



## “ENDURING LOVE! STRONG RELATIONSHIPS! ! COMMUNITIES!”

May 21, 2007

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For immediate release:

**The MESLD Program** (Marriage Education and Servant-Leadership Development Program) and the Northwood Appold United Methodist Church present a Special Marriage and Relationship Event: “Celebrating Enduring Love! And Strong Relationships! And Dynamic Communities! -- A Celebration of Love and Relationships.” This special event is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2007 at the Northwood Appold United Methodist Church, 4499 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, 12 (Noon) – 2:00 p.m. The event is for everyone – singles, single parents, families, engaged couples, married couples, elders, children – EVERYONE!! **The event is a lively celebration of and a reminder of how all our relationships can be healthy** – the relationship between parents and children, neighbors, communities, mates, siblings, friends, relatives, cousins, co-workers, colleagues, and acquaintances. The event will consist of music, free food, open mic and creative presentations, and a culminating ceremony wherein couples can renew their vows.

**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.

The Event is free and open to the public. Free on-site childcare services is provided (please call in advance for this service). During the event, persons can sign up for the second cycle of free “Growth Opportunity” Marriage and Relationship training sessions that commenced June 2, 2007. To sign up and/or get more information, please contact Ms. Jean Mitchell 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, men live longer, 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.