

**2007 Bulletin of Reports  
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

**OFFICE OF BISHOP**

**Coordinator for Youth Events**

The year began with the RoadTrip Retreat 2006, held Jan. 27-29 at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel under the leadership of Ed Kay, the Youth Events Coordinator from until June 2006. Music for the weekend was provided by the band, "Daniel's Window". Rev. Paige Evers, (Lord of Life, Bel Air, MD) served as Chaplain for the weekend to bring the theme of "Against the Current," a study in the book of Acts to the 285 participants. Brett Davis crafted the curriculum for the weekend, offered in the large group and small group format with the help of 20 small group leaders. The event brought 27 congregations together. Scholarships were requested and given to 11 churches for their participants to attend!

In July 2006, Marta Wallace (St. Martins, Annapolis, MD) was brought on staff as the Events Coordinator for 2006 FreeRide and RoadTrip 2007.

Marta and the Event committee (Pastor Stacy Marsh - committee chair, Cindy Ranker and Lynn Sheavly - registration for both events, and Mark Parker- recruiter of small group leaders) developed a new theme for the two events, one of "Serving others."

FreeRide 2006 was held Nov. 3-5 at the YMCA Camp Letts in Annapolis, MD. Approximately 104 participants registered for the weekend, from 13 congregations, with 65% having never attended this event before. Ten scholarships requested from three churches were given out. Brian Spahr, Intern Pastor from Joy Reigns Church in Edgewater, MD, provided wonderful music and messages for the weekend and brought to life the theme of "Walk the Talk...Following in Jesus' Footsteps." Mark Parker and Marta Wallace crafted the curriculum and activities. Youth and adults heard personal stories of struggle and life challenges from several speakers through-out the weekend, and participated in two on-site service projects - a clothing sort for Lutheran Mission Society and Thanksgiving Day Cards for Meals on Wheels recipients.

Overlapping the FreeRide event was the planning for RoadTrip 07, held Jan. 25-27 at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Music was provided by "Lost and Found," a big draw for the event. Pastor Darcy Percy (St. John's, Linthicum) served as Chaplain, bringing home the message of "Walk the Talk... Serving Others," revised by Mark Parker for High School youth. Large group/small group sessions were used and led by 26 small group leaders. Presentations of several personal case study stories, four on-site service projects and a workshop were offered as the Saturday afternoon activity. Youth participated in making "Happy Hats" (provided by Thrivent) for cancer patients, creating Valentine Cards for Meals on Wheels recipients, Peace Cranes for a Domestic Violence Shelter (all supervised by Pastor Marie Bunt). Lutheran Mission Society had youth put

together "Street Kits" for the homeless using donations each congregation brought to the event. A postcard writing campaign for the Advocacy Office to help those that do not have Health Insurance was also made available (200 postcards were sent). A workshop was presented by the Gulf Coast Camp Victor volunteers offering personal experiences about Hurricane Relief and getting involved. Sunday morning Worship was led by Pastor Stacy Marsh and local Annapolis musicians. It included a moving Prayer Stations Program and offerings of the Service Projects from the weekend, along with commitment cards from the youth to "go and do likewise" back in their own communities! A total of approximately 275 participants registered from 24 congregations. All scholarship monies were requested and used by seven churches for a total of thirty scholarships given. All the AV/tech help and equipment were donated by St. Martin's and Joy Reigns churches of Annapolis to help reduce expenses.

All in all, these were truly blessed events and a joint effort using everyone's various gifts and talents!

*Marta Wallace, coordinator for youth events*