

from the Superintendent

New Church Starts — What's Happening?????

By Sandra Steiner Ball



Bishop Peter D. Weaver was on the Dover District recently meeting with several clergy and lay persons about New Church Starts. Specifically, he talked to those assembled about a model for starting new churches where an already existing church could satellite or parent a new church. This is the model that has been used by Cornerstone UMC and the new church start, Connection Church, in Middletown, Delaware.

Before Annual Conference on June 7, 8, 9, 2002, the Dover District Research and Design Team will be

holding six to seven meetings around the District with clergy and laity who are interested in the exciting opportunities to start a new church based on the satellite model or other new church starts models.

The Bishop's challenge to the Dover District is to identify six new church starts on the district within the next twelve months.

This is an exciting time in our district! We are starting to move! Please contact the District office 302. 734.3082 if you are interested in being a part of new church starts.

Summer Celebration 2002!

Submitted by Curt Dotson, Wyoming UMC

It's almost time so mark your calendars! Put a circle around **June 15**. This will be the 4th annual Summer Celebration and for the second year will be held at Simpson Elementary School in Camden, Delaware. The event will be from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This is a combined effort of **1st Pilgrim Baptist, Whatcoat: Camden UMC, and Wyoming UMC**.

So what is Summer Celebration??? Summer Celebration is a festival full of games and prizes for the kids, rides for kids and adults, great Christian bands such as Salt Treated, The Full Gospel Boogie Band, and Ben & Denise Brown. Sammy the clown will be in attendance. Terry Lee will again be the M.C. There will be hamburg-

ers, hotdogs, chips, and sodas. But best of all, Summer Celebration is **FREE!** That's right! There is no charge for anything, not even the food! You might ask why and we would tell you, to show the love and grace of Jesus Christ, just as His gift is free, so is ours. There will be a love offering for the bands.

The entire community is invited and while enjoying the games, rides, and food they will hear the Word through the bands. They will see the Word through the Body of Christ. The Light FM (WXPZ) will be doing a live remote. **THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTIANS TO BRING THEIR PRE-BELIEVER FRIENDS TO A NON-THREATENING EVENT AND HAVE THEM HEAR AND SEE THE WORD IN ACTION!**

Being a Christian Believer

Submitted by Jeanie Zaines, Avenue UMC

As a lay speaker at **Avenue UMC**, Milford, I am excited about teaching Christian Believer. It's been a really great 30-week course. I'm also excited about our Health Ministries Committee and the healing service we've gotten integrated into one Sunday a month. Two lay speakers, **Marylou Webb** and myself, assist our pastors **Earle Baker** and **Pricilla Maxham** at the service.

Betty's Lilies

Submitted by Dan Tabler

Betty Howell's eyes twinkled as she shared some ideas with the planning committee for her first Easter service on the **Georgetown Circuit**. One of the things she was most excited about was having a large wooden cross surrounded by a mound of lilies at its base. Betty, wife of the **Rev. Bob Howell**, died of heart surgery complications before she could witness the beauty of her lilies. Dover District Superintendent Sandra Steiner Ball delivered the sermon at the combined Easter service of Bethesda, Providence and St. John's United Methodist Churches and is pictured with her daughter, Sara, and Betty's one hundred and twenty two lilies.



Musician Records Forty Years of Service

Submitted by Sharon Morgan, Ellendale UMC

Whether he is accompanying a soloist or a congregation, **Norman Reynolds** is equally comfortable, and this past February, he marked a musical milestone. Norman has been playing organ and piano at **Ellendale UMC** for more than 40 years.

Incredibly, he has never taken organ lessons, but his God-given ability makes him a natural. Regardless of the keyboard he is playing, multi-note chords resulting in rich harmony flow freely from his fingers, and throughout the sanctuary, spirits and voices alike are uplifted.

In Feb 1962, when Ellendale needed an organist, Norman was contacted about the position. He agreed to come and play on a trial basis, to see if he and the congregation were comfortable with each other, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Since then the Milford resident has shared his talents with churches throughout the Dover District includ-

ing Barratt's Chapel as well as a few churches in the Salisbury District.

"Over the years, I've had some great experiences," Norman said. "I think music really adds a lot to a service, and I've been privileged to play for many talented performers. One of my most memorable experiences occurred when the organ I was playing caught fire, but fortunately, no one was hurt."

In Romans 12:6, Paul writes: "having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." Norman has met that challenge with love and loyalty, sharing his wonderful gift of music. The following poem is our way of saying thanks.

So many times you've made us smile,
And filled our hearts with song,
And whether you play piano or organ,
We spontaneously sing along.

Then often, we share a laugh or two
Because of something you do or say
You touch our lives and warm our



hearts
In your own very special way.

Now, we join to pay tribute
To our fellow Christian and friend,
And for 40 years of devoted service
Deepest appreciation we extend.

You truly are God's faithful servant.
You bring so many people happiness.
As a musician and as a friend,
Norman, we think you're the best.

Witness Ministry — Long Neck UMC

Submitted by Dave Keeseey, Witness/Outreach Ministry

Long Neck United Methodist Church for some time has had a burden for believers absent from fellowship, those who are in attendance from time to time but have not made their personal commitment to God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the unchurched or lost. Witness Ministry has been the title of our evangelistic efforts to reach our community. We are prompted to review the effectiveness of our present mission as the result of an Outreach seminar attended by our pastor **Karen Booth** and

several members of our congregation. We adopted the title, "Outreach Ministry," in keeping with the training and fundamentals learned in the seminar.

We are in study of our community, reviewing what our efforts have been and where a more effective ministry can reach more of God's people. It is our prayer that in and through the implementation of the Outreach Program, Christ's church will come alive to the people of the community.

This is in keeping with, "Our Statement Of Faith And Commitment."

"God is calling Long Neck United

Methodist Church to join Him in being a blessing to each other, to the community and the world. We will serve as disciples of Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, seek God's guidance in fulfilling His mission."

Knock on Every Door!!

Submitted by Mickie Christfield

The Mission Area Ministry: Shared Vision Ministry is attempting to "knock on every door" to invite all to visit any of our Methodist churches (Mariner's Bethel, Millville, St. George's and Union Wesley). We've had a lot of volunteers, a few actual walkers, but are sure that participation will get better now that the days are longer and the weather may be a little more predictable. Those who have been out knocking have been well received. If we are told that the individual is affiliated with any church in the area, we say "God bless you" and go on our way. If they are not affiliated anywhere we invite them to visit one of our churches and leave a door hanger with a scene from our igniting ministry choices and the address of the churches.

Our Mission Area Ministry is also planning our "beach ministry" for Wednesday mornings in July and August which is held on the beach in Bethany at Campbell Street each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. This is our fourth year for this ministry and it is well attended as we raise our voices in songs and praise. Our ministers rotate their participation.

The Friendly Little Church by the River

Submitted by Paul Birch

Woodland UMC in Seaford has been actively participating with the Steve Wingfield Ministries "Encounter 2002" which is coming to Western Sussex County in October. We helped with the Encounter Kick-Off meeting and hosted a breakfast for the partic-

ipating pastors and guests. We encourage all local pastors to be involved in this event. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

We are looking forward to having our DS, the Rev. Sandra Steiner Ball, as our guest speaker for Mother's Day! The United Methodist Women had a Mother-Daughter Banquet. The UMYF recently held a very successful bake sale, the proceeds of which are being used to purchase a TV/VCR combination for the Nursery-Primary classrooms and also to make a donation to a missionary couple, which our church supports. Our choir participated in the MAM songfest held at Gethsemane U.M. Church, Seaford. It was a wonderful evening of praise. For a little church, we have been very busy!!!

A Prayer

Submitted by Jean West, Lay leader Grace UMC, Georgetown

This first line is deep...
*If God brings you to it
He will bring you through it.
Lord I love You and I need You,
Come into my heart today.
For without You I can do nothing.
"God will either lighten your load
Or He will strengthen your back."*