

GNJAC Holds Special Session to Remember and Move Forward

A Special Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference was called on November 2, 2013 to vote on:

- changes to the organizational plan to bring GNJ's structure into compliance with the *Book of Discipline*,
- changes to the budget to enable GNJ to begin implementing the Strategic Ministry Plan approved during the 2013 Annual Conference Session,
- adoption and election of the nominations committee report, and
- a relationship statement with A Future with Hope.

Over 800 people gathered in the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, NJ for a day of remembrance, hope, prayer and discernment as GNJ celebrated the work of A Future with Hope and made important decisions to continue to move the Strategic Ministry Plan forward.

A Service of Hope and Remembrance

A Service of Hope and Remembrance, a special service to mark the one year



Bishop Schol greets A Future with Hope homeowner, Lieu, and her family before the Service of Hope and Remembrance at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, NJ.
Photo by Paul Guba

anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, opened the Special Session of the Annual Conference. The service featured the work of A Future with Hope and highlights included guest speakers Cassidy Nablone, a young volunteer and mem-

ber of the New Egypt United Methodist Church, and Rick Hall, an Atlantic City resident whose home was recently rebuilt by A Future with Hope. Clearly moved by the generosity of the volunteers who gave him back his home, Hall said, "The

Lord says when I bless you, it will be abundantly." He continued, "I know this was a miracle because only God could do this. The miracle was God's children who came in the name of the Lord. When you're helping people in the name of the Lord, there is no bigger gift."

In addition to United Methodists attending the conference, the service welcomed volunteers, partners in the recovery effort, and community leaders, including state legislators and local officials from across New Jersey. During the service, Bishop John Schol announced a \$750,000 grant from the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund (the fund coordinated by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's wife, Mary Pat Christie) to help continue recovery efforts. Bishop Schol went on to acknowledge the tragedies and challenges caused by the storm and then called on each individual to affirm their commitment to rebuilding a *future with hope*. "When people hurt, United Methodists help in the name of Christ."

Continued on page 5

Special Session Celebrates Hope

The special session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, held in the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, opened with an inspirational service of Hope and Remembrance. Church leaders, along with various community leaders and government officials gathered to both recall the effects of Superstorm Sandy, just a year ago, while also celebrating how far the state has come in the days and months since and the restoration that is still occurring today and will continue for years to come.

Worship opened with teen musician, Alexis Maldonado leading the congregation in praise-filled singing. Highlighting the service were two testimonies that

were shared. The first was given by teen missionary Cassidy Nablone, a youth member of New Egypt Church who helped rebuild a home in Highlands, New Jersey during the summer months. Nablone spoke of her volunteer experiences over the summer saying she was thankful for the experience she had. "We left an imprint on their home during the time we were there," she said. "To be able to leave a small imprint is such an amazing opportunity." Bishop John Schol said that to date 500 young people had served in home repair mission through A Future With Hope.

Another testimony was shared by Rick Hall, a client of A Future With Hope, who was celebrating the complete rehabilitation of his Atlantic City home. "We were turned down so many times (by other agencies), we didn't believe it to be true," said Hall.

He said that his mother and he had been living in despair since October 29 of last year when they first had to leave their home. When they were able to return on November 5th, he said there were roof shingles torn off and holes in the roof in the living room, bathroom, and bedrooms. Hall said they had applied for federal and state funding, as well as loans, but they were denied by everyone.

"We were in prayer," Hall said. "We prayed, 'Lord help us find a way'". He said that after ten straight rainy days in April, the miracle they were looking for was a new roof because they couldn't do any work inside the home until they could keep the rain water out. That miracle came through A Future with Hope that not only repaired the roof, but the entire

home. "Pastor Lou (Strugala, A Future with Hope Construction Director) said we have to restore your home. That's what we do," said Hall. "We have been overwhelmed and humbled by this experience. Without God, this couldn't have happened."

"We need to remember we are faced with those same times today," Bishop Schol said referencing the Isaiah 58 scripture reading. "We aren't talking about optimism or putting a positive spin on a disaster. We are talking about biblical hope. What appears impossible is possible with God."

Bishop Schol said that 145 families are being worked with through A Future With Hope's case management and that 15 homes had been completed in the first year post-storm. "That's amazing," he

said. "We've gone from zero to 100 miles per hour. That's like building an airplane while it's flying."

Bishop Schol continued to celebrate the restoration that has occurred through A Future With Hope. He said there are another 13 homes ready to work on, while another 12 are currently being assessed. There are also 12 host sights, which can house 300 volunteers a day. In total there have been 4,775 volunteers from all different states, denominations and community organizations who together have contributed more than 95,000 hours toward relief and repair of people's lives, homes and communities.

"When people hurt, United Methodists help. You're important and people need you to survive," was Bishop Schol's closing plea to GNJ leadership.



Cassidy Nablone, a young volunteer and member of the New Egypt UMC, and Rick, an Atlantic City resident whose home was recently rebuilt by A Future with Hope shared their stories during the Service of Hope and Remembrance.
Photo by Paul Guba

Districts Spend Time with Bishop Schol



Bishop Schol addresses the clergy of the Northern Shore District at Saint Andrews, Spring Lake church.

Each year there are certain signs that signal the arrival of fall: the beginning of football season, the gradual chill in the air, the changing color of the leaves, and the Bishop's visits to all nine districts. This year was no exception. Clergy and laity from every corner of the GNJAC had the opportunity to visit with the episcopal leader at the annual Bishop Days on the Districts this fall. During the morning clergy gatherings, Bishop Schol shared more about the Strategic Ministry Plan and the importance of aligning our resources and energies as an Annual Conference and as local churches to create more and more vital congregations. Bishop Schol also gave people the opportunity to ask questions and engage in open dialogue. There was also a time of anointing as the bishop prayed for the leaders and congregations on each district. In the evening sessions, with both laity and clergy, the bishop was joined by Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader. Rosa shared in the presentation emphasizing the importance of the lay and clergy partnership as we work toward becoming more and more vital.

All of the District Days were well-attended and the host churches provided radical hospitality through the pastors and volunteers who made each day a success.



LARGE SCALE FEEDING PROGRAM IS CRITICALLY LOW ON FOOD

NJ's Most Vulnerable Residents at Risk of Hunger over Holiday Season

CUMAC, one of the GNJAC's largest outreach missions, is providing groceries for record numbers of hungry people, but food supplies are dwindling fast. The pantry is critically low on all food items. The agency is making an appeal to the conference because for the 3,000 people per month who rely on CUMAC for assistance, this lack of food will be devastating. Food and financial donations are desperately needed to ensure the pantry can continue to provide food for New Jersey's most vulnerable residents over the busy holiday season.

Hunger is on the rise throughout the Garden State, but in traditionally impoverished areas like Paterson and much of Passaic County, the number of people who do not get enough to eat has risen dramatically. Just six years ago CUMAC was feeding around 1,500 people a month. At the height of the recession that number jumped to around 2,600. For the past few months, CUMAC has been feeding a record breaking 3,100 people each month.

According to pantry assistant, Anna, "Some of our clients are single moms with kids. Many are like my dad, older and living on a fixed income that isn't enough to cover bills and food every month. Some have a serious injury or are sick and can't cover their basics because they can't physically work." Because of challenging financial times there has also been a rise in college students coming to the pantry, or men and women in business suits coming down on their lunch break. "Life is so tough for so many people, we give them one less thing to worry about so they can go home, have a meal and not have to think about where they're going to get food," Anna continued. "They can focus on other things that could help improve their situations. Times are tough; we just want to be there to help people through."

Unfortunately, this recent spike in need has been met with dwindling donations and mostly empty shelves. While CUMAC is on track to feed more people than ever this year, food donations are around 20% lower than in past years. According to CUMAC's executive director, Reverend Patricia Bruger, "In the 25 years I've been with CUMAC I have never seen us so low on food. We are currently out of protein, cereal, and fruit. We are extremely low on all nonperishable food items. This is not where we want to be going into the busy holiday rush. If things don't change, we'll see a lot of families going without."

CUMAC feeds up to 200 people on any given day - people like Vanessa (*name changed*), who comes to CUMAC for food when her family needs it. Vanessa is the single mother of two daughters. A serious leg injury has kept her out of work for the past year and she struggles to feed and house her family. After months of homelessness - time spent sleeping on friend's couches or walking the streets all night with her two daughters - she has recently secured a small apartment for her family, but she still struggles to feed her children and says she worries constantly about how they're going to eat. "My food stamps usually run out half way through the month. I come to the pantry for food so my kids don't go hungry. If the pantries run out, I don't know where my kids will be next month, how we're going to survive."

Food and financial donations will be critical to ensuring CUMAC can continue to work on behalf of Vanessa and all of the other families and individuals who have turned to them for help through hard times. Food donations and collections can be dropped off at 223 Ellison St, Paterson, NJ Monday through Friday between 9am and 3pm (some weekend and evening hours are available, but please call ahead to arrange). Financial gifts can be made online at www.cumacecho.org or sent to PO Box 2721, Paterson, NJ 07509.

CUMAC is an outreach mission of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church with multiple programs dedicated to alleviating hunger and poverty in Paterson, Passaic County and beyond. To learn more you can visit their website at www.cumacecho.org or contact their office at 973-742-5518 or info@cumacecho.org

Annual Crop Walk



The members of St. Marks Church in Montclair enjoyed the annual Crop Walk on October 13, a lovely sunny autumn day.

Letter to the Editor

Is the Covenant Broken?

Recently a retired clergy member asked, "Is the covenant broken?" The reason for the question was the recent rapid decline in clergy attending the memorial services of colleagues.

I recently attended the memorial serve for a clergy member of this annual conference who had provided over fifty years of service. I was dismayed, that only two UMC clergy, other than the three who participated in leading the service, were in attendance.

During my lifetime of ministry within this conference, I heard it stated numerous times that members of the clergy are your "family." For most of my ministry a strong covenant relationship of clergy has existed within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. That covenant now seems to be rapidly eroding.

In the past, I have seen the positive impact upon grieving family members when there is a significant clergy presence, and letters of condolence from those unable to attend. Now, sadly, I see the disappointment when few are present, and there are no words of thankfulness for service to be read.

Obviously, not everyone is able to attend every memorial service. But, sisters and brothers, surely we can do a better job of being there for one another.

John C. Maun



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

John R. Schol, Resident Bishop
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First Church in Vineland Marks 150 Years



On Sunday, September 15, the Philadelphia Beck's Brigade Band presented a concert of marching music and hymns that were written before 1865. Richard Cumminies conducted the band in the Sanctuary of the First Church in Vineland, NJ. The twenty musicians were dressed in Union Civil War uniforms. With the band included in the count there were nearly 300 in attendance. The concert was given in celebration of the 150 years that First Church has existed on the land that Charles K. Landis donated to a small group of Methodists in 1863. Mayor Ruben Bermudez was in attendance and presented a proclamation to Pastor Susan Flicker. Also, Frank De Maio M.D. attended dressed as Charles Landis.

Mission Fund Update

One of the business items approved at May's gathering of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference was a 3-year campaign to raise \$12 million for A Future with Hope Mission Fund.

The goals of the campaign are: \$7 million for Sandy relief and recovery, \$2 million for Imagine No Malaria, and \$3 million for mission within local church communities. Carolyn Conover, Director of Communication and Development for A Future With Hope said a lot has happened in the five months since the campaign was approved.

- 82% of GNJ clergy have made a commitment
- Two-thirds of GNJ congregations are in the process of planning or implementing campaigns of support, AND
- Gifts and commitments to the campaign to date total: \$2,622,156 — which is nearly 22% of the total goal.

In addition, United Methodist Communications has provided support by funding a campaign coordinator position to help conference efforts, granting \$200,000 for promoting the mission of both A Future With Hope and the United Methodist Church. Conover continued that there has recently been a committee of representatives from each district developed to help guide the direction of these funds.

Conover reported that A Future with Hope, Inc. has continued to receive substantial support from the philanthropic community receiving the following grants:

- \$3.8 million from UMCOR for rebuilding efforts including churches and parsonages, disaster case management, spiritual and emotional care, and volunteer support
- A \$600,000 grant from The Robin Hood Foundation to support disaster case management and rebuilding efforts
- A \$1,500,000 grant from the American Red Cross to support the rebuilding of 75 homes and to supplement case management and volunteer recruitment.
- And just announced this week, a \$750,000 grant from the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund, which is the state fund coordinated by Mary Pat Christie, the governor's wife.

YES, YOU ARE BEING DIGESTED!

By now, you have probably discovered the weekly GNJ Digest, your conference's electronic newsletter full of Announcements, Events, Celebrations, National News and Conference Calendar Updates. There are also special letters from the Bishop and notifications of deaths among members of the Annual Conference.

If you are not currently on our e-mail list and would like to be, please send your request to become a part of our "digested community" to gnjdigest@gnjumc.org.

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EDITORIAL

Membership Vows that are Easily Broken

Politicians have long known the wisdom of polling the electorate in order to gauge their constituents' opinions on various issues and policies, thereafter tailoring their message to what the responses indicate will gain the most support. On certain issues, one needs to tell the people what they want to hear if one wants to get elected.

That is a fairly cynical way of working the electoral process, but experience demonstrates that it usually works. In an ideal world, those running for office would speak their truth — whatever that is — regardless of its relative appeal to the masses.

Often, especially in national elections, one or two issues emerge as crucial in garnering support for a particular candidate. Polls show that a significant number of voters base their choice on one or two issues rather than a wide array of concerns. While discerning voters would weigh the issues and decide, on balance, whether or not they can vote for a particular person, research shows that most people do not invest much time or energy in making their election decisions.

Which brings us to the Church. Almost any pastor could testify to the fact that they have had a number of church members who make decisions about their membership in a fairly cavalier manner. If they don't happen to like the pastor, or if they don't care for a particular change in the worship service, or if they come to believe the Church is at odds with their pet issue, they will simply leave, often without bothering to express their concern to anyone. The pastor and congregation are left wondering what went wrong.

It has been known to happen that people will leave the Church if the Trustees paint the front door a color they don't like or if they can't hear the service well enough from the back of the sanctuary rather than moving to the front.

This kind of attitude reflects a very low level of commitment and a superficial understanding of the meaning of membership. The responsibility for having this kind of culture in a congregation is shared by clergy and laity alike.

Clergy need to be more diligent in speaking their truth and in teaching their flocks that membership in the Church has more to do with authentic discipleship rather than just being a part of the club. Authentic preaching is not about scratching itching ears.

The laity should be held accountable to God and to each other for the manner in which they keep their vows to serve Christ and the Church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Too often clergy, in trying to appeal to the masses, have let their people "off the hook" when it comes to sacrificial service in the name of Christ. Sadly, this is due in part to the fact that some pastors are content to take the easy way and go with the flow. This results in members who are poorly connected to the Church and who will leave at the least provocation. Like single issue voters, these folks haven't gone to the trouble to research their bone of contention; they simply jump to what is often an erroneous conclusion and disappear.

Our aim then is to create a Church culture in which membership is a meshing of interests and issues, concerns and relationships, not just an occasional intersection.

Perhaps an illustration from high school geometry would help. An "intersection" is defined as two or more sets that have one point in common. A "union" is defined as two or more sets that have many points in common, like overlapping circles. A relationship that has only one point of contact, one thing in common is easily broken. A relationship that has many points of contact, many things in common, can survive a conflict over one of those points. Our goal is to create a Church culture in which the experience of membership is more of a union than an intersection. We use this kind of language at weddings, with promises "to enter into union with one another; why not with respect to membership and discipleship? That kind of relationship will stand the test of time and controversy.

— GCF & RVC

Multi-Cultural Celebration 2013

The Multi Ethnic Coordinating Committee of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is inviting everyone to the annual multi cultural celebration on November 16, 2013 Saturday (from 4PM to 7PM) at the St. John's United Methodist Church, 2000 Florence Avenue, Hazlet, New Jersey. The focus of this annual celebration has been a celebration of our diverse cultural heritage and gathering together for worship, fellowship and cultural festivity.

For the past four years, we have come together to celebrate our cultural realities bringing into the celebration our unique and diverse gifts and graces as diverse people of God. As we embark on a new vision and strategic goals for the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in growing vital congregations and in continuing the works for Sandy Storm recovery efforts, we would like to come together to celebrate our continuing commitment to God's works. We hope and pray that as we celebrate, we will affirm and renew our commitment together in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This year's celebration will be different as it will highlight our partnership in ministry together, and in renewing our commitment to the works ahead of us. The planning team is trying to include all, not just in sharing talents, gifts and graces, but to celebrate our partnership in ministry together and to renew our commitment as the body of Christ in progressing God's kingdom here at GNJAC and the world. The festivity will not be complete without native food from all continents, nations and cultures. Anyone can bring a tray dish of any of these kinds: meat, chicken or fish, vegetable, or side dish (rice or pasta) that can feed at least 50 people. Dessert and drinks will be provided. To add color to the festivity, we also encourage everyone to wear their native dress and/or national outfit.

It is our goal to have inclusive participation from all local churches in the conference. Let us come together, all inclusive in celebration this November!

- Judy Colorado, Team Leader,
The Multi Ethnic Coordinating Committee



Global Relay

Brief Reports from around the world
via United Methodist News
Service and Newscope

Bishops urge Bishop Talbert not to officiate at same-sex union

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMNS) — The executive committee of the United Methodist Council of Bishops issued a statement today, Oct. 23, in response to retired Bishop Melvin G. Talbert's plans to officiate at the marriage ceremony of Bobby Prince and Joe Openshaw on Oct. 26 in Birmingham, Ala.

"The bishops of the church are bound together in a covenant and all ordained elders are committed to uphold the Book of Discipline," the statement reads. "Conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies' are chargeable offenses in The United Methodist Church. (§2702.1.b) The Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops has urged Bishop Melvin Talbert not to perform the same-gender marriage in Birmingham, Alabama."

Finance agency extends benefits to same-sex couples

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — General agencies of The United Methodist Church will extend employee benefits to same-sex couples, under a decision by the board of directors of the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration. The board on Oct. 21 also voted to seek a ruling from the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, to make sure the change is in keeping with church law.

Bishop urges prayer, action after school shooting

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UMNS) — "Once again, a gun has ended up in a school with deadly consequences," writes Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr. of the California-Nevada Annual (regional) Conference. Brown was referring to the shooting Oct. 22 at a Sparks, Nev., middle school that resulted in the death of a teacher and injuries to students as well as the death of the shooter, also a student. "Join me in prayer for Pastor Gary Pope-Sears and the faithful people of Sparks United Methodist Church, and other faith communities, as they minister to the people of Sparks during this difficult time."

Bishop's daughter dies of malaria

KINDU, Democratic Republic of the Congo (UMNS) — Virginie Kabibi Mirgivir Unda, daughter of Bishop Gabriel Unda Yemba of the East Congo Episcopal Area, has died of malaria. Her mother, Omba Charlotte Unda, also died of malaria Feb. 1, 2007. Condolences from around The United Methodist Church go to the Unda family and to the people of the East Congo Episcopal Area.

2016 General Conference to see drop in delegates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The 2016 General Conference in Portland, Ore., will have about 15 percent fewer delegates than recent gatherings of The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking body. The Commission on the 2016 General Conference voted Oct. 18 to set the target number of delegates at 850.

A call for the church to speak out on domestic violence

INDIANAPOLIS (UMNS) — Twenty-four advocates for survivors of spousal abuse gathered at St. Luke's United Methodist Church Oct. 2-4 for a conference titled "Shattering the Silence in the Faith Community." Speakers, including the Rev. Dountonia Slack, an abuse survivor, called for the church to do more toward awareness and prevention.

Agency forms partnership with Healing Communities

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has announced a partnership with Healing Communities, a Philadelphia faith-based ministry that provides a framework to engage with people returning from or at risk of incarceration, their families and the larger community. Bill Mefford, the agency's director of civil and human rights, said Healing Communities is a way for United Methodist congregations to become "stations of hope" for returning citizens.

Why S.D. church among 50 fastest growing in U.S.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (UMNS) — Asked to explain the remarkable growth of Embrace, the Rev. Adam Weber, the church's 31-year-old pastor, points to a focus on helping people start and strengthen a relationship with Jesus. Embrace is the only United Methodist church on Outreach magazine's recently released list of the top 50 fastest-growing U.S. churches in 2013. Embrace ranked 40th overall, and fourth in growth rate, having seen a 65 percent attendance rise.



John the Baptist's diet explained.

IN-GATHERING FOR THE DELAWARE BAY DISTRICT



Former President, Jane Gilchrist (left rear) of the Delaware Bay District in New Jersey installs new and current officers on October 2, 2013. Pictured are Sue Miller, Pres.; Deborah Oglesby, Vice Pres.; Barbara Wright, Treasurer; Cheryl Fox, Area Coordinator; and Judy Poloff, Area Coordinator.

Egad! It's Christmas in October or that's the way it looked on October 2. The only thing that was missing was the proverbial Christmas tree. There was everything else....trucks, dolls, pajamas, underwear, personal care products, stuffed animals, and books. In this day of difficult economic times, the women of the Delaware Bay District of the United Methodist Women in New Jersey spared no cost as they purchased items for children. In fact, they were so excited, some did not even bother to register for the event...their actions much resembled the 3 Wise Men....they just came bearing gifts. In fact, 153 women celebrated the "Year of the Child" with their love gifts. Present also was the District Superintendent, the Rev. Richard Nichols and the Conference President, Marilyn Powell.

Typically, the In-Gathering is a time to fellowship with other women, listen to a speaker, and get caught-up on what is happening both in the Greater New Jersey Conference and the Delaware Bay District, but this year it appears the genuine emphasis was on the "child." While last year, the District UMW collected 127 toys and 770 books for children whose mothers are incarcerated at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton, New Jersey; this year was even better! The women turned in 907 books. These books are taken to the Correctional Facility where the mothers will read and record the books. The books are then sent to foster homes, relative homes, and other places where the children live. In this way, children can hear their mother's voice any time of the day. One can only imagine hearing the voice of their mother daily....even when she can't physically be with them. How soothing, how nurturing, how connection!!!

In addition, the women collected 217 pajama sets to be shared by three offices of the Department of Children and Families, formerly DYFS. There were 122 pajama sets for girls and 95 sets collected for boys. The pajamas were placed in gallon sized plastic zip lock baggies with a washcloth, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Some bags even had

color coordinated and or child-friendly underwear in the packaging.

What is more comforting to a child that has undergone a traumatic loss, separation, or event than their very own stuffed animal? Nothing, but GOD. It was like Noah's Ark....the women donated 86 stuffed bears, horses, kittens, giraffes, and the like for the children.

Often mission work of the UMW benefits children both in the United States and in other countries. This year was no different, except for a little twist. School supplies were collected for children in Haiti. These faceless children are grateful for the simple things.....pencils, paper, notebooks, rulers....the items most school children in the U.S. take for granted. This year though, the women collected plastic bottle caps. Hundreds of bags of bottle caps of every size and color were taken to the Salem County Autism Center in Pennsville, New Jersey. The caps are then trucked to a facility where they are smelted resulting in an alloy that is sold. The proceeds from end product are used for services that benefit children who are on the Autism Spectrum. These are the children who are our neighbors, our children and grandchildren, our friend's children who look like other children, but whose behaviors speak otherwise.

Jerry Oglesby, the Resource Development Specialist from the Salem County District Office of the Department of Children and Families, spoke to the gathering about the abuse and neglect of children. He said that as Christians and neighbors, it is everyone's responsibility to report suspected abuse. He also said that all are the eyes and hands of Christ and as such are mandated to do everything possible, be fostering, mentoring, or reporting.

As 2014 approaches, it is most important that the Church keeps human trafficking, child abuse and neglect, gun control, and domestic violence forefront on its agenda and minds. Change begins with one person and the Church can only thank God that the United Methodist Women are over 800,000 strong with one very large voice.



Vada Moore, (former Pastor) and Dorothy Scott, Secretary of Program Resources for the Delaware Bay District, count books for the children of incarcerated mothers at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton, New Jersey. 907 books collected.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Aldersgate Church Historian, Ken Helsby, unveils an "Aldersgate Street" sign during the service commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Church Charter on September 8, 2013. The street sign, provided by the Township of East Brunswick, is now permanently installed near the base of the church driveway along Ryders Lane.

Aldersgate Church in East Brunswick, NJ celebrated 50 years of existence having been chartered on September 8, 1963. The Church celebrated with an anniversary dinner on Saturday, September 7th. East Brunswick mayor David Stahl presented the Church with a proclamation emphasizing creation of the Crisis Room Ministry in 1973 to feed and clothe those in need in the greater East Brunswick community. The Crisis Room continues to serve hundreds of people on a monthly basis. Aldersgate Church recently responded to the devastating effects of Super-Storm Sandy by acting as a Volunteer Host site for Sandy Relief workers, providing short term housing for hundreds of volunteers from across the United States who come to NJ to assist with recovery and rebuilding efforts for the elderly, poor, and under-privileged. This relief effort is sponsored by the Greater NJ Conference and their non-profit organization, A Future With Hope. It was also proclaimed that the week of September 7 through September 13, 2013 be declared "Aldersgate United Methodist Church Week" in East Brunswick. The anniversary dinner was presided over by Church Lay Leader, Bob Quakenboss and Church Historian, Ken Helsby. Included in the 160 plus guests were two former ministers of

Aldersgate, Champion B. Goldy and Barry Werhle, Councilwoman Nancy Pinkin, Mayor David Stahl, Charter Members Fran Mickett and Al Galuchie, ministers from the neighboring United Methodist congregations, and numerous former and present church members.

On Sunday, September 8th, the congregation held a service of Celebration at 10a.m. Special music was presented by the Good News Ringers and the Joyful Light Singers. Special remembrances from former church members were read and those in attendance shared some memories. The message was delivered by Reverend Bobby Gale, a United Methodist minister and Director of Unto the Least of His Ministry in Irwinton, Georgia. His ministry provides clean drinking water through digging wells in the remote villages in Africa. Reverend Gale has brought three teams of volunteers to New Jersey for Super Storm Sandy relief and has utilized Aldersgate to house his teams. He congratulated the congregation on 50 years of service and challenged them to expand their outreach in the next 50 years. A special street sign, "Aldersgate Street" was unveiled during the service located at the Church's entrance off of Ryder's Lane.

Special Session to Remember and Move Forward

Continued from page 1

Conference Plan of Organization

In order to move forward with the Strategic Ministry Plan and maintain compliance with the *Book of Discipline*, several changes to the organizational structure of the Greater New Jersey Conference were approved. A few of the major changes include:

- The addition of five agencies to bring the total to 34 as required by the *Book of Discipline*. (An agency is defined as a Board, Commission, Council or Committee).
- Renaming of the Primary Task Team (PTT) to the "Connectional Table" and removing its authority to act on the behalf of the Annual Conference in between sessions of Annual Conference. As part of the total mission

people to each Conference agency unless the Book of Discipline mandates a different number of members or the Greater New Jersey Conference plan of organization stipulates a different number.

- The Committee on Nominations will consist of the District Lay Leaders, the Conference Lay Leader, the Director of Connectional Ministries and the District Superintendents.

Full details of the organizational changes can be found in the legislation available for downloading on www.gnjumc.org/specialsession.

Modified 2014 Budget Approved

In order to move the Strategic Ministry Plan forward, a modified 2014 budget is required. This revised budget allows



Following a blessing by Bishop Schol, volunteers with A Future with Hope spent the rest of the day working on a home currently under construction.

Photo by Paul Guba

of the Conference, the Connectional Table is to serve as the steward of the vision and resources for mission and ministry and establish policies and procedures to carry out the mission of the conference. A full listing of committees affected can be found in the legislation online at www.gnjumc.org/specialsession.

- The practice of nominating eight

for the hiring of three additional staff members: a webmaster and two new Connectional Ministries Staff. The creation of these positions will not increase the apportionment budget approved for 2014.

A webmaster will enable us to continue to strengthen our web presence for communication and reporting. By

Continued on page 9

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



Ministry Shares and the Church

Our Shared Ministry Funds are one of the means by which the United Methodist Church represents Christ and our denomination throughout the world. When natural disaster strikes, the United Methodist Church is on the scene with food, clothing, temporary shelter, medical assistance and spiritual comfort. Helping during disasters, however, is not the only way the Church provides support. There are hundreds of mission projects and groups working on a daily basis to relieve suffering, improve lives, and offer Christ's love to a hurting world.

Here are some of the activities supported by our Shared Ministry Funds:

- Improve literacy by providing salaries for teachers
- Care for the orphans of AIDS, genocide, and war
- Train farmers in sustainable agriculture
- Provide essential medicine and medical supplies for clinics, hospitals, and other health programs
- Educate people in nutrition and health
- Teach rooftop gardening in urban areas
- Help dig wells for irrigation and clean drinking water
- Build churches and provide seminary education in emerging nations

This is just a small sampling of what your giving through the Shared Ministry Funds is accomplishing each and every day. Because we are a connectional church, we can make huge impact by pooling our resources and giving generously.

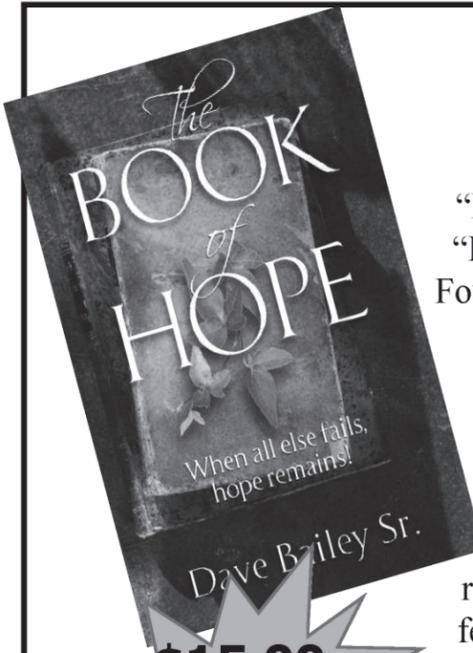
The Hope Book

(Expectation of Success) by **Dave Bailey, Sr.**, author of: "Hope For Dead End Kids" and "Pot Holes." Rev. Bailey is the Founder of Ranch Hope for Boys and Girls.

Every verse of scripture on **Hope** is written about in this book as a daily devotional.

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Another Example of "A Future With Hope"

The little towns of Union Beach, Keansburg, Belford, Atlantic Highlands, and parts of Middletown Township, New Jersey were loved up in a big way this past summer by the hard-working members of the HOPE United Methodist Church Youth Ministry. Located just off the coast, these tiny boroughs remain very much devastated by last year's Superstorm Sandy.

HOPE UMC's middle school mission team, made up of 38 students and 12 adult leaders, jumped right into their tasks upon their arrival. "We were assigned to four homes on Forrest Avenue in Keansburg where residents had been displaced by the extensive damage of the storm," HOPE UMC's youth pastor, Dave Falcone said. "The kids were amazing, approaching each and every assignment with tons of enthusiasm."

Ripping up and removing floors damaged by more than two feet of storm sludge, treating mold and moisture problems and installing brand new flooring and walls were just some of the work completed by the team. One of the residents, Evelyn, an electrician by trade, came by the site each day, "She is on disability and currently living in a local motel until her house inhabitable," Falcone said, adding that not having suitable housing came as a bit of a shock for some of the kids. "She was



Members of the Hope Youth Group, ready to work!

so sweet and so appreciative." Another resident returned each day to help with the effort after working his full-time job. "The whole community was wonderful. There wasn't a day that passed where someone, seeing our team shirts, wouldn't stop and thank us for being there." Even the local donut shop opened up their facilities for the team to use.

Three weeks later, it was back to the Jersey shore for a second time when

HOPE's high school mission team returned with 35 high school students and 16 adult volunteers to continue to make repairs to local homes. As with the middle school team, the townspeople were very appreciative for the extensive rebuilding accomplished by the students.

"People kept stopping us to thank us for all our hard work," Falcone said. "We replaced a whole roof on one house and the woman who owned it

was so thankful; she asked if she could buy the team members pizza for lunch." They were also amazed how quickly the team completed their assigned tasks. "We had finished the entire list of things to do for the week by Tuesday," Falcone said. "The kids' attitudes and stamina were amazing. High school students need a little less supervision so the adult leaders were able to work alongside them while guiding them and teaching them."

The students also spent some real quality time in small group settings during their off hours. Building their faith and honing valuable leadership skills, the students, according to Falcone, showed a Spirit-led willingness to be open to how God was using them during the week.

"We had some deep and authentic conversations with the students who were able to articulate just how they saw God at work in their lives."

The Belford United Methodist Church in Belford, served as headquarters for both teams, Falcone explained, giving them full run of their building. "It's a real small church with members who were just great. One of the church members took our entire middle school team to the local VFW for dinner," Falcone said. Over 2,000 students from faith-based organizations and youth groups were on hand that week along with HOPE UMC's middle schoolers ... All working toward restoring the area. Given the extent of the devastation "they'll be doing this for years," Falcone said.

During the visits, the townspeople treated HOPE's youth to munchkins, popsicles, pizza, bottled water, Gatorade and tons of gratitude for their service, but the real gift for each team member was in knowing they made a difference ... Growing in faith, learning how to have a servant's heart and following the teaching of Jesus by being the salt and light.



A message of thanks from the people of Union Beach to the youth who worked to restore homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

Dover Churches Making a Difference



"Melly the Clown," Melissa Martinez, Grace Church's alter ego, makes a balloon animal during "Let's Make a Difference in Dover!" Day.

Photo courtesy of First United Methodist Church, Dover.

Recently First Church, Dover, celebrated "Let's Make a Difference in Dover" complete with a block next to the church cordoned off for five hours, inviting town residents to come and learn more about the church as well as local community resources.

During the festivities the church's praise band, "Shabach" performed, young girls from the church danced, and activities for children such as face painting and various arts and crafts were offered. "Melly the Clown" also gave short performances throughout the day. Karate demonstrations were also performed.

The day gave residents the opportunity to obtain helpful information. An immigration lawyer provided advice and assistance to those who had questions. Information about early intervention and health and safety services was

also provided by the Zufall Clinic of Dover, Children and Family Services of Morris County and other local service organizations. Freshly laundered clothing donated by church members and friends was distributed free of charge and slightly used furniture was sold. In addition to snacks and water that were available for refreshment, the church's food pantry was open with food available for those in need.

First Church, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, offered information about the church and its programs. Sister church, Grace UMC of Dover, also participated.

Proceeds from "Let's Make a Difference in Dover!" were donated to Hurricane Sandy relief efforts sponsored by the United Methodist Church through the Future with Hope Campaign.

Our Doors Are Open!



LUNCH AND LEARN

November 7 • 10:00am - 1:00pm

Take a tour of our community followed by a delicious lunch prepared by our executive chef. Please RSVP to Barbara Wrzeszcz at 856-854-4331, x115 or bwrzeszcz@cm-umh.org.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

November 13 • 5:00pm - 6:00pm

On the second Wednesday of every month people caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's connect and share with others. Contact Victoria Knight at 856-854-4331, x302.

MALE CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

November 13 & 27

7:00pm - 8:00pm

The group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month to give help and guidance through the maze of resources available, time management and relationship dynamics.

OPEN HOUSE

November 20 • 10:00am - 2:00pm

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Bound Brook Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

On Saturday, October 12, the Bound Church opened its doors to the community to celebrate Hispanic Heritage. The event, which was organized and hosted by the congregation's new Hispanic ministry, featured live music, a traditional Peruvian dance, a delicious Hispanic meal, and a special ceremony where those in attendance sang the national anthems of all the countries represented in the event.

During the festivities, which had more than 60 in attendance, the congregation also celebrated the beginning of a new outreach program called "Almuerzo en Familia" (Family Lunch), which will run once a month on Saturdays. "This new outreach initiative will allow us to further connect with our community and share with them the good news of Jesus Christ, through words and deeds," explained Rev. Onay López, pastor in charge of the Hispanic initiative in Bound Brook.

The new Hispanic Ministry in Bound Brook started earlier this year with the support of the office of Congregational Development of the GNJAC and already has more than 30 people in attendance during their Sunday afternoon Worship Service. In addition, the ministry is providing meaningful outreach programs to the Hispanic communities that include: ESL and US Citizenship Classes, Children Ballet classes, music classes, and Bible studies among others. Later in December, the Hispanic ministry will start a new project on Saturday nights called "Noches de Alabanza" (Praise Nights), where the gospel will be shared through music. For more information on this new exciting ministry contact Pastor Lopez at 732.900.7684 or via email at lopezonay@gmail.com. Also, visit their page on Facebook: Iglesia Metodista Unida Hispana Bound Brook.



Members of the Bound Brook Church share a meal and celebrate Hispanic Heritage.

Participants in the celebration were treated to an authentic Peruvian dance.

Raising Home, Raising Spirits in Point Pleasant



HIGHER GROUND. In literal fulfillment of an old gospel song, retired Pastor Jim Hofacker "presses on the upward way," 9 feet above ground level, in his newly rebuilt, post-Sandy home in Point Pleasant Beach, thanks to the generosity of Central Church.

LOVE GIFT. Rev. Jim Hofacker receives \$2,500 love gift from Lay Leader Carole Trimmer, Northern Shore District Superintendent Fran Noll and Central Church Pastor, the Rev. Don Stevens at the Point Pleasant Beach church's annual conference.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — "I never understood just how difficult it would be to watch almost everything I own go to the curb to be thrown away," said the Rev. Jim Hofacker, a retired GNJ pastor, "but that's exactly what I had to do."

Mr. Hofacker's ranch style home two blocks from the ocean in Point Pleasant Beach was a total loss after Superstorm Sandy a year ago. But that's the past.

Last month Mr. Hofacker, whose pastoral appointments included First Church Asbury Park, Pennington and Manahawkin, moved back into his own rebuilt home. Now eight feet above the ground, the house offers views of the ocean to the east and the Lake of the Lillies to the south.

But with a new home comes unexpected expenses that are challenging the retired pastor. That's where Central United Methodist Church stepped in.

At Central's annual church conference on September 18, lay leader Carole Trimmer, Pastor Donald Stevens and the Rev. Fran Noll, Northern Shore District Superintendent, presented Mr. Hofacker with a check for \$2,500 to help him pay for rebuilding expenses. This is half of a \$5000 pledge to help pay off his new mortgage.

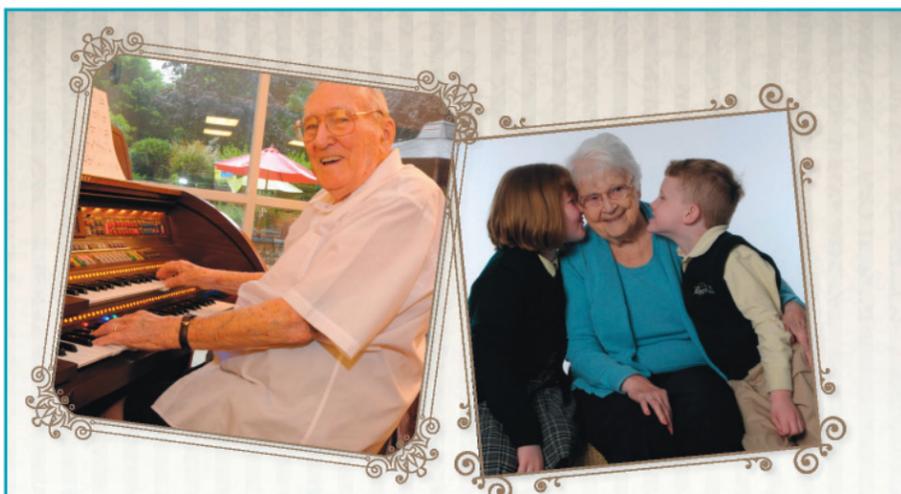
"As a church, we are blessed in order that we might be a blessing to others," explained Pastor Stevens. "This is one more demonstration of the love and generosity of the Central UMC that has been evident to the community" since Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore last October.

"People think that if a church isn't big that it can't give generously," Rev. Hofacker declared, recognizing the extreme generosity of Central Church. "This church proves that idea wrong. I grew up in this area and am so very pleased to be a part of this church community."

Pastor Stevens also expressed his joy at having Rev. Hofacker involved in Central Church.

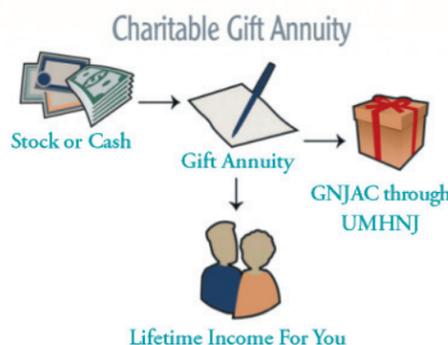
Over and above its regular ministries, Central's contribution to Sandy relief has included distribution of 400 flood cleanup buckets, five bus loads of donated relief supplies, and \$3,000 in gift cards for the purchase of building supplies from Lowes and Home Depot.

And Central's benevolent concern extends beyond the Jersey shore. The congregation has also supported a Methodist church in Moore, Okla., in their relief efforts following disastrous spring tornadoes.



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Church Vitality: Turning Mission Into Members

By Heather Hahn*

Ten years ago, the ministry of Oak Forest United Methodist Church appeared to be flat-lining. Its neighborhood was declining, and so was its membership. A core of mostly elderly worshippers was all that kept the lights on.

But now, by improving the physical and spiritual health of its struggling neighbors, the urban congregation is pulsing with new life.

Here is a short list of the outreach ministries Oak Forest United Methodist Church operates:

- The twice-weekly Shepherd's Hope medical clinic
- A weekly dental clinic that does teeth extraction
- Multiple times monthly, Bart's Place vision clinic (named in honor of the healed blind Bartimaeus)
- The weekly Matthew 25 Food Pantry
- Barnabas House, a counseling center that each week offers spiritual guidance and helps people navigate local social services

Linda J. Pringle, the volunteer coordinator of the food pantry, said that since adding these ministries, the congregation has transformed from "a pew-warmer church" to one where disciples try to live out Jesus' words in Matthew 25.

"You are to help the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lame, and I feel that's what we're doing," the 73-year-old said. "And I pray we can continue."

As the church reaches outside its walls during the week, a new vitality is taking hold inside its sanctuary each Sunday. Where once mainly grandparents worshipped, young adults now also join in prayer and little ones giggle through children's sermons. A few visitors have dropped by on Sunday after being helped by one of the ministries, but the people who keep coming back tend to be those eager to volunteer to help others. Church members are quick to point out that Oak Forest's outreach ministries would not be possible without the generosity of parishioners, partnerships with other churches and businesses, and the support of the wider United Methodist connection. That support includes grants from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Still, the experience of Oak Forest

United Methodist Church can be a model for other shrinking congregations in changing neighborhoods, said the Rev. Russ Breshears, the church's pastor. "What we've done is not miraculous," he said. "God has helped us. But we've done some very specific things and made some very useful partnerships. And it's worked for us. And we believe and have the faith that God can bless many other congregations that are in declining neighborhoods (and help them) transition to have a vibrant ministry."

Small church, big impact

The church is small, with a



The Rev. Russ Breshears, pastor of Oak Forest United Methodist Church, says the urban congregation can be a model for United Methodist churches in struggling neighborhoods.



A patient is treated at the Shepherd's Hope medical clinic.

regular worship attendance of about 70 — but attendance figures tell only part of the story. In the past year, the Shepherd's Hope medical clinic served 1,700 people. The vision clinic provided people with 400 new pairs of eyeglasses and arranged four cataract surgeries. The dental clinic removed painful teeth from about 500 people. The Shepherd's Hope gynecology clinic detected cancer in its early stages and arranged free treatment for two women at local hospitals. The clinics usually request patients pay \$5 per visit, but no one is turned away because of inability to pay. Physicians, dentists, eye doctors, nurses, pharma-

cists and technicians from a variety of religious backgrounds volunteer at the clinics. But they agree they would not be there without the support and, in many cases, the recruitment of Oak Forest members and the church's energetic pastor.

The church's food pantry, which feeds about 25 families each week, is entirely operated by church volunteers.

More than 90 percent of Oak Forest's parishioners volunteer each week in some way to support the church's ministries, and many of the church's longtime older members are leading the charge. They include Harry and Sue Dinsmore, both in their 80s, who volunteer every week at the church's food pantry. "I started out during the early Depression, and I know what it's like not to have a lot of things that we take for granted today," Harry Dinsmore said. "A little bit of help now and then makes a big difference."

Breshears said he believes people never truly retire from serving God. "It's not a biblical concept," he said. "We recycle people. So, when you are too old to run the youth group ... come and work in the food pantry. And when you're too old to do anything but pray, pray for us. Encourage us. Encourage other people."

A familiar story

The story of the 70-year-old congregation is much like that of many congregations across the United States.

In the first two decades after World War II, the church grew rapidly as veterans and their young families moved into the new subdivision and filled its pews each Sunday. But as the city grew, many middle-class families moved to newer and larger houses further west from downtown, and many churches moved west too. The Oak Forest congregation stayed put even as more financially strapped people moved in. Many houses became rental properties, and some were abandoned altogether. The flashing lights of police cars became a familiar sight, and the number of children dwindled.

One public elementary school remains in the neighborhood. But within the past nine years, both the Little Rock School District and the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock have closed elementary schools a few miles from the

church. That might have been the beginning of the end, but parishioners credit two changes with giving the church a new sense of purpose.

First, in 2005, members of Fellowship Bible Church — a nondenominational megachurch in prosperous west Little Rock — approached Oak Forest about opening a health clinic in an old house that the smaller church owned and was using for storage. Shortly after, Breshears was appointed to the church. His first day coincided with clearing out the old house. Church members helped with renovations and built a wheelchair ramp to make it accessible. Lola Fish, an Oak Forest member and nurse, was among the first volunteers at Shepherd's Hope and served on its board. "This is really what John Wesley said," she said. "You need to go out among the people. You need to help whoever is out there."

Fellowship Bible and Oak Forest members still jointly govern Shepherd's Hope. The clinic has outgrown the house and now also uses space in a Baptist church down the street.

Expanding ministry

Breshears soon recognized the church could serve additional needs in the neighborhood. Church members credit their pastor with inspiring them to do more, starting with adding a food pantry. When the owner of the house next to the clinic died, Breshears urged the congregation to buy the property and turn it into a dental clinic. Then came the vision clinic, which uses the church's basement. Gloria Minor, a member of Oak Forest for 56 years, said she initially had her doubts the church could afford the \$42,000 purchase for the dental clinic. But the church paid off the house within a year.

She said she now has faith the church can pay off its most recent purchase, a \$38,000 house across the street that holds the church's newest ministry — the Barnabas House counseling center. "We want to pay it off by the end of this year," she said. "That's our hope. We don't know if we'll make it. ... We may not, but it's OK if we don't. That's our only debt." In any case, Minor is grateful the church now engages in so much mission work. "I think it's lifted our spirits," said the 85-year-old, who handles the vision clinic's paperwork.

Lesson of Oak Forest

"When you get on the side of what God wants to do in the community and in the world, there somehow always seems to be enough. That is the message of Oak Forest," said the Rev. Dede Roberts, the congregation's district superintendent. She said she has no doubt Oak Forest fits the definition of a vital congregation, and noted that the church is slowly growing.

One of the church's new members is 27-year-old Jonathan Cupples. He visited the church on Easter after moving into the neighborhood. After a couple of visits, Breshears noticed the medical decal on Cupples' truck and persuaded the emergency medical technician his skills were needed. Cupples said helping at the medical clinic has strengthened his Christian faith. "People come in, and the only thing they have sometimes is their faith, and some have even lost their faith," he said. "And to see them (and) see God through some of the work that we do here is amazing." Just about every month, Cupples said, he sees someone new at Sunday worship — sometimes a family, sometimes a young adult. "God's not finished with us as long as we've got a breath," Breshears said. "And so we try to believe like Wesley: The best is yet to come. ... And this is what we want for our denomination."

*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. News media contact: Heather Hahn, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

2013 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER FLASH GROCERY STORE

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and The Neighborhood Center needs YOUR help to make the holiday special for our neighbors. We are asking all of our community partners to collect the following items to share with families in our neighborhood through our Flash Grocery Store.

Whenever possible, we prefer that fresh produce be donated — however, we are also happy to receive canned goods.

Items needed for the Flash Grocery Store:

Beans, dry or canned	Bread	Broccoli	Brownie mix
Butter	Cake mix	Carrots	Cereals
Chicken, canned	Coffee	Collard greens	Cookies
Crackers	Flour	Garlic	Gravy
Green beans	Jelly	Juice	Mashed potato mix
Peanut butter	Potatoes	Oatmeal	Onions
Pasta	Peas	Pie crusts	Pie fillings
Pumpkin	Rice	Rolls	Salsa
Soups	Spices	Spinach	Stuffing mix
Sugar	Sweet potatoes	Tea	Tomato sauce
Tortilla chips	Tuna	Turkeys, whole	Turkey breasts

We are also collecting:

Aluminum pans — basting pans, casserole dishes, pie tins, etc.
Baby supplies — baby food, diapers, formula, etc.
Health & hygiene items — toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.
Reusable grocery bags & paper bags



Donations can be dropped off at The Neighborhood Center on Sunday, November 24 between 12:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. or on Monday, November 25 between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS THANKSGIVING A MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE HOLIDAY FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Online Communion Sparks Questions for Digital Age



By Larry Hollon

Online communion stirs passions, so much so that a conversation by United Methodists on the subject under the hashtag #onlinecommunion became a trending topic on Twitter this week.

The conversation, including theologians, local church clergy, laity, bishops and staff of general agencies of The United Methodist Church, explored whether the sacrament of the Lord's Supper could be administered on the Internet. It was sparked by a proposal by Central United Methodist Church in Concord, N.C., to create an online congregation that could potentially share the Eucharist.

To its credit, the Central UMC circulated the proposal throughout the church for comment and discussion. And the proposal is generating thoughtful, critical thinking about the nature of the sacrament, the gathered community, the difference between virtual and physical space, the meaning of incarnational theology and the holy mystery, among a host of other important considerations, such as:

- What is essential for community, online or face-to-face, to be authentic?
- Can we worship online?
- Does even speaking of these questions damage ecumenical relationships, and would serious consideration of online communion precipitate a global crisis in these relationships between United Methodists and other faith partners?
- If the church is not present in the media, which are influential in people's lives and shaping culture today, is it relevant to them?
- Is the subject of online communion a first world affectation, a sign of our media-rich affluence?
- Is it crazy to discuss conducting this most historic act of faithfulness through a mediated form that is foreign to our historic understanding?
- Can a local church institute a practice that affects the entire denomination?

Holy Scripture, early church teachings, John Wesley, Martin Luther, papal encyclicals and Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam were invoked.

At the behest of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, papers were requested from a wide range of scholars, clergy and other professionals involved in disciplines related to the topic. These were circulated prior to the meeting. They will be made available online for public reading by mid-November on umc.org, the denomination's website.

Exploring online ministry

After pointed but constructive conversation, the group agreed to request the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church take up the subject

and provide guidance for excellent practices for online ministry. They also called on the bishops to declare a moratorium on all online sacramental practices and to give the matter of online communion attention in its Faith and Order Committee, in conversation across the church and with ecumenical partners.

The participants recognized that "historically, the church has understood a service of Holy Communion to be a celebration within a physically gathered community. The emergence of interactive digital media raises new questions about the meaning of gathered community and requires further thinking about our beliefs and practices."

They also affirmed the church's exploration and use of interactive digital media in the fulfillment of its mission.

Following Christ in a digital culture

I would characterize the conversation as neither Luddite nor innovation-at-any cost, but rather, as a constructive conversation that began to grapple with what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus in the 21st century, a time in which we are immersed in interactive digital media that are reshaping our understanding of ourselves, our culture, our relationship with one another and our understanding of the sacred. Such conversation is essential today if we are to carry out relevant ministry and effectively engage with people who are immersed in the digital culture.

Equally important was the willingness of the leaders of the conversation to conduct it in an open forum on Twitter. This expression of openness should be a witness to future meetings that transparency today is not a weakness but a strength and a means to engage with those concerned. It was a first step toward an important dialogue about how a mainline communion adapts, evolves and engages people in a new cultural context, not unlike the challenge that faced Paul as he sought to carry the new faith into places far from its birthplace and Wesley as he sought to reach people in the teeming changes of the Industrial Revolution in England.

If you're interested in weighing in, or following the ongoing conversation go to #onlinecommunion on Twitter and read more on umc.org and Storify.

Disclaimer: I was a participant in the conversation and participated in writing one of the papers used in the discussion. I am general secretary of United Methodist Communications, which was a sponsor of the meeting in partnership with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Board of Discipleship and Office on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Rev. Larry Hollon is a lifelong storyteller with experience in radio, TV, print and video. He is the general secretary of United Methodist Communications, and also serves as publisher of United Methodist News Service.

Special Session to Remember and Move Forward

Continued from page 5

adding two new Connectional Ministry Staff, GNJ will have individual staff focused on each of the five areas of vital congregations:

- Making new disciples and increasing the number of professions of faith
- Growing worship attendance
- Increasing the number of small groups and disciples participating in small groups
- Engaging more disciples in justice and mercy mission
- Increasing giving stewardship of disciples

All five of the Connectional Ministries staff will be responsible for resourcing youth and young adults in the specific area he/she is assigned, with one of the positions focusing on the overall ministry of youth and young adults.

These staff persons will help GNJ grow vital congregations from 14% to 41%.

John Bishop, President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, expressed his appreciation for what this newly adopted budget means for GNJ, "Establishing the budget to line up with the needs for implementation of the Strategic Ministry Plan was a vital step towards making the achievement of our goals possible."

Statement of Relationship with A Future with Hope, Inc.

A Statement of Relationship with A Future with Hope, Inc. was adopted. A Future with Hope, Inc. was established as a separate nonprofit organization after Superstorm Sandy left mass devastation throughout New Jersey in the fall of 2012. This relationship statement explains that although A Future with Hope, Inc. was initiated by the Greater New Jersey Conference and extends the missional goals and purposes of the Annual Conference, they are both independent entities of one another, making independent governing decisions. It goes on to state that while A Future with Hope, Inc. offers members of GNJAC local churches to serve in mission, including on its Board of Trustees, those persons do not represent GNJAC. A Future with Hope, Inc.'s Board of Trust-

ees operates autonomously from GNJAC. The Bishop and the Treasurer of GNJAC will serve on the Board of Trustees with voice and vote.

The statement also goes on to say that the President of A Future with Hope, Inc. will provide a report to the Annual Conference Session each year and all trustees will be elected as part of the work of GNJAC's Nominations Committee.

The Greater New Jersey Conference encourages local churches and individuals to contribute to and support A Future with Hope, Inc.; however, GNJAC does not assume any responsibility for the obligations of A Future with Hope, Inc.

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign Update

The 2013 Annual Conference Session in May approved the Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign, which will raise:

- \$7 million for Sandy Recovery efforts through A Future with Hope, Inc.,
- \$2 million to eliminate deaths and suffering from malaria in Africa through the support of Imagine No Malaria, and
- \$3 million to connect local churches to their communities through mission.

In the 5 short months since this campaign was approved, the Mission Fund has received overwhelming support:

- 82% of our clergy have made a commitment
- Two-thirds of our congregations are in the process of planning or implementing campaigns of support, and
- Gifts and commitment to the campaign to date total: \$2,622,156 — which is nearly 22% of our total goal. This is \$1 million ahead of our benchmark for the end of October.

"The initial response and support of our clergy and congregations are an affirmation of our connection as United Methodists," says Carolyn Conover, Director of Communications and Development who is coordinating the efforts of the Mission Fund for the Conference.

For more information and resources about the Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign, visit www.gnjumc.org/missionfund.

Christmas Program Simulcast at Roselle

Community Church of Roselle Park and its women's circle are excited to be hosting a simulcast from the Preston Baptist Church in Houston Texas on December 6 from 8-10:30pm in their sanctuary. "Women of Faith Christmas" is a gathering together in one hopeful and joyful celebration. Women of Faith speaker Sheila Walsh and author Lisa Harper, join 16 year old Francis Chan for a presentation of the gift and hope of Christmas. Also featured is the pastor of Preston Baptist Church, Jack Graham to present a magical evening of laughter, tears, and heartfelt moments. Walsh and Harper are renowned speakers and authors who bring theology to the modern life. Chan is a 16 year old Christian singer and Frances Bastesilli will bring some of her own written music as well as "Anthem Lights," an innovative high energy pop foursome with soaring vocals and hearts bent on ministry. The Roselle congregation invites all to come and share in this exciting advent program. There will be a free will offering. Seating may be limited so please send an email to the CUMC @cumcrosellepark@gmail.com.

PURSUING AN EDUCATION IN MINISTRY?

SCHOLARSHIPS*

LOANS



THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Application deadline March 31

CONTACT: Jo D. Malessa (856) 786-0293

ma_malessa@comcast.net

*Financial assistance for those agreeing to serve at least five years as a member of our conference.

2013 Shared Ministries and Billings Update

The United Methodist Relay is pleased to keep our readers informed regarding the reports of Shared Ministry giving and Conference Billing Payments for 2013. The chart includes the reported data as of 8/31/13. The goal at the eighth month mark is to have paid 67% of Shared Ministries and

Conference Billings. The first column of the report below refers to the 2013 Shared Ministry participation percentage for each local church. The second column represents the percentage paid by the local church toward 2013 billings. Billings are a combination of expenses including the Clergy Retirement

Security Program (CRSP) that provides clergy with a pension for their years in ministry with the United Methodist Church; the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) which provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits to eligible clergy of the United Methodist Church and their families;

the Local Church Property and Liability insurance; the Annual Conference Health Insurance plan and the Annual Conference Worker's Compensation Insurance. This report once again shows the progress our churches are making toward a full response to the shared ministries asking.

CHURCH NAME	2013 YTD SHARED MIN % PD as of 8/31/13	2013 YTD BILLINGS % PD as of 8/31/13	CHURCH NAME	2013 YTD SHARED MIN % PD as of 8/31/13	2013 YTD BILLINGS % PD as of 8/31/13	CHURCH NAME	2013 YTD SHARED MIN % PD as of 8/31/13	2013 YTD BILLINGS % PD as of 8/31/13	CHURCH NAME	2013 YTD SHARED MIN % PD as of 8/31/13	2013 YTD BILLINGS % PD as of 8/31/13
GATEWAY SOUTH			HALEDON: CEDAR CLIFF	16.74%	25.11%	OAKHURST: FIRST	67.16%	66.67%	WARREN TWP: SPRINGDALE	0.00%	66.67%
AUDUBON	58.33%	58.62%	HASBROUCK HEIGHTS:FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	OCEAN GROVE: ST PAUL'S	50.00%	50.00%	WARREN TWP: UNION VILLAGE	0.00%	59.55%
BARRINGTON: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	HAYERSTRAW: LA RESURRECCION	0.00%	0.00%	OCEANPORT	59.25%	66.67%	WASHINGTON	50.00%	66.67%
BERLIN: CENTENARY	29.93%	61.21%	HAWTHORNE	50.00%	64.01%	PT PLEASANT: CENTRAL	0.00%	66.67%	WASHINGTON: PORT COLDEN	58.33%	66.67%
BLACKWOOD	66.67%	66.67%	HILLSDALE UMC	50.00%	66.67%	PT PLEASANT: HARVEY MEMORIAL	20.01%	66.67%	WEST PORTAL	71.20%	66.67%
BROOKLAWN	66.67%	66.67%	LEONIA	50.00%	66.67%	RED BANK	69.87%	66.67%	WESTFIELD: FIRST	13.38%	66.67%
CAMDEN: ASBURY	33.33%	0.00%	LEONIA: BETHEL UMC OF N.J.	46.41%	60.98%	SEA BRIGHT: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	WHITEHOUSE	33.33%	53.36%
CAMDEN: BETHEL	90.90%	66.67%	MIDLAND PARK	0.00%	66.67%	SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: WALL	66.67%	60.10%	CAPE ATLANTIC		
CAMDEN: FAIRVIEW VILLAGE	0.00%	66.67%	NEW CITY	0.00%	66.67%	SPRING LAKE: ST ANDREW'S	33.33%	66.67%	ABSECON	50.00%	50.74%
CAMDEN: FERRY AVENUE	0.00%	66.67%	OMEGA KOREAN MISSION UMC	0.00%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: CEDAR GROVE	33.33%	66.67%	ATLANTIC CITY: HAMILTON MEMORIAL	35.26%	0.00%
CAMDEN: NEW BEGINNINGS	0.00%	0.00%	PAMONA:LADENTOWN	9.23%	32.86%	TOMS RIVER: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	ATLANTIC CITY: VENICE PARK	58.33%	66.67%
CHERRY HILL: FIRST KOREAN	66.67%	63.90%	PARAMUS: ARCOLA KOREAN	58.33%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST ANDREW'S	66.67%	66.67%	AVALON: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%
CHERRY HILL: ST ANDREW'S	66.67%	66.67%	PARAMUS:ARCOLA	41.67%	66.67%	UNION BEACH: GRACE	58.33%	66.67%	BELLEPLAIN	59.25%	66.67%
CLARKSBORO: EVANGELICAL	66.67%	66.67%	PARK RIDGE	50.00%	50.37%	WARETOWN	25.00%	66.67%	BLUE ANCHOR: GRACE UNION	0.00%	59.38%
CLARKSBORO: ZION	41.67%	66.67%	PASSAIC:FIRST	17.02%	66.67%	WARREN GROVE	100.00%	66.67%	CAPE MAY	50.00%	66.67%
COLLINGSWOOD: EMBURY	66.67%	66.67%	PATERSON TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	WAYSIDE	20.65%	58.71%	CAPE MAY CT HOUSE: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%
COLLINGSWOOD: FIRST	66.61%	66.67%	PEARL RIVER	50.00%	66.67%	WEST BELMAR	66.67%	66.67%	DELMONT	66.66%	66.67%
DELAIR: ST MATTHEW'S	22.17%	66.67%	RIDGEFIELD PARK: FIRST	100.00%	66.67%	WEST CREEK	66.67%	66.67%	DENNISVILLE	66.67%	66.67%
DEPTFORD: ALMONESSON	83.33%	66.67%	RIDGEWOOD	33.33%	37.15%	WEST FARMS	66.67%	66.67%	DIAS CREEK	58.33%	58.93%
DEPTFORD: MT ZION-WESLEY	58.33%	66.67%	RUTHERFORD	33.33%	0.00%	WEST LONG BRANCH: OLD FIRST	13.18%	52.52%	DORCHESTER	58.33%	66.67%
DEPTFORD:NEW SHARON	66.67%	66.67%	SPRING VALLEY	21.24%	9.42%	WHITING	66.67%	66.67%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ASBURY	66.67%	66.67%
GIBBSBORO	37.50%	66.67%	STONY POINT: FIRST	58.33%	66.67%	CAPITAL DISTRICT			EGG HARBOR TWP: ZION	66.67%	66.67%
GIBBSTOWN: CLONMELL	24.55%	66.67%	STONY POINT: TRINITY	0.00%	56.03%	ALLEN TOWN	48.00%	65.66%	ELDORA	67.08%	66.67%
GLENDORA: CHEWS	75.91%	66.67%	SUFFERN	66.67%	66.67%	ATCO	58.33%	66.67%	ELM	16.66%	33.73%
GLOUCESTER: HIGHLAND PARK	50.00%	50.43%	SUFFERN:VIOLA	5.83%	25.21%	BEVERLY	39.52%	66.67%	ELWOOD: ELWOOD GASKILL	66.66%	66.67%
GLOUCESTER: TRINITY	66.67%	66.67%	TEANECK	16.67%	41.32%	BORDENTOWN: TRINITY	0.00%	50.26%	GOSHEN	0.00%	66.67%
HADDON HEIGHTS: FIRST	9.14%	66.67%	TENAFLY	33.33%	41.24%	BROWNS MILLS	58.33%	66.67%	GREEN CREEK: BETHEL	66.67%	66.67%
HADDONFIELD	58.33%	66.67%	THIELLS	4.09%	2.77%	BUDDTOWN	66.66%	66.67%	HALEYVILLE	58.89%	66.67%
HADDONFIELD:RHOADS TEMPLE	66.67%	65.04%	TOTOWA	23.58%	58.57%	BURLINGTON: BROAD ST	67.52%	66.67%	HAMMONTON: FIRST	35.41%	66.67%
LAWNSIDE: MT ZION	66.67%	66.67%	UPR. SADDLE RVR: BERGEN HIGHLANDS	7.22%	0.00%	CHATSWORTH	66.66%	66.67%	PINELANDS UMC	66.67%	66.67%
LINDENWOLD: LUCASTON	66.66%	66.67%	W. PATERSON: APPENZELER NAIRI	0.00%	0.00%	CINNAMINUS: ASBURY	66.67%	66.67%	HEISLERVILLE: HEISLER MEMORIAL	66.69%	66.67%
MAGNOLIA	66.67%	66.67%	WALDWICK	21.58%	0.00%	COLUMBUS: WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%	LEESBURG	66.67%	66.67%
MANTUA	66.72%	66.67%	WANAUQUE: MIDVALE	0.00%	58.57%	COOKSTOWN	41.66%	66.67%	LINWOOD: CENTRAL	58.33%	66.67%
MANTUA: BARNSBORO	66.67%	66.67%	WAYNE	8.38%	0.00%	CRANBURY	66.67%	66.67%	MARGATE: TRINITY	58.33%	66.67%
MANTUA: MOUNT ZION	76.13%	66.67%	WAYNE: BETHANY	66.67%	66.67%	CROSSWICKS	66.67%	47.21%	MARMORA: TRINITY	66.67%	66.67%
MERCHANTVILLE: TRINITY	58.33%	66.67%	WESTWOOD	17.00%	66.67%	DELANCO: DOBBINS MEMORIAL	8.33%	34.24%	MAURICETOWN	100.00%	66.67%
MONROE TWP: NEW BROOKLYN	58.33%	59.01%	WESTWOOD: GRACE KOREAN	25.00%	66.65%	DELRAN: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	MAYS LANDING: FIRST	25.00%	66.67%
MT EPHRAIM: FIRST	0.00%	66.67%	WYCKOFF: GRACE	58.33%	66.67%	ELLSDALE	66.67%	66.67%	MILLVILLE: BUCKSHUTEM	100.00%	66.67%
NATIONAL PARK: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	GATEWAY NORTH			EMLEY'S HILL	27.07%	0.00%	MILLVILLE: CUMBERLAND	66.67%	66.67%
OAKLYN: EMMANUEL	62.70%	66.67%	BAYONNE: BERGEN POINT	63.55%	#N/A	EWING TWP: TRINITY	66.67%	66.67%	NORTH GRETA: ST PAUL'S	66.67%	66.67%
PAULSBORO: BILLINGSPORT	80.00%	66.67%	BAYONNE: WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%	FIELDSBORO	11.75%	25.93%	NORTHFIELD: GOOD SHEPHERD	42.92%	66.67%
PAULSBORO: ST PAUL'S	50.00%	66.67%	BELLEVILLE: WESLEY	0.00%	17.27%	FLORENCE	66.67%	66.67%	OCEAN CITY: MACEDONIA	58.33%	66.67%
PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	66.67%	BLOOMFIELD: PARK	66.67%	62.98%	FREEHOLD: SILOAM	66.67%	66.67%	OCEAN CITY: ST PETER'S	66.67%	66.67%
PENNSAUKEN: EAST PENNSAUKEN	66.67%	66.67%	CALDWELL	58.33%	62.31%	HAMILTON SQ: ST MARK	42.93%	66.67%	OSANVILLE	66.67%	66.67%
PINE HILL: MEMORIAL	66.67%	66.67%	CHATHAM	50.52%	66.67%	HAMILTON TWP: CHAMBERS	25.00%	27.51%	PETERSBURG: WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%
SICKLERVILLE	41.74%	66.67%	E. ORANGE: CALVARY-ROSEVILLE	0.00%	42.09%	HAMILTON TWP: GROVEVILLE	33.33%	33.84%	PLEASANTVILLE: KOREAN OF SO. JERSEY	66.67%	34.54%
STRATFORD	0.00%	58.62%	E. ORANGE: PARK AVE -ST JOHN'S	66.67%	66.67%	HAMILTON TWP: NEW COVENANT	2.71%	44.94%	PLEASANTVILLE: MT PLEASANT	58.33%	46.30%
SWEDSBORO: REPAUPO	66.67%	66.67%	FAIRFIELD	100.00%	66.67%	HAMILTON TWP: PEARSON MEMORIAL	66.67%	66.66%	PLEASANTVILLE: OASIS	8.84%	66.67%
TURNERSVILLE: ST JOHN'S	35.98%	66.67%	GREEN VILLAGE	18.01%	66.67%	HEDDING	59.79%	66.67%	PLEASANTVILLE: SALEM	41.67%	66.67%
VERGA WELFARE	80.00%	66.67%	HARRISON:DAVIS MEMORIAL	41.70%	0.00%	HIGHTSTOWN: FIRST	50.58%	66.67%	PLEASANTVILLE:BETHANY-ST JOHN'S	16.86%	58.44%
VOORHEES: GLENDALE	66.66%	66.67%	HOBOKEN: COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	HOPEWELL	58.33%	66.67%	PORT ELIZABETH	58.33%	66.67%
VOORHEES: HOPE	56.67%	66.67%	IRVINGTON	66.67%	62.73%	INDIAN MILLS	66.67%	66.67%	PORT NORRIS: FIRST	100.00%	66.67%
WENONAH	66.67%	66.67%	IRVINGTON: HAITIAN	50.77%	0.00%	JACKSON: DEBOWS	58.33%	66.67%	PORT NORRIS: JOHN WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%
WEST BERLIN: ST JOHN'S	66.67%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: BETHANY-BROWNE MEM.	25.00%	0.00%	JULIUSTOWN	50.00%	66.67%	PORT REPUBLIC: ST PAUL'S	58.33%	66.67%
WEST BERLIN: WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: CHRIST	33.33%	0.00%	KINGSBORO	51.54%	53.39%	SEA ISLE CITY	66.67%	66.67%
WEST DEPTFORD: ST PAUL'S	58.30%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: CHURCH OF COVENANT	58.33%	66.67%	LAMBERTVILLE: CENTENARY	21.39%	58.71%	SEAVILLE	62.20%	66.67%
WESTMONT	66.67%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN	58.33%	58.69%	LUMBERTON	66.67%	42.05%	SMITHVILLE: EMMAUS	66.67%	66.67%
WESTVILLE	32.79%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: LAFAYETTE	33.33%	0.00%	MAGNOLIA ROAD	100.00%	66.67%	SOMERS POINT	0.28%	1.67%
WILLIAMSTOWN	66.67%	66.67%	JERSEY CITY: TRINITY	25.00%	26.94%	MARLTON	0.00%	66.67%	SOUTH DENNIS: TRINITY	58.33%	66.67%
WILLIAMSTOWN: CROSS KEYS	100.00%	66.67%	KEARNY: CALVARY	66.67%	66.67%	MASONVILLE	4.34%	66.67%	SOUTH SEAVILLE	66.67%	66.67%
WOODBURY: COLONIAL MANOR	65.91%	66.67%	KEARNY: FIRST	0.00%	66.67%	MEDFORD	50.00%	66.67%	STRATHMERE	58.34%	66.67%
WOODBURY: KEMBLE MEMORIAL	50.00%	66.67%	KEARNY: GRACE	49.24%	51.27%	MOORESTOWN: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	SWAINTON: ASBURY	66.67%	66.67%
WOODLYNNE: ASBURY	58.33%	66.67%	KEARNY: NEW CAANAN	66.67%	66.67%	MT HOLLY: FIRST	12.42%	64.80%	SWAINTON: JOHN WESLEY	66.66%	66.67%
SKYLANDS			KENILWORTH	13.72%	0.00%	MT HOLLY: ST. PAUL UMC	66.67%	66.67%	TABERNACLE UMC	33.33%	66.67%
ANDOVER	66.14%	53.53%	LINDEN	0.00%	3.81%	NEW EGYPT	66.67%	66.67%	TUCKAHOE	66.67%	66.67%
AUGUSTA: FRANKFORD PLAINS	58.33%	66.67%	LINDEN: EL REDENTOR	0.00%	0.00%	PALMYRA: EPWORTH	66.67%	12.30%	TUCKERTON	66.67%	66.67%
BARRYVILLE	100.00%	66.67%	LITTLE FALLS	50.00%	58.23%	PEMBERTON	3.21%	15.82%	VENTNOR: TRINITY	33.34%	66.67%
BELVIDERE	0.90%	66.67%	LIVINGSTON	0.00%	66.67%	PRINCETON: FIRST	50.00%	66.67%	WEYMOUTH	58.33%	66.67%
BLAIRSTOWN: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%	LIVINGSTON: KOREAN	0.00%	0.00%	RINGOES: LINVALE	66.67%	66.67%	WILDWOOD CREST: FIRST	49.35%	66.67%
BLAIRSTOWN:WALNUT VALLEY	22.69%	41.94%	LYNDHURST	66.67%	66.67%	RINGOES: LINVALE	66.67%	66.67%	WILDWOOD: NORTH WILDWOOD	66.67%	66.67%
BOONTON	6.71%	66.67%	LYNDHURST:GLORY KOREAN	15.93%	0.00%	ROEBLING: TRINITY	66.67%	66.67%	WINSLOW	66.67%	66.67%
BOONTON TWP: ROCKAWAY VALLEY	50.00%	66.67%	MADISON	33.33%	50.47%	SMITHVILLE	66.83%	66.67%	DELAWARE BAY		
BRANCHVILLE	66.67%	66.67%	MAPLEWOOD: MORROW MEMORIAL	66.66%	66.67%	TABERNACLE	25.00%	66.67%	ALDINE	58.33%	66.67%
BUTLER	16.67%	59.61%	MONTCLAIR: FIRST UMC	8.33%	41.83%	TANSBORO: TRINITY	58.33%	66.67%	ALLOWAY	0.00%	66.67%
BUTTZVILLE	8.33%	66.67%	MONTCLAIR: ST. MARK'S UMC	10.35%	38.74%	TITUSVILLE	35.41%	66.67%	AUBURN: EBENEZER	66.67%	66.67%
DENVILLE COMMUNITY	50.00%	66.67%	NEWARK: FRANKLIN-ST. JOHN'S	29.01%	30.90%	TRENTON: AFRICAN	50.00%	43.40%	BRIDGEPORT: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	66.67%
DINGMANS FERRY	20.81%	66.67%	NEWARK: ST PAUL'S CENTENARY	66.67%	66.67%	TRENTON: CADWALADER-ASBURY	33.23%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: CENTRAL	66.67%	66.67%
DOVER: FIRST	29.78%	43.60%	NEWARK: ST MATTHEW'S	31.40%	16.52%	TRENTON: WESLEY	66.67%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: FIRST	66.67%	66.67%
DOVER: GRACE	66.67%	66.67%	NEWARK: TRINITY	34.06%	0.00%	VINCENTOWN	66.67%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: FORDVILLE ST JOHN	66.67%	66.67%
ELDERD	0.00%	66.67%	NORTH BERGEN	11.40%	66.67%	WILLINGBORO: GOOD SHEPHERD	50.00%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: FRIENDSHIP-FINLEY	66.66%	66.67%
FLANDERS	0.00%	66.67%	NUTLEY: VINCENT	8.33%	66.67%	WILLINGBORO: ST PAUL	58.33%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: JOHN WESLEY	53.41%	53.74%
HACKETTSTOWN: DRAKESTOWN	100.00%	66.67%	ORANGE	41.67%	66.39%	WINDSOR	58.71%	66.67%	BRIDGETON: TRINITY	66.67%	66.6

OBITUARIES

REV. DR. WILLIAM H. MOYER, retired Full Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference died on Sunday, October 13. A funeral service was celebrated on October 17 at First United Methodist Church of Moorestown, with interment following the service at the Lakeview Memorial Park, Cinnaminson, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Rev. Moyer's memory to: Centenary Fund & Preachers' Aid Society (CFPAS), c/o: Greater NJ Annual Conference, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712, Samaritan Hospice at 5 Eves Dr., Suite 300, Marlton, NJ 07053, or the church of your choice.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Ragnhild Moyer, 24 Lowell Dr., Marlton, NJ 08053.

RICHARD BELDEN HARPER, former conference Lay Leader died on Monday, October 21. A service of remembrance was held on Wednesday, October 30 at 10 am at St. Paul's United Methodist Church with interment following at the Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Mr. Harper's memory to: The Fellowship Fund, Francis Asbury Manor, 70 Stockton Ave., Ocean Grove, NJ 07756.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Mr. Earl Harper, 5804 Gibbs Hollow Cove, Austin, TX 78730.

BETTY JANE YOUNG, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on October 25 in Long Valley. Rev. Young served churches in Jersey City, New City, Nutley, and as Eastern District Superintendent of the former Northern New Jersey Conference.

A memorial service will be held at Vincent United Methodist Church, 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, NJ 07110 on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Marge Knapp, 190 Fairview Avenue, Long Valley, NJ 07853. In lieu of flowers, gifts of remembrance may be made to Vincent United Methodist Church, 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, NJ 07110 or Drakestown United Methodist Church, 6 Church Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

Log on to:

www.UMRelay.org for Current Relay Online,
Relay Archives & Relay Reflections.

Piano Accompanist/Substitute Organist Position Available

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Brick NJ is looking for a pianist/substitute organist to accompany the Adult choir. For rehearsals, the accompanist plays all choir parts in order to learn the songs. (The Director of Music leads the rehearsals.) Not all Sundays include piano accompaniments since we also use CDs.

Organ - This would be a substitute position for when the regular organist is away. It also includes one service on Christmas Eve, one service on Easter, weddings, and some funerals.

We have a large Music Ministry with many great people involved!

If interested, please contact:

St. Paul's Office – 732-458-2080

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