



# The Methodist Herald

August, 2009

**Southern Delaware Charge  
Colchester Community United Methodist Church  
East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church**

Dale Ashby, Pastor  
P.O. Box 305  
Downsville, NY 13755  
Parsonage Phone: (607)363-2362

E-mail: [Southerndelawarecharge@frontiernet.net](mailto:Southerndelawarecharge@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [http://www.gbmg-umc.org/Southern\\_delaware\\_charge](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/Southern_delaware_charge)

Pastor's cell: (607)821-8762  
East Branch Church Phone: (607)363-2911

## **Pastor's Column:**

This last week, I spent the week up at Kingswood camp, serving as chaplain for the week for the Woodsmoke program. This is a Christian camp experience for 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. As chaplain, I was there to help provide a spiritual guidance and reflection component to the week-long program for the campers, the counselors, and the staff. I did this through participating in activities and meals with the campers and their counselors, as well as holding a daily chapel service for the whole camp. I had opportunity to share in meaningful theological conversations with the youth and adults alike. I also found myself fed spiritually by these interactions.

During the week, I spent two days helping the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders with their work project. This year they were working on building a playground down by the beach at the pond. On the second day, the project manager asked me to help three or four youth work on putting together a rope web on one side of the playground structure for kids to climb on.

It was tedious and difficult work. We had to drill holes in the side of the structure and also in a wooden anchor plate on the ground. We then had to take a thick, three-strand rope and weave it back and forth vertically through the holes, creating four strands that spanned between the side of the structure and the ground, with the last strand ending at the ground. Next we had to

bring the rope up 9 inches from the ground and untwist each of the vertical strands enough for us to weave a horizontal strand through them all. The process continued, moving up 9 inches on the vertical strands each time, thus creating a set of horizontal strands that were woven through the vertical strands until we reached the top.

As we worked, I could not help but see this rope web as a metaphor for Christian discipleship. In John 13:34-35, Jesus tells his disciples "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." As I looked at our rope web, I saw the vertical strands as God's love for us through Jesus Christ. The horizontal strands I saw as our lives and relationships anchored and woven through God's love. As the weaving continues, we form a web of connections in love. Every point on the web is connected to every other point. The process of weaving the horizontal strands through the vertical strands, moving from the bottom up, symbolized to me that the more relationships and connections we form in God's love, the closer we move toward God. This rope web helped me visualize Jesus' new commandment. I pray that it might speak to you as well.

God's peace and blessings to you all,

*Dale*

Pastor Dale

## **AC Connection**

This month we have 2 opportunities for you. The first is volunteering for the Early Response Team being formed by Pastor Dale who is the District Disaster Response Coordinator. Those of you who were affected by the recent floods know what a blessing it was to have a team of people come and help muck out the mud and debris quickly. That is what the Early Response Team does. They are the first on the scene to help make things safe and sanitary and secure. Their job is short term allowing for the next stage of help to come and complete the job. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Pastor Dale or pick up a flier posted on the bulletin board in the church.

The second opportunity is for a leadership training being offered by our District all during the month of August. It is a recommended training for all church leaders or council members. It is also an opportunity for those who may want to serve on different ministries of the church. It is not a "preaching" course and you will not be asked to "fill a pulpit". It is a way to hone your leadership skills even in your workplace. Please take the time to look at the flier in church and consider taking a step up in your faith journey. There is a nominal fee of \$20 and financial assistance if you need it. For more information contact Toni Vessey or Pastor Dale.

## **Faith in Action**

Health Care reform continues to take center stage in the national debate. During the August recess for Congress, Republicans and Democrats will each be pressing the case for their solution to the health care crisis. There is little doubt that comprehensive, justice-based reform is needed for our health care system. The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has put together a website, described in the following article, which provides faith communities with resources for advocating for justice-based health care reform that provides quality affordable care for all Americans.

## **John 10:10 Challenge**

Justice-filled prescription for health care  
By Wayne Rhodes, Editor, Faith in Action

WASHINGTON, D.C. — United Methodists are invited to participate in the "John 10:10 Challenge" to raise the faith community's voice in support of comprehensive U.S. health-care reform. The challenge, issued by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), is based on Jesus' declaration that he came so all "may have life, and have it abundantly." A new website, [www.1010challenge.org](http://www.1010challenge.org), contains resources to enable persons to be informed, engaged and empowered to begin advocacy for U.S. health-care reform.

The United Methodist Church states in its Social Principles (§162.V) that it believes health care is "a basic human right." Last year, the denomination's highest policy-making body, the General Conference, adopted a resolution that supports a single-payer system.

That resolution, #3201 in the 2008 Book of Resolutions, urges United Methodists to exert influence through all structures and means "to connectionally advocate and fervently lobby the federal government for the adoption and implementation of a totally nonprofit health-insurance system, a single-payer system administered by the federal government."

More than 47 million people are without health care in this country, and 14,000 people are losing their coverage daily, according to both health-care industry and congressional estimates. While the U.S. Congress deliberates on health-care reform, the 10:10 Challenge will enable the faith community to learn about details under consideration, start dialogs around reform, and to act on behalf of the United Methodist witness that health care is a basic human right.

The 10:10 Challenge website offers a "justice-filled prescription for health care." People who visit the site are asked to make a commitment to take action in the next 10 weeks to help convince Congress that reform is necessary.

The website offers 10 actions that persons who accept the challenge can choose to take during these 10 intensive weeks of congressional advocacy. Actions are suitable for individuals or groups, such as United Methodist Women or Men, youth fellowships or Sunday school classes. The website encourages persons to start a team challenge and invite others to join to commit to being a part of health-care reform.

Actions include:

- Signing a "Prescription for Health-care Reform." The petition will be forwarded to the White House and Congress. The petition will give a strong endorsement to a public option to insure everyone.
- Conducting a Health-care Justice Sabbath. The website contains a suggested worship service, including litanies, prayers and Bible verses.
- Holding prayer vigils. The website offers an enhanced prayer service that supports the United Methodist position on health-care reform.
- Contacting members of Congress. The website includes scripts that feature faith-based messaging.

The website is predicated on United Methodist principles that health care should be inclusive, available, accessible and accountable for all. The site states: "As people of faith, we envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity."

The website is predicated on United Methodist principles. A one-page 10:10 Challenge overview is available in pdf format. For more information about the 10:10 Challenge or United Methodist positions on comprehensive health-care reform, contact the Rev. Cynthia Abrams, director of GBCS's work area on Alcohol, Other Addictions & Health Care, (202) 488-5636.

### **Colchester Community UMC Yard Sale**

The Colchester Community UMC will be holding a yard sale on the front lawn of the church on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. We will have all kinds of items for sale. You will want to get there early

so you do not miss out on the best bargains and unique treasures. The proceeds from our yard sale go to help with the ministries of our church to the community and to the world. If you have items that you would like to donate to our yard sale, please contact a member of our fundraising committee for making arrangements to drop off items. The members of the fundraising committee are Mary Charles, Fern Hale, Ellen Mattson, and Debbie Odell.

### **Colchester Community UMC Sunday School/Youth Group Summer Outing**

The Colchester Community UMC will hold its Sunday School/Youth Group Summer Outing on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School and Youth Group participants and their families are invited to meet at the Colchester Community UMC at 12:30 p.m. The group will drive down to the home of Don and Mary Charles in East Branch for an afternoon of games, activities, crafts, and swimming. The event will conclude around 4:00 p.m. Please contact Joy Fisk if you have questions.

### **Colchester Community UMC Open Arms Prayer Shawl Ministry**

How blessed we are to have such faithful knitters and crocheters who have supplied us with so many shawls for our ministry. Thanks to Joyce Bouw, Lorna Luscomb and Betty Tompkins for their generous hearts and hands! Recent recipients of our shawls are: Sue and Gilbert Close, Sandy Fairchild, Melissa Frisbee, Betty Gunn, Margaret Henry, and Toni Vessey. A special thank you, too, to the suppliers of yarn who are always on the lookout for "bargains". Please keep our "helping hands" and especially our recipients in your prayers. If you know of a need or would like to donate please contact Emily Bullis.

### **Colchester Community UMC Church Council Chairperson's Chat**

Your church council continues to be busy and active even in the middle of a long wet summer. Our meetings have become times of

sharing faith experiences not "just" business meetings because the "business" of our group is spiritually based.

Last month we saw at least 38 children participate in our VBS program and for this we are truly grateful to Joy Fisk who worked above and beyond to make it happen. She is the driving force behind this program and truly is the energizer bunny who keeps going and going and going. Please give her a thumbs up when you see her. Thanks, too, to all the volunteers who came every day and helped corral and herd the "little darlings" as they went from station to station learning about God's promises and having fun, too, along the way!

The trustees are hard at work trying to complete the bathroom/kitchen project that seems to be unending. Those of you have done any remodeling know what that's like. One thing leads to another and boy do you have your hands full!!! They are always looking for a helping hand or two so if you are available please contact Brian Latourette or Mary Charles or any of the other members to volunteer. As always financial help is welcome, too!

Our mission outreach continues and in August we will be collecting for Pastor Dale's mission trip to Ecuador. Please be generous as we are not even half way there yet...

Our NCD Health Team will be meeting with our Coach to set up a new survey to see how we have done with our Passionate Spirituality this past year. We will be beginning a new Once a Month Day of Prayer sometime in September. We hope you will all sign up for a time of prayer and devotion. Please look for the date and times and more information in the September Newsletter.

The Charge Conference is fast approaching. Council Reports are due in September so Pastor Dale can print them up for our conference booklet. Please plan on attending on November 29th as we vote on a new church council and budget. It's important that we all have a share in the work of our church.

Please let us know how we're doing...we're always open to suggestions.

### **Colchester Community UMC Men's Devotional Breakfast**

The monthly Men's devotional breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> this month at the Downsville Diner. We will meet at the Diner at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast. Pastor Dale will lead a short devotional following breakfast. This monthly devotional breakfast is open to all men in our community. So men, mark your calendar and plan to join us for breakfast and a short devotional. And be sure to invite a friend!

### **Colchester Community UMC to Hold "Prayers for Peace" Service**

The Colchester Community UMC will be holding a "Prayers for Peace" service on Monday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. With so many conflicts and wars going on across the world, the need for people of faith to offer a visible witness for peace is vitally important. The service will be a time of offering prayers, readings, and sharing personal stories focused on the need for peace. Many here in our own community have been touched by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as tensions elsewhere in the world. Some have loved ones and friends serving in the military in these conflicts. All in our community are welcome to join us as we pray for peace in our world.

### **Colchester Community UMC Angel Food Ministry**

We have had some changes to the Angel Food ministry that we would like to share. The good news is that we are now taking Food Stamps as payment for your order. So if you are part of the Food Stamp program you might want to take a look at our menu and give us a try.

Secondly, Angel Food Ministries has changed their ordering process and it is no longer mandatory to order from the monthly menu to take advantage of the "specials". This means that you may order anything from the menu (front or back)! For those of you with limited budgets and/or limited space this is a wonderful opportunity. The vegetable and fruit specials have been especially good and are highly recommended. If you haven't tried our

program yet you might want to give us a look see. The menus are found throughout the town at most of the business places and the churches. Ordering dates this month are Mon 8/10, Wed 8/12 and Sat 8/15 at the Colchester Community Church and Thurs 8/13 at the East Branch UMC. Pick up will be Sat 8/22 at the Downsville Fire Hall from 8am to 10 am.

Our program is open to all. It is basically a co-op program and not strictly for low income families. Through your participation we are able to give a "Love Box" away each month to a family who does have a need. If we have more participation we can give more away. Please consider our ministry as a way of stretching your food dollar.

### **East Branch/Harvard UMC Offers a Variety of Events at East Branch Day**

The annual East Branch Day will take place on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. and running until 3:00 p.m. The East Branch/Harvard UMC will be offering coffee and cinnamon rolls at the Fire Hall to start your day. Later, the East Branch/Harvard UMC will have a chicken BBQ lunch as well as pulled pork sandwiches at the East Branch Fire Hall, with the chicken provided by WKW Roasters. In addition, there will be a bake sale, along with hot dogs, ice cream, funnel cakes, and other foods. We will also have our East Branch cookbook on sale. It features many wonderful and delicious recipes from our local area cooks. If you do not have one, you will want one for your kitchen. They also make great gifts. We will also have a beautiful quilt for sale by silent auction.

The Oxbow Campground will be providing rides for the kids in an army truck and there will be other games and activities for the kids. Of course there will be the traditional yard sales going on during East Branch Day, where you can find those treasures you are looking for at bargain prices.

The early morning coffee and cinnamon rolls, chicken BBQ lunch, pulled pork sandwiches, bake sale, and silent auction will all be at the East Branch Fire Hall. Austin Irving

Kiddie Park will be open all day with a petting zoo, mini horse and train rides, and more. So come spend the day in East Branch. We look forward to seeing you on East Branch Day.

### **United Methodist News Briefs**

CLEARWATER, Fla. (UMNS)—Ten years ago, Betty Perry was fixing breakfast for Sunday school workers when a hungry man approached her and asked if he could have something to eat. The following Sunday, six people came to the kitchen at Mount Zion United Methodist Church looking for something to eat. Now, she serves some 200 of the poor and homeless Sunday breakfast each week through the "Uncommon Touch Ministry" at her church. Betty Perry does not turn away those in need. "Whatever we can do for these people, we do," she said.

TUCKER, Ga. (UMNS)—Jalyn Young, 8, cracks open the door, excited about the weekly pepperoni pizza delivery. He walks just a few steps to a bed, plopping down to devour two slices of pepperoni pizza in his family's dimly lit, 450-square-foot room at the Northlake Inn. Members of Tucker First United Methodist Church make the free pizza delivery. Church members began delivering lunch to children at the budget motel during school breaks in December 2008 after learning about the financial hardship of the families that rent rooms on a weekly basis.

NEW YORK (UMNS)—Bishop Paul Verryn believes that "the first call of justice is that all people are treated with dignity." Central Methodist Mission, his church in Johannesburg, South Africa, is now home to 2,000 people who have been uprooted because of conflict and poverty in Zimbabwe. "Faith must address the poor and we are bringing the needs of the poor directly into the church," Verryn explained during a July visit to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Helping Central Methodist Mission respond to the call to justice are church members worldwide.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)—Millie White, 75, was the recipient of a hands-on mission opportunity by men attending the July 10-12

National Gathering of United Methodist Men. A group of those men weeded, painted the porch, pruned trees and performed other tasks for White before heavy downpours forced them to stop working. "It's wonderful that these men are here working on my house," she declared. Their work shows discipleship and "His word for helping and giving," she added. "We help each other to do what we can for one another." More than 1,200 men participated in the event at Belmont University, which included lectures, workshops, seminars, work projects and entertainment.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS, Pa. (UMNS) -- "You trust me to catch you?" Ocie Paige yells up to his younger brother Michael who is perched on the edge of a tower connected to a zip-line during a camp exercise. "Come on, you can do it!" encourages the older boy. The 19-year-old camp counselor is trying to convince the 13-year-old to step off and trust – trust the harness to work and another person to protect him from harm. This United Methodist camp in rural Pennsylvania specializes in challenging and stretching its campers so they're better equipped to manage life when they leave. The brothers are part of the HOPE Camp, which began serving youth with parents in prison and has expanded to include others considered "at-risk." HOPE stands for helping overcome problems every day.

WASHINGTON (UMNS)--A United Methodist-related immigration program expects its clients to benefit from the Obama administration's openness to granting asylum to foreign women who have been severely battered. Many of the women and children represented by the Justice For Our Neighbors Program of The United Methodist Committee on Relief "are victims of crimes," said Danny Upton, national program attorney. Asylum for severely abused women was proposed under the Clinton administration, but the Bush administration had backtracked on the proposal, Upton told United Methodist News Service. "Now, what they're doing is making it possible, in at least some scenarios, for (abused) women to seek asylum in the United States."

## Church Humor

A priest and a rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm a rabbi. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace." The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It's a miracle that we survived and are here together."

"And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says, handing the bottle to the priest. The priest nods in agreement, opens the wine, drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi. The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on. "Aren't you going to have any?" asks the priest. "Not right now," says the rabbi. "I think I'll wait until after the police make their report."

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"

A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks. "No, not at all!" the woman replied. They chat for an hour and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few." "Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."

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