will want to be there to receive your
"DIVINE ASSURANCE"

For more information please call 410.749.3331

Calling all Clergy on the Salisbury District!

There will be a Minister's and Mates gathering on Friday night, April 8! We will meet at Community Church in Ocean Pines at 7:00 p.m. Please eat dinner before you arrive.

The theme for the night is roughly called . . . **"Bring Your Talent Light From Under The Bushel."** There are many of you out there who have great God-given talents and gifts and it's time to let them "shine!!!" Rev. Shirlyn Henry Brown and Rev. Janice

Humphrey are coordinating the evening. Please help them. They already have some names and will be calling some of you (don't be surprised if YOU are one of these), but we need many more. Do you play an instrument, sing, do magic, dance, perform stand up comedy, etc?! WE WANT YOU. Don't be shy.

Not only do we need the talent presenters, we need the encouragers. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend and fill the

sanctuary to worship the Lord through fellowship, fun, laughter, and appreciation. It's a wonderful time for our clergy and families to get together, get reacquainted, meet new friends, and just RELAX.

Please call Rev. Shirlyn Henry Brown at 410.957.0689 or Rev. Janice Humphrey at 410.784.2475. God has given you a talent and it's time to share it.

See you on April 8 at Ocean Pines: Community UMC.

RAINBOWS Reaches Out

Asbury's RAINBOWS program is off to a great start, with over 20 children and youth attending and participating. We are blessed with many capable and dedicated people leading RAINBOWS at Asbury.

The volunteers leading groups are Melinda Graham, Ann & Jerry Gieseke, Virginia Catley, Alice Anne Wells, Susan Peacock, Carolyn Conners, Lorraine Cheung,

and Brenda & John Corcoran. Also helping in various ways are Jan Bellistri, Nancy Benjamin, Don Long, and Sharon Dashiell.

Pat Phillips is the overall coordinator of the program and also runs a group for the parents while the children are in their sessions.

The plan for the group sessions includes time to gather and have everyone get to know each other;

time to focus on a topic through a story or teaching time; time to connect to the topic being discussed, especially to connect their feelings with their loss; and time to reflect, where the meeting's topic is summarized and brought to closure.

Keep our volunteers and these children and youth in your prayers as all move towards complete healing and wholeness.

Outreach to Homeless in the Community

Asbury Church in Salisbury and numerous volunteers reached out to the community for two different weeks to help the homeless in our community. We provided a warm place to sleep, food, tv, hair cuts, counsel, and conversation to 25 plus of our visitors. People came at 5:00 p.m. each evening for shelter, for a hot meal, and a warm place to sleep. Many thanks to the volunteers

who helped out in our weeks of the Community Emergency Shelter Project. Special thanks go out to Stewart Haemel and Mick Haensler for coordinating Asbury's portion.

(Editor's Note: the above two articles were reprinted with permission from the February 2005 Asbury UMC newsletter.)

Thanks to Betty Hall

Asbury Church is a place where everyone has a ministry and every ministry makes a difference! A perfect example is the twenty-five years of faithful service of Betty Hall.

Did you know that Betty has called lay persons week after week over the last twenty-five years to ask them to read scripture for both

traditional worship services? She also lined up communion servers for both services once a month. We are so grateful for Betty's ministry of witness and faithfulness.

In appreciation she was honored on Sunday, January 30, with a framed 23rd Psalm. Thank you, Betty, for your service as an unpaid servant of God.

1,000 blankets for Project Linus

The quilting community of Pocomoke City has been meeting at Salem United Methodist Church to make blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus distributes new, handmade blankets to seriously ill children. The group, under the direction of Donna Clarke will meet at Salem on March 12 to celebrate the distribution of their 1,000th blanket. The group has received thanks from as far away as the A. I. DuPont Children's Hospital in Wilmington.

Presenting in Concert
The Chancel Choirs
Asbury United Methodist Church
and
Wicomico Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 13, 3:00 PM
Asbury United Methodist Church
Robert E. Young, Conducting
Susan Zimmer, Organ

The View from the District Office Window

by Barbara Mumper
Administrative Assistant

Before anyone says "Ah, ha", she's sitting there looking out the window instead of doing the District's work . . . hold on. Let me tell you what happened today.

I was making copies for a meeting and the copier sits next to the back window of my office. What do you do when the copier is running right but you still have to stand there? You (I) look out the window. Today I saw MY FOX!!

We moved into the new Salisbury District Office about two and a half years ago. My back office window looks onto a field and a small stand of trees. On the other side of the trees is a strip shopping center. However, when I look out the window I think I should see a fox coming out of the trees. I've been looking in vain for my fox all this time; thinking that there was no way I would ever see one - we're just too close to civilization. However, my "hope springs eternal" and I kept looking, and imagining.

Today, God gave me my fox. It was so cool. He was close to the church building and when I saw the

movement, I looked. I knew right away it was my fox and not a dog. Oh, they have lots in common but it was confirmed by a couple of men working in the church's kitchen that it was a fox. Why has it taken this long?

Recently a big section of trees was cleared a bit west of the office on Rt. 50 to make way for new commercial construction. It was reported that they found evidence of a fox (and his family?) while doing the clearing. They have destroyed the food source and, probably the habitat, of the fox family. So, they moved east to the next bit, and I mean "small" bit of trees. That's the assumption. But, I know that God brought me my fox.

I hope I see him again. Maybe the next time with his wife and perhaps a small one or two? I hope "they" can leave the field in back of the office alone as it is, but I think I saw a sign the other day on one of the roads that borders it that "they" are going to build townhouses in that field. I guess we know what that means for my fox and his family. I'd love to take him home but I don't think my cat - Kali - would take kindly to someone invading her territory. She'd



be a quick meal, I'm afraid.

God reveals Himself every day in many ways, as we all know. Some we recognize and a lot we don't. He revealed Himself to me in a very special way this time and it made my whole day. What do you think you see outside your office window? I hope you are lucky enough to have one! What do you hope to see? Hold on to that hope. However, every time you look out your window, ask yourself what God is revealing to you today. Then thank Him for the gift of sight of seeing Him in everything you see. And, oh, yes, I thank Him for the ministry He has provided for me. Perhaps my fox was a smile from God - just for me.

Aldersgate UMC to host Youth Mission Trip to Central Florida

This summer the Student Ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Wilmington will be hosting a mission trip for high school students to Central Florida during the week of July 17-23. The group will work in conjunction with Impact Ministries, engaging in construction-based hurricane relief efforts. This trip is open to youth in grades 9-12 who have a desire to serve those in need while they grow in their Christian faith. Students from other churches must



be accompanied by at least 1 adult leader. The cost per person for non-Aldersgate students and adult leaders is \$400. Church leaders can raise these funds through student contributions as well as church fundraisers. Non-Aldersgate students and adult leaders must submit applications with \$50 deposits by April 1st. The remaining \$350 per person will be due by June 1st. Applications can be obtained from Chris Ritchie, Director of Student Ministries at 302.478.2575, ext. 23 or online at www.aldersgatede.org/youthmissiontrip2005.

Art of the West exhibit coming to Gallery at Grace Church

In April, local painter Lois Jacobson will bring her watercolor paintings to the Gallery at Grace in downtown Wilmington. The opening reception for *Art of the West* will take place Friday, April 1, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The paintings will be on exhibit through the month of April, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jacobson draws the themes in her paintings from the scenes of her life growing up on a Sioux reservation in North Dakota and from her experiences at her vacation home in the mountains of Montana. Jacobson was a University of North Dakota art major, and she has pursued further study in art classes at Penn State and the Delaware Art Museum. She has also studied watercolor with Ver-

non Good and Terry Newitt and attended workshops with Frank Webb, Tony Couch, and Skip Lawrence. Several art shows in the area have hosted her work.

Jacobson also designs needlepoint projects, including the prayer kneelers in the sanctuary of Grace United Methodist Church downtown. Samples of her needlepoint designs will be on display with her watercolor paintings.

The Gallery at Grace is located at Grace Church on Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth streets in downtown Wilmington. Free and lighted parking is available on site for the opening. Parking is limited weekdays. For more information, call Nancy Reinhart or Marvin Reinhart at 302.655.8847.

Faith & Order: Exploring The Book of Discipline 2004 now available

This is the third quadrennium that the Rev. Dr. C. Karen Covey Moore has provided The United Methodist Church with a study guide for the Book of Discipline. Designed as an advanced Lay Speaker's course, *Exploring the Book of Discipline* has also been used as a new member's course, training for Administrative Board's and Councils and as a Sunday school class in several Annual Conferences including South Carolina, Alabama, and Washington State.

Dr. John Godsey, professor emeritus of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC describes the study as a "well designed and much needed volume for our United Methodist constituency." Participants at all levels have been grateful for the new understandings they have gained from the course. An advanced Lay Speaking student says "I don't know when I've received so much enjoyment working on material I thought would be quite boring and

turns out to be a fruitful blessing." A Sunday school class in Washington state was motivated to become more involved in their church as a result of the study. There is a workbook and a Leader's Guide. You may order them by contacting Karen at coveymoore@aol.com or calling her at 302.377.6123.

Come and Explore the Intersection of God's love and your life.

Rev. Moore will be leading a women's retreat at the Jesus House, 2501 Milltown Road, in Wilmington on May 6th and 7th. This is an opportunity to examine the places and ways that God's love has become real to you and to explore ways to be more aware of that love. Topics to be covered include:

Who Am I?

Who is God?

What is Prayer?

How does Scripture help?

How can I nurture my spiritual life?

Where is God in suffering, pain, and grief?

The cost is \$130 and includes

one night's lodging and three meals.

Karen Moore grew up in Easton, Maryland. She is the mother of three children and the proud grandmother of five. Before experiencing her call to ordained ministry, she worked as an R.N. in Baltimore and Maine. She has served as the pastor of churches in the Dover, Salisbury, and Wilmington Districts of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference since her ordination in 1985. She received her M. Div. and her D. Min. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and a Master's Degree in Spiritual Direction from Neumann College in Aston, PA. She is currently appointed to Chabereth Ministries, Inc. Chabereth – pronounced khabereth (a Hebrew word meaning companion) – is an independent, not-for-profit ministry which offers individual Spiritual Direction and retreats. Contact Karen at coveymoore@aol.com or call her at 302.377.6123 for more information or to register.

Jack Wiberg to exhibit marine paintings at Grace Church

In March 2005, marine painter Jack Wiberg will exhibit his paintings at the Gallery at Grace in downtown Wilmington. The opening reception for his show—*Hymns, Gospel Songs, and the Sea*—will take place Friday, March 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The paintings will be on exhibit through the month of March, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wiberg is a graduate of the University of Delaware and of Bethel and Eastern Baptist theological seminaries. As a child, he attended art class at the Delaware Art Center, where he came into contact with the work of Howard Pyle, N. C. Wyeth, and Frank Schoonover, who became his boyhood heroes. Wiberg has studied exten-

sively with Silva Fernandes of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and has attended workshops with leading American and British artists.

Included among Jack Wiberg's many commissions is the portrait of the tall ship *H.M.S. Bounty*, painted for the Chamber of Commerce of Fall River, Massachusetts. Another painting, one of *The Kalmar Nyckel*, appeared on the cover of the Lewes, Delaware, Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau guide to events and activities for the year 2000.

The Gallery at Grace is located at Grace Church on Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth streets in downtown Wilmington. Free and lighted parking is available on site for the opening. Parking is



limited weekdays. For more information, call Nancy Reinhart or Marvin Reinhart at 302.655.8847.

Draw Near – God's invitation . . . Your Transformation

This was the theme of the Aldersgate Renewal Ministries 2005 Worship Conference held at the Aldersgate Renewal Center in Goodlettsville, Tennessee Feb 3-6. Three members of the Leeds UMC Praise Team attended this year's conference which is a 'hands on' event for instrumentalists, vocalists, sound technicians, pastors, and others interested in enhancing the worship experience in their churches and their own personal worship life.

The Conference had tracks for guitar (beginner, intermediate and advanced), percussion, keyboard, choir and voice, banners and

expressive worship. There were many workshops with sound biblical teaching. Some of the workshop titles included "Holy, Holy, Holy . . . Who, Me? Walking in Personal Purity," and "Can You Hear Me Now?: A Pastoral Perspective of Sound in the Church." There was also a special pastor's track featuring workshops entitled "We're In This Together: Strengthening the Relationship Between the Pastor and the Worship Leaders" and "The Power of the Little Foxes: Examining how Sarcasm and Cynicism can Destroy the Vineyard." There were also informative sessions on Worship Team Dynamics

and some hilarious "What NOT To Do" scenes. Each evening there was a special time of worship and on Saturday evening all the participants exercised the things they had been taught and ministered in worship together with the leadership.

Guest musicians and ARM staff who have a passion to see worshippers equipped to lead others, enhance their team's excellence and effectiveness and create more meaningful worship encounters with God in their church led the tracks and taught the workshops. There were participants from many parts of the U.S., including a group of 10 including the pastor from a church

in Washington State. We all came away with renewed desire to draw near to God ourselves and energized to lead worship in our churches in such a way that others will choose to draw near with us.

Next February – bring your praise team, choir, choir director, pastor, and 'sound guy' and come to the Aldersgate Worship Conference! Your personal worship life and your church's worship experiences will never be the same again!

If you can't wait until February to get a taste of what this kind of ministry might look like, you don't have to! Plan to attend Aldersgate '05 The National Conference on

Spirit-filled Living in the Wesleyan Tradition – July 6-10 in Overland Park, KS! You will experience wonderful worship times, excellent teaching, exciting Youth Ministry and indeed ministry for all ages. This year's theme is "Strength for Today . . . Bright Hope for Tomorrow" and keynote speakers include Rev. Adam Hamilton, Bishop Violet Fisher, Dr. Terry Teykl and Rev. Tyrone Gordon. For more information about these conferences or about Aldersgate Renewal Ministries see their website www.AldersgateRenewal.org or contact Denise Knetter, Leeds UMC at office@leeds-umc.org or by phone

Snippets from Sandra

We are now in the season of Lent. This season of Lent is the time set aside by the church to prepare for resurrection. It is an important time in the lives of Christians because in order to prepare for resurrection, something or some things have to be put to death. We do not like to hear that, but that is the truth. We like to think that we have it all together. We like to think that we are living good lives, and most of us are, but Christ calls us to live in an even more excellent way! Christ calls us to walk toward perfection. Christ calls us to model our lives, our thoughts, our deeds after his example.

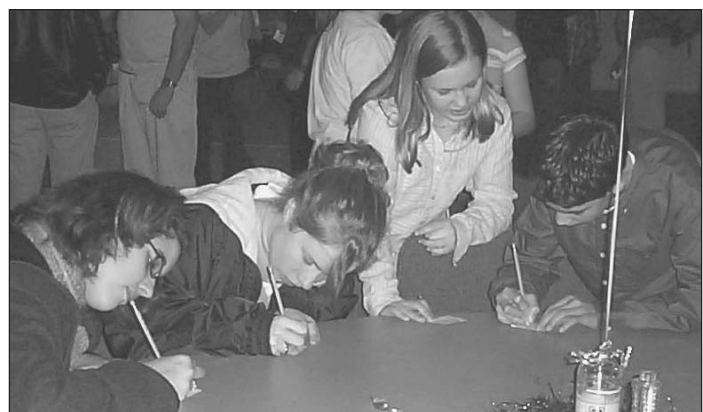
Lent is the time in the Church where we intentionally examine our lives, hold them up to Christ's example, to see what it is that we have to change, to see what it is that we have to put to death in order to walk more genuinely in Christ's more excellent way. Now this examination is not an easy thing to do. When we hold up the mirror we will see things that we don't like or we will see things that we like but

are not healthy or Christ-like ways to live our lives. Ouch! Many times we have become so comfortable and familiar with what we see there in the reflection of our lives, which we pass over it quickly telling ourselves that there are others out there who have far more imperfections than we do ourselves, or that God loves us just the way we are. In reality, these things are probably true, but the point is we are still failing to live after the example of Christ. The quicker we can come to this recognition, the quicker we can truly realize that we are indeed sinners in need of God's, the quicker we can work on putting to death the attitudes, the practices, the unforgiveness, the habits, the thoughts, the deeds, the inhospitality, the lack of humility, the more likely it is that we will be ready, prepared, to receive and experience the resurrection and new life that God wishes for us to have.



Training on the Dover District

Stay alert for notices on a District Training event on a Saturday morning in mid-April, following the Lay Academy events. Details are still in the works Registration forms for Lay Academy on April 2 and 9, 2005 may be downloaded at www.dd-umc.org.



Somewhere Else,' a Christian Coffee House for youth, opened on New Year's Eve in Seaford. 'Somewhere Else' is sponsored by Evergreen United Methodist Church in cooperation with several United Methodist churches and other churches in the area.

What a difference a year makes

One year ago, Daybreak United Methodist Church was little more than a dream. In January 2004 Jim Hawkins was appointed as pastor to this new church which began to reach newcomers to the Smyrna area and newcomers to the Christian faith. In those early days, Daybreak began with about 20 people on the launch team. The launch team had three foci: gathering in homes once a week for Bible study and prayer, inviting friends, co-workers and newcomers to the area to check out Daybreak, having worship services once a month in various locations around the Smyrna area – a senior center, the Smyrna Opera House and the gymnasium of a charter school – so people could get a taste of what Daybreak is all about and so the church could discover its God-given identity.

During these early days several people joined the original members of the launch team, Daybreak sponsored two sessions of "Backyard Bible Club" in new communities, Lori Citro became Daybreak's

director of music, several generous individuals and congregations throughout the conference donated money to help Daybreak in its critical early days, the conference granted funds to purchase needed items (a sound system, video projection system, nursery equipment, plus the cases and a trailer to haul it all) so Daybreak could become a portable church, the launch team reached out to the community through door-to-door invitations in neighborhoods, articles in the local newspapers, and more.

In September 2004 Daybreak settled into a temporary home, North Smyrna Elementary School. On Sunday mornings, a trailer pulls up to the school and the members of one of two set-up teams begins to transform an elementary school's gym, cafeteria and hallway into Daybreak Church's meeting place. At the close of the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the team packs up and the school is ready for a new week.

In just a year, Daybreak has grown to include people who were not actively involved in another

congregation and some who had never been a part of a church before; developed KidZone and YouthZone, meaningful, fun, and innovative ministries with children and youth; celebrated the baptisms of three children; reached out to share God's love through giving to needy children in the Smyrna area through the Christmas Joy Box ministry, to the hungry throughout the country by participating in the Great American Bake Sale; and to those in emergency need by giving to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's work helping people recover from the hurricanes that hit Florida and the tsunami in South Asia.

There is still much to be done. The Smyrna area is just now beginning a period of rapid growth that is transforming the area. While there are other churches in the area, Daybreak is the only church specifically designed to reach newcomers. In the days ahead, Daybreak will focus on the best ways to reach these newcomers for Jesus Christ.

AH-HA

After-school Hangout – Help Always (AH-HA) is an outreach program hosted at "Source of Life," a new church start in Milford. The doors are open most weekdays from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

When people hear that it is an after-school program, they assume it is a homework center . . . NOT. AH-HA provides a safe place for youth to gather, hangout, build relationships and to know help is always available. Some work on homework or school projects, others play basketball, pool, Nintendo, or board games while others learn to play guitar chords, sing, play the drums or keyboard. Occasionally you will even see a sewing machine set up to work on a project.

As the youth hang out they become comfortable enough to share their concerns about a grandmother in the hospital, a parent out of work, a friend in school who is making bad choices, or their own struggles in learning to be part of a blended family. This provides the open door to discuss what the Bible



says or to just offer a word of prayer.

People also assume that AH-HA is for middle and high school youth . . . NOT exactly. Although the focus group is the youth from nearby schools, we also have elementary school children who come as well as parents checking things out, seeking help, or just wanting to talk. Adults come who desire to improve skills in areas such as math. Parents stop in to see what it is that has been changing the attitude of their son or daughter.

We have had homeless people looking for housing, addicts looking for deliverance, the hungry looking for food, the hurting looking for

healing . . . all have come to AH-HA not knowing how or why they found our door. But when they come, the youth are simply amazing. The kids who in the previous moment were playing a guitar or slamming a basketball all of a sudden are offering a helping hand and sharing words of wisdom. Imagine that – out of the mouths of babes comes love, concern, direction, and words of wisdom.

Ultimately, the goal is to provide a place where others can see the face of Christ and be ministered to by the hands and feet of Christ, and discover Jesus Christ for themselves. If you are interested in how you can help in this ministry as the hands and feet of Christ, call Pastor Tina Whaley at 302.841.7589.

A Handful of Women

To celebrate the 135th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women, St. John's United Methodist Women performed a play entitled "A Handful of Women" that told the story of the first organized meeting of the United Methodist Women. A banner, made by our President Mar-

ilyn Clark, to honor the anniversary, was proudly on display. Special Mission recognitions were also awarded in honor of Ronald and Pat Moore and in memory of J. Everett Moore, Sr.

Following the play and service everyone enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

A pre-Conference Briefing will be held on the District on Monday, May 16.
7:00-9:00
Place to be determined.