

**Bishop Peggy Johnson announces the following appointments, effective July 1, 2010:**



**Thomas Fries: from Pocono Lake to Bethlehem: Wesley UMC**

Rev. Fries currently serves as pastor of Pocono Lake UMC. He is a graduate of West Chester University and holds his M.Div. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. After four years at First UMC of Palmyra, Rev. Fries moved to Hempfield UMC where he served for 15 years, helping the church grow to become one of the largest churches in our conference. During his subsequent sabbatical, Rev. Fries studied spirituality while caring for his aging parents on the family farm in northeastern Pa. where he grew up. He returned to full-time ministry at Pocono Lake in July, 2008. He brings a deep appreciation for the work of the spirit, and a strong commitment to the breadth of God's grace. His ministry has been characterized by the tension between the

need for personal piety and spiritual growth with the command to act on faith through mission and ministry in the world. At Hempfield and now at Pocono Lake, he has encouraged the congregation to consider both their own spiritual life and how they can be a channel of God's grace to the world. He has travelled extensively - he and his wife, Pam, travelled to Bosnia and Croatia last summer. Rev. Fries has two adult sons and is looking forward to becoming a grandfather this summer.