

Remembering Nelson Mandela: 1918-2013

By Linda Bloom - NEW YORK (UMNS)

Throughout his life, Nelson Mandela had many connections to Methodism.

A graduate of a Methodist boarding school where many future African leaders were educated, the anti-apartheid champion was mentored by Methodist preachers and educators and formed a bond with a Methodist chaplain while in prison.

As president of South Africa, he worked with church leaders in shaping a new nation and eventually married Graça Machel, a United Methodist, widow of the former president of Mozambique and an advocate for women's and children's rights.

When that couple made a surprise appearance before the United Methodist Council of Bishops during a November 2006 meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, Bishop Janice Huie, then the council's president, declared the group was "blessed" to have them in their presence. "We have been in the company of the saints and we know it, and we are grateful," she said.

The World Methodist Council recognized Mandela as a "symbol of freedom, justice and peace" when presenting him with its 2000 peace award.

"As a national and world leader his name is synonymous with reconciliation," said Frances Alguire, the council's chairperson, when the award was announced. "As a person he is remarkably free of bitterness. His life reflects the qualities of the World Methodist Peace Award."

Early Methodist roots

Mandela was born July 18, 1918, at Mvezo in the Eastern Cape and graduated from Healdtown, a boarding school started by Methodist missionaries in 1845. The Rev. Seth Mokitimi was the school's chaplain. A renowned Methodist preacher and educator who in 1964 became the first black person elected to lead a major denomination in South Africa, he had a powerful influence on Mandela.

A new Methodist seminary, opened in 2009 within the Pietermaritzburg



Bishop Janice Huie escorts Nelson Mandela and his wife, Graça Machel, as Bishop João Somane Machado leads the way.

A UMNS 2006 file photo by Stephen Drachler.

Cluster of ecumenical theological institutions at the University of KwaZulu-Natal near Durban, is named after Mokitimi, who died in 1971.

As a leader in a campaign against the apartheid system, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island in 1963. The Rev. Peter Storey, a Methodist pastor, served as chaplain to Mandela and other prisoners.

Storey, a former president of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, also became a close associate of Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the church's anti-apartheid struggles.

Freed from prison on Feb. 11, 1990, Mandela was elected South Africa's president in 1994. He appointed Storey to help form South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was established in 1995 and received world attention as a model of how to seek national healing and forgiveness.

"We knew we needed the truth to build a new nation," Storey said in 2005 when he was a professor at Duke Divinity School. "Without truth, no healing. Without forgiveness, no future."



Graça Machel, wife of Nelson Mandela, receives an honorary doctorate during the 10th anniversary celebration at Africa University.

A 2002 file photo courtesy of Africa University.

Bringing Comfort to Typhoon Survivors in Philippines

by United Methodist News Service



Community members line up for a food distribution site for the United Methodist Committee on Relief following Typhoon Haiyan in Dagami, Philippines.

A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

When the United Methodist Committee on Relief delivered food packages Nov. 20 to six storm-ravaged communities in Dagami, the Philippines, it was the first substantial emergency relief aid there since Typhoon Haiyan struck nearly two weeks earlier.

Linda Unger, a senior writer for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and Mike DuBose, a photographer for United Methodist Communications, were there to tell the story.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," said Lucia Millona, a small, slight woman who is the only support for her small child. "Our house was destroyed and we have no clothes," she said. "This is the first help we've received."

Although Dagami, about 20 miles from Tacloban, turns away from the coast, residents still suffered typhoon winds and flooding from overflowing rivers that destroyed crops, homes, businesses and livelihoods.

This was UMCOR's second food distribution in two days, part of a truckload of 1,500 food packages that UMCOR staff and volunteers assembled in Manila, the capital, and drove over the course of 36 hours to

Continued on page 5



A Christmas Acrostic

Just when life seemed hopeless,
Everything coming apart at the seams,
Something (Someone) happened,
Utterly satisfying with saving
Word and Life,
Stitching the universe back together again.

RVC

Have a Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous New Year

The Relay Staff -
Glenn, Robin, Heather, Hector, and Jessica

With Global Fund, Church Fights Malaria

By Heather Hahn*

With The United Methodist Church nearing its fundraising goal in the fight against malaria, the denomination on Dec. 3 committed to fulfilling its \$28 million pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund draws together leaders from national governments around the globe and large private donors such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to combat the diseases of poverty.

If you've bought products with the (RED) label, then you have helped support the Global Fund. Your gifts to The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria campaign also are helping the effort.

"Our goal is to raise \$75 million for this fight against malaria," Pittsburgh Area Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton said at the Global Fund's Fourth Replenishment conference. "Part of the proceeds from this campaign is going to strengthen our United Methodist hospitals and clinics in Africa. Another portion is going to the Global Fund."

On Dec. 3, the bishop announced The United Methodist Church would contribute another \$19.9 million dollars to the Global Fund over the next three years. This money would complete the \$28 million pledge the denomination made to the Global Fund in 2010.

The United Methodist Church is the first faith-based group to work in partnership with the Global Fund. The denomination already has contributed \$8.1 million to the effort, said Bickerton. He leads the Western Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference and chairs the denomination's Global Health Initiative.

During its Dec. 2-3 gathering in Washington, the Global Fund received \$12 billion in pledges from 25 countries, the European Commission and private donors. By far, the biggest donor is the U.S. government, which committed at least \$4 billion to the cause. The U.S. government also pledged \$1 for every \$2 committed by others through September 2014, up to \$5 billion.

While not on that scale, The United Methodist Church's contribution is no mere bug zap in the fight against the mosquito-borne disease.

"Our pledge was equal to and even surpassed the pledges from smaller countries across the world," Bickerton told United Methodist News Service.

Bickerton was one of three United Methodist leaders representing the denomination among the ambassadors and business leaders at the conference. The Rev. Larry Hollon, the top executive of United Methodist Communications (which includes United Methodist News Service), and Jim Winkler, the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, also attended.

"It is written into our agreement with Global Fund that United Methodist contributions will go to malaria programming only," Hollon said. "And we are also allowed by Global Fund to name those countries where the money will be used."

Need for collaboration

Bickerton's announcement came just as The United Methodist Church has crossed \$60 million in gifts and pledges in its effort to eradicate malaria in Africa. The United Methodist Church hopes to raise \$75 million for the effort by 2015.

Imagine No Malaria is funding a number of strategies to fight a disease that still kills someone every 60 seconds. The strategies include providing insecticide-treated bed nets and help for United Methodist hospitals, clinics and health boards across Africa that work to prevent and treat the disease. Those ministries provide "health services without regard to race, religion, or political creed," Bickerton told the Global Fund gathering.

United Methodist leaders see collaboration with the Global Fund as complementary to the Imagine No Malaria campaign and essential to wiping out the disease.

"Combatting pandemic diseases is beyond the capacity of a single nation, much less beyond the abilities of a single denomination or individual," Hollon said.

"The Global Fund through its scope and scale saves 100,000 lives every day. United Methodists have joined this partnership by working with the Global Fund on the ground, identifying nations where we can work together."

One example is United Methodist and Global Fund collaboration in Sierra Leone, Hollon said.

How the Global Fund uses money

The Geneva-based Global Fund is the world's largest funding source for health programs that fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In 2012, the Global Fund was responsible for 50 percent of the world funding for anti-malaria programs covering more than 50 countries.

"We fund programs in any eligible country that can demonstrate effectiveness in fighting malaria," said Seth Faison, the director of communications for the Global Fund. "The main tools are insecticide-treated nets, which both protect those underneath and deter the spread of malaria by killing infected mosquitoes; indoor residual spraying; and ACTs (Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies), currently the most effective medicine against malaria."

According to the Global Fund, only 5 percent of homes in Africa had insecticide-treated bed nets in 2000. Now more than 53 percent own them.

"This scale up is only possible through partnerships that have broad reach," Hollon said. "No single organization could achieve this by itself; it required a global partnership with extensive reach."

The Global Fund also has found that in strengthening health systems around the world to tackle one disease of poverty, it also strikes against the other two.

"Our response has to be comprehensive," Faison said. "Good health begets good health."

The United Methodist Church is the first organization to be both a grant recipient from and donor to the Global Fund, Bickerton said.

But even with its Global Fund partnership, the bishop stressed that the church still has a key role to play in the anti-malaria fight.

"In the Imagine No Malaria campaign we like saying that, as a church, we go to places where the road ends," he told UMNS.

"We are the ones providing the personal relationship that better ensures the effective distribution and use of bed nets and prevention drugs. We are the ones providing rural clinics, traditional birth attendants, and clean water wells. We are the ones who establish the relationships that translate into the trust necessary to convince people that bed net usage and treatment can save their lives."

*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Tim Tanton, executive director of content for United Methodist Communications and United Methodist News Service, also contributed to this report.



United Methodist Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton addresses the Global Fund's Fourth Replenishment conference in Washington, affirming the denomination's commitment to fulfill its \$28 million pledge to the fund, which fights AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. A UMNS photo by the Rev. Larry Hollon.

GNJ Grant Funding Application Now Available

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is committed to resource clergy, congregations and lay leaders to support the growth of vital congregations.

GNJ will provide grants for clergy salary support, equitable salary support, new church starts, multi-campus ministry, new ministry, congregational development, cooperative parishes, and planning. Grants will be allocated based on demonstrated willingness and preparedness to grow vital congregations.

Improvements have been made to the grant funding application process. The application is designed to be submitted electronically and only applications sent using the form electronically will be considered. Applications must be received by January 15, 2014. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Applications and questions should be sent to Ginny Kaiser at gkaiser@gnjumc.org.

Download the new Grant Funding Application at www.gnjumc.org/grants.



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

John R. Schol, Resident Bishop
The Greater New Jersey Conference ~ 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

New Subscriptions, renewals, address changes, and corrections should be addressed to the subscription manager, Beverly Karlovich, BKarlovich@gnjumc.org or by mail to Beverly Karlovich, Subscription manager, United Methodist Relay, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT

Glenn C. Ferguson
55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone (732) 350-6878 e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

ALL NEWS ARTICLES, photos, letters and viewpoints should be sent to the Editorial Staff member serving your district or agency, at the listed address.

Views and opinions expressed are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Methodist Church, the Greater New Jersey Conference or any official or organization thereof.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Glenn C. Ferguson
Editor

55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: (732) 350-6878
e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Capital & Cape Atlantic Districts
Hector Burgos-Nunez
205 Northfield Ave., Northfield, NJ 08225-1949
Phone: (609) 484-1141
e-mail: HectorABurgos@aol.com

Delaware Bay & Gateway South Districts
Position Vacant

Gateway North and Raritan Valley Districts
Glenn Ferguson
55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: (732) 350-6878
e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

Northern Shore District
Robin E. Van Cleef
1 Mayflower Court, Whiting, NJ 08759
(732) 350-6444
e-mail: revrev@verizon.net

Skylands & Palisades Districts
Jessica Stenstrom
PO Box 115, Denville, NJ 07834-0115
Phone: (973) 627-1041
e-mail: dcc.youth@verizon.net

Web Address: www.UMRelay.org - Send all NEWS and PHOTOS to the staff member serving YOUR district or agency.

The UNITED METHODIST RELAY is published monthly except January and August by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Office of Publication: Office of the Bishop, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733. Periodical Postage Paid at Ocean, NJ and additional entry offices. Mailed free to selected Charge Conference members and clergy of each church. Others may subscribe at the rate of \$9.50 per year. Back issues may be obtained as available at \$1.50 for first copy and 50 cents for each additional copy sent in the same wrapper. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to UNITED METHODIST RELAY, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733.

Gateway North District Shows Their Support for Bishop Schol and Super Storm Sandy Recovery Volunteers



Before and after -- the supplies gathered by the Gateway North District were brought to the altar of St. Mark's Montclair as gifts from the clergy and laity of the district.

On October 23, the laity and pastors of the Gateway North District welcomed Bishop John Schol during the Bishop's Day on the District by sharing a generous collection of supplies for Super Storm Sandy recovery volunteers. More than half a truckload of paper towels, tissues, cleaning supplies, bottled water, hand soap, scrub brushes, Lysol, coffee, and powdered drink mixes were shared during the offertory, as clergy and laity worshiped with the bishop at St. Mark's Church in Montclair. In addition, many Lowe's and Home Depot gift cards and cash donations amounting to \$930.91 were collected.

The Gateway North District Committee on Superintendency responded to a challenge from the Rev. Dr. Jisun Kwak, Gateway North District Superintendent, to find a tangible way to support the many dedicated volunteers who are helping with the *A Future with Hope* recovery efforts, while also honoring the commitment the bishop has shown this past year in tirelessly leading the GNJAC's efforts in helping to restore the lives of those most affected by the October 2012 Super Storm.

As always, the Gateway North churches responded graciously, filling the front chancel of St. Mark's with an overwhelming amount of supplies, heartfelt prayers, and a renewed dedication to transforming the world in the name of Christ the Lord.



Later, the collection was loaded onto a truck that would take them to support the efforts of *A Future with Hope*. Pictured here are the Rev. Edmund Martin, pastor of St. Mark's in Montclair and Chris from *A Future with Hope*.

Central Church in Linwood Reaches Out to Working Poor

The scene is so familiar it has become cliché: a sign of the times and a season of giving. But these groceries aren't going to stereotypical "needy" families. Most of the recipients of bags assembled at Linwood's Central United Methodist Church are the working poor, a growing segment of the population gainfully employed but feeling the crunch of inflation and slashed wages.

"This holiday, a lot of people are requesting help for the first time," said Andy Cowgill, operations manager for the Eastern Service Workers Association, an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance to low-wage workers. In return for the help, members are asked to chip in 62 cents a month to augment private donations.

One of the people Cowgill has assisted had her wages frozen at \$10.50 per hour for the past four years. Then, after 10 years working for the same company, her hours were cut.

"A lot of our members were more stable at one point," Cowgill says. "Now, they're really going day to day."

The increasing demand felt by organizations such as the ESWA is one symptom of a growing income gap locally and nationwide. U.S. Census Bureau data released last month show that middle-class families are being displaced onto either end of the spectrum. More households have joined the ranks of either the wealthy or the working poor.

In Atlantic County, the number of households making between \$35,000 and \$100,000 fell nearly 11 percent since the last American Community Survey three-year average was released in 2010. Meanwhile, the number earning less than \$35,000 and more than \$100,000 increased 5.7 and 7 percent, respectively.

That trend repeats across nearly every part of The Press of Atlantic City coverage area, the state and the nation.

Atlantic City bucks the trend: the number of high-income households decreased 23.4 percent, while low- and middle-income households fell 3.4 and 5.3 percent. That exodus of the wealthy could reflect a 6 percent decrease in total households and a nearly 11 percent drop in the city's average household income.

Cape May County, meanwhile, saw decreases in every income category except households earning more than \$200,000, with a 37.5 percent increase. Despite the influx of wealthy households, the county has seen a 56 percent rise in unemployment. Per capita income, a reflection of how much the average worker earns, has actually decreased nearly 3 percent — to \$32,727 — since the first years of the recession.

Ellen Mutari, an economics professor at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, said the recession has only accelerated a trend that's been in the works for three decades.

"At the heart of it is the loss of middle-class jobs, particularly stable jobs with good wages and good benefits," she said.

Employers have been slow to hire back employees they laid off during the recession with full-time hours and benefits, Mutari said. So, while overall un-

employment may be decreasing, families are still struggling to make ends meet.

Casino dealers, for example, have told Mutari that it's virtually impossible to find a full-time position. That's a major change from the boom years of the 1970s and '80s.

"People who have longevity in the industry still have good jobs with good wages, but it's becoming harder to secure a middle-class income," she said.

According to the living wage calculator developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, two adults with two children must earn a combined \$19.99 per hour — or \$41,574 per year — in order to support their family in Atlantic County. The median earnings for individual workers in the county is \$30,075, according to Census data, and the number of families below poverty level has increased from 9.9 percent to 11.6 percent since the 2010 figures were released.

Mutari said part of the problem is financialization, the phenomena of a larger percentage of corporate profits coming from the "buying and selling of pieces of paper" than from production of goods and services.

"In that financial sector, a lot of income goes toward people who are relatively prosperous," she said.

In essence, she said, it's easier to make money off investments than from wages. And the majority of those who can afford to invest are those who are already wealthy.

A recent study by two professors at the University of California Berkeley found that the top 1 percent accounted for more than 20 percent of the income earned by all Americans in 2012, one of the highest amounts since figures were regularly kept a century ago.

The diminishing middle class could mean a lingering recession, Mutari said, because it's the middle class that has historically accounted for much of consumer demand. Without that demand, she said, there's no incentive for businesses to begin hiring, which in turn feeds back into the disappearing middle class.

"Consumer demand is critical for getting the economy back on its feet and creating jobs," she said. "When income is primarily concentrated in the hands of people who save and invest, I don't believe that's good for the economy."

Locally, Cowgill said, low-wage workers face obstacles from everywhere because their pay has not kept pace with inflation. In addition to providing services such as emergency food assistance, the ESWA also lobbied for causes that affect both the poor and the average citizen, such as preventing utility rate hikes.

The organization has emphasized the need for more community involvement beyond low-wage workers, he said, because today's comfortable middle class could be tomorrow's working poor.

"I think the power really lies in the hands of community members," he said. "Low-income workers and members of the community need to join together to change conditions."

-WALLACE McKELVEY, Staff Writer, *Asbury Park Press/The Press of Atlantic City*

Are You 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.



Global Relay

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

Christmas shopping can benefit local churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration, in partnership with some of the largest online retailers, has built a shopping tool that provides a cash benefit for your church when you purchase through the UMCmarket — items you might be buying anyway. How does it work? Create an account at UMCMarket.org and designate the church of your choosing.

Bishop remembered as wise, compassionate leader

MINNEAPOLIS (UMNS) — “Over the years, his primary concern was not so much organization or institution, but compassion for people,” said Harlyn Hagmann, a retired Minnesota pastor and a longtime friend of the late Bishop Wayne K. Clymer. The bishop passed away Monday, Nov. 25.

Finance agency responds to clergy housing ruling

MADISON, Wis. (UMNS) — A federal judge in Wisconsin has ruled that an Internal Revenue Service exemption that allows clergy to shield their housing allowances from federal income taxes is unconstitutional. But the ruling is on hold until appeals are exhausted. The General Council on Finance and Administration, the United Methodist finance agency, is monitoring the case.

Finance agency OKs insurance merger

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The board of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination’s finance agency, on Nov. 22 approved the merger of United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust into United Methodist Insurance Company. Board members expect the move to save the finance agency more than \$100,000 a year.

New director of older adult ministries starts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The Rev. William B. Randolph, former chaplain at a senior living community in Pennsylvania, will become director of aging and older adult ministries at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship on Dec. 1. Randolph will assume the position formerly held by Richard H. Gentzler Jr., who retired on June 30 after serving as director for 13 years.

Winkler move to NCC official

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — It’s official. Jim Winkler will be the new top leader of the National Council of Churches, after a nearly 30-year career at the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, including serving as its top executive since 2000. Though he’s changing jobs, Winkler will still be in the United Methodist Building in Washington, headquarters for both agencies.

Former United Methodist missionary honored in Rome

ROME (UMNS) — The Rev. Gerald “Jerry” Anderson, emeritus director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Conn., met Pope Francis, gave a lecture and received an honorary Doctor of Missiology degree on Nov. 14 from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome. The degree was presented to him by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the grand chancellor of the university. It was the first time an honorary degree has been given to a Protestant by this university that was founded in 1627 and is owned by the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Anderson, a former United Methodist missionary in the Philippines and president of Scarritt College in Nashville, is a retired member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference and resides in Hamden, Conn.

Call for release of abducted Syrian bishops

VIENNA, Austria (UMNS) — A call for the release of two abducted bishops in Syria has come from religious leaders at the 9th World Assembly of Religions for Peace. The bishops, Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, the Syrian Orthodox Archbishop of Aleppo, and Bishop Boulous Yazigi, a Greek Orthodox Bishop in Damascus, were kidnapped in Aleppo on April 22, 2013.

CREDO Confirmation Retreats Provide Hands-On Learning Opportunity for Youth



Retreat 1: January 24-25, 2014

Retreat 2: April 11-12, 2014

Come to One or Come to Both!!!

Registration Deadline: January 5, 2014

January 24-25, 2014

Part 1: “My Calling to Fulfill”

This overnight retreat will have a focus on helping the confirmands have a clearer understanding of the call God has placed on their heart to be confirmed and what that means as a full member of a local congregation.

Part 2: “The We of Me: Be You, Be God’s, Be Us”

We will focus on answering the question, “Who am I?” Over the course of our time together we will have the opportunity to build relationships with fellow Confirmands and leaders, share each other’s life stories, and help design a timeline of God’s call on their life.

Where: Pinelands Center, Friday beginning at 7:00 p.m and ending Saturday at 3:00p.m. Cost: \$35.00 (includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday)

April 11-12, 2014

“Teach Us How to Pray”

As we venture to the city of Philadelphia to explore the churches that have so deeply enriched our history of Methodism, we will spend time learning about and visiting each of the historic churches in downtown Philly. We will also use this time to focus on a major part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ...Prayer. This retreat is a great opportunity for your Confirmation class to learn about the history of the Methodist Church and how we became the church we are today.

Where: Pinelands Center, Friday beginning at 7:00 pm and ending Saturday at 5:00p.m. Cost: \$50.00 (includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Also includes transportation to Philadelphia, admission to the Historical churches and the Constitution Center.)

Leaders are \$20.00 for each retreat.

Download the brochure and registration form at www.gnjumc.org/myp.

Any questions???

Contact Rev. Erica Munoz
732-359-1042 or Emunoz@gnjumc.org

RELAY Reflections

Thoughts on the Spiritual Life
Relayonline at www.umrelay.org

Read, Reflect, then Write your own and e-mail your contribution or comments to editor@umrelay.org.

Millbrook Church Celebrates 180th Anniversary



Sunday November 10th was both a day of looking back and reminiscing and a day of looking forward to what God has planned next as the Millbrook Church celebrated their 180th year anniversary. The church was built and dedicated on July 1, 1833. The original building is still standing with various additions that have been made through the years. Several former ministers - Reverend Richard Klein, Reverend Gerald Rounds, and Reverend Linda McNeill Hale - attended the special service and participated. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Randolph were also in attendance and presented the church with a Resolution from the State of New Jersey and a proclamation from the Randolph Township Council. A celebratory brunch followed worship.

Renew Your Mind, Body and Spirit at the 2014 Bishop's Convocation for Clergy

Calling all clergy! It's time to register for the 2014 Bishop's Convocation

**Monday, January 27 - Wednesday, January 29, 2014
at Ocean Place Resort and Spa, Long Branch, NJ**

This special time of renewal for clergy and their families will go beyond recharging the mind, body and spirit. During our time together, participants will:

- Shape their message about vital congregations
- Work hands-on with colleagues
- Learn new skills during two workshop sessions
- Hear from a new young voice in the church: Jeremy Bakker
- Be inspired by Bishop Martin McLee of the New York Annual Conference
- Enjoy fellowship
- Showcase special talents
- Relax at a beautiful ocean front resort
- Spend time with your family
- Indulge in a massage
- Renew your spirit

Worship Bishop Martin McLee is sure to invigorate and rejuvenate the mind, body and spirit. McLee is the resident bishop of the New York Area within the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. He was consecrated as a bishop on July 19, 2012 and provides leadership to approximately 462 churches in New York and Connecticut. Bishop McLee is known as a bridge-builder committed to bringing people into relationship with Christ through both evangelism and social justice ministries.

Plenary speaker, Dr. Jeremy Bakker, a scholar of the writings of Paul, will challenge attendees to explore the following questions: Why has the Messiah not come back? Have we done our jobs? Paul believed Jesus would return in his lifetime – but only after disciples had converted an unspecified number of gentiles. So then what is the call to action for our churches? How does this help make vital congregations? How do we help finish the job that was started all those years ago? Don't miss out on exploring these questions and more!

The 2014 Bishop's Convocation will also feature over 15 workshops on a variety of topics designed to provide tools and skills to help clergy grow vital congregations. Through the workshops learn how to intentionally plan worship services with a creative eye, how to develop and maintain small groups, or how to effectively design outreach ministry programs needed in your community, just to name a few.

The cost of the Convocation includes two nights lodging and all meals beginning with dinner on January 27 through lunch on January 29. A single room costs \$200, while a double room costs \$100 per person. Commuters can purchase meals only for \$75. Children under 18 are free.

It is important to note that prices above go up \$50 each category on December 30, 2013 and another \$50 on January 10, 2014. No walk-in registrations will be accepted. You must pre-register. Those in double rooms must choose their own roommate. Register today!

Ocean Place Resort & Spa is an elegant oasis of white sand beaches, gentle breezes, and panoramic ocean views in Long Branch, NJ. For more information about Ocean Place Resort & Spa visit www.oceanplace.com.

For more information about the 2014 Bishop's Convocation schedule and how to register, visit www.gnjumc.org/convocation2014.

Breast Cancer Awareness "Pink Sunday"



The women of Mount Zion-Wesley pose with pink scarves that symbolize their support of the fight against breast cancer.

This October, members of St. John's Church in West Berlin and Mt. Zion-Wesley in Deptford, sister churches in the Gateway South District, participated in the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink scarves and distributing pink crosses.

Members of the churches also celebrated with other women in their faith communities by honoring those who have passed away due to the disease, tying pink ribbons to trees all around the churches. They rejoiced in life by giving away pink roses.

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of deaths among African American women in the U.S., therefore it was a vital part of the churches' mission to encourage women to go and get tested.

Roberta Smith, lay leader of Mt. Zion-Wesley UMC said that by wearing pink, the women both celebrated breast cancer survivors and remembered those who lost their battles.

"We've had a lot of people in our

congregation who have had breast cancer," said Virgie Williamson, of St. Johns Church. "We do it to honor the people who have gone through the process. We want to let them know we're praying for them, and to let them know that God is here with them as we are."

During the month, Williamson advocated the importance of a healthy, knowledgeable lifestyle. "It is important in this day and age for women to be pro-active in their health, as well as doing monthly checkups and seeing the doctor," she said.

St. Johns also has a breast cancer support group. Sandra Anderson, a breast cancer survivor and co-founder of the group said the purpose of their coming together is to raise awareness and support for the emotional and spiritual journey through breast cancer treatments. She said the group focuses on allowing God to be in control and understanding there is a purpose to everything.

Bringing Comfort in Philippines

Continued from page 1

Haiyan-impacted communities in Leyte Province.

The first was to residents of *Barangay Naganaga*, a struggling and impoverished community in Tacloban, one of the areas hardest hit by the Nov. 8 typhoon, known locally as Yolanda.

Ciony Ayo-Eduarte, head of mission of UMCOR Philippines, and the Rev. Jack Amick, UMCOR 's executive for international disaster response, led the convoy to Naganaga, where food assistance had only begun to trickle in the day before, 10 days after the typhoon.

"We thought it was the end of the world," said Erlinda Andal, 30, as she waited for a food package. She, her husband, and their four children ages 7, 8, 9, and 12, had climbed to the roof of their modest home for safety as the storm surge rose. "The water kept going up and up," she said. "It was up to our chests."

Andal, a manicurist, said she and her husband, a carpenter, were thankful for the assistance. "It will be a very big help for our family," she said.

Through its presence and prayers, the United Methodist team tried to respond to the hurt as well as the hunger.

When Edita Tante picked up the

bright yellow bag that contained enough rice, oil, beans, coffee, and other staples to last her family about a week, an UMCOR volunteer, Archelaus Joseph Laudes, offered to carry it for her back to her shanty.

It was only on arriving there that Edita Tante, who survived the storm with her husband, Margarito, tearfully revealed that four of their grandchildren had not. Laudes, a student pastor who is finishing his studies at Union Theological Seminary in Cavite, listened to Tante's story and offered a prayer of strength and hope.

Many volunteers, mainly Filipino university and seminary students, spent two days making food packages filled with rice, oil, salt, brown sugar, mongo beans (a versatile lentil), sardines, cooking oil, and coffee for the typhoon survivors.

"Thanks to the generous outpouring of United Methodists, this is just the first of several shipments UMCOR anticipates making to assist the survivors," Amick said.

"Rebuilding will take years," he said. "We will move forward with the Filipino people, counting on God's grace and the support of United Methodists and people of goodwill everywhere."

**THE FEBRUARY ISSUE
DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5, 2014**

Little Falls Women Raise Funds for Thanksgiving Mission



The United Methodist Women of Little Falls Church and the Mary Martha Circle who chaired the Remembrance Tree mission project are happy to announce that their Thanksgiving Fundraiser goal has been met.

The UMW will send:

- \$100 to the Salvation Army for 50 Thanksgiving Dinners
- \$100 for our Church Food Pantry
- \$100 for turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets
- In addition, the Unity and Bethany Hope Circles' have each contributed \$50 to the Turkey Fund.

The circle thanks all the women who assisted with this project. They cut out leaves and made them available each week in October. They decorated the tables, made signs and created Thankful Necklaces.

The Little Falls women are thankful for all who have supported the Remembrance Tree through the years with their generosity. Generous donations in memory of their loved ones have made it possible for 50 hungry people to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner, for a mother to bring home a bag of food for her children, and for 20 Thanksgiving baskets to bring joy on Thanksgiving Day.

As they say on PBS – “this program was made possible because of people like you.”

Thanks also to Pastor Don Mitchell for his support and cooperation, and to Barbara Gray for flyers and posters - and for being so gracious about last minute changes and additions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



November 17, 2013 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!! The Drew UM Church Sunday School packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, a mission they have participated in for several years. When packing boxes this year the group exceeded their goal of 50 shoeboxes by packing 76 shoeboxes. “The children and Sunday School Staff experienced a great deal of fun and enjoyment in sharing with others in this way,” said Diane Sommers. “We thank our congregation for all their contributions of items and shoeboxes to help make this a successful mission and outreach. We give all honor and glory to God!”

Picture taken by Jane Powers

Recipients Say ‘Non-gifts’ Are Priceless

By Tita Parham (Interpreter Magazine)

One of the hottest toys on the market for children in 2012, according to Good Housekeeping magazine, was the Meep tablet, an iPad-like tablet that runs on the Android operating system.

Eight-year-old Maddie Helle decided she wanted something even better for her birthday: dog food.

She also asked for cat food, collars, leashes and food bowls. Maddie decided she had enough toys and clothes and instead wanted the pet supplies for the local Humane Society. She received enough to fill a large SUV. Her tour of the Humane Society's shelter about a month before her birthday prompted her request.

“I really like animals and wanted to help them,” said Maddie, who attends the United Methodist Church of Farmington (Ill.).

She took that help a step further and now regularly volunteers at the shelter. She also fosters kittens at home. And for her birthday this year, she wants the same thing.

Choosing help instead of clutter

When Sam and Lisa Abate married last April, they asked for specific wedding gifts – donations to two of their favorite charities.

The request from Sam, a firefighter/emergency medical technician (EMT), and Lisa, an EMT who works in a hospital trauma department, should have brought little surprise. For Christmas 2012, the couple, members of Union Grove United Methodist Church in

Pittsfield, N.J., gave and received alternative gifts.

“We already have everything we need,” Sam said, “so instead of getting more junk or clutter, we figured we would ask for and give something to be given to those who have nothing or very little. We wanted to help but wanted our gifts to be relevant and have a connection to who we were giving them to.”

More of everything for many

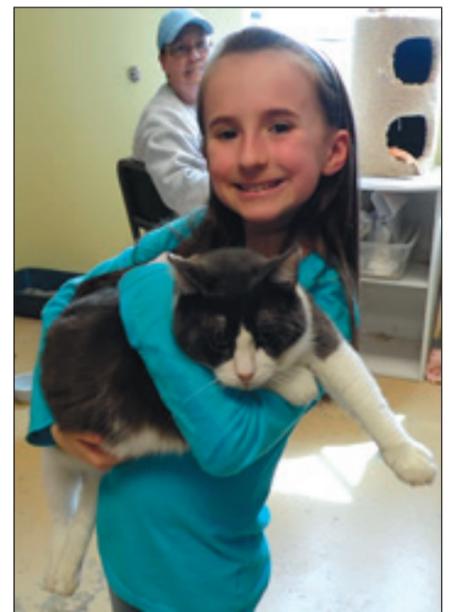
Julie Taylor says her birthday present was “the gift of sharing.”

When Taylor, executive for children, youth and family advocacy for United Methodist Women and a member of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in New York, turned 50 three years ago she also decided she had everything she needed.

“I need love, friendship, opportunity to work and access to it ... a healthy environment,” she said. “I don't need ‘stuff.’”

She asked people for things that would help someone else, but in amounts of 50 – 50 socks for homeless people; 50 cents, dimes, dollars for any charity; 50 minutes to talk to shut-ins; 50 nails for Habitat for Humanity.

“It was the best birthday ever,” she said. “When friends and family started to contact me about what things they gave and how they celebrated my birthday, I was overwhelmed. There was more food, more friendship, more as-



Maddie Helle and friend. Courtesy Photo

sistance, more love shared with others. What could be better than that?”

No better gift

Each time the Rev. Gregory Gross has suggested alternative giving, he has been “greatly surprised and honored by the gifts.”

Gross is a deacon in Chicago, appointed to the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and Berry United Methodist Church as family ministries coordinator.

For his birthday, Christmas and ordination, he asked for contributions to Project Tariro, an initiative of United Methodist diaconal ministers and deacons that supports people in Zimbabwe living with HIV/AIDS.

Alternative giving, Gross says, is vital for a church that's called to be “counter-cultural.”

“Too often our society gets caught up in wanting more — the latest and greatest device — and in ‘what's in it for me,’” he said. “Yet, we are called to think of others as ourselves.”

Gross sees gifts to Project Tariro as “giving the gift of life.”

“What better gift could I receive or give at Christmas, when we remember that the divine became incarnate,” he said.

Tita Parham is a freelance writer, editor and communications consultant based in Apopka, Fla.

Looking for ideas for alternative gifts to receive or give?

Check out the more than 850 projects and 300 missionaries supported through gifts to The Advance. Visit www.umcmmission.org/advance

John Wesley Methodist Men's Chorus marks 75th Anniversary

During the year of 1938, a group of men under the leadership of Mr. John Cornish and the Reverend John E. Bishop bonded themselves together along with the community and formed what was called the “Brotherhood.” Those brothers were Stora Chatman, Earl Elsey, Walter Weems, John Johnson, Joseph Gray, William Kent, Milton Waters, Grant Miles, Alfred Fisher, William Barber, Joseph Doles, Thomas Collins, Jerry Green, David Wright, and Local Pastor Peter C. Johnson.

The original goals of the “Brotherhood” were to attend church every second Sunday and to attain a membership of one hundred men. From the original body of men, the “Brotherhood Chorus” was formed. Mrs. Lydia Cornish, wife of John Cornish, was their

pianist from 1938 until failing health brought her retirement in 1986. Her daughter, Mary Cornish Carmichael, filled in whenever called upon.

In June of 1942, the late Reverend John E. Bishop took the group of men to the Delaware Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which was held at Tindley Temple. There they sang for the conference. Never had the group seen such a great gathering of so many men.

On September 30, 1942, a Charter was granted to the group, thus naming them the John Wesley Methodist Men. From that point on the singing group of men became known as the John Wesley Methodist Men's Chorus.

The Men's Chorus has grown in membership and popularity during the intervening years. A definite asset of

the group over the years has been its devoted leadership. The following served as directors of the Men's Chorus: John Cornish, Joseph Johnson, Jerry Green, Joseph Gibbs, and Barry L. Ballard. Mrs. Mary Cornish Carmichael served as full time pianist for the group, replacing her mother, in 1986.

The Methodist Men's Chorus has come a long way and have a great deal for which to be thankful. As they celebrate their 75th (Diamond) Anniversary, they thank God for the spirit that directed those few men 75 years ago which still remain in the group today. Although the road has been sometimes rough and the going sometimes tough, prayers and faith have enabled the chorus to continue to sing God's praises with power and with joy.

Camp Schedules 2014

Pinelands Center Releases Summer Schedule

SWIMMING • BOATING • CAMP FIRES • HAYRIDES • SPIRITUAL WORSHIP • NATURE STUDY ROPES COURSE • FIELD GAMES STREAM HIKES • BIBLE STUDY ARTS • CRAFTS • GREAT FOOD COOKOUTS • FRIENDSHIPS ARCHERY • KAYAKING • MUD WALKS • STAR GAZING • MUSIC SLEEPING CABINS w/BATHROOMS

Experience ALL of the Amazing Camp Activities listed above plus each camper gets to choose an Awesome Theme Camp focusing on their Unique Interests to enjoy all week long! Camps are created with Age Appropriate Skills & Spirituality for Children ages 7-17

July 6-12 CAMP CUISINE - THE ART OF HEALTHY COOKING Learn to be a Chef for a week through Basic Kitchen Skills, Food Safety, Salad Prep, Cupcakes, Cooking, Baking and creating fun, Healthy Recipes taught by Culinary Professionals with the Fruits of God's Garden!

July 13-19 SWIM SAND SUN - SIMPLY SUMMER FUN Love Water? Swim, Canoe, Kayak, Boat, Hike Streams, Fish, Float, Splash, Water Balloon Blast, River Walks, Wet & Wild Games! Just be very cool while experiencing God Naturally on a Beautiful Lake and white Sandy Beach!

July 20-26 SOUL SURVIVAL OUT-POST CAMP Real Camping Adventure in Natural Base Camp Cabins! NO "Glamping"! (Glamorous camping) Learn Basic Survival, Campfire Building & Cooking, Natural Remedies, Compassing, Star Gazing, Fishing, and Life in God's Wilderness!

July 28-Aug 2 NINOS PARA CRISTO & JOVENOS PARA CRISTO A week for Latino/ Hispanic children to come together to share the Word of God through Nature, Music, Culture and each other while enjoying all of the above Amazing Camp Activities!

Aug 3-9 BEAUTIFULLY CREATED TO SPARKLE AND SHINE Self-esteem building from within. Beauty Health and Wellness for Girls of all ages and sizes! Make your own Natural Cosmetics and Jewelry. Learn Yoga, Spiritual Arts Dance, Makeup, Hair and Nails!

Aug 3-9 SUN MOON AND SPORTS STARS Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Tetherball, Ping Pong, Volley Ball, Air Hockey, Field Games, Dodge Ball, Soft Martial Arts, Ropes Course, Relay Races, Ultimate Frisbee and Water Sports! Teams of all skill sets Create Fun and Self Esteem!

Aug 10-16 MAGICALLY MESSY CRAZY CREATIONS CAMP Educational Fun, Science and Exploration with Mud, Paint, Gooey Goodness, Slime, Grime and Icky Sticky Messes! Prepare to be surprised and dirty, and perhaps learn how and why God cre-

ates things Naturally!

We are an ACA Accredited United Methodist Camp of Greater New Jersey resting within the Pinelands Preservation ~ a Uniquely Beautiful Forest rich in Opportunities for Exploration of God's Creation.

Pinelands Center at Mt Misery ~ 801 Mt Misery Rd ~ Browns Mills NJ, 08015 Sun-Sat Camp \$375.00

For more Information / Registration: 609-893-3354 Fax 609-893-0472 pinelands@gnjumc.org

Aldersgate Summer Camp Schedule 2014

Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center lies on 400 acres of forest in Northwestern, New Jersey, near the Delaware Water Gap, the Appalachian Trail, and with property on gorgeous Swartswood Lake. At Aldersgate, all of our programs will afford campers the opportunity to participate in a variety of age-appropriate camp activities including, but not limited to, swimming, boating, archery, team building, crafts, cooking over a fire, field games, fishing, nature activities, etc.. All of our campers, with the exception of our Music Camp, stay in rustic cabins or hogans with bathhouses located within walking distance. And, with our Christian faith as the center of our mission, all programs are designed to foster personal and communal spiritual growth through Bible Studies, formal and informal worship, and the nurturing of a welcoming and inclusive community. **All age groups refer to the grade the camper will have completed in the summer of 2014 unless otherwise noted.**

For more information or if you have questions, e-mail Jестie Higgins at Aldersgate@gnjumc.org or call the office at 973-383-5978.

Younger Elementary (grades 1-3)

Taste of Camp: The perfect camp for first timers and those not quite ready for a full week of camp, Taste of Camp is a half week packed full with traditional camp activities and adventures. *July 6-9 & August 3-6. \$190*

Older Elementary (grades 3-5)

Camp-A-Palooza: A little bit of everything, Camp-A-Palooza is for the camper who just can't choose. From crafts to hiking, field games to boating, this week has a little bit of everything. *July 20-26 & August 3-9. \$375*

Elementary Waterwerks: For the camper who would never dry off if they didn't have to, Waterwerks includes everything from wacky water Olympics to boating on Swartswood Lake to small-group swim lessons...oh and plenty of time in the pool, of course! *July 13-19. \$375*

Crazy Campfire Scientists: Do you like experiments? Learning how things work? I hypothesize that this camp is for you! Come launch rockets, make some messy experiments, and use science to light your campfire and your faith every day. *July 20-26. \$390*



The campers at Aldersgate will have the opportunity to enjoy the pool.

Pioneer Adventure: Travel back to a simpler time as we explore early Pioneer life in America. Cook over a fire, make candles, pretend you're on the "Oregon Trail", spend a night under the stars, and enjoy all that Aldersgate has to offer. *July 27-August 2. \$375*

Junior High (grades 6-8)

Junior High Fishin' Around: One of our most popular camps, come spend a week fishing with our expert fishing staff. Campers will spend time fishing from Ray Walden Pond, Big Swartswood Lake, and even bring home a catch from Big Brown Fish Hatchery. Campers will also do fish related crafts like making their own lures! *July 6-12. \$390*

Let It Shine! Drama Camp: Come let your God-given gifts SHINE as you practice and perform a unique musical production. Help us to shine brightly together as we act, sing, dance, craft, and do a little bit of everything else Aldersgate has to offer. *July 6-12. \$375*

Archery Camp: Spend a week honing your skills in the timeless sport of archery. Campers will spend a portion of each day on the range receiving

personalized instruction from our expert archery staff. All skill levels invited! *July 13-19. \$380*

Day Trippers: Aldersgate is surrounded by so many beautiful mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, and parks that it's hard to choose just one. So pack your backpack for a little taste of it all. Each day, campers will journey out to a nearby destination for a day of hiking, boating, and adventuring. *July 20-26. \$390*

Swartswood Sail: Come earn your "sea legs" with an introduction to the ancient art of sailing. Campers will spend a portion of every day at Swartswood Lake learning firsthand about the equipment, terms, techniques, and adventure that is sailing! No experienced required. *July 27-August 2. \$380*

Junior High Waterwerks: Much like Elementary Waterwerks, this camp is for those who just can't get enough of water! Pack plenty of dry towels for this week of water games, boating adventures, water safety tips, and small-group swimming stroke classes. *July 27-August 2. \$375*

Continued on page 8



Campers at Pinelands get in the swing of things.



Christmas Blessings from United Methodist Homes

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:11

Each year Collingswood Manor associates put up beautiful Christmas trees. While the decorative trees bring joy, others inspire giving to food pantries, animal shelters, charitable organizations with diverse missions and the Homes' Fellowship Fund. Email your favorite giving traditions to blog@umh-nj.org and we will share selected submissions in January.



3311 State Route 33
Neptune, NJ 07753
732-922-9800 • www.umh-nj.org

Bristol Glen
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
200 Bristol Glen Drive
Newton, NJ 07860
973-300-5788

Collingswood Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
460 Haddon Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
856-854-4331

Francis Asbury Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
70 Stockton Avenue
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756
732-774-1316

Pitman Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
535 North Oak Avenue
Pitman, NJ 08071
856-589-7800

The Shores
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
2201 Bay Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-399-8505

Camp Schedules 2014

Continued from page 7



One of the camps boats plying the water of the lake at the Pinelands Center.

Handmade Camp: Explore your God-given talents of creating and building with a week of projects. Go beyond camp crafts to focus on learning new skills, using your creativity, and making things with your hands, both to take home and to add to the beauty of camp. *July 27-August 2. \$390*

Holy Hoops: Both on and off the court, campers will practice skills and techniques to become a better basketball player and a better team player. A portion of each day will be spent working with our staff to improve your basketball skills while the rest is filled with a variety of Aldersgate's activities. *August 10-16. \$375*

Ultimate Frisbee Camp: Come learn about one of the fastest growing sports in the world! Spend your week with our expert staff, developing your throwing and cutting skills and learning how an ultimate Frisbee team runs. All skill levels welcome! *August 10-16. \$375*

Senior High (grades 9-12)

Senior High Fishin' Around: This camp is a continuation of Junior High Fishin' Around, and includes all of the same plus more! No experience or equipment required. *July 13-19. \$390*

Senior High Sail Camp: A continuation of Swartswood Sail, this camp spends time covering the basics of sailing before diving deeper. A large majority of your time will be spent on Swartswood Lake learning the finer points of sailing, such as how to rig and un-rig a boat. No experience necessary. *August 3-9. \$380*

Veg n' Venture: Are you always on the go? Do you enjoy a casual adventure every so often? Veg n' Venture 2014 will be a mix of adventurous trips and typical camp activities by day that culminate in the opportunity to vegetate with your peers by evening. Come take a break from your hectic, high school schedule, and veg by the fire with us. *August 3-9. \$390*

Ultimate Frisbee Camp: Come learn about one of the fastest growing sports in the world! Spend your week with our expert staff, developing your throwing and cutting skills and learning how an ultimate Frisbee team runs. All skill levels welcome! *August 10-16. \$375*

Delaware Canoe: After a day of

training and preparation, Del Canoe campers will pack their dry-bags and head out on the Delaware River. Not for the faint of heart, Del Canoe-ers will spend half of their week paddling, sleeping in tents, and cooking over fires before returning to camp for some hot showers and an opportunity to participate in other Aldersgate activities. No previous experience required. *August 10-16. \$390*

Special Programs:

Music Camp at Liebenzell (AGES 11-16): Focused on building a welcoming and inclusive community of young people who enjoy music, each day is comprised of 4-5 hours of choral rehearsal, an hour of small-group ensemble time, and plenty of your typical camp activities. *July 13-19 at Liebenzell Retreat Center. \$450*

L.I.T., Leaders-In-Training (AGES 16,17,18): Are you in love with summer camp but ready to take it to the next level? Are you a leader or ready to become one? Come for an intense week of camp training designed to prepare you to return as a volunteer in following weeks. Acceptance into program is based upon an application process, and volunteer positions are based upon availability and weekly need. Watch for more information in our summer 2014 Brochure, coming soon! *July 6-12. COST TBD*

Summer Retreat (grades 6-12): Designed for those who can't get away for a whole week...or want to come back for more! Summer Retreat is for organized youth groups capable of bringing their own chaperones. Flying solo? Let us know and we will help you partner with other groups. Watch for more information in our brochure! *August 17-20. COST TBD*

Family Camp Weekend (All Ages!): From baby sister to great grandpa, invite everyone who you call family for a fun and relaxing weekend together in the great outdoors of Aldersgate. A variety of activities appropriate for different age groups will be available throughout the weekend, as well as activities for the whole family. Several housing options will be available, including tent camping and our rustic cabins. Look for more information in our brochure. *August 22-24. COST TBD*

FALL HARVEST OF HOPE BENEFITTING HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

Hampton, NJ, Raritan Valley District – On Sunday, Nov. 3rd, the North Hunterdon Church hosted an afternoon of fun, food, games and outstanding entertainment that raised over \$4300 for the Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts of A Future with Hope, Inc. The less than 40 member, rural church hosted over 200 people for the event and raised a great deal of awareness for A Future with Hope, Inc. within the community. "Nothing is impossible with God!" proclaimed Rev. Beth Caulfield.

When information came to the North Hunterdon congregation about the A Future with Hope Mission Fund Cam-

pagne (to coincide with the one year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, and to occur during their Fall Stewardship Campaign which followed the Future with Hope format provided by the conference. The event focused specifically on raising funds for Hurricane Sandy relief.

While the planning committee continued as the same small group of five, virtually everyone in the church, members of the conference staff and many members of the surrounding community came together to make the event a success. Lou Strugala, Construction Director for A Future with Hope,



The Caribbean Steel Rhythms provided a portion of the day's entertainment covering a wide variety of musical styles.



Members of the North Hunterdon Church and visitors from the community gathered in the sanctuary; enjoying the program and raising funds to help A Future with Hope.

paigned late last summer, the church was quick to embrace the concept and to find a creative way to integrate the goals of the campaign with other strategic concerns of the church. Caulfield, the newly appointed pastor, had just met individually with key leaders as part of her transition process into the church. Several themes emerged: 1) they were interested in becoming a vital congregation with specific concern for growing and doing more mission work, 2) they wanted to raise their profile in the community to attract more members, 3) they were displeased with the recent results of their annual fall festival/open house and wanted to do something different, and 4) they wanted a revitalized and focused Stewardship Campaign.

As the church geared up for its fall activities, a plan emerged. Joan Boehm, the Lay Member of Annual Conference assumed the position of A Future with Hope Campaign Chairperson and a small team was formed consisting of the fall festival chairperson Sue DeReemer, the worship committee leader Sheila McIntyre, active church member Marguerite Smart and Ms. Caulfield. The team prayed together and invited the Spirit to lead them to envision a fall festival filled with vibrant live music, food, games, a silent auction and a minimal admission fee that donated 100% of its proceeds to A Future with Hope Campaign. The church's thrift shop decided to donate one full day of proceeds to the cause as well.

The event was strategically scheduled to occur in early November when competing community activities were minimalized (compared to early fall or

preached during the morning worship service and answered questions throughout the day. Many area businesses and private individuals donated food, drink and items for the silent auction. A Future with Hope Field Coordinator Rebecca Nichols provided constant advice and support to the church.

The highlight of the event was the music, as three popular praise bands from area churches, two high school groups and a liturgical dance team partnered with North Hunterdon. Specifically, the bands *Big Fish* (of Simply Grace UMC in Bloomsbury), *Second Chances* (of Clinton UMC), *Sarah Kim & Ross Monteith* (North Hunterdon High School) and *The Williams Boys* (North Hunterdon UMC and High School) and *The Caribbean Steel Rhythms* out of Christ UMC in Easton, PA delighted the crowd. *The Caribbean Steel Rhythms*, made up of players from both the Caribbean and the Lehigh Valley, were especially appreciated because of their unique musical sound that includes Gospel, Pop, Jazz, Latin, R&B, Reggae, Calypso, Classics & more. The Christian Love Praise Dancers, a 15+ member dance troop from Christian Love Baptist Church in Irvington rounded out the entertainment with their fervent expression of love for the Lord through dance. The event was covered by the local media before, during and after November 3rd.

The day was spirit-filled as a diverse group of people came together for an important cause: helping others, and in the end helping the local church and the local community.

- Beth Caulfield

Log on to:

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

Stop Hunger Now Aids Typhoon Haiyan Survivors

By Linda Bloom*



A church stands amidst the ruins caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the village of Daanbantayan, northern Cebu, Philippines. A UMNS photo by Ray Buchanan.

Stop Hunger Now was in the process of setting up an office in Manila when Typhoon Haiyan struck in November.

Using already established relationships has made it easier for the United Methodist partner and hunger relief agency to respond, says the Rev. Ray Buchanan, Stop Hunger Now founder.

As of early December, Stop Hunger Now was in the process of shipping more than 1.8 million meals from the U.S. and its office in Malaysia, the agency announced. Hundreds of thousands of additional meals and other aid was being packaged and distributed through partners in Singapore and the Philippines.

A small group that included Buchanan and Allen Renquist, Stop Hunger Now's chief program officer, also made a trip to the Philippines, arriving Nov. 17, to hand deliver 1,100 water filters in partnership with Wine to Water, a nonprofit devoted to providing clean water and sanitation to people in need.

Buchanan, who kept a blog of the trip, said he found the typhoon's destruction in northern Cebu – roofless or destroyed homes, downed trees, damaged infrastructure – to be similar to if not as intense as Tacloban, which has received more media coverage.

Many were homeless and seeking shelter any place they could find it. Buchanan pointed out that burials in the area are above ground because of water table. "We saw numerous fami-

lies living in the crypts...because it was shelter," he said.

The government in Cebu has promised to restore power by Christmas, but many have lost their livelihoods. Buchanan believes there is still a great need for food and fresh water.

Part of the reason for the on-site visit, he said, was to verify that partners on the ground could receive as much aid as Stop Hunger Now was shipping and to encourage those partners to move forward with assisting typhoon survivors.

"The most exciting thing, for me, was working with our partners in Rotary (International)," he said. "They organized a meal packaging event in Manila in response to the typhoon. From start to finish, from organization to cleanup, they did the whole thing themselves."

About 500 volunteers packaged 120,000 meals at the Nov. 22 event in Manila.

Buchanan said the experience of responding to Typhoon Haiyan has reaffirmed the organization's plan to establish additional international offices. The office in Malaysia, for example, was able to ship 400,000 meals to the Philippines. "Already that strategy of trying to start offices in other parts of the world to respond to crises more immediately is paying off," he noted.

**Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York.*

Stewardship Stories



By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education and Development, GNJAC

Back in February of 2013 I set two personal goals: one was to lose 15 pounds by the end of the year and the other was to run in the Mickey's Jungle Jingle 5K at Disney's Animal Kingdom in November of 2013. Actually, running the 5K was a goal imposed on me when one of my daughters signed us up to run as a family and then announced to all of us that we were already registered. On November 9, 2013 I, along with my wife and two daughters, ran and finished (in 42 minutes!) the 5K at Animal Kingdom. As of Nov. 15 I've lost ten pounds with five left to go before the end of the year. As a side note, we're already looking into the Tower of Terror 10K next October.

There are two strategies that stand out among the rest when it comes to helping reach my goals: I record everything I eat using the "Lose It" app while eating according to the guidelines found in the DASH diet. Recording daily my caloric intake helps me monitor and keep track of my diet so that I'm watching what I eat with special attention to portion control. Otherwise, for me it would just be guess work. The other strategy is to also keep track of all my physical activity. Recording my exercise routine has helped me make sure I'm keeping a balance between cardio and fat burning. Knowing I'm going to make those daily entries has helped hold me accountable to my goals.

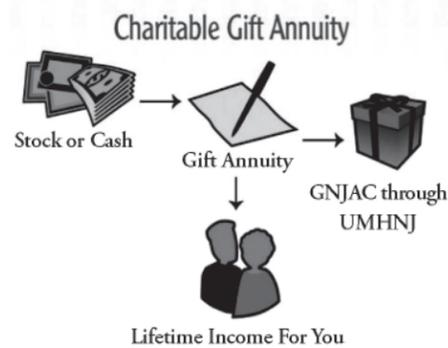
I believe the same principle is true and necessary when it comes to reaching our goals to strengthen our vitality in the local church. We measure what we believe is important. To become a more vital congregation we need to be setting goals, planning our strategies, recording our progress, and celebrating our results. Get started by setting goals in the area of weekly worship attendance, small group participation, professions of faith, missional participation, and financial giving. Plan your strategies and track your progress by going to umvitalcongregations.org and click on vital signs where you can enter your numbers each week in the five areas.

Remember, "Highly vital congregations are Spirit-filled, forward leaning communities of believers that grow over time, welcome all people; make disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit; and serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries."



A Planned Gift can have a lasting impact on the work of Christ through the Church

You can enrich one or more of the ministries of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference



Copyright © 2013 Crescendo Interactive, Inc. FC-2010-37.2-pw

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in collaboration with the United Methodist Homes of NJ Foundation offers a planned giving educational program designed to create new opportunities for you to support the ministries of your local church and various GNJAC initiatives.

The Relay to Feature Four Part Series on History of GNJ and Lenni-Lenape Tribes

Did you know that St. John United Methodist Church of Fordville (Bridgeton) is the first and only Native American church in the State of New Jersey?

Did you know that one of the translations of the word "Lenape" is "Original Men or People?"

Starting in February, The Relay will feature a four part series written by Mark Shenise and Rev. John Norwood on the history of Greater New Jersey United Methodists and Lenni-Lenape Tribes.

Mark Shenise has immersed himself in our Ministry of Memory as an archivist for over 27 years at the General Commission on Archives and History in Madison, New Jersey. He is currently serving as Vice-Chair and Secretary for our Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Rev. John Norwood is a member of the Tribal Council of Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation and is also the Principal Justice of the Tribal Supreme Court. He serves as minister to the Tribal Christian Prayer Circle Ministry and is the pastor of Ujima Village Christian Church, a non-denominational, non-tribal congregation in Ewing, New Jersey.

You won't want to miss this series!



For More Information Contact:
United Methodist Homes of NJ Foundation
Email: info@umh-nj.org • Direct Line: (732) 922-9802
www.umhnj.plannedgiving.org



Historic UMC #Giving Tuesday is Record-Breaking Day for Mission

Thanks to the generosity of United Methodists around the world, more than 880 projects and missionaries will receive a financial boost to help them meet their mission goals. The denomination's General Board of Global Ministries announced that the first-ever UMC #GivingTuesday generated a record \$6.5 million online on December 3. Nearly 11,000 donors in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts through The Advance to mission and ministries they believe in. Global Ministries matched the first \$500,000 received.

Building on the recent US shopping traditions of Black Friday, Local Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday, UMC #Giving Tuesday offered an opportunity to start the holiday season by giving instead of getting, while supporting organizations that are transforming the world.

"We were overwhelmed by this giving that went far beyond our dreams," said Thomas Kemper, the head of Global Ministries. "The people called Methodists once again have exceeded themselves in love and solidarity."

Noting the extensive number of Advance projects and that "100% goes to mission," donor Ann Bosson Greenberg wrote in a Facebook post, "I am so happy to be a Methodist Christian!" Greenberg shared that she had made a gift to Alternative Rite of Passage, an organization that is working to eliminate female circumcision in Kenya.

The Advance is The United Methodist Church's giving channel which ensures that 100 percent of each gift supports the project designated by the donor; it is a link that connects the church in mission. The Advance encompasses more than 850 Methodist-related projects and more than 300 missionaries, all of them reviewed and monitored by Global Ministries staff.

Kemper said, "By promoting UMC Giving Tuesday, conferences and local churches significantly helped educate their members about The Advance — a giving channel that would not be possible without apportionments to cover administrative costs." He added, "Having matching funds available not only directly benefited the projects, but helped build momentum for the campaign."

One ministry supported through The Advance is The Appalachia Service Project. As he thanked supporters, Walter Crouch, who leads the organization, said, "The Advance is a blessing. Our mission of making the homes of low-income families in Appalachia warmer, safer, and drier depends on consistent, reliable financial support. The Advance provides just that."

A final accounting of the distribution of gifts will be available by December 16. Kemper thanked the staff who connected Global Ministries with the national #Giving Tuesday campaign, helped promote the event, and made it technically possible to process more than \$6.5 million online. He hopes that UMC #Giving Tuesday raised awareness about the impact that United Methodists have in the lives of people served by Advance projects. "While Giving Tuesday is just one day, these ministries are transforming the world all year around," he said.

Gifts to support Advance projects and the missionary community can be made online at any time at www.umcmmission.org/give.

- See more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1204-Historic-UMC-GivingTuesday#sthash.lR0OmGRY.dpuf>

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.*

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Are you coming off your Church's complementary subscription list?
Is there a United Methodist on your Christmas list that has you stumped?
Is your paid subscription coming up to renewal?

The United Methodist RELAY

at \$9.50 per year continues to be one of the best bargains around.
Send in your subscription order now.

UNITED METHODIST RELAY, 1001 Wickapedia Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

Sue Duffield Benefit for A Future with Hope, Inc.

Musician and humorist, Sue Duffield, found herself with a free evening while on tour in western New Jersey. Rather than remain idle, she suggested a benefit concert for Sandy Recovery. With a mere three weeks to pull something together, Rev. Jean McMullen of United Methodist Church in Washington led the charge and created an enchanted evening filled with laughter and song, praises to God, delectable snacks, and an offering to assist victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Sue Duffield's best loved song, "LOL", is a musical and whimsical view of our crazy acronym and texting social media world. She loves to make people laugh with her off-the-wall Jersey logic and sacred sarcasm. Not surprising, Sue has found it's a style of humor that resonates with audiences everywhere. This singer/songwriter and former radio personality has toured with her own comedy and musical concerts since 1974.

She speaks for Raymond James Prayer Breakfasts, Prison Fellowship Ministry Briefings, CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship), Rotary International, MRO (Motor Racing Outreach for NASCAR), CWIMA (Christian Women In Media Assoc.), UMW Regional/National events, Trucker Church Radio, women's retreats and international conferences. Sue is also an advocate against human trafficking, promoting her friend's ministry in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where she visited in 2011. Her desire is to return soon.

Sue's humorous stories and inspirational writings have been featured in New Jersey's "SJ" Magazine, Absolutely Gospel Music Network, "Laugh Lines", the National AG Women's Ministry website, and John C. Maxwell's book, "Everyone Communicates Few Connect" (Thomas Nelson).

Jersey girl Sue married her high school sweetheart, Jeff Duffield, who is a keyboardist, arranger and studio musician, both residing in Nashville, TN. They have two adult children, David and Annie. Learn more about Sue at www.sueduffield.com.



Singer/Songwriter Sue Duffield volunteered her time to perform a benefit concert for Sandy Recovery in early December at The United Methodist Church in Washington.

Young Clergy GBCS Leadership Forum

How can we come together to build a world where all people are able to flourish - spiritually and physically - and enjoy the abundant life God desires for all?

The General Board of Church and Society will host seventy-five (75) Young Clergy, (elders or deacons serving local congregations) in Washington DC to build relationships, learn from one another, and develop bridges for further ministry. The even will be held at The United Methodist Building, January 26-29, 2014.

Space will be limited to 75 Young Clergy who have not previously attended a GBCS Young Clergy gathering.

Housing for participants

Kellogg Conference Center
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave NE, Washington DC
202-651-6000

Participants are asked to arrive anytime on Sunday, January 26th and plan to leave after 1:30PM on Wednesday, January 29th. Housing and meals will be covered by the General Board of Church and Society.

Private rooms have an additional charge.

Registration fee is \$175 for those staying at the Kellogg Center and those registering before Christmas day get a

Christmas present of \$50 off registration. Not bad!

Registration will be \$75 for anyone who needs to commute.

Register today! Deadline is Friday, January 10, 2014.

Questions?

Contact Rev. Clayton Childers at cchilders@umc-gbcs.org

Event Location

The United Methodist Building
100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

OBITUARIES

JOAN ANN BRANDT, wife of Rev. Warren Brandt, a retired local pastor of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Thursday, November 7. A Christian service of death and resurrection was celebrated November 11 at the New City United Methodist Church, New City, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Mrs. Brandt's name to the Hi-Tor Animal Center, 65 Firemans Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY 10970. Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. Warren Brandt, 419 Tompkins Avenue, Upper Nyack, NY 10960.

SARAH (SALLY) DUNNING SCHEAR, wife of Sarah (Sally) Dunning Schear, wife of the deceased Rev. Lloyd B. Schear of Ohio, passed away peacefully last February at the age of 102.

Born on October 29, 1910, Sally lived in New York City for much of her first forty years. After completing her undergraduate education at Sarah Lawrence and Swarthmore Colleges, Sally studied fine arts and religion at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, earning a doctorate in the Psychology of Religion from Columbia in 1952.

Sally was deeply committed to interdenominational religious education. A self-described "ecu-maniac," Sally taught at Riverside Church from 1939-43, wrote curricular guides for children's education, and subsequently served as a director of religious education at Protestant churches in the Bronx, Rye, and Radburn, New Jersey.

In 1952, she married Rev. Lloyd B. Schear of Ohio, a Methodist minister. They raised two sons and served in northern New Jersey at Methodist parishes in Hoboken, Rockaway, Newark, Cokesbury and Oldwick. Following Lloyd's death in 1965, Sally and her sons moved to New England. She served as Director of Religious Education at the Belmont United Methodist Church, Belmont, MA, and subsequently at the Boston Theological Institute and the Church of All Nations in Boston.

Well-wishers may make donations in Sally's name to The Women's Prison Association, founded in 1845 by her great-great grandfather, Isaac T. Hopper. WPA, 110 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003 646-292-7753; www.wpaonline.org

ERNEST S. FRERICHS, retired Elder of the Greater NJ Conference, died on Monday, November 11 in Warren, Rhode Island. He was Professor of Religious Studies and Dean of the Graduate School of Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to his son, David S. Frerichs at 43 Kinnicut Avenue, Warren, RI 02885 or dbffarm@aol.com.

RELAY MISSION STATEMENT

The **mission** of the *United Methodist Relay* is to provide print communication to the leadership and membership, clergy and lay, of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. It shall be a **vehicle** to tell the church's story and a **forum** for the exchange of ideas regarding Christian Faith and Practice.

In fulfillment of this mission, its **purpose** is:

- to inform the readership of events and resources at local, district conference, area and denominational levels
- to promote the mission of the annual conference, the area, and the general church
- to invite discussion of and response to important and controversial key issues facing the church
- to encourage readers to grow in their commitment to diversity and inclusiveness in church and society
- to inspire readers to grow in their faith and commitment to Christ and the Church

In pursuit of this mission and purpose, we will endeavor to be: Accurate * Informative * Interesting * Stimulating * Motivating * And sometimes, Provocative.



SLATE ROOFS
New & Repairs

John Frazer
(856) 451-9403 Phone
(856) 451-4580 Fax

34 Burt Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

(Paid Advertisement)

W. Michael Campbell, AIA
ARCHITECT
CHURCH DESIGN AND RESTORATION

369 West Farms Rd. Phone: 732-919-2750
P.O. Box 86 Fax: 732-919-2751
Farmingdale, NJ 07727 WMCarch@optonline.net

www.ReligiousArchitecture.com

Paid Advertisement

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE RELAY

If you are a member of a local church who is relinquishing membership on the Charge Conference and therefore no longer entitled to a complementary subscription to the *Relay*, you may soon miss the monthly visit of your conference newspaper.

Act Now to keep your subscription intact by sending your subscription request with a check for \$9.50 to:

Beverly Karlovich, Subscription Manager
United Methodist Relay
1001 Wickapecko Dr.
Ocean, NJ 07712 - 4733

Or maybe you are a faithful United Methodist who just likes to keep informed. You're invited to join the *Relay* family, too.

— Cut along this line and send to the address above —

Please enter my subscription to the United Methodist Relay. Enclosed is my check for \$9.50.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Subscriber Renewal

Make your advertising dollars
go
FARTHER

Every month the United Methodist Relay goes into the homes of United Methodist leaders, clergy and laity across the Greater New Jersey Area.

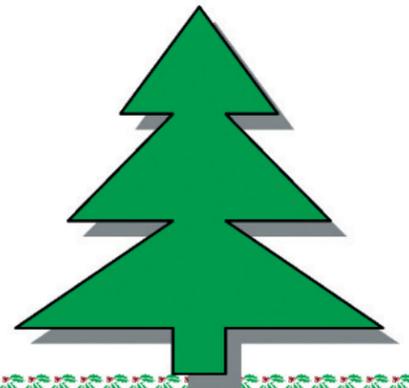
These are decision makers in the Church, the Home, the Community

In a day when more than ever, every dollar counts, you want to be a good steward

That's why you need to consider the UNITED METHODIST RELAY as your prime advertising vehicle

For further information call 732 359-1000 and ask for Beverly

Making a List & Checking it Twice



Christmas Shopping List

- ✓ Sweater for Mom
- ✓ Tie for Dad
- ✓ Video Game for Daughter
- ✓ MP3 Player for Son
- ✓ Canned Goods for Food Bank
- ✓ New Toy for DYFS
- ✓ Chickens for Heifer Project
- ✓ Winter Coats and Gloves for Homeless Family

This Christmas give a gift that will truly make a difference in someone's life. Check with your local church Mission or Outreach Committees for all the ways your giving might do God's work in your local community or around the world. Or make a donation through your local church to:

Local Missions



*Have a Blessed Christmas
and a
Joy-Filled New Year*

 **A FUTURE WITH HOPE**
MISSION FUND CAMPAIGN