



## “YOUNG LOVE! OLDER LOVE! IT’S ALL LOVE!”

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For immediate release:

Marriage Education and Servant Leadership Development (MESLD) Program and the Northwood Appold United Methodist Church Present a Special Marriage and Relationship Fair: “Young Love! Older Love! It’s All Love!”

**Baltimore, Maryland – Northwood-Appold United Methodist Church (NAUMC)**, located in Baltimore, Maryland, is a recipient of a federal grant under the Healthy Marriage Grant Program, from the Administration of Children and Families. NAUMC’s innovative and creative Marriage Education and Servant-Leadership Development (MESLD) Program consists of three major areas of service to the community: (1) MESLD Healthy Marriage Growth Opportunity workshops; (2) a Public Advertising Campaign to stimulate interest in the benefits and fun that are part of a healthy marriage relationship; and (3) major, upbeat, energizing, collaborative, City-wide, “Healthy Marriage - Healthy Community” Special Events.

On March 31, 2007, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. MESLD and NAUMC will be hosting a city-wide “Marriage and Relationship Fair” for the community. The location for this special event is 4417 Loch Raven Boulevard. Please join us for an evening of fun and food and expert advice on healthy marriages and healthy relationships! LaDawn Black from “The Love Zone” on radio station 92Q is scheduled to stop by! Other relationship experts and couples and individuals will be share “practical tips for healthy relationships and healthy marriages’. Community resource vendors will be on hand to share information on family wellness, family counseling, and financial planning. Other vendors will include jewelry, arts and crafts and travel planning.

The event is free and open to the public. Free on-site childcare services will be provided (please call in advance for this service). During the event, persons can sign up for the upcoming “Growth Opportunity” marriage and relationship training sessions that will begin in May 2007. Additionally, to sign up and/or for more information, please contact Mrs. Jean Mitchell, at NAUMC, at 410-323-6712 or visit the MESLD website at: [www.mesld.org](http://www.mesld.org)

The Rev. Cecil Conteen Gray, Ph.D., Pastor, renowned teacher-speaker, author, and scholar, is the lead facilitator for the MESLD Program. “Healthy marriages are created when two people continually work on their individual growth and continually support and complement each other’s growth. And every time we see a couple cultivate and maintain a healthy marriage, we see two people who are strong enough and healthy enough to offer constructive service-and-leadership to their families and the larger community,” says Dr. Gray.

Research studies consistently point to the fact that healthy marriages have a major impact on the social well being of a community. Consider the following assets that come from healthy marriages: higher numbers of physically healthy citizens, lower crime rates, higher numbers of educated citizens, and a decrease in the need for social services. In a recent press release issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, it is documented that marriage and relationship programs increase couples’ satisfaction and strengthen their marriages.