

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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No. 7

## Charlie Brown Is 10,000th Volunteer

By Jeff Wolfe  
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This Charlie Brown really is a good man.

His work was celebrated in mid-July as he was the 10,000th person to volunteer to help in Sandy recovery efforts with A Future With Hope since the storm hit in 2012.

Brown and his group Servants Inc., out of York, Pa., have been regular volunteers in Sandy recovery. Yet he knows the work is far from finished.

"People ask me 'why are you still working on Sandy recovery?'" Brown said. "There are many, many people still not in their homes or living in damaged homes. A lot of people where I'm from are shocked to hear that."

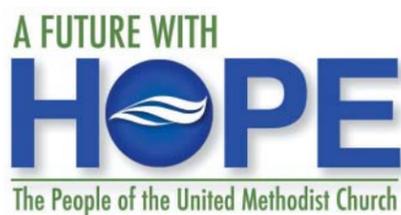
Brown knows there are an estimated 10,000 families in New Jersey who are still out of their homes due to the devastation from Superstorm Sandy, which took place more than 2 1/2 years ago.

That's why Brown likes being what might be called a professional volunteer. He is retired from his job with the United States Postal Service, but he's not retired from working hard. He said last week's trip is his 11th overall volunteer trip to help people rebuild after Sandy.

"One of the main reasons I do this is to help my neighbor," Brown said. "I grew up in a large family and it was ingrained in us to help our neighbors without being asked."

Brown, who was on his fourth trip for A Future With Hope and has scheduled another for September, has seen firsthand what it means to families who are helped by A Future With Hope volunteers.

"I think what we are doing is providing hope for homeowners," he said. "When they see a group of people pull up to their house, it gives them hope that they can get some sense of order back in their



### Recovery Results

Here is a look at A Future With Hope's Superstorm Sandy recovery results through mid-July:

**Homes complete:** 170  
**Homes under construction:** 53  
**Volunteers:** 10,000  
**Labor Hour Value:** \$5.8 million  
**Host Sites:** 15  
**Hosting Capacity:** 383

lives. When they see what we do, they are amazed and thankful."

A Future With Hope volunteers are able to do quality work because they are under the direction of a registered N.J. contractor and have helped rebuild more than 170 homes in more than 50 different communities throughout New Jersey. The more than 10,000 volunteers to date have come from 38 states who have given more than 230,000 hours of volunteer time valued at an estimated \$5.8 million.

But even with all that has been accomplished, there is at least that much more to do for those 10,000 families still in need.

The good news is that A Future With Hope has the resources to continue to help. A Future With Hope, a nonprofit organization founded by the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy to aid in recovery, is working on 53 homes this summer.

Working with county long term recov-



Photo by Paul Guba

Charlie Brown, left, was honored as A Future With Hope's 10,000th volunteer by United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey Bishop John Schol in mid-July.

ery groups, other faith based recovery groups, and local and state agencies, A Future With Hope staff and volunteers have been able to help more than 400 families in case management.

"We could not do this work without the volunteers who give up their time to help restore lives," Greater New Jersey Bishop John Schol said. "Our volunteers are not only skilled they truly care about

the work they are doing and the people in need."

Another key to A Future With Hope's success has been that many of the volunteers have high level construction skills. Groups such as Christian Public Service, International Relief Teams and World Renew Disaster Relief Service with their experienced home builders and con-

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## On A Mission For God



Kharissa Allman, who attends Asbury UMC in Camden, recently completed a two-year mission with the General Board of Global Ministries. Story, Page 5.

## Team Vital Big Success For Montville, Covenant

By Jeff Wolfe  
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"Team Vital has helped us realize that where we are at now is a foreign mission field," said Covenant UMC of Plainfield pastor Rev. Don Medley, whose church took part in Team Vital this summer. "We had always thought of the mission field as wanting to go overseas, but Team Vital helped us become adept at speaking the language of our own community. The foreign mission field is here."

Team Vital helped Heather Valosin, who also participated in the training, realize that many GNJ churches are facing similar challenges to her congregation at Montville UMC. One of those is to try and attract more young adults and youth to come to church on a regular basis.

"Team Vital gave us some answers on how we can do that," Valosin said. "Instead of just being random ideas, the fact that they came through Team Vital gave them more validity."

Valosin recently completed her first year of ministry at Montville and found the resources Team Vital offered very useful as well.

"I'm new to United Methodist ministry and it was helpful for me to learn what the conference staff did and how they could be resources and all of the things



MEDLEY



VALOSIN

that they provided online," Valosin said. "They had the recommended small group guides list and it was a really long list to choose from. We don't have to re-create the wheel."

As a part of Team Vital, congregations come along side one another as

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### What's Inside...

Laity Leadership Academy offers 4 tracks. **Page 3**

PaCE registration to begin Aug. 15. **Page 4**

Second Annual IGNITE offers variety. **Page 6**

Bishop Lyght to speak in Atlantic City. **Page 9**

# A Message from the Bishop

This is the second of three-part series called "Mind, Yet, Next."



## Summer Theology - Renew

The July and August articles will be about two words often associated with the summer, *recreation* and *renewal*.

*Renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. - Psalm 51:10-12*

Recently, Beverly and I hiked with friends through a state park and took long walks on the beach. Our friend shared that she read an article recently that

reported spending time hiking or being in nature re-centers a person.

I have also found that running, sitting on the beach and watching the ocean, riding a bike, reading a good book is all renewing for my mind, body and soul. When I supplement worship, prayer life and Bible reading with activities in nature or play, I find God renews my spirit, restores my joy and salvation.



A photo from one of my walks this summer

God has given us the gifts of friends, nature, beauty and time to enjoy them. For some of us they are untapped gifts. Recently I was sitting on a beach and a mother and father with three young children set up their chairs and umbrella next to us. The father had a fishing pole and started to fish a jetty. One of the children asked, *dad, can I go with you?* No came the reply, *stay here with your mother.* I thought to myself, what a lost opportunity to teach your son how to fish or to spend time together.

But the opportunity was not lost on me. Watching the children play was as enjoyable as watching the ocean's waves.

This summer I have found time each day to take a walk, ride a bike, play with a child, look at the flowers in the garden or sit on the porch and enjoy watching others on a summer's evening. It has been a time that has reconnected me with God and renewed my spirit. I wonder if play, friendship, or walks in the park have a direct effect on our joy. I wonder if constant work, seclusion, and staying in one's home deadens one's spirit.

God wants us to enjoy our salvation rather than experiencing it as a burden, to be renewed through the gifts of nature, friends and play. I invite you to spend the next 30 days, each day setting some time, even 15-30 minutes to walk or play with a child, or ride a bike or walk through the neighborhood admiring your neighbor's flowers. They are all gifts from God for your enjoyment.

Renew!  
John

John Schol, Bishop  
The United Methodist Church  
Greater New Jersey

# 10,000th Volunteer

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struction workers have made long-term commitments to A Future With Hope. Most groups commit to spending one week at a time and are housed and given meals at one of A Future With Hope's 15 host sites. The ages of volunteers range from those who are retired to youth groups and young people, which make up about 25 percent of the volunteers.

"Sometimes it's hard for people to understand what we are doing," Brown said. "They think why would you take a week's vacation to come here? Before I retired I could only do one trip a year. Now this is what I do and it fills me up."

Another major reason A Future With Hope can continue to rebuild homes is because of its many grantors. Major funders include the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund, the American Red Cross and the Robin Hood Foundation. There have also been hundreds of thousands of dollars raised by different groups, ranging from United Methodist churches, Jewish youth groups, Epis-

copal Disaster Recovery, local swim clubs and individuals and organizations from all around the country. All of those donations helped A Future With Hope be named a top five Sandy recovery group by the Foundation Center, and to continue moving toward the goal of rebuilding between 300 and 500 homes with 20,000 volunteers.

The volunteers were celebrated last week when A Future With Hope showed its appreciation for them by hosting a picnic in Lacey Township.

"Our volunteers are incredible," A Future With Hope Executive Director Bobbie Ridgley said. "They give of their time and resources. Many of them are professional or retired tradesmen and they are all led by highly skilled construction team leaders. They are truly the backbone of this recovery effort. We have highly skilled volunteers scheduled well into 2016 and are ready for more work."

People who need help in recovery can call A Future With Hope at 732.359.1012.

## Conference Journal Orders Deadline is Aug. 15

Each active or retired clergy member, elected lay member and local church office of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey will receive one 2015 Journal on a CD-ROM free of charge. The deadline to order is Aug. 15. Bound, printed copies of the Journal may be purchased for \$18 each (\$15 plus \$3 shipping). If you wish to purchase a hard copy of the conference journal go to the Annual Conference page at [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org). No printed journals will be sent unless they are pre-paid and no requests will be honored after the journal has gone to the printer.



## RELAY ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Back issues of the Relay are available at  
[www.gnjumc.org/news/issue](http://www.gnjumc.org/news/issue)

## Relay To Be Published Year-Round

The Relay, which has traditionally not been published in the months of August and January, will now be published all 12 months of the year. That will begin with the upcoming August issue. The news and advertising deadline will continue to be the 15th of each month.

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## The September Issue Deadline is August 15, 2015

# Laity Academy Offering Four Tracks For Leaders

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen  
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Engaged. Equipped. Empowered. Effective.

These are the words used to describe the laity in the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey who are leading congregations that are vital members of their communities. The 2015 Laity Leadership Academy is designed to provide the tools, skills, community, and support to develop comprehensive action plans for powerful ministries. There are opportunities for networking and sharing experiences to learn from each other as well as from energetic experienced session leaders.

The academy begins on Friday evening, Sept. 11 with a welcome message from Bishop John Schol and concludes on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. Haddonfield United Methodist Church is hosting the event. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Aug. 15. The cost is \$50 per person and participants can register online through [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org).

"The Laity Leadership Academy was created to support a culture in which laity throughout the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey will be engaged, equipped, and empowered to be effective partners with the clergy to lead the church as disciples of Jesus Christ," conference Lay Leader Rosa Williams said.

The leadership academy does not start and end with the conference. Participants will engage in reading and

preparation before the event. Williams, who organizes the academy, encourages churches to send a team of laity so that they can build a specific ministry together.

Using tools such as social media and MissionInsite, each of the four tracks includes developing an action plan to be executed in partnership with each church's pastor. Churches are invited to apply for a grant to implement the ministry they develop. Williams reports that last year the conference distributed 11 grants for new ministries that were developed through the academy.

There are four tracks being offered to help shape well-rounded ministry plans.

**Small Groups:** Participants will learn how to effectively utilize an online presence through websites and social media to enhance small group ministries. They will receive a tool kit of resources for creating, sustaining, and growing small groups.

**Worship:** Successful church worship leaders will share their stories of what has worked and what didn't work. Discussions will include mapping out the total worship experience, the use of technology in positive ways, and reviewing research about the benefits and challenges of traditional and contemporary services. Participants will receive a resource kit to help them develop inspiring worship experiences.

**Evangelism:** Using a resource kit for effective evangelism, participants will



GNJ File photo

Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader organizes the Laity Leadership Academy scheduled for September at Haddonfield United Methodist Church. About 200 lay leaders attended the event last year.

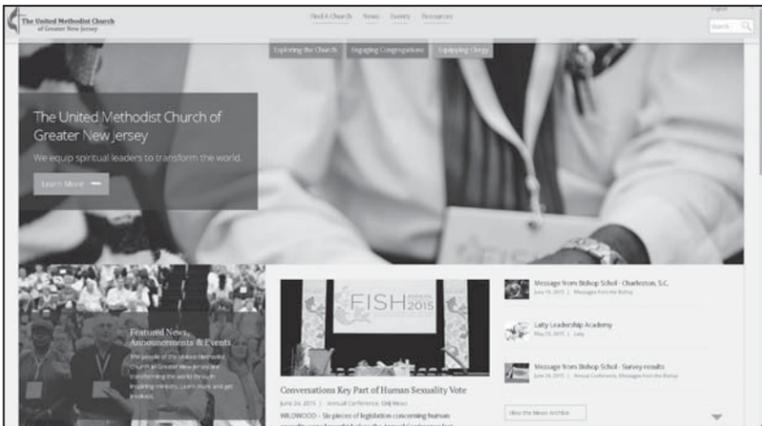
learn forward thinking approaches that incorporate communication tools and social media. They will discuss successful principles used by churches that are actively making disciples and determine how to adapt them into the context of their own communities. Recognizing that youth and young adults often leave the church, this track will also teach techniques to deepen young people's spirituality and connection to the church.

**Social Media:** While each of the first three tracks offers an online component, the social media track, which is new this year, focuses specifically on creating a social media ministry. Using Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other plat-

forms can support existing ministries in addition to creating new opportunities for outreach ministry. Participants will learn how to use these tools and develop effective strategies for implementing them. Most importantly, this track will explore how an online presence can build relationships, increase engagement of members, and enhance the visibility of the church.

The Laity Leadership Academy is open to laity throughout the conference. Certified Lay Servants who successfully complete the Laity Leadership Academy and implement the action plan will receive recertification recognition.

## New GNJ Website Launches



GNJ's new website at [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org) launched on July 28. The website was designed to be easier to navigate and find information. There are also some parts of the site that are still being updated with information from the old website. Take a look and share your feedback at [info@gnjumc.org](mailto:info@gnjumc.org).

## From Cuba to Bound Brook, Small Groups Work For Lopez

By Jessica Stenstrom  
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Inspired by the ministry model of the United Methodist Church in Cuba, Pastor Onay Lopez says small groups have allowed Bound Brook UMC to be in ministry to people not attending their church and to help worship attendees grow in their faith and spirituality.

Before coming to the states in December of 2012, Lopez was a pastor in Cuba for 11 years. He said the church there experienced exponential growth through a small group model of ministry. In addition to worship, members would open their homes to one another for weekly small group meetings. "The growth was all about the small groups," said Lopez, who began his appointment as the senior pastor at Bound Brook on July 1.

He said that starting from scratch in the states helped him realize specific needs of the Hispanic community such as needing help to learn English through ESL programs and citizenship programs.

The Hispanic church at Bound Brook UMC has an average of 40 worshippers per week, about 25 of whom are part of at least one of the church's small group

offerings. Lopez said there are two different models of small groups: small groups that minister within the church and small groups that reach out to the community. In Bound Brook, there are monthly men's meetings, monthly women's meetings and weekly youth meetings. In addition, there are also outreach small groups, one in Bridgewater and one in Parlin, that are led by members of the church but minister to community members who the church would otherwise not reach.

The small groups which have been in existence for about 20 months are the source of spiritual growth, said Lopez. "It is a more familiar environment and they are more comfortable," he said. "They do things together and pray for each other. There is another person caring for them."

Lopez said he thinks that all churches can enhance ministry that is already happening by using small groups.

"It's an important key to growing," he said, "and can work anywhere."



LOPEZ

## Team Vital Big Success

Continued from page 1

they assess their own communities and ministry assets, become equipped for effective ministry, plan future ministry, receive technical support for putting their plans into action and as a result grow in their vitality.

Team Vital helps leaders create a strategic ministry plan using the five markers of vitality: worship, making new disciples, small groups, mission and giving.

Each church receives individual technical support, monthly consulting and other resourcing opportunities from the conference. Churches regroup periodically to assess their progress and share lessons learned.

Churches also learn from each other, collaborate, support and hold each other accountable to pursue their ministry plans.

"Not only is Team Vital a great concept, it is doable," Medley said. "As individuals, I would say if there is some skepticism, I would say just give it a chance. With Team Vital, once an individual comes and sees how practical it is to implement, it gives you some new punch, kind of like getting some Vitamin C."

One idea that seemed to work well at Montville was to find a way to show

support for the community. Montville invited its local fire company to come in to a Sunday service so the congregation could pray for its members.

"They feel so supported," Valosin said, "and they come in and know that we care about them."

The churches that participate in Team Vital will also care about each other. Each church, depending on its size, will have between 5 and 12 members on its Team Vital. Then the churches will participate with between three and eight other congregations. The Team Vital process lasts between four and five months, with a series of five meetings taking place about once a month.

"I believe Team Vital has been a movement of the Holy Spirit," Medley said. "I believe timing is everything with a community. We have a generation that is looking for spirituality and this gives us an opportunity to meet that need."

For more information go to [www.gnjumc.org/teamvital](http://www.gnjumc.org/teamvital), contact your district superintendent or contact Beth Caulfield, Director of Small Groups and Spiritual Visioning who is leading the Team Vital initiative at [bcaulfield@gnjumc.org](mailto:bcaulfield@gnjumc.org).

The United Methodist Church  
of Greater New Jersey

**MAY 22-24**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Beginning in 2016, annual conferences will begin on Sunday evenings and last through Tuesday. The dates are May 22-24, 2016; May 21-23, 2017; and May 20 - 22, 2018.

# PaCE Groups Give Clergy Chance To Come Together

By Jeff Wolfe  
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The job description for being a pastor can sometimes feel like an endless to-do list. Among those things are listening to and trying to understand other people's problems. But sometimes, pastors can also be challenged to find others to listen to and understand their own problems.

That's just one of the reasons why the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey is beginning PaCE groups this fall. PaCE stands for Pursuing Clergy Excellence and signups for these sort of small groups for clergy are scheduled to begin on Aug. 15 on [gnjumc.org](http://gnjumc.org). Raritan Valley District Superintendent Rev. Drew Dyson is leading the PaCE initiative and believes these groups can be an important step in helping pastors not only find a sympathetic ear, but encourage them to grow spiritually as well.

"From being a pastor, sometimes I know that it can be a bit isolating," Dyson said. "The goal here is to give clergy an opportunity to grow in their relationships with others and to continue their own spiritual development as well."

The PaCE groups will be set up in a couple of different ways. If there is a group that would like to be self-started, it can sign up and will be assigned a facili-



## PaCE Information

1. **PaCE defined:** Peer learning groups that help shape pastoral identity, imagination and develop leadership excellence.
2. **Size:** 6 to 10 members
3. **Meeting times:** Once a month for three hours.
4. **Commitment time:** One year
5. **Signup Dates:** Aug. 15 to Sept. 15

tator to develop learning objectives and curriculum. Clergy can also sign up as individuals and then be assigned to a group based on the five markers of vitality of worship, stewardship, missional witness, small groups and spiritual formation and evangelism and outreach. Groups will be formed based on location in effort to group clergy within a particular region.

The signups for this initial PaCE offering will last until Sept. 15 with the goal of having the first groups meet in the beginning of October. Groups will be made up of six to 10 clergy that will meet for three hours, once a month for 10 months. The group facilitators will be someone outside of the group whose goal will be to keep the group on task.

Some examples of the kind of groups that could possibly exist include clergy serving urban congregations, clergy women, clergy serving large congregations, clergy serving in a regional cluster, clergy pursuing excellence in preaching, clergy in cross-racial appointments, clergy desiring to cross attendance barriers and clergy in new appointments.

"We want to make these groups contextual and not abstract," Dyson said. "These groups are a great opportunity to exchange ideas and to help pastors learn about new things that might work for their

congregations and also understand why some things might not or didn't work in their particular situation."

If a PaCE group feels particularly strong about its topic and engagement, it can apply for a \$2,500 grant to extend its learning into a retreat format. PaCE groups can submit grant applications with an outline and objectives, budget and the process for sharing what it has learned with other groups and leaders in GNJ. The grant applications must also show that they enhance the individual clergy's learning and development. "When a group gets together and feels strongly about what it is doing, we want to help them in any way possible," Dyson said. "And then in turn, if that helps others throughout Greater New Jersey, then the impact can far outweigh any financial investment we make."

Dyson also said that if clergy are currently involved in a covenant or lectionary group that there is no requirement to join PaCE. But he did emphasize that those not in a group anywhere may well be missing out on an important opportunity.

"Research consistently shows that clergy peer learning groups shape pastoral identity and imagination as well as developing leadership excellence," he said.

## Grace UMC Makes Room For Serenity



Photo provided

Grace UMC in Kearny has opened a Sereni-Tea Room, a place where people can take a break from the everyday stresses of urban living.

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen  
[melissa.hinnen@nyac-umc.com](mailto:melissa.hinnen@nyac-umc.com)

While it is not unusual for churches to engage in coffee house ministries, Grace United Methodist Church in Kearny, N.J., is taking a slightly different approach by adapting a tradition that is centuries old.

Offering a break from the everyday business of urban living, Irene Greenhalgh, a long-time member, is leading a new ministry in the form of a Sereni-Tea Room where people, in particular those with cancer, can find refuge. Sereni-Tea is created with a blend of herbs, flowers and roots for a light and sweet taste that **helps release stress and tension.**

At Grace, the Sereni-Tea Room is set-aside for prayer, quiet, reflection, and fellowship. A tea ceremony adds to the ambiance. Tea ceremonies offer a time of sacred mindfulness. The ritual of tea ceremonies varies from culture to culture but it includes the artistry of making, pouring and drinking tea as an escape from the mundane.

Former pastor Nick Connolly notes the importance of the practice.

"So many rituals in our society today lack inner meaning," he said. "Sereni-Tea is a wonderful example to the contrary."

The quaint room has a Victorian era flare. It is decorated with vintage hats, paintings, tea sets, books, fine linens, tea memorabilia, and other treasured collectibles. Great care was taken to create an atmosphere that does not feel rushed or superficial. Keeping with the tradition of tea ceremonies, the room offers a sense of beauty and artistry.

Grace UMC opened its Sereni-Tea Room on May 18 with an intimate tea

ceremony led by Greenhalgh. According to Connolly, "there was an atmosphere of reverent silence with peaceful connection with all those participating."

The inauguration of the tea room coincided with Grace United Methodist Church's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a community lunch program which has provided weekly meals with the help of local ecumenical volunteers from St. Stephens Roman Catholic Church, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, City of Hope, and Grace.

The opening of the Sereni-Tea Room was an opportunity to honor both the recipients and volunteers of the community lunch. Guests were seated at tables formally set with tea related centerpieces and flowers. They enjoyed foods traditionally served at English afternoon tea including fruit, tea sandwiches, scones with lemon curd or mock clotted cream, and other delicacies.

Connolly offered an invocation and his wife Georgina Connolly blessed the room and the new ministry. The Sereni-Tea ministry is proudly sponsored by the Grace United Methodist Women. Several UMW members, Moira Crowell, Evelyn Carson and Meg Murray, read stories during the event as part of the program.

Greenhalgh's dream is that this space in the church can offer moments of rest, prayer, refreshment and community. Recognizing that there are some who are sick and cannot make the trip to the Sereni-Tea Room, Greenhalgh has also prepared a "to-go" tea ceremony kit that she brings to the gravely ill or homebound.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual WALK for ALL AGES

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September 13, 2015

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# Allman's Mission Time Takes Her Around U.S.

By Jeff Wolfe  
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Kharrisa Allman graduated with a degree in public health from Montclair State in 2013, but she focused on her spiritual health while spending the last two years working as a young adult missionary for the General Board of Global Ministries for the United Methodist Church.

"I definitely enjoyed the opportunity to go out and experience different things," said Allman, who attends Asbury United Methodist Church in Camden and lives in Franklinville, N.J. "I feel like it stretched me on meeting people who have different beliefs, even with some people within the United Methodist Church. I was able to step outside of my comfort zone and learn from others. I think it also strengthened my relationship with God because I had to depend on him through all of the transitions that took place."

Learning how to handle transitions was a regular part of Allman's role. While she was with the Global Ministries office based in New York City, she worked with the campus ministries at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo., and went on mission trips with other young people to Washington, D.C., Tampa and Colorado.

At Central Methodist, Allman helped with the weekly chapel services, attended mission trips with students and also met and prayed with students when they requested it. Allman said one of those trips to Washington, D.C., was particularly meaningful.

"We worked with Campus Kitchens to provide meals for the homeless there," she said. "That was a pretty interesting time."

The trip to Tampa involved working with families in need with a group called Metropolitan Ministries.

"They work with low income families and families in poverty to help them find ways to improve their lives," said Allman, who graduated from high school at Life Center Academy in Burlington, N.J. "They have a retail thrift store and a residence for people to live. I worked in the thrift store warehouse and saw the behind the scenes work. I also worked with children in an after school program, too, and that was really fun."

Allman said one particularly moving story came from a woman who had been helped significantly by the Metropolitan Ministries program.

"She talked about how she was a middle class person who was educated, but because of her circumstances, had



Photo provided

Kharrisa Allman's travels as a missionary took her to such places as Washington, D.C., Tampa, Colorado and Missouri.

ended up homeless," Allman said. "She said God helped her get into the program. She told her story of how becoming homeless can happen to anyone. It was also encouraging to see how she strengthened her faith in God through those things."

With her two year mission now finished, Allman's next transition, and mission, is to find a job preferably in the public health field. That could include

doing program planning for a daycare and its staff or doing educational health work, where she evaluates strengths and weaknesses of different programs. In some ways, her career journey has taken her to a similar situation as she was a little over two years ago.

"I remember I had a whole list of different things I was interested in and praying about the next steps," she said. "I didn't know how it would unfold."

## A Time For VBS



Photo by Anthony Teoli

Sharptown UMC in the Delaware Bay District had its annual VBS in mid-July where more than 250 children came each night and combined their loose change to raise more than \$2,000 for missionaries in Haiti. If you have pictures from your VBS, send them to [jwolfe@gnjumc.org](mailto:jwolfe@gnjumc.org) for consideration to run in the September Relay.



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# Styles Different, But Goals The Same for KB, Wickham

By Jeff Wolfe  
[jwolfe@gnnjumc.org](mailto:jwolfe@gnnjumc.org)

While the musical styles of Phil Wickham and KB are vastly different, they are on common ground when it comes to believing how music can make a difference in a person's life.

The two performers have experienced that difference personally and hope those who attend the IGNITE Youth Conference, where they will be performing on Oct. 2-4, can have the same type of experience.

"Growing up, I loved listening to worship music," said Wickham, who specializes playing that style now. "When I was in youth group, the praise band was a new thing. There were groups like Passion and Vineyard Music, and they weren't playing your run of the mill songs. They were very distinct and very poetic and they were really special moments for me."

"It felt so inspiring to know that I didn't have to fit into a system."

KB, who is a rapper, had his special experience after listening to a Christian hip-hop CD. He was brought up learning how to play the trumpet, yet he was still attracted to a different sound.

"Someone gave me a Christian hip hop CD," KB said. "I loved every single song on it. The eighth song was a gospel presentation and that's when I accepted Christ and that marked when I started my journey."

KB's journey continued this spring when he released the album, *Tomorrow We Live*, on Reach Records. One of the major goals of the album is for KB to be honest about where he is in his spiritual journey.

## IGNITE CONFERENCE 2015

**When:** Oct. 2-4

**Where:** Wildwoods Convention Center

**Musical Performers:** KB, Phil Wickham

**Speaker:** Preston Centuolo

**Register:** [www.IGNTEnj.org](http://www.IGNTEnj.org)

**Money saver:** Prices for registration will increase on Aug. 15, so save money by registering now.

**More to come:** More performers and speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

"A part of being truthful is not just pointing out Biblical facts, but being truthful is being honest about what you are going through," he said. "David in the Psalms, says, Oh, God why are you sleeping? 'Theologically that doesn't stand up because God never sleeps. It was emotionally and experientially accurate for what David was going through. It's important for an artist to have that accuracy and truth.'"

Wickham also had his own questioning experience. As one who makes his living by singing, he had to have surgery on his vocal chords last year and go without talking or singing for six weeks. When he



Photos provided

Rapper KB, above left, and singer Phil Wickham will bring their own unique musical styles to the IGNITE Youth Conference in October.

was allowed to use his voice again, he wasn't sure how it was going to sound.

"It was scary and hard to be silent for six weeks," he said. "It started me on a deeper journey. It made me realize even more that Jesus really does love me and if I really believe it there is joy and hope and no fear."

Wickham, who will perform throughout the IGNITE weekend, plans to share those experiences on a new album that is likely to be titled *Children of God* to be released sometime later this year.

"It echoes some of the stuff God has been showing me," he said. "It's just to remind the church of what our identity really is. We need to believe what God actually says about us. Once you really believe and understand it, you start living like it."

KB, who will perform on Saturday night at IGNITE, talks about the struggle to believe fully in the song, *I Believe*,

which contains the words for his new album's title.

"I love the song *I Believe* and love doing something special with it when we perform it live," KB said. "I love painting a picture of what we believe in spite of us. Everyone is fighting a battle of some kind."

However in the midst of whatever struggles people, young or old, may be facing, KB hopes they don't forget that music can be simply enjoyable, too. He certainly wants that to be part of the experience of seeing him in concert.

"I want people to have fun and experience their lighter side, but also to experience some of the heavier things," he said. "I hope that they leave with the overwhelming sense of how wonderful and how good God is. I really want eternity held in the balance of my listeners. There is nothing bigger than eternity and I like to make that clear for the audience."

## Excitement for

# IGNITE CONFERENCE 2015

"Following IGNITE last year, one of our youth came back inspired by one of the speakers and started a loose change jar to fight human trafficking. It helped solidify her commitment to living out her Christian faith in a way that transforms the world."

*Tom Lank, associate pastor at Haddonfield UMC*

"One of the highlights was having a good interactive speaker like Preston who made the kids comfortable and talked with them on a very real level. They loved the bands and the music."

*Jessie Tilton, youth pastor, Hamilton UMC in Neptune*

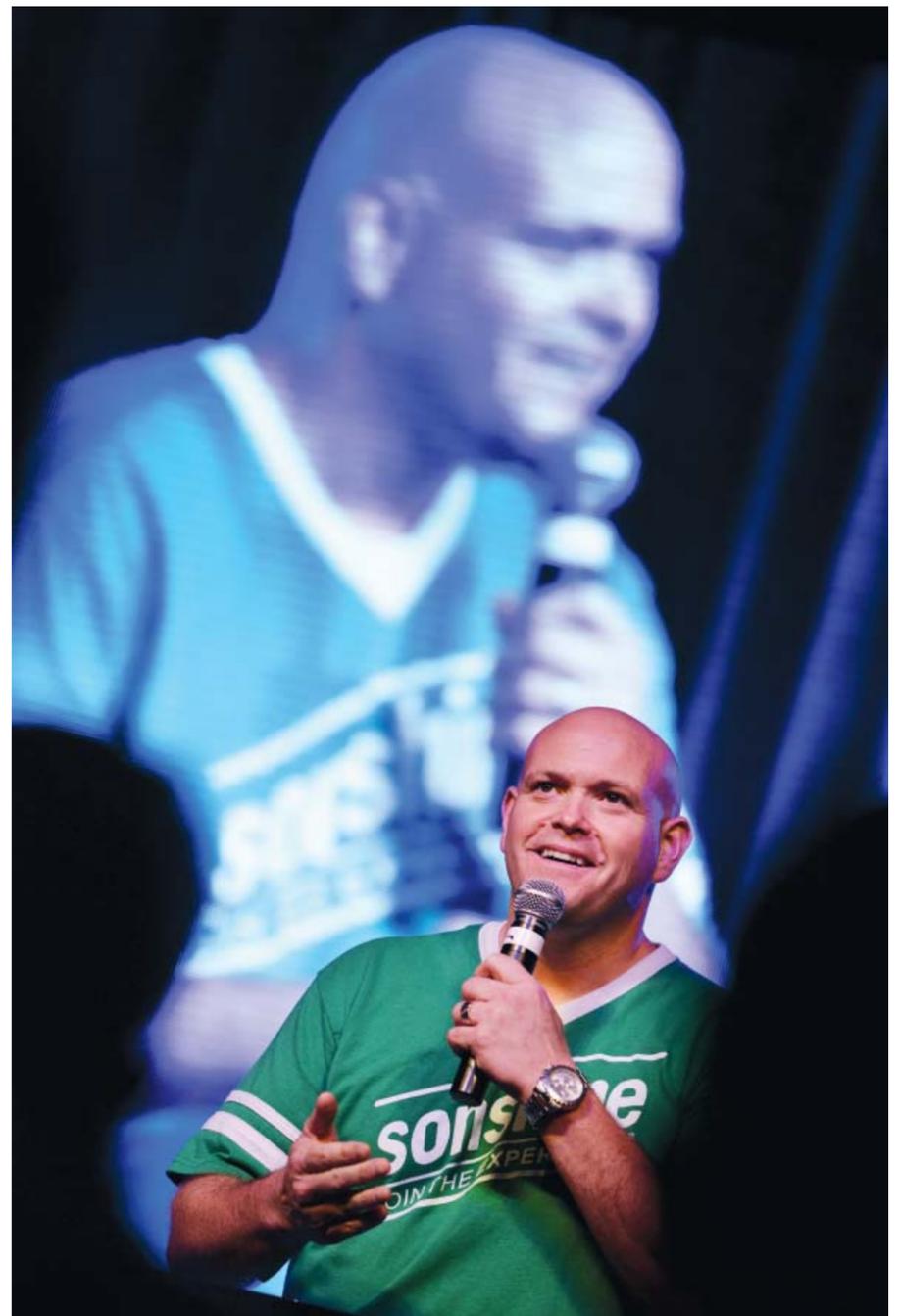


Photo provided

Rapper KB, above left, and singer Phil Wickham will bring their own unique musical styles to the IGNITE Youth Conference in October.

# The Arms Café Is Place For Seniors

RED BANK, N.J. — The Arms Café, part of the Wesleyan Arms senior housing community in Red Bank, had its grand opening in June.

The goal is to offer a senior resource hub to the area's older adults as Wesleyan Arms has partnered with Home Helpers of Monmouth County and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. The unified mission of the three partners is to promote living and learning for older adults, as well as to provide support when needed.

"I am very pleased to see months of intense planning and networking come to fruition in a vibrant grand opening today," United Methodist Homes Vice President of Housing and Community Initiatives Cindy Jacques said. "Most importantly, as a leader in senior services, United Methodist Homes is positioned to conduct outreach to seniors in communities where they already have a presence. Kudos to Wesleyan Arms' associates for their success."

According to the U.S. Census, 11.3 million people, almost 30 percent of those aged 65 and older, live alone. Social isolation and loneliness impact health and vitality. The senior hub allows opportunities for essential social interaction, physical exercise and lifelong learning.

Located at Wesleyan Arms, 9 Wall Street in Red Bank, and part of the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey (UMHNJ), the cafe welcomes older adults in the area to participate each week in a casual setting with a 'drop-in center' feel. The Arms Cafe, open every Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., is staffed with a resource coordinator who can offer

information about elder care resources to individuals and their families. Examples of the varied calendar activities include: chair yoga or Zumba, art, technology, reading and book club discussions, meeting new friends, walking groups, finding information, enjoying the company of others, and more. While The Arms Café has some structure, seniors may do as much or as little as they prefer. All resource information and most classes are free. Occasionally, a special offering requires a fee.

The successful grand opening, punctuated by perfect weather, held many attractions. Music by the two-person, Beth Ann Clayton Band played as guests visited tables manned by Zumba Fitness, visiting physician/geriatric house call specialists, Angel's Tough Mobile Phlebotomy Service, JBJ Soul Kitchen, We Care Adult Care, Red Bank YMCA, Atlas Advisory Group, A Time to Kiln, Medieval Storyteller Lord Andrew MacRobb, local artist Wesley Fox, 54U, Jest for Fun, and others.

Following lunch, an old-fashioned Good Humor truck with an attendant in a crisp white uniform gave out ice cream outdoors. Performers from the Little Silver Ballroom Dancers demonstrated several dance routines followed by a performance from Kid's Comedy Magician, Tom Durnin, who drafted both children and adults to assist in making magic.

UMHNJ President and CEO, Larry Carlson, expressed his thanks to the large group for supporting the grand opening. Wesleyan Arms Housing Administrator, Gertrude Kehleay, offered a warm welcome and encouraged all



Photo Provided

Two dancers from Little Silver Ballroom Dancers perform to the music of Chris Isaac's Wicked Game.

to return.

Red Bank Mayor Pasquale Menna; James W. McCracken, New Jersey Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly; and Wesleyan board members, Lawrence Johnston and Helen Vetter, were also present. The expansion of home and community-based services is a major strategic initiative of UMHNJ.

Wesleyan Arms is the second UM-

HNJ community to open its doors to area seniors, and helps fulfill the goal of increasing services beyond the organization's walls.

For more information about Wesleyan Arms, The Arms Café, or to sign up for the mailing list, please call Mary Patchio at 732-936-0670.

# Stop Hunger Now Meals Help Feed Mozambique



Photo by Sheri D'Angelo

The 30,000 meals packed at Annual Conference for Stop Hunger Now are part of the 285,120 meals that were shipped to Mozambique. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to pack these meals.



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## Bishop Lyght to Celebrate Anniversary of Asbury UMC

Retired Bishop Ernest S. Lyght will return to the church of his youth when he is the guest speaker at Asbury UMC's homecoming worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23 in Atlantic City. He will speak on the theme of working together in unity, adapted from Psalm 133:1 at the church where his father, Rev. W. L. D. Lyght, served as the church's senior pastor.

Asbury will celebrate its 130th year of ministry in Atlantic City in November of this year. Bishop Lyght's appearance is one of many events to take place to celebrate the anniversary.

The annual Men and Women's Day Worship, on June 28th, kicked off the year of celebration with the similar theme, Men and Women Working Together in Unity. On this day, Rev. Dr. Gilbert Caldwell, a retired United Methodist Elder and a founder of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, was a guest speaker who advocated for love as the foundation of unity. Caldwell expressed that in the aftermath of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2011, in the aftermath the racially motivated terrorist killings in Charleston, S.C., and in the divisive debate that followed the U.S. Supreme Court decision on marriage equality, love unites. His message touched those gathered in worship and gave them inspiration on what it means to work together in unity and love.

The diverse worship celebration, which included guests from Sisters Together Against Racism (STAR), ended in the joining of hands and singing of the song, We Shall Overcome.

Bishop Lyght's homecoming worship will be equally inspirational. All are invited to attend the service at Asbury UMC and respond to God's call of unity. Bishop Lyght's wife, Eleanor, and many

other friends and family who have at one time called Atlantic City home are expected to attend.

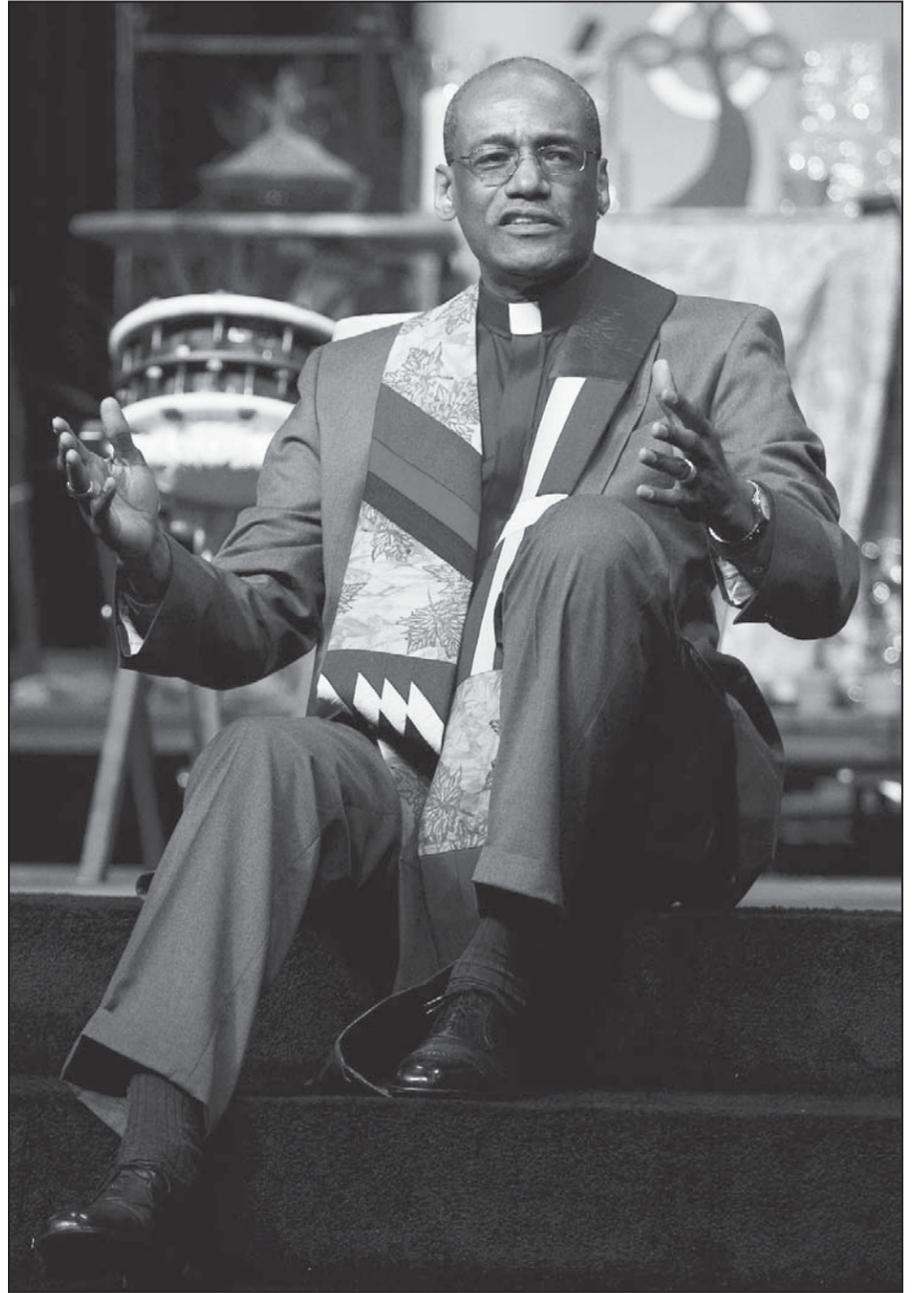
Bishop Lyght, who was born in Maryland, served four pastoral appointments, including 10 years of pastoral ministry at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair, N.J. He was a District Superintendent for seven years and was elected as a delegate to the 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996 General Conferences. He was elected to the Episcopacy at the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

*Psalm 133:1*

and assigned to the New York Area. At the 2004 NEJ Conference, he was assigned to the West Virginia Area and he retired Dec. 31, 2011.

Bishop Lyght served on a variety of conference and general church agencies and boards, including the General Board of Church and Society (1984-1992); the General Board of Global Ministries (1992-1996); the United Methodist Men's Commission (2000-2004); the General Conference on Finance and Administration; and the Africa University Board of Directors, chairing the board's development and advisory development committees. Currently, Bishop Lyght is serving as the Bishop in Residence at Drew Theological School.



Retired Bishop Ernest S. Lyght will return to the church of his youth when he speaks at Asbury UMC in Atlantic City on Aug. 23.

Asbury's anniversary celebration will continue on Nov. 15 with guest speaker Rev. Dennis Blackwell, senior pastor of

Asbury UMC in Woodlynne. Blackwell was born in Atlantic City and has roots in the Atlantic City Asbury UMC.

## Paychex Provides Churches A Chance To Cut Costs

By Jeff Wolfe  
[jwolfe@gnjumc.org](mailto:jwolfe@gnjumc.org)

Grace UMC in Wyckoff learned that there are resources to make payroll and financial services more available by using Paychex, the vendor that is partnering with Greater New Jersey to provide affordable financial services to the conference churches.

A little over a year ago, Grace UMC partnered with Paychex after consistently being frustrated with a different vendor. The result has been transforming, said Bob Dietz, who attends Grace and is the Vice Chair of GNJ's Council on Finance and Administration.

"We had significant problems and clerical errors with another service and they were very unresponsive because we are a small church," Dietz said. "As a result, we started using Paychex and it's been significantly improved. We did this as the conference moved toward this direction. We have had excellent service and have solved a lot of problems."

While the clerical headaches have been significantly reduced, Dietz also said after a year, that Grace is saving money compared to the cost of using the other service. Dietz said that Paychex offers cheaper transaction costs than other providers, provides excellent year-end summaries and all of the tax documentation. Paychex also provides support for things such as the Family Leave Act and Disability.

"They help with all of those compliance issues that are out there," he said. "We are trying to make sure that we are all doing the right stuff. We want to

encourage all churches to have the right level of legal support."

Another key to Paychex is that when support is needed, it is personal. It means Paychex customers have a dedicated person to talk with to help understand their account.

"We stress the personal relationship," said Nicole DiGuglielmo, the Paychex Small Business Consultant for the New Jersey area. "I am the only one on the account and it's just me and my team that they are working with."

She also said that Paychex will be a more cost effective option for churches, no matter how many people they have on payroll.

"Everybody who is paying for another service, they are paying more money than what we are offering," DiGuglielmo said. "Everyone we have come in contact with has had a higher invoice and hasn't had a high satisfaction with their payroll company."

She also said that Paychex has the ability to adapt to churches with small payrolls or larger payrolls and meets needs individually.

"It's all customizable," she said. "We can do whatever the client wants. We can adapt things along those lines."

And according to Dietz, that has been the case for Grace UMC so far.

"Their customer service has been exemplary," he said. "Compared to what we had, they are very customer oriented and have provided great service levels as well as answering any questions we have."

For more information about Paychex, contact Nicole DiGuglielmo at [ndiguglielmo@paychex.com](mailto:ndiguglielmo@paychex.com) or at 1-908-770-5488

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# GNJ 2015 Scholarship Award Recipients Announced

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry has announced the 2015 scholarship recipients.

**Rev. Donald R. Gebhard** -- Francis Asbury Award

**Anudeep J. Alberts** -- Ethel Snyder Book - Inez R. Irons Scholarship

Boston College -- Christ United-Methodist Church in Jersey City

**Anuroop J. Alberts** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Lehigh University -- Christ United Methodist Church in Jersey City

**Shanon-Imani A. Benjamin** -- Ethel Snyder Book - Inez R. Irons Scholarship

Susquehanna University -- First United Methodist Church in Haddon Heights

**Brooke A. Boetticher** -- Rev. Ralph Kappler Memorial Scholarship

Centenary College -- United Methodist Church of Lake Hopatcong

**Shakirah I. Brightly** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Monmouth University -- St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair

**Rebekah E. Bryan** -- Emily S. Garrison Nursing Scholarship

Neumann University -- First United Methodist Church in Moorestown

**Ian N. Burgess-Linden** -- Ethel Snyder Book, Inez R. Irons Scholarship

Rowan University -- Avon United Methodist Church

**Natalie A. Burr** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

Lebanon Valley College -- Waretown United Methodist Church

**Eunice Chang** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

Rutgers University -- Grace Korean United Methodist Church in Westwood

**Jenna L. Fenton** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

Atlantic Cape Community College -- St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Port Republic

**Nicole C. Hamilton** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

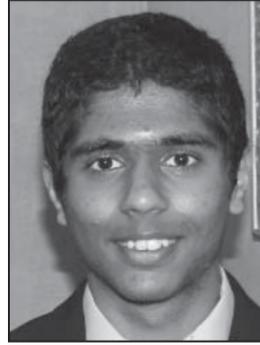
Methodist University -- Wall United Methodist Church

**Lindsey A. Holt** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

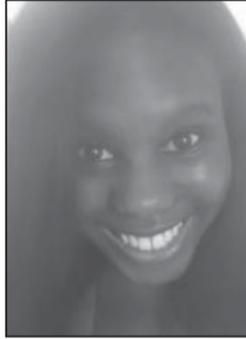
Houghton College -- Whitehouse United Methodist Church



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ANUROOP ALBERTS



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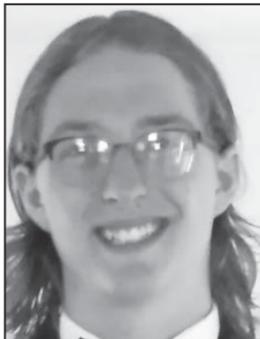
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SCALZITTI



SCHUMACHER



SPANIER



VAN ZEIJTS

**Samantha P. Lunn** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

Gloucester County College -- Stratford United Methodist Church

**Abigail T. McGrath** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Moore College of Art and Design -- First United Methodist Church in Moorestown

**Jessica D. Metcalf** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Albright College -- Ferrell United Methodist Church

**Sarah M. Scalzitti** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Centenary College -- The United Methodist Church of Lake Hopatcong

**Erin N. Schumacher** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

Eastern Mennonite University -- Zion United Methodist Church in Egg Harbor Township

**Morgan Spanier** -- Conference Trust Scholarship

Monmouth University -- Beverly United Methodist Church

**Caroline C. Van Zeijts** -- Frances Nelson Scholarship

University of California at Berkeley -- Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church in Maplewood

The Doris and Arthur Mandeville Scholarship is awarded to graduate students preparing for careers in ordained ministry or Christian education and is presented by Epworth United Methodist Church, Palmyra, N.J. The recipients are:

**Terry Frazier** of Old First United Methodist Church, West Long Branch

**Eun Hye Park** of Korean Community United Methodist Church, Englewood

**David M. Tokpah** of New Covenant United Methodist Church, Hamilton

**William B. Wilson, Jr.** of Chews United Methodist Church, Glendora

Educational Society scholarships are awarded to seminary or graduate students preparing for ordained ministry in the Greater New Jersey Conference.

The recipients are:

**Cynthia Lydon**

**Joshua Mularski**

**David M. Tokpah**

**William B. Wilson, Jr.**

## CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

### Bishop Schol to Moderate Panel At Sen. Booker Town Hall Meeting

The Coalition of Religious Leaders of New Jersey is hosting a Town Hall Meeting with Sen. Cory Booker on "Criminal Justice and Justice for All: Race, Faith, Incarceration and Community Action." The event will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at Christ Church, East Orange. People are encouraged to be in attendance with those from their faith community who share the interest of addressing the issues of criminal justice and race relations. The design team for this program includes Coalition members Bishop Mark Beckwith, Rev. Charles Boyer, Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz, Rev. Craig Hirshberg, Rev. Jack Johnson, and Bishop John Schol. The program will feature a panel, moderated by Bishop Schol, including Coalition members Rabbi Gewirtz, Rev. Hirshberg and Bishop Reginald Jackson along with a member of the National Black Law Enforcement Association. In addition, Mr. Walter Fortson, Jr., an advocate for criminal justice reform, will join the panel to provide his first-hand experience of the reality of incarceration.

### Black Methodists for Church Renewal Sponsors Tour

Black Methodists for Church Renewal will be sponsoring a tour of historical black churches in Philadelphia on Sept. 19. The tour will leave St. Paul UMC in Willingboro at 8 a.m. and feature stops at five different churches. The cost is \$10 for youth and \$25 for adults, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is Aug. 22. For information email Rev. Alfred Murray at [stpumc@verizon.net](mailto:stpumc@verizon.net) or call St. Paul UMC at 609.877.7034.

### Order of St. Luke Retreat In September

The Order of St. Luke Retreat is Monday, Sept. 28 and Tuesday, Sept. 29. Those attending may arrive anytime on Monday. The retreat begins with dinner and ends Tuesday after lunch. The location is 12th and Central Avenues, Ocean City, N.J. The cost is \$20 per person per night and those attending should bring sheets and/or a sleeping bag, pillow, towels and toiletries. Elwood UMC will provide the main course for Monday dinner and prepare meals. Those attending should bring side dishes to share and/or desserts and/or beverages. If you have any questions email Sr. Debbie Neill at [njvicster@comcast.net](mailto:njvicster@comcast.net) or Sr. Jeanette Block at [revblock@aol.com](mailto:revblock@aol.com).

### Palisades District Sponsoring Food Drive

The Palisades District is sponsoring a six-week summer food drive to help restock the dangerously empty shelves at CUMAC in anticipation of the heightened need for food this summer. The food drive began in July and will run through Sept. 1. The Palisades District Poverty Task Force is asking each church in the district to actively participate by collecting food every week and bringing it to one of four collection sites across the district. Those sites are Ridgewood United Methodist Church, Totowa United Methodist Church, Calvary UMC in Dumont and



*Photo Provided*  
**Bishop John Schol, left, met with Sen. Cory Booker at the senator's Newark office with other religious leaders to discuss important federal legislation on poverty and the federal prison system. Sen. Booker will lead a series of town hall meetings with religious leaders around the state that will discuss poverty and racism, particularly reflecting on the book, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander.**

New City United Methodist Church. Drop off times vary, so contact each church before taking donations there.



ENGELSTAD

### Engelstad Joins UM Homes of NJ Foundation

The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey (UMHNJ) Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Engelstad to the position of director of strategic partnerships. In this role, Engelstad will promote, market and develop a strategic partnership program. While based at United Methodist Homes Corporate Office in Neptune, Engelstad will develop revenue-generating partnership opportunities system wide among the Homes' 10 senior retirement communities in New Jersey. He will report to Sharon Clapp, vice president of development. Engelstad, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Mount Saint Mary's University, most recently worked as director of resident life at Seabrook in Tinton Falls.

## STEWARDSHIP STORIES

by Rich Hendrickson, Director of Stewardship & Visioning

### To Be Completely Honest...



"Well, if I were to be completely honest . . ." I've noticed lately how often I use those words to my friends as we talk together about aspects of our personal and professional lives. Every time I begin a sentence with those words I can't help but wonder what my friends think about the rest of my comments! However, as I reflect on those words and the way I employ them I've discovered that most often I use them when I'm talking about something really important, deep "stuff" in my life. "If I were to be completely honest" now signals that what follows is really important.

"So, if I were to be completely honest" stewardship and giving would come down to this: We give to God through the ministries of our local church as an act of gratitude for God's gift of Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life that comes with receiving God's extravagant generosity. God's gift of Jesus Christ is the purest expression of unconditional love the world will ever see, and yet, when we think about our own practice of giving we put all kinds of conditions on our generosity. We give if the pastor makes us happy. We give if the church is involved in the missions and ministries we think are important. We give if and when we get our way. We give if the money only takes care of us. We give only if the money is used to benefit others, and the list goes on and on.

"So, if I were to be completely honest" we should give because that's what disciples of Jesus Christ do! We don't need any other reason or motivation. As one preacher put it, "we show up, give up, and pay up in response to God's love and generosity and so that we can be part of God's presence and work in the world." As we live into spirit-filled giving may we all be able to say, "If I were to be completely honest I give because God first loved me and I love God and God's people."

## Brick By Brick



*Photo by Norman Cetuk*

The new conference center is beginning to take shape. Bricks are going up on the backside of the building and work is being done on the inside. The new center is expected to be finished sometime in December or January.

## CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS



These are some of the volunteers that helped sort food that was donated at Christ UMC's Musicfest of Praise in June. More than 2,000 pounds of food was collected at the event.



Volunteers from A Future With Hope helped Bethany St. John's in Pleasantville deliver food to the Community Food Bank there. The Bethany congregation of 20 was challenged to raise 250 pounds of food and now has donated more than 6,000 pounds.

## OBITUARIES

**REV. SAMUEL S. PARK**, retired Elder of the New York Annual Conference and a New Jersey resident, died on Monday, July 22, 2015. Viewings were held on Friday, July 24 and Saturday July 25, which was followed by a service at Arcola UMC in Paramus, N.J.

**EDYTHE FRANCES STAFFORD GREEN**, widow of retired Elder Roy C. Green, died June 16. A memorial service will be held Sunday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. at Christiana United Methodist Church, 21 W. Main St, Christiana, DE 19702 with visitation and refreshments following the service in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Christiana UMC, 21 W. Main Street, Christiana, DE 19702.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to David R. Green (son), 9 Loveland Street, Madison, NJ, 07940.

# Early Methodist Mission Photos Found At Drew

By Sam Hodges  
newsdesk@umcom.org

DALLAS - A few years back, a French scholar named Didier Aubert travelled to Morristown, N.J., looking for old photos of immigrants. A librarian there suggested he also check the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History at Drew University in nearby Madison.

Aubert did, and while he didn't find what he was after, he stumbled onto thousands of black-and-white photos depicting Methodist missionaries, their work and their surroundings, dating to the early 20th century and taken around the world.

One shows a nurse tending the eye wound of an indigenous woman in La Paz, Bolivia. Another depicts a gym class full of knickers-clad boys in Greenwich Village. A third presents a street barber in Peking (now Beijing) giving a shave.

For someone with a specialty in cultural history as revealed through photography, this was a mother lode.

"It was spectacular," said Aubert, associate professor in American studies at the New Sorbonne University in Paris. "And it took me very little time to realize (the collection) hadn't been touched."

Thanks to Aubert, and to the staff of Archives and History, the collection's profile is rising.

The photos are slowly, steadily going online at the agency's website. And Aubert has introduced the collection to fellow scholars who are beginning to study the images from different academic perspectives, and to write about them.

"Basically, I thought there's work for more than one person here," Aubert said.

## 'Early PowerPoint'

The collection came to Archives and History from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in 1989. It consists of more than 100,000 images, resting in 257 albums carrying such titles as "Puerto Rico," "South America," "Cities" and "Frontiers."

The photos are about two-thirds international, one third from the United States, and most seem to have been taken between 1910 and 1920, said L. Dale Patterson, archivist-records administrator for Archives and History.

But many of the photos aren't dated. And the handwritten captions, while often highly interesting, are sometimes frustratingly imprecise. Indeed, there's a fair amount of mystery with the collection.

Patterson believes many were taken for a 1919 observance of the founding of the denomination's Missionary Society

## Methodist History

To learn more about United Methodist history, visit [www.umc.org/history](http://www.umc.org/history) and [www.gnjumc.org/archivesandhistory](http://www.gnjumc.org/archivesandhistory).

You can also read the Methodist Review article "Early Twentieth Century U.S. Methodist Missions Photography: The Problems of 'Home'," by Morris Davis of Drew Theological School. Access to Methodist Review is free, but registration is required.

about a century earlier. But there are photos taken well after that, including a small group from the 1940s and '50s.

Roy Smyres, a celebrated missionary and photographer for Global Ministries, has photos in the albums. But with most images, the photographer's name is long lost. Who put the photos in albums, and what the organizing principle was beyond "Cities" or "South America," also is unclear.

Patterson is sure that some of the images had been in Methodist publications and some were turned into lantern slides for what he calls "early PowerPoint" demonstrations by missionaries as they traveled and explained their work.

He groups the photos into three categories: those showing churches or church-related institutions, including hospitals, schools and settlement houses; those depicting people in need, such as the poor or refugees; and "travelogue" photos that offer general scenes of life.

Many capture Progressive Era concerns with child labor, poverty and public health. Others are from Europe during World War I, including one showing a small girl who's been given a loaf of bread.

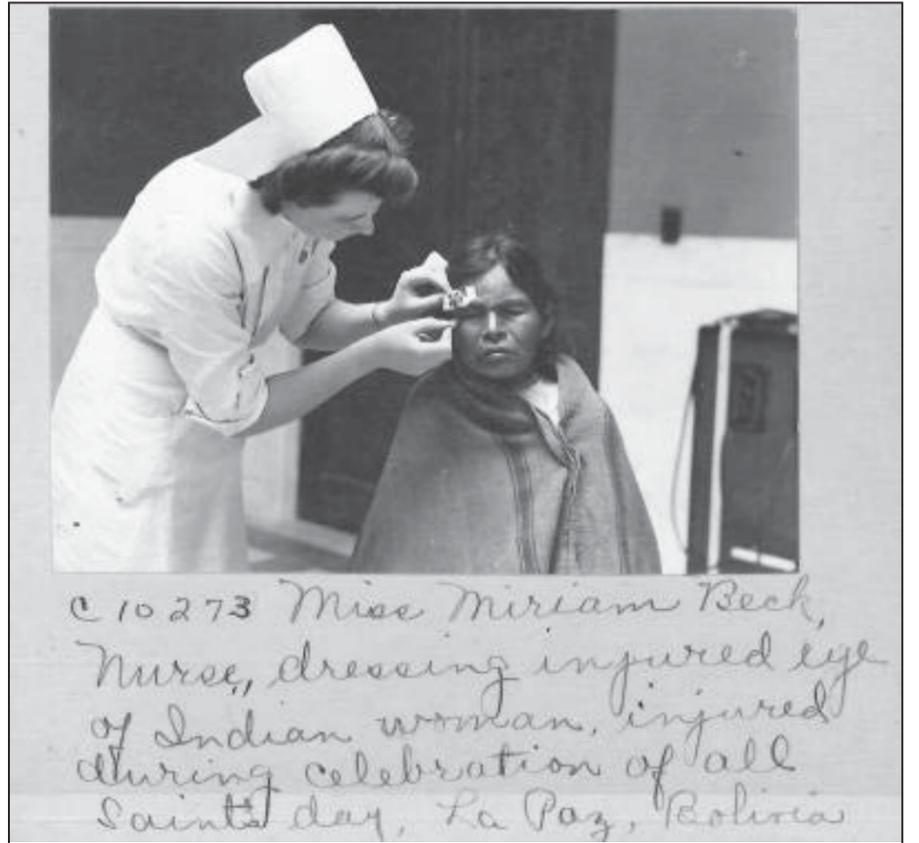
"She's got a smile on her face so big that you'd think she won the lottery," Patterson said.

## Photo analysis

Since that unsuspecting first trip, Aubert has been back to Archives and History a handful of times. He's under contract with a Chilean publisher for a book about how Methodist missionaries portrayed Chile in the photo albums.

It interests him that so many images involve education or agricultural projects, and how few show evangelizing.

"What is often said about the Methodists is that it's really more about a life of Christ in action than about theoretical or theological debates," Aubert said. "The photographs are showing missionaries doing things which are not obviously religious in nature. But they're active in



Photos like this one of missionaries were found at Drew University and are slowly being scanned for the public to view.

the world."

At Aubert's urging, and with his help, Archives and History hosted a June 10-12 workshop titled "An Ever Widening Horizon: The United Methodist Missionary Photo Albums."

Some scholars of Methodism had already explored the collection – Morris Davis of Drew Theological School wrote an article about it for the online journal Methodist Review in 2010 – but the workshop brought in eight other scholars from a range of academic disciplines.

They spent time studying and discussing the albums. Each agreed to write a paper based on some part of the collection.

Carol Williams, chair of women and gender studies at the University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, Canada, chose to write about two photos depicting female Native Americans at a government school in Phoenix. She's working on another essay that looks at the use of the magic lantern, an early ancestor of the slide projector, in spreading Methodist missions among the Nuu-chah-nulth indigenous peoples on the Pacific Northwest coast of Canada.

Williams agrees with Aubert that there's a lot of scholarly work to be done on the collection.

"The task for historians, or scholars, of the present day, is to unravel the internal logic of each album through careful historical analysis and re-contextualization," she said by email.

"Analyzing individual photographs, or photographic series, will help viewers to learn why certain photographs were selected over others and to reconstruct the narratives triggered by the organizational and image choices."

## Going public

Meanwhile, the general public is beginning to get a look.

Archives and History staff began scanning and putting whole pages of images online late last fall. The project is about half done, and Patterson projects it will be completed by May 2016. Even before Archives and History announced the effort, the photos were getting a couple of hundred "clicks" per month, Patterson said.

Not surprisingly, Patterson has his favorite images, including a humorous pair of a young missionary in Asia.

The first photo shows him standing proudly next to a new motorbike. In the second, he and some others are trying to pull it out of a rice paddy.

Hodges is a United Methodist News Service writer who lives in Dallas.

## Prayer Book Collection At Drew Until Oct. 23

"Til death do us part."

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

"Speak now or forever hold your peace."

These phrases, in regular use today, originated in the 16th century Book of Common Prayer authored by Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury under Kings Henry VIII and Edward VI of England.

Drafted as part of religious reforms enacted by Edward VI following Henry VIII's break from Rome, several original editions of the Book of Common Prayer are on display in the "Comfortable Words: Anglican Piety and the Book of Common Prayer" exhibit at Drew University now through Oct. 23.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

A first edition printed in 1549 in London during the reign of Edward VI

Editions printed in the 1600s by printers to King Charles I and II

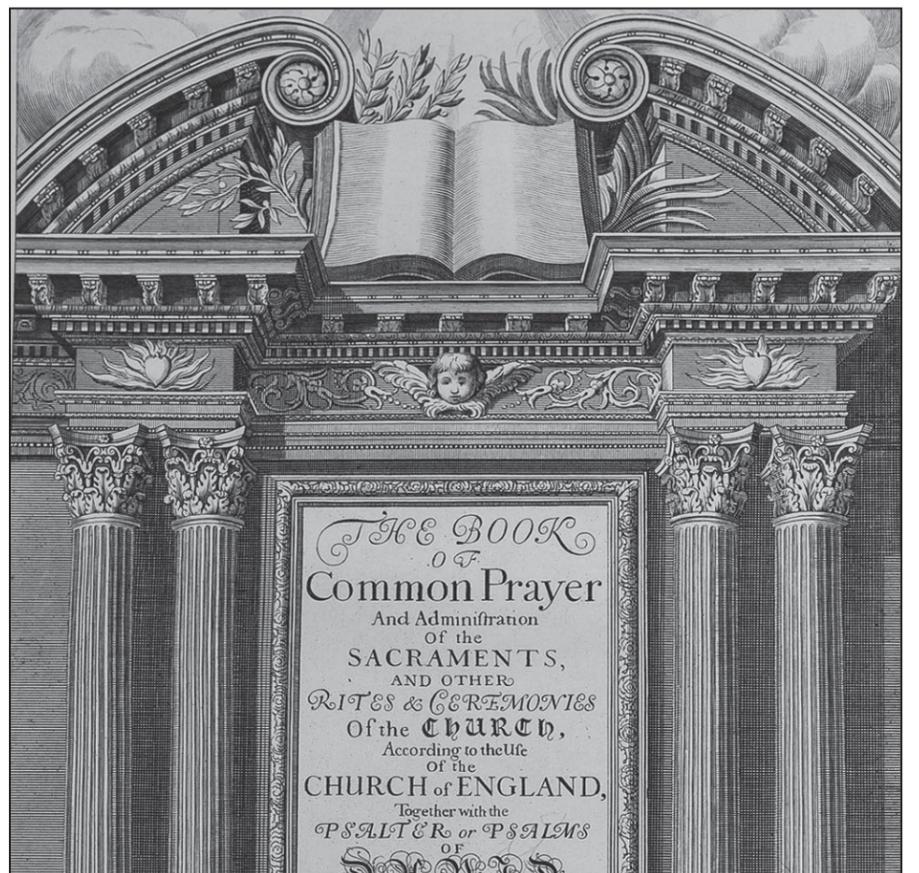
Editions from the 1700s, including the first American edition

Editions bound by Queen Victoria's bookbinder in the 1800s

In addition to their singular contribution to the spread of the Protestant Reformation, the Books of Common Prayer on display are also works of art. The books were created by some of the world's leading craftsmen: Joseph Zaehnsdorf, Francis Bedford, Samuel Mearne and England's master typefounder and printer, John Baskerville.

The book covers are of ivory, velvet, copper and silver and include detailed artwork, original woodcuts, a fore-edge painting and exquisite bindings and engraving.

The exhibition, organized by the Special Collections and University Archives Department at Drew University, is dedicated to the memory of Fred and Mary Louise Maser, who donated their collection of more than 150 prayer books to Drew in 1978. Kenneth E. Rowe, professor emeritus of church history at the Drew Theological School and formerly the Methodist librarian, curated the exhibition with assistance from Chris Anderson, Masato Okinaka, Kim Magnell and Cassie Brand of the Special Collections and University Archives Department.



Drew will have editions of the Book of Common Prayer as well as other historical religious publications on display until Oct. 23.

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