



“HEALTHY MARRIAGES, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – THE WAY FORWARD”

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For immediate release:

Marriage Education and Servant Leadership Development (MESLD) Program and the Northwood Appold United Methodist Church Present and the St. Matthew’s Roman Catholic Church present a Special Marriage and Relationship Event: “Healthy Marriages, Healthy Relationships, Healthy Communities-The Way Forward.” This special event is scheduled for October 6, 2007 at the Saint Matthew’s Roman Catholic Church, located at 5401 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland from 12 (noon) – 2:00 p.m. St. Matthews is one of the community partners contributing to the success of the MESLD program. This special event is the culminating ceremony of the year long marriage and relationships events sponsored by MESLD. The event is a community celebration of relationships and marriage, family and community and will serve as an opportunity to promote the MESLD program, “Growth Opportunity Learning Party Sessions.” Come join us for an afternoon of fun, food music, African drumming and sharing!

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 Learning Party Sessions” marriage and relationship training sessions that commenced in October 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

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.