



229<sup>th</sup> Session of the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference  
2013 Guest & Preachers

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*Diversity  
Embrace It! Celebrate It!*

**Rev. Tori Butler**

*Rev. Tori Butler will be leading the Bible Study for this year's Laity Session on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 8:30 – 12 PM.*



Rev. Tori Butler was born and raised by her mother Coretha “Coty” Corry in Baltimore, MD. Coty taught her that education is of great importance and would be the passport to her future. She would often tell her, “If you are bored, go read a book. It can take you wherever you want to go.” Coty’s encouragement in education translated in Tori being the first person in her peer group—from her neighborhood—to graduate with a college degree. Tori received a BA in History and International Relations from McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. She received her call to ministry following a semester abroad in Argentina. Initially, she did not know what she was called to do; but, as the old song says, “Something’s gotta hold of me and it must be the Spirit of the Lord.” She followed the Spirit of the Lord to The Divinity School at Duke University. It was at Duke where she was afforded the opportunity to serve in various ministry capacities: from a parachurch organization in Brazil to a multicultural church in Durham, NC to a non-profit on Capitol Hill. It was through these experiences that she felt a strong call to the pastorate, to be the balm of Gilead to all people regardless of race or socio-economic background. She graduated from Duke with a Master of Divinity in 2010.

Following graduation, she took a huge leap of faith and moved to Orange, TX where she served as the first African-American program staff member at First United Methodist Church of Orange. As the Director of Outreach and Discipleship Ministries, Tori had the unique opportunity to serve as a bridge between the predominately Anglo church and the African-American community around it. She helped build a foundation for First Orange to truly be the local church in mission.

Rev. Butler now serves as the Associate Pastor of Bellaire United Methodist Church. In this position, she has had the opportunity to lead the international worship service, to organize mission projects, to start a women’s ministry, and to equip laity to serve in various ministries of the church. Bellaire is a place where the Lord is molding and preparing her for greatness.

Rev. Butler’s calling was affirmed by the Texas Annual Conference in May of 2011 when she was commissioned as a probationary member of the Annual Conference. She is currently in the process of pursuing full ordination as an elder in the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Butler is passionately in love with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She seeks to honor Him in everything that she does. Her goal in life is to be his hands and feet in the world. She sincerely prays that God will use her as a prophet, teacher, preacher, activist, evangelist, counselor, shouter, and dancer all for the glory of God.

## Dr. David Anderson

*Dr. David Anderson will be leading the learning sessions for this year's Annual Conference. He will be leading the Second Session on Friday, June 7, 2013 at 8:30 – 12 PM.*



**Dr. David Anderson**, is the founder and President of the Bridge Leader Network (BLN), is one of the world's leading authorities on building bridges across the deep divides of race, faith, culture and wealth. His work has brought hope and healing to communities, families and people in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America.

Wherever there is a divide, Anderson seeks to build a bridge through relevant and intelligent conversation. His insight, vision, and passion have made him a widely sought speaker, writer, and consultant for major national and international events and policy initiatives. He has appeared on ABC, FOX, BET, TBN and CSPAN television networks and has been interviewed on more than 2,000 radio stations worldwide.

Anderson is a *bridge-building voice* in the Nation's Capital as host of the daily radio talk show "Afternoons with Dr. David Anderson" on WAVA (105.1 FM) – the most listened to Christian Talk Station on the East Coast and the 2nd most listened to Christian Talk station in the nation.

David Anderson earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2001 from Oxford Graduate School's American Centre for Religion and Society Studies in the US, while studying and defending his essays at Oxford University in England. Dr. Anderson is a Fellow in the Oxford Society of Scholars for his post-doctoral research on multicultural leadership. He also serves on the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science and Evangelicals Advisory Committee.

As the founder and senior pastor of Bridgeway Community Church, Dr. Anderson reaches a dynamic, multicultural congregation of nearly 3,000 weekly attendees, from more than 42 different nations, located in Columbia, Maryland.

Dr. Anderson is the author of several books on race and diversity, including *Letters Across the Divide* (Baker, 2001) and *Multicultural Ministry* (Zondervan, 2004) and the award-winning *Gracism: The Art of Inclusion* (IVP, 2007). In 2010 Dr. Anderson edited and co-authored the acclaimed *Multicultural Ministry Handbook: Creatively Connecting to a Diverse World* (IVP, 2010). His newest book, *I Forgive You: Doing Good to Those Who Have Hurt You* (IVP, 2011) is now available.

Dr. Anderson and his wife, Amber, reside in Ellicott City, Maryland, with their three children, Isaiah, Luke and Asia.

## Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown

*Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries will be preaching at the First Session of the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference. She will preach at the Opening Worship Service on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 2 PM.*



**Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown** is the Director of Connectional Ministries for the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Brown was born and raised in Dover, Delaware. She completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees at Kansas State University where she began her journey into student leadership, visioning, training and implementing programs, using her creative strengths.

She accepted her call to ministry in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at Lee Haven UMC and Whatcoat UMC. Shirlyn received her M.Div. from Palmer Theological Seminary in PA in 2005 and her D.Min. at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC in 2011. Theatre and the arts have always been a teaching instrument in her call to ministry. The arts convey a voice of healing, social justice and peace to the world.

She exercised her skills in networking, developing resources and creating partnerships between community-based agencies as a community substance abuse prevention coordinator for the Delaware Prevention Network in Smyrna, DE. Dr. Brown was ordained as Elder in 2008. As a pastor, she has been responsible for leading her congregations in making disciples for Jesus Christ. She has been a servant leader-shepherd as a minister of campus outreach at Whatcoat, as student pastor at Mt. Pleasant/Quindocqua and as senior pastor at both Mt. Zion/St. James and Mt. Calvary/Hurlock. Shirlyn's family consists of a daughter and son-in-law, Angel and Mike; a step-daughter Tiffany and three grandchildren Moira, Indya and Omar.

## Bishop Violet L. Fisher

*Bishop Violet L. Fisher will be preaching at the Third Session of the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference. She will be preaching and assisting Bishop Johnson at the Ordination Service Friday, June 7, 2013 at 6 PM.*



**Bishop Violet L. Fisher** was born into a Methodist family, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in the town of Easton. She graduated from Bowie University (B.S.) and George Washington University (M. Ed.) She taught in the public school systems of Virginia and Maryland for twenty-two years.

Bishop Fisher's call to ministry began when she was sixteen years old. During that time, there was no place in ordained ministry for women, especially in the Delaware Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. At the age of twenty-five, Bishop Fisher was ordained by the King's Apostle Holiness Church of God and served as National Evangelist and Missionary (short term) to East Africa, Republic of Haiti, and Jamaica, W.I.

Returning to the church of her birth, Bishop Fisher graduated from Eastern Baptist Seminary (Philadelphia, PA) in 1988. She was ordained deacon (1988) by Bishop F. Herbert Skeete and elder (1990) by Bishop Susan M. Morrison.

Bishop Fisher served as Associate Pastor to St. Daniel's United Methodist Church (Chester, PA); Senior Pastor to Sayer's Memorial United Methodist Church (Philadelphia, PA); and as District Superintendent Eastern PA Conference. She served as Dean of the Cabinet 1998-99. She was a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences 1996 and 2000, leading her delegation, and also delegate to World Methodist Council (1996) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She also served as Dean of the NEJ School of Evangelism 1998-99. Violet served on the General Board of Church and Society 1996-2000, the General Board of Discipleship; and Older Adult Ministry (1996-2000). She serves on the Board of Directors Eastern Baptist Seminary (1997-present).

Bishop Fisher was elected to the episcopacy in 2000 and was assigned to the New York West Area. She retired from that Area in 2008. She is the mother of one son, Marcus.

## Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

*Bishop Peggy A. Johnson will be preaching at the Fourth Session of the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference. She will be preaching the Memorial Service on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 10 AM.*



**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson** was elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Harrisburg, PA, on July 17, 2008. On the following day, prior to a Service of Consecration, she learned that she was assigned to The Philadelphia Area. On September 1, 2008, she began her assignment to lead nearly 1,000 churches in The Philadelphia Area, comprised of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences. She is one of nine active bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which includes thirteen annual conferences in the northeastern U.S. In July of 2012 she was reassigned back to The Philadelphia Area for another four years.

Bishop Johnson, born in 1953, was baptized and grew up in the Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. She pursued a degree in Music Education at Lebanon Valley, a United Methodist-related college in Eastern Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1975. She taught elementary vocal music in Baltimore County Public Schools for two years. During this time she felt a call to ministry, specifically with deaf people and people with disabilities. She left teaching and began to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Asbury Theological Seminary. Bishop Johnson met her husband, Rev. Michael C. Johnson at seminary and the Johnsons graduated in 1980. Upon graduation they were offered appointments in the Baltimore Annual Conference. Bishop Johnson was ordained a Deacon (transitional) in 1979 and an elder in 1981. In her early ministry, she has served a four-point country charge in Frederick MD, as campus minister for Gallaudet University (a leader in higher education for deaf persons located in Washington, DC), and as co-pastor (with her husband, Mike) of Lansdowne United Methodist Church, in Baltimore, MD.

In 1988 she was appointed to pastor the historic Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore, where she served for 20 years. She earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1993 and taught deaf and disability courses at the seminary on a regular basis as adjunct faculty.

Bishop Johnson believes in the inclusion of persons with disabilities, “not just to welcome them, but to be co-ministers in the priesthood of all believers! Often we think we’re going to help people with disabilities - but no - they help us see things with wonderful new perspective and add to the giftedness of the Body of Christ. Without them we’re not fully complete; we need their gifts for being the fully functional Body of Christ.”

Bishop Johnson believes that the most important role as a bishop is to pastorally empower and encourage the church to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The role also includes the presiding duties of ordering the life of the annual conference and the denomination and also to be a prophetic voice for justice in the church and the world.

The Johnsons have two adult sons: Peter and Gabriel.