

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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No. 9

Youth 'All In' At IGNITE Conference

By Jeff Wolfe

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The inspiration inside proved to be a greater force than the wind and precipitation outside at the IGNITE Youth Conference on Oct. 2-4.

Approximately 700 youth attended the second annual event at the Wildwoods Convention Center that had the theme of "fan into flame," based on a Bible verse in 2 Timothy.

Featured speaker Gian Paul Gonzalez, a high school teacher in Union City, N.J. who became known for his "all in" speech that inspired the New York Giants to a Super Bowl victory, applied that same message to gospel teachings throughout the weekend. The result is that several hundred youth made a first-time commitment or renewed their commitment to Jesus Christ.

"This weekend was a real eye opener for me," said Natalie Hopkins, who attended the event with Christ UMC of Piscataway and is a senior at Piscataway High School. "When they called everyone down and asked if you wanted a deeper relationship with God, it was like a tidal wave for me."

On Saturday night, Gonzalez encouraged IGNITE attendees by using an example of a shark. The shark is relentless and even though it fails sometimes, the shark doesn't stop becoming what it is meant to be. Gonzalez offered each young person a shark tooth to take as a reminder to persevere during difficult times.

Brian Deery, a high school junior who attended with the Sparta UMC youth group, said the weekend was a special time for him.

"I think it was kind of like fate for me,



Photo by Edison Lee

Youth have some fun during rapper KBs Saturday night concert at IGNITE on Oct. 2-4 at the Wildwoods Convention Center. More IGNITE Coverage on Pages 6-7.

because I hadn't planned on being here," he said. "I felt a real need to know my purpose. I know I need to set goals and I need to go for them and I need to be

'all in'. When he started talking about the sharks, it let me know that just because you fail once or twice, that if you are 'all in', you can't give up."

Gonzalez shared that there were times in his life that he was not "all in" and that the end result was not a good

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Photo by John Wooding

Those who attended the Team Vital training in the Cape Atlantic District are in a celebratory mode. The Team Vital training kicked off in September at four different sites around GNJ with 25 churches participating.

GNJ Churches Embrace Team Vital

By Jeff Wolfe

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Team Vital is off to an enthusiastic start as 25 churches met at four sites around Greater New Jersey Saturday, Sept. 19 to begin a journey to help them better serve their congregations and communities.

"Team Vital took off all across Greater New Jersey," said Rev. Beth Caulfield, GNJ's Director of Small Groups and

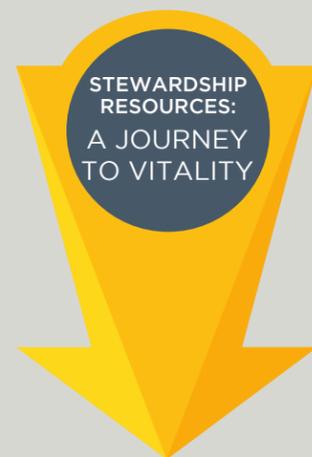
Spiritual Visioning, who is spearheading the Team Vital initiative. "The Spirit was felt as we all prayed together, studied together and were creative together - planning ministry to our local communities and the world."

Team Vital helps leaders create a strategic ministry action plan using the five markers of vitality. It builds on the principle that bringing teams of leaders together from various churches strengthens the learning and creative energy for

participants. Churches learn from each other, collaborate, support and hold each other accountable to pursue their ministry plans. Each church also receives individual technical support, monthly consulting and other resourcing opportunities from the conference. Churches regroup periodically to assess their progress and share lessons learned.

The meeting sites for the kickoff were Absecon UMC in the Cape Atlantic

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This month is the second in a series of pages highlighting stories and information about one of our Connectional Ministries Team areas.

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A Message from the Bishop



This is the first of a three-part series on "Why The Five Markers?"

I believe God's love heals and changes people's lives. God's love is at work through passionate disciples who stir up faith, hope and justice in the community. More often than not, these disciples are formed and shaped in vital congregations. GNJ grows vital congregations to unleash God's love in the world.

Why the five markers?

I remember sitting in my Olney High School calculus class asking myself, now how will I use this in life? Have you ever

seen a ministry or initiative and asked what difference will this make? How will it make a difference in somebody's life? Some people have been asking me why we want to grow the five markers of vitality in our congregations. What difference will it make?

This is the first in a three part series on the five markers of congregational vitality. The five markers of vitality are worship, small groups, community mission, giving and making new disciples. Today I want to talk with you about the first two – worship and small groups.

Worship

Worship is about worshipping God who transcends our fears, guilt, shame and our daily routine. We worship to experience and understand there is one greater than us who transcends our human condition. We all long for transcendence

The congregation had been singing several songs for nine minutes and all of a sudden tears began to well up within Allen's eyes. The songs' lyrics praised God. Later Allen would say that he felt there was a higher power all around him and that he was overwhelmed with a sense of awe.

In another church, the pastor told a story about a failing in her life and how God not only forgave her but set her on a new path. Jennifer, a long time worshiper, felt something stir within in her. She had been masking doubt about herself and her own failings. The vulnerability of the pastor, the testimony of God's forgiveness and the story of another's life being rebuilt helped her transcend her own guilt.

We **worship** to experience God's unconditional love that transcends our circumstances and redeems our life. This is why worship ought to focus on feeling (music, testimony, heart-felt messages) and understanding (thoughtful proclamation that teaches application of the scriptures for our living).

Small Groups

All people desire relationships. We hunger for belonging, acceptance, love and friendship. We also crave understanding, to know why we exist, what the scriptures mean, and how we should live. **Small groups** are places where Christian community takes place and we experience our deep desires for relationships and learning.

Jerry wasn't new to a small group. For years he belonged to Alcoholics Anonymous. He met people just like him, people craving to be with other fellow journeyers seeking to change and be with people who understood and supported each other. He would start a new small group at the church for men before they went to work. It began with two men and grew to 10. The men prayed together, accounted for their faith, studied a Bible passage and made commitments for how they would live. Jerry's new group also provided a place for fellow journeyers seeking support and hope.

Ruby came to Disciple Bible study because she did not know a lot about the Bible. She wanted to learn more and understand it better. It changed her life. She met a great group of people through this small group and developed close friendships and she also grew in understanding and faith. Ruby became more active and eventually a significant leader in the church.

Small groups meet our inner craving for relationships and understanding. **Worship** meets the hole in our heart for a sense of transcendence, that there is someone greater than ourselves. The five markers are meeting human desires and needs. That's the difference. That's why we call our churches to grow worship and start more small groups, God's love heals people through worship and small groups.

Keep the faith!
John Schol, Bishop

The November Issue Deadline is October 15, 2015

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.

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THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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Stewardship Resources: A Journey to Vitality

It's All I Have – A Stewardship Story



Mary McLeod Bethune

In 1904, a real estate agent named John waited for his client outside an old dilapidated house he had been trying to rent for months in central Florida. He watched as a lone African-American woman named Mary approached and introduced herself. Much to John's surprise Mary quickly came to the conclusion that in spite of the rundown nature of the house it was just what she was looking for.

John informed Mary that the rent on the house was \$11.00 a month and that once she paid the first month's rent and signed the lease she could move in. Mary's response caught John by surprise. "Oh no, I don't intend to live here. I'm going to use the house to start a school for African-American girls and I'm going to open the doors in one week." John responded questioning Mary's sanity, "Didn't you notice the condition of the place? You'll never be ready in a week."

Mary simply responded, "A week will have to do because it's all I have."

Mary quietly informed John that she did not have the \$11.00. When he negotiated the price to \$5.50, she reported she didn't have \$5.50 either. "What do you have?" John asked. "I have a bushel of sweet potatoes," replied Mary. John was exasperated, "You can't open a school with a bushel of sweet potatoes!"

Mary simply responded, "A bushel of sweet potatoes will have to do because it's all I have."

John reluctantly agreed to the sale and Mary got busy fixing up the house. She turned the bushel of potatoes into sweet potato pies that she sold to the railroad workers nearby. One week later the Daytona Industrial School for Negro Girls was born with one faculty member (Mary) and five students. The school grew and a few years later it merged with a similar school for African-American boys. We know that school today as Bethune-Cookman College, one of the historic colleges that we support as United Methodists through the Black College Fund.

What a powerful reminder of what God can do when we offer God all that we have and all that we are. If God can take a bushel of sweet potatoes and the passion and conviction of one woman and turn that into an institute of higher learning that has impacted the lives of so many, then what can God do with what we have to offer.



Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL.

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VBS As Stewardship At Centenary UMC



When we think of stewardship we immediately think only of money. Exciting and life-changing ministry can take place when we also offer God our time and talents.

Centenary UMC in Metuchen is a good example. They made the decision to move their VBS to the evening and to host it with no charge. The week-long program grew, with more participants, parents and friends attending. "VBS was a fantastic experience for our church and for our community," Rev. Anna Thomas said. "It attracted not only members and friends of CUMC, but also folks from local communities and people from a variety of faith traditions."

With the theme "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid," volunteers transformed the Centenary sanctuary into a Nazareth-era marketplace, complete with a replica stonewall and canopy tents.

One of the church's meeting rooms was converted into "Mary's House," and Centenary's front lawn was set up to host nightly "fun and games." Highlights of the 2015 VBS were a petting zoo in the middle of the week (complete with goats, calves and chickens), and a visit from Jesus on the final evening. "Now everyone looks forward to VBS," Thomas said, "the children and youth who attend, parents and families who are there with their kids, and the members and friends of Centenary who lend their talents to make it a memorable week."

Recommended Resources

BOOKS:

Not Your Parent's Offering Plate, J. Clif Christopher
 Stewardship in African American Churches, Melvin Amerson
 Climb Higher, Scott McKenzie and Kristine Miller

WEBSITES:

www.gbod.org
www.umcom.org
www.umcgin.org



Five Things About Giving You Might Not Know...

1.

GIVING BEGINS WITH GOD
 "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." - Saint Augustine
 SCRIPTURE - 1 JOHN 4:7-16
2.

GIVING PUTS GOD FIRST
 "When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives."- Ezra Taft Benson Key
 SCRIPTURE - MALACHI 3:6-12
3.

GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP
 "Churches don't take offerings, worshippers give offerings."
 - Dennis Piwowarczyk
 SCRIPTURE - ROMANS 12:1-2
4.

GIVING EXPRESSES THANKFULNESS TO GOD
 "Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it would hold a rather large amount of gratitude."- A.A. Milne
 SCRIPTURE - LUKE 17:11-19
5.

GIVING INCLUDES HELPING THOSE IN NEED
 "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."
 - Mahatma Gandhi SCRIPTURE - MATTHEW 25:31-46

For additional information and support on stewardship resources:



www.gnjumc.org/stewardship

Contact Rich Hendrickson,
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 732-359-1045

Youth Bond With God, Each Other At Retreat

By Jeff Wolfe
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The 20 young people who spent a week at the Niños Y Jovenes Para Cristo Retreat at the Pinelands Center this summer couldn't wait for it to start and then didn't want it to end.

"What's hard is when Saturday morning comes," said Rev. Rolando Santiago-Fuentes, one of the clergy and counselors who were on the retreat. "It's like we had such a great time, but now we are going back home. During one week, we are able to experience God's grace in a special way through friendships, fellowship and playing sports."

Some of those friendships have been developing for years, while others are just taking place. Those friendships have kept Santiago's son, also Rolando, coming to the retreats for nearly 10 years.

"My son has been going there since he was 8 years old," Santiago-Fuentes said. "You could offer him a trip to Disney or somewhere similar to that, and he would not miss camp for that. The friendships he has made in camp, he sees them now as his brothers and sisters. The bonds he has established, especially with some of the other pastors' kids, he will say these are my brothers."

While the retreat week has the potential of to be a highlight of a young person's life, Santiago-Fuentes points out that there is more than emotion involved. He says that is evident in the youths in the weeks and months after the retreat.

"When they come back, you can see how they change in church," he said. "Their attitude changes and you see a change in how they relate. And the new bonds they make at the retreat, they get stronger. But certainly the retreat changes them. Some a lot, and some a little and for some, God is working inside of them."

One of the other primary leaders at the retreat was Dover UMC pastor Charles Perez. He said the retreat has had a significant impact on young people from his church.

"I've never seen my youth group so on fire for God," Perez said. "And I sensed there was a lot of healing for them as well. One young lady was at our Friday night campfire with everyone, I hugged her and gave her a kiss on top of her head and I



Photos Provided
Above, about 20 youth attended the Niños Y Jovenes Para Cristo Retreat this summer at the Pinelands Center and many of them are already anticipating next year's retreat. At right, young people take a selfie at the retreat.



said I love you as a daughter.

"Her mom told me that meant the world to her because she had never heard that her whole life."

The entire week was full of activities, such as boating, a mud war, a Bible scavenger hunt and a talent show. The daily schedule also featured time for group Bible study, worship and times for personal reflection.

"It is a very Christ-centered time," Perez said. "We allowed campers or counselors to do a devotion if they wanted and it allowed the kids to be involved in Bible study and evening worship."

Those daily moments built up to that Friday night service, which Santiago-Fuentes and Perez each said was a key spiritual time for the week.

"Two of our junior counselors had torches and when we said 'God said

let there be light' those two got up and lit the fire, some of the kids were pretty emotional that night," Perez said. "We had some other pastors there to pray over them, too."

Those two counselors were the younger Santiago, and Fabian Burgos.

"Because those two were counselors for the first time, we had them build torches, and then we beat the drum and they walked in all the way from the back and lit up the fire," Rev. Santiago-Fuentes said.

Another spiritual part of the campfire is having the youth privately write down something they need to let go of, then after praying about it, putting that piece

of paper in the fire.

Perez says it's not always an easy thing to do.

"One kid held it so hard in their hand and asked me if can God help me out with this, and I said of course," Perez said. "That was another holy moment."

Those kind of moments not only have the youth not wanting to leave, but wondering when they can come back.

"The one thing you hear them say a lot, is 'when is the retreat next year?'" Santiago-Fuentes said. "The impact is so strong, even weeks after the retreat is over, they are saying when is the retreat next year?"

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GNJ Pilgrim Walks in Wesleyan Footsteps

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen
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"As Pilgrims, we are persons who journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion. . . . Pilgrims are expectant people; they expect to see and experience God in people, places, and events along the way."

This is a partial description by the United Methodist Discipleship Ministries for people who are planning to experience a Wesley Pilgrimage in England. One recent pilgrim is a young adult lay servant in the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

Farrah Rochester, a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair, spent 10 days in July walking in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley. Born and raised in the United Methodist Church, Rochester says that before the pilgrimage, she was challenged to explain exactly why she is United Methodist.

Now, she says connecting with her Methodist heritage, "reminded me that the Methodist principles are inclusive of all God's people." She continues, "even slave owners and criminals are entitled to God's grace through God's mercy in Jesus Christ."

She experienced this most strongly at the Wesley Chapel in London. The center stone in the baptismal font was a step from the home of former slave owner Nathaniel Gilbert. After meeting with John Wesley in 1759, Gilbert went back to Antigua and began preaching to the slaves who he subsequently released.

"God is so powerful and literally broke the chains of slavery," Rochester said.

It is with this value of moving beyond the walls of the church that Rochester hopes the United Methodist Church will reconnect.

"John and Charles were about reaching the people in the community, engaging in social justice, outside in the public square," she said. ". . . Church was missional and could be anywhere. It didn't look one particular way!"

While the United Methodist Church continues to embrace many of the Wesleyan traditions, Rochester wonders how the church today can also live out the values of full inclusivity that she believes is often missing.

"I want for us to be closer to the community outside of our membership," she said. "I want our church to be inclusive of everyone. To be a United Methodist is about love and discipleship."

About the Pilgrimage

The denomination's Higher Education and Ministry and Discipleship Ministries sponsor this unique United Methodist experience. Rochester participated in the 2015 pilgrimage with 34 lay and clergy pilgrims and six teachers from throughout the Connection. She received a full scholarship to attend.

As someone who is discerning God's call on her life, Rochester appreciated the conversations with other pilgrims.

"While the overall trip was quite personal," she said, "I am thankful for the opportunity to be in community with pastors, some seasoned and some young, learning about their journeys and experiences."

She approached the pilgrimage with an attitude of prayer and spiritual reflection before and during the trip.

"We were reminded that we are not there as tourists but as pilgrims," she said. "We started every day in prayer and sharing the Eucharist, had small group discussions, and ended the day with compline."

Following the pilgrimage, Rochester is considering how to be more intentional in her ministry with children and youth.

"I am asking the Holy Spirit to guide



Photo Provided

One of the stops on the Wesley Pilgrimage in England is the home of the Wesleys.

me, to reach the children who are not in the church," she said. "How do I bring the Good News into the community the way that John and Charles Wesley engaged in the public square?"

"It's important that we not just do the work of God, but also strive to be a person of God."

Mission Center Will Be Environmentally Friendly

By Jeff Wolfe
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Construction crews have not wasted any time building the Mission and Resource Center, the name of the new conference center, scheduled to be complete in early 2016. Once the building opens, it won't be wasting energy either.

The Mission and Resource Center will be using green energy initiatives so that the conference both saves money and is a steward of the environment.

"The energy codes are getting more and more aggressive, but we easily meet all of them," said Jack Green, whose company, Jack Green Construction, is the general contractor for the project. "We are hitting those high values and it will make this a very efficient building."

One of the energy-saving technologies in the building is a heating and cooling system that can be set in each area.

"The heating system has a lot of built in flexibility," Green said. "It has controls so people in each individual space be can pick their own temperature. Also, the heating system is designed so it can be specific to the uses that are ongoing. That way it is not being wasteful by over-heating or over-air conditioning the entire building."

Green said the building contains the highest standards of insulation and windows and that almost all of the lights will be LED.

"We've used a new product called Zip System R-Sheathing," he said. "It's a great waterproofing component and has one inch of Styrofoam which will wrap the building in insulation and is a very strong product to tie your brick into. That makes the interior of the building a more controlled space."

The building's water fixtures are the



Photos by Norman Cetuk

The conference building currently under construction will be known as the Mission and Resource Center. The brick work was completed in September and the environmentally friendly building is scheduled to open this winter.

state of the art and will help control water use.

"As per the buildings of this era, all of the plumbing fixtures are water savers," he said.

Green also pointed out that the location of the building, and its surroundings, with trees just south of it, will be helpful.

"South of us is a wetlands and we anticipated those trees being there," Green said. "That way we can save more energy just by the way you site the building. The



fact that it is a wetland and there is protection with those trees is tremendous.

"The leaves in summer cut down on direct sunlight to help keep the building cool, then when the leaves are off in the winter, the sunlight will help keep it warm."

Green pointed out there may have been some kind of divine intervention when originally finding that building site.

"The first challenge in all of this to have an affordable site and that was a complete home run," he said. "It was almost like a miracle. It was affordable and then we went through the process of bringing this to the expectations of the

conference."

Green said there have been no unusual challenges in the building project. The windows are currently being completed.

"Once the majority of the glass goes in, we will be in great shape," Green said about being able to work indoors once the weather turns cold.

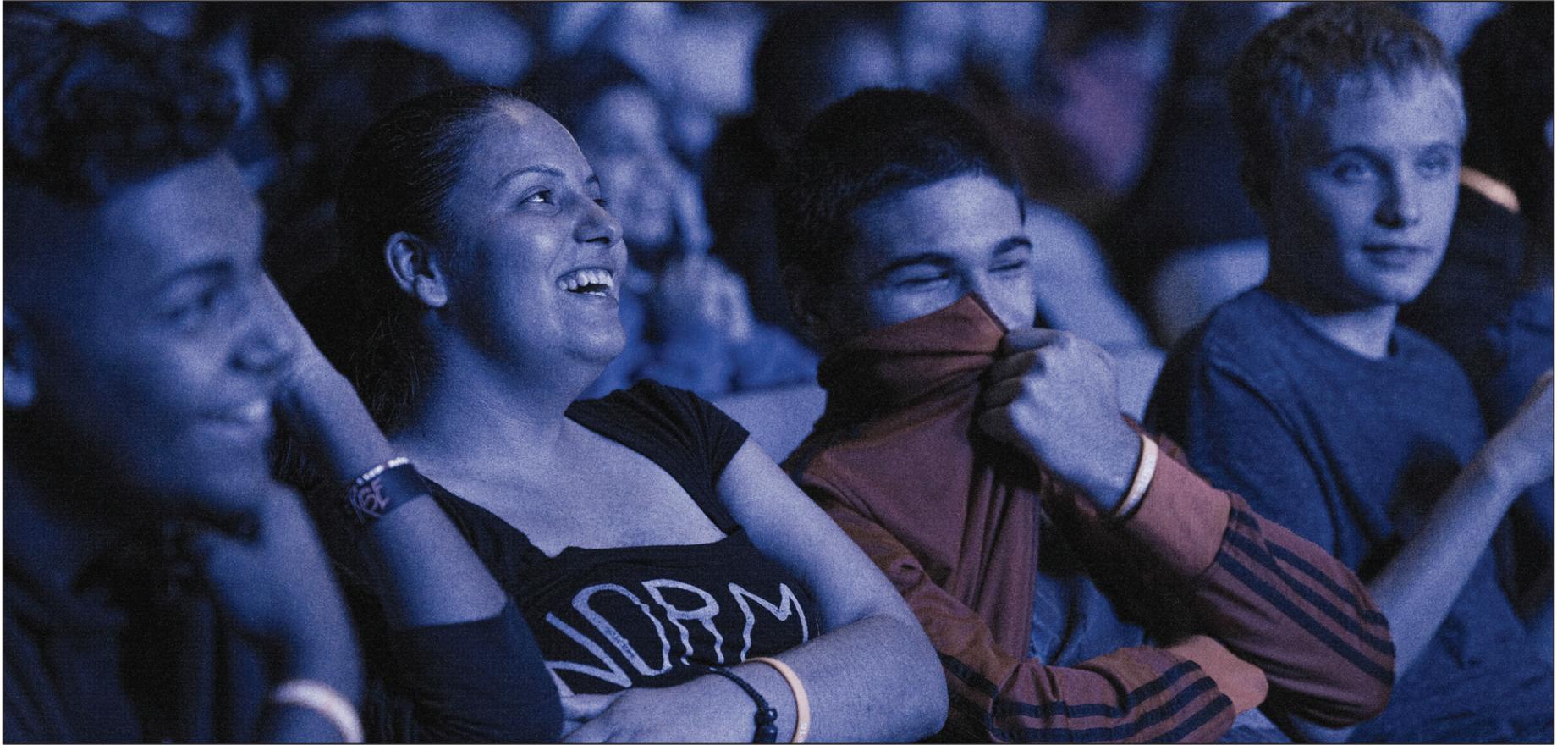
The Mission and Resource Center, which is located on Jumping Brook Road in Neptune, just off exit 100A of the Garden State Parkway, received final approval at a special Annual Conference session in September of 2014. Green also said that the building project is well within the approved budget.



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An IGNITE Weekend Full Of Experiences



Photos by Edison Lee

The IGNITE weekend brought a wide range of ways youth experienced God. They laughed, shared prayers and inspiration on prayer windows, enjoyed hard hitting music and joined in joyful worship.



IGNITE Workshops Helps Youth Be Grateful

By Jeff Wolfe
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One of the ways the IGNITE Youth Conference reaches out to youth is through its Saturday morning workshops.

Six of those workshops were held this year and one, called "Sources of Strength" led by Spring Lake UMC pastor Eusun Kim and Joe Gratzel, the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Manasquan impacted at least 100 young people. The theme goal of the workshop was to help young people realize how an attitude of gratitude can help them keep a positive perspective on life, even when others around them may be negative.

"This program is a positive way for people to look at themselves and to help each other," said Monica Marcus, who is a youth group member at Grace UMC in Wyckoff, N.J., and a freshman at Ramapo High School. "It can help everyone."

As a part of "Sources of Strength" individuals write down three things they are thankful for each day for 21 straight days to help them maintain a positive outlook on life.

"This workshop was awesome and an excellent experience for us," said Jessica Terrones, the youth group leader at Living Hope UMC in Elizabeth. "It helps them see how their minds can change if they are grateful. I plan to have them do the 21 days of being thankful so they can see for themselves how it can help them."

Another part of the workshop included listing the eight key elements a person needs inside their life to help them handle



Photo by Edison Lee

Pastors Joe Gratzel (left) and Eusun Kim led a workshop called "Sources of Strength" to help youths learn to focus on the positive things in their lives.

difficult times and situations: Family support, positive friends, mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, medical access and good mental health.

"The more of these we have, the more stable we are when tough times happen," Kim told the group.

"Sources of Strength" also focuses helping young people understand how important it is to include others who may

feel left out.

"We have the potential to help others and make them feel better," Kim said. "That's why we should always be on the lookout for people who may be one of those outliers and include them."

IGNITE attendees had the opportunity to participate in other workshops on Saturday including, "On the Rebound", by the Ground Zero Master's Commis-

sion; "Know The Truth", by Kristen Raine, Director of Ministries at Sharptown UMC; "Soundcheck Your Life", by Kurtis Parks, Worship Director at National Community Church; "Working for Change in the World" (Young Adults and Missions) by international missionaries Chelsea Spyres and Katy Wrona, and a "Youth Leader Track" by Preston Centuolo, one of the featured speakers for the weekend.



Photo by Edison Lee

Featured speaker Gian Paul Gonzalez shares a moment with a group of young people during his presentation Sunday morning at IGNITE. His "all in" message inspired students from all over Greater New Jersey.

IGNITE Conference

Continued from page 1

feeling to have.

"I needed to make the choice that I needed to go after life the way God created me to," Gonzalez said. "I can't go deep with God unless I'm 'all in.' If you go halfway in on something, and then give up, that leaves you with an empty feeling."

That "all in" spirit seemed apparent from the opening of IGNITE. Even though the heavy wind and rain in Wildwood flooded one of the main roads coming into the beach town, more than 600 out

of the 750 registered to attend made it in on Friday night. The rest came on Saturday morning.

"The fact that so many braved the weather meant a lot to everyone involved," said GNJ Director of Worship Eric Drew, who was the primary planner for the event. "We knew with the talent lineup that we had and with the preparation and prayer put into this event that God was ready to move in a big way."

While Gonzalez was the featured speaker for the weekend, Preston Centuolo served as emcee and gave the Saturday morning message.

"I'm not worried about what is going on outside here, but I'm excited about what is going on inside here," Centuolo said. "Power and strength come from

within our heart and you have the greatest strength when you have the greatest compassion."

He reminded youth that even though society likes to compare people to each other, the only true measure is against yourself.

"You don't have to be the greatest, you just have to be your greatest," he said. "And that's because you are connected to The Greatest."

Other highlights of the weekend included musician Phil Wickham and his band leading worship, comedian F.U.D.G.E., rapper KB giving a high energy concert to finish off Saturday night, the Ground Zero Masters Commission and Kurtis Parks leading worship on Sunday morning.

A promotional graphic for the IGNITE conference. It features the IGNITE logo (a flame inside a circle) at the top. Below it, the text reads: "IGNITE WISH YOU WERE AT IGNITE 2015? DON'T MISS OUT FOR NEXT YEAR! Discounted rates for 2016 are available for a limited time. Register during the month of October for just \$40 Offer expires November 1. FIND OUT MORE AT: www.IGNITENJ.org". The background is dark with yellow and orange geometric shapes at the bottom.

Young people in attendance were encouraged to turn the Convention Center windows into prayer walls by writing inspirational words and prayer requests. They also had the opportunity to attend workshops, play basketball, volleyball and other games and attend a coffee house that featured several young performers from around the conference.

"It was a great weekend for us," said Piscatway UMC youth leader Karen Griffith. "The speakers were all tremendous. The kids really liked what they said. We are ready to go back home feeling good and we are all feeling really motivated."

Steeple Falls, Kindness Rises At Evangelical UMC

By Jeff Wolfe
jwolfe@gnjumc.org

The storm came first and then the generosity followed. That generosity made the biggest impression on Rev. Mark O'Shields in his first months as pastor at Evangelical UMC in Clarksboro.

High winds on June 23 in East Greenwich Township in Gloucester County took down hundreds of trees and power lines, leaving thousands in the community without power for days.

Those same winds also left Evangelical UMC without its steeple as it was blown off the roof. The winds also downed a large oak tree in the church parking lot.

The people's response to the damage has Evangelical on schedule to replace its steeple in mid-October.

"People in the community have made donations to the church for the steeple," O'Shields said. "One man, whom I had never seen before, made a generous donation that was enough to cover the cost of the deductible. The insurance will cover the rest of the cost."

The estimated cost to replace the fallen steeple with a new one is about \$20,000. The 10-foot tall structure will be mounted on the roof with a cross on its top.

O'Shields realized immediately after the storm that people in the community help take care of each other.



"After the storm, the neighbors came out and started moving trees," he said. "That was a time for me to get to know people."

No one was injured, which O'Shields acknowledged is more important than the



Photos by Jeff Wolfe

Rev. Mark O'Shields takes a look at the fallen steeple that was blown off the roof of Evangelical UMC in Clarksboro when a major storm hit the area June 23.

steeple, which has become a community landmark.

"God doesn't call us to attach ourselves to things, but to people," he said. "I know people love this building and want to take good care of it. They have been here for years and have childhood memories growing up in it."

"Even when I went to get new tires on my car, the mechanic asked me when the steeple is going to go up."

Many of those same people had

seen the trees around the church grow from saplings to large shade providers. O'Shields said church members and friends helped clean up the fallen tree.

"Thank the Lord the tree didn't fall on the church," he said. "Some of the men in the church and their friends came out and cleaned up the tree."

"A couple of people in the church paid to have the stump ground up. We all are working together and that is what we call the church."

Pearl River UMC Partners To Pack Meals For CUMAC



Photo provided

Pearl River UMC in Pearl River, N.Y., hosted a meal packing event on its church anniversary and partnered with other churches and organizations to make nearly 25,000 meals.

By Jessica Stenstrom
jessica_stenstrom@yahoo.com

Pearl River UMC celebrated its 150th year of mission and ministry in the community of Pearl River, N.Y., in a unique way this year. Dubbing the last weekend of September its Mission-in-Action weekend, members joined with the community to make a difference in the world.

On Saturday Sept. 26 members of Pearl River, partnered with members from neighboring United Methodist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and several other houses of faith to pack meals for the Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC), the largest feeding program in Passaic County, N.J.

"It was a great day of work and wonderful way to connect with our community in mission together," said Rev. Cynthia Stouffer, pastor of Pearl River UMC.

Some of the groups who helped in meal packing were UMC churches including Bergen Highlands, Spring Valley, Thiells, Ridgewood, Westwood, and Archer of Allendale as well as other Pearl

River faith groups including: St. Stephens Episcopal, Good Shepherd Lutheran, The River Church, St. Margaret Antioch Parish, Beth Am Temple, and the Boy Scouts.

Everyone was welcome to serve and there were jobs for everyone age 5 to 95.

Originally the church raised \$5,000 to pack 20,000 nutritionally fortified meals for the hungry, but an additional \$1,250 was raised by volunteers the day of the event said Adrian Diaz, who is CUMAC's community engagement coordinator. With the additional funds they packaged close to 25,000 meals which were then donated to CUMAC's feeding program.

The weekend of mission continued on Sunday with worship transformed into a time of service with members serving in the community.

Some helped with a food drive at Shop Rite, others packed care boxes for military personnel, visited homebound members, cleaned up a local park, knit prayer shawls or made cards and crafts to be delivered to a local assisted living center.

"It was an awesome weekend of service," said Stouffer.

Fall for Respite



Many of our residents chose to live in their United Methodist Homes' communities after electing respite stays. Of primary benefit, respite allows a "trial run" as short as one week or as long as three months. Caregivers who desire support for loved ones while they take vacations or long overdue breaks, secure vital rest or consider care options, have trusted the Homes. Regardless of which options fit you best, United Methodist Homes offers a plethora of resources. Call now or visit us on the web to arrange a personal visit and experience the rich fabric of everyday life.

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**The November Issue Deadline
is October 15, 2015**

Mission Fair Theme: A lot To Do Right Here

John Calhoun has been a missionary in Eastern Europe and Africa. Now a pastor and the Mission Advocate for the North East Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, he told those at the Greater New Jersey Mission Fair at Christ UMC in Piscataway on Sept. 19 that you don't have to go or live in other countries to carry out God's mission.

"Mission is no longer just sending missionaries to other lands to take something or do something for others," he said. "We minister alongside of and with others to plant new faith communities, work with earthquake victims, in medical crisis, and advocate for peace and justice for all persons. Our mission in the 21st Century is to do good work with others where God has called us together."

Calhoun, who was the keynote speaker at the Mission Fair worship service, pointed out that the General Board of Global Ministry has 355 missionaries throughout 60 countries. He also noted that Greater New Jersey has been very generous in helping missionaries. GNJ has had 277 congregations give more than a combined \$300,000 to 106 missionaries in 33 countries recently.

"We join resources for transformation and change," he said. "There is reciprocity in mission. As we pray for missionaries, they are praying for us."

The former missionary to Kiev, Ukraine and Africa also said the General Board of Global Ministry's motto is "From Everywhere to Everywhere."

"It's no longer mission based on our perspective of others' needs," he said. "We are in partnership with our neighbors praying for us."

Another missionary who spoke was Rosangelica Acevedo, who is assigned to the Robinson School in Puerto Rico. She talked about her journey from a US2 in mission, subsequent call to be a Deaconess, and assignment as a missionary.

Also recognized as having mission-oriented bright spots in the Central Region were Bridgewater UMC for its work in Belize, Kingston UMC for the Feed Truck and Lacey UMC for its feeding ministry.

Those in attendance with table displays and much enthusiasm for their mission included the Allen Project, Amistad, Camp YDP, Centenary Fund, Camden Urban Ministry Initiative, CUMAC-ECHO,



Photo by Linda Hesthag Ellwein

Kathy Ahmad, GNJ's UMVIM Coordinator, and Gyuchang Sim, a Conference Board on Global Ministries Committee member, have a discussion during the Mission Fair in September.

Camden Neighborhood Center and a representative from Nutley UMC for its partnership with Tanzania.

There were also workshops during the

half day event.

Planning has started for the 2016 Mission Fair next fall with it scheduled to be held in the Southern Region of GNJ.



Photo by John Wooding

Coming up with an action plan to help churches in the five markers of vitality is the focus of Team Vital.

Team Vital

Continued from page 1

District, Mantua UMC in the Gateway South District, Ridgewood UMC in the Palisades District and Hamilton UMC in Neptune in the Northern Shore District.

"It was a very easy thing to implement and can be done immediately," said Absecon UMC member Ed Davis. "There is a new kind of energy and level of cooperation coming out of this."

The energy includes bringing together three to eight church teams in a series of sessions focused on those five key markers of church vitality: inspiring worship, reaching and making new disciples, small group ministry, engagement in mission and generous stewardship. Each church's Team Vital includes pastors and congregational leaders.

"Team Vital is a way to find out what God's next answer is for them," said GNJ Director of Stewardship and Visioning Rich Hendrickson, one of the facilitators at the Cape Atlantic Team Vital gathering. "Team Vital provides an opportunity for churches to engage in a process that will really lead to finding out and embracing God's vision for them as a congregation."

Being a part of Team Vital takes commitment. It includes two group sessions on Saturdays and doing pre-work and home work, which includes the key

component of developing an action plan.

"Our leaders want to have more effective churches," Hendrickson said. "Some have said they have been through training before, but this time it is different because it is connected directly to those five areas of vitality and it leads to action. Before, they came up with great ideas, but didn't walk away with a plan. This time it's all about that ministry action plan."

The common theme throughout the day was the willingness and readiness of each church to take the next step in its ministry.

"These are great, necessary resources for all churches to continue the Kingdom work of vital ministry," said GNJ Director of Worship Eric Drew, who served as a facilitator for the Northern Shore group. "We all worked hard to remember that this first day is simply the first step on a much longer process. We took many notes, had great discussions, and really began to stir up hope for the God-sized visions that are beginning to surface."

"We are blessed by committed pastors and strong church leaders, and we can't wait to journey with this group throughout the process."

It's a process that left participants anticipating the result.

"It was eye-opening," said Centenary UMC member John Wooding, whose church attended the Northern Shore session. "It should be a great ride."

PaCE, Coaching Key Resources For Clergy

By Jeff Wolfe

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Rev. Frank Davis has a lot of experience as a pastor and Sarah Borgstrom is just getting started. The two United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey clergy do share the belief that they can always learn more.

Davis and Borgstrom are two of the 125 clergy in GNJ that have signed up for Pursuing Clergy Excellence, or PaCE groups. PaCE and coaching are two of the resources that GNJ is providing pastors to help them grow professionally and individually. Davis, who is in his 12th year as a pastor, says that growing is an on-going process that never really stops.

"Nobody is an island and you can't really do this by yourself," said Davis, who is now the pastor at the UMC in New Brunswick. "What we can get from just sharing experiences has really helped me tremendously from before."

Borgstrom, who leads Linvale UMC and Centenary UMC in Lambertville, is in the middle of her second year as a pastor. She knows there is a lot she can take in from the many experienced pastors in GNJ.

"I'm really excited to learn from my colleagues in ministry," Borgstrom said. "We all have different gifts and I always appreciate people who think in different terms and reveal to me gaps in my own vision."

Davis understands how helpful that can be. He has been a regular participant in meeting with clergy from all different faiths in the communities where he has served. Davis points out while they may have had theological differences, they did share common experiences.

"I've always been a part of a community of clergy who wanted the best for their community," he said. "I believe that God wants excellence from us and in order to be excellent, you have to be effective."

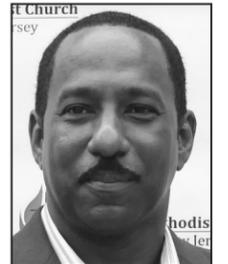
"And if we are going to be effective, we need to be able to hone our skills and in order to do that, we have to recognize that we don't know everything."

Davis said the regular meeting times he had with other clergy proved invaluable to him.

"I've been doing this in every church community that I have ever been in," he



BORGSTROM



DAVIS

said. "We literally met once every two weeks and to have those relationships, it helped us do certain things in a community that needed our attention."

He said that allowed them all to learn from each other.

"Being able to share our experiences, feedback, and even our failures and successes, helps us not only better ourselves, but to better everybody involved," Davis said.

Clergy could register for PaCE as individuals or form their own group and register together. Each of the groups has also been assigned a facilitator. The next round of signups for PaCE will be this winter.

Coaching

Borgstrom was also part of the first round of signups for coaching that began last January. In all, 130 clergy have participated in the initial sessions that last eight months. It involves coaches and those being coached to talk by phone or in person for an hour once a month, or a half-hour twice a month.

"Coaching has been a really positive experience for me," Borgstrom said. "What I appreciate about coaching I hope to get out of PaCE, too. Coaching was for me a really good sounding board for thinking out loud. I can say I want to do this, but I need to know what are the resources and it's also a way to clarify my vision. If I want to make a change, what are the smaller steps that need to happen first?"

Signups for coaching continue to be open on a rolling basis for those who are interested. Clergy can sign up for coaching by emailing coaching@gnjumc.org. Clergy then will be assigned a coach in about a week.

Training Hub Partners with Smaller Churches

By Robert L. Ashbaugh
rashbaugh1@verizon.net

Some of Greater New Jersey's most faithful servants attend some of its smaller churches. And some of those congregations struggle financially and cannot support a full-time pastoral appointment.

One solution in helping those churches become more vital is called the "Training Hub." It is a plan developed by district superintendents Varlyna Wright, Drew Dyson, and Gina Hendrickson along with Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS), Kingston UMC, and three smaller United Methodist churches that cannot afford a full-time pastor. The Training Hub is part of GNJ's commitment to develop collaborative strategies and create a different type of oversight for smaller churches.

Modelling Mosaic Ministry, a parish ministry program for small churches in the Northern Shore District advocated by Bishop John Schol, the Training Hub prepares teams of seminarians (two per church) to be appointed to churches that are committed to supporting young pastors, are willing to "reimagine" their own ministries and who cannot afford a full-time United Methodist clergyperson.

The Training Hub's roots began in Kingston UMC in 2008 which at the time had about 15 active parishioners. Kingston UMC grew exponentially over the next several years under the leadership of student pastors, strengthened by a relationship with Princeton Theological Seminary. The Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, PTS Professor of Youth, Church and Culture, attended as a parishioner and now serves as Kingston's coordinating pastor. Trey Wince, who graduated from PTS in 2014 with an M.Div. and M.A. in youth ministry, serves as the congregation's lead pastor and oversees a team of PTS seminary interns.

Kingston now averages 75 worshippers each Sunday, about half drawn from Princeton Seminary and Princeton University, with the others from the Kingston community. In 2012, GNJ recognized



At left, pastor Donald Kirchner shares a fun moment with a student during VBS at First UMC, Mt. Holly. At right, pastors Jesse Tosten and Julia Boudrye, of Pearson Memorial UMC, do a presentation for part of practical pastoral training.

Kingston UMC as a "teaching church" for young adult ministry.

The church added a second service and features small groups, a woodworking fellowship, a Montessori-based children's ministry, and a food truck for its mission on college campuses (The Feed Truck is a separate nonprofit, founded by the congregation to provide outreach and job training to young adults).

More than two dozen seminary interns have trained at the church in the past six years. In 2014, Wince proposed that Kingston serve as a Training Hub so other small churches in the region could benefit from Kingston's access to talented young leaders.

"Varlyna Wright and I were talking about the difficulty of finding pastoral leaders for some of the congregations in her district that could not afford a full-time pastor," Wince said. "It was hard to find retired or part-time clergy to fill these pulpits. I wondered what we could do if we could harness the energy and vision of seminarians for these churches - and the plan evolved from there."

The pilot year involved placing two seminarians at a church in the Capital



Photos by Robert Ashbaugh

District.

"We learned a lot from that first year - how to pick churches, how to better train and prepare the seminarians, and how to build for longer term change," Wince said.

For the formal launch of the Training Hub on July 1, 2015, Wince selected six seminarians who were:

Effective, empowering, and inspiring pastoral leaders;

Able to participate unselfishly in a shared enterprise; and,

Able to exercise the empathy and leadership to fit the specific congregation assigned.

Wright and Dyson sought churches committed to fostering the creative and entrepreneurial spirit vital to the project, and who could financially support two student pastors and a sacramental elder to lead communion services and help prepare for Charge Conference. Together, these roles cost less than a full-time pastor.

For 2015-16, two churches from the Capital District and one from the Raritan Valley District were selected:

Pearson Memorial UMC (Hamilton

Township) in the Capital District, with worship attendance of approximately 75, strives to be a mission-oriented church with several small group ministries and supports missionaries in Alaska and Russia.

First UMC (Mt. Holly), in the Capital District, with average worship attendance of 38, has an active UMW, choir and support group that works with local outreach ministries by "helping neighbors with generosity."

Neshanic UMC (Branchburg), in the Raritan Valley District, which started in 1906, is a faith family of 30-40 worshippers each Sunday who seek "to nurture all people - the church and unchurched - on their journey . . . into a deeper relationship with Christ."

The Training Hub has prepared an extensive ministry manual for participating seminarians, which includes a reference text and syllabus for weekly discussions and a resource seminarians will use throughout their time as Training Hub pastors.

Pastor Wince serves as the students' mentor and coach, assisted by Dr. Dean, who coordinates the Training Hub's targeted educational events.

In 2015, these events included a three-day "Preaching Boot Camp" and a weeklong "Start-up Clinic," and an immersion course to prepare the seminarians for the formal start of their assignments. At the end of summer, the three teams joined their new churches, but they return to KUMC for weekly interactive and instructional sessions.

While Kingston is the "Hub" for this experiment, substantial support has also been provided by PTS and GNJ. The seminary provides the program's academic underpinning and field education credit, and GNJ provides funding and connective support.

"This is a partnership of exactly the right people and organizations to nurture innovation - new ideas about how to prepare seminarians for ministry, how to challenge congregations, and how to energize ministry and mission," Dean said.

Angels Restore Vernon's Garden

When a local farmer sold his property two years ago, it was the same property that housed the community garden tended by the Vernon United Methodist Church for years.

Church members were frustrated they would not be able to harvest the food they had planted. Nevertheless, they were not discouraged from their belief that healthy and organic produce is a way to promote social justice and action for those in need. They took to heart and have been faithful to the verse from 1 Corinthians 10:24 (MSG) that has guided them in mission: "We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well."

The members searched during the summer and fall of 2013 and dreamed of new ways to make this ministry a reality again. After much thought, the Fitch family, who are members of the church, offered a portion of their backyard so the community garden could continue.

"This awesome ministry could not become a reality without the hard work and persistence of the garden angels who have worked without ceasing throughout the summer," Vernon UMC Senior Pastor Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez said. "They have given so much of their free time to take care of this garden, some of them for many years."



Photo provided
Vernon UMC's community garden is thriving today as church members wouldn't let the ministry die.

The community garden is up and running and the harvest has already started. Many families from the community who use the church's food pantry have been blessed with organic fruits and vegetables this summer. The members knew that for many people in the area the high cost of organic fruit and vegetables was unaffordable.

Members of this ministry worked for months to prepare the soil and build a garden that is 60 feet by 40 feet. The gardeners go in and out freely throughout the week, depending on their schedule.

The produce from the garden is served at a monthly community dinner. During the summer months, the harvest is used to cook healthy and organic dishes.

"The harvest from the community garden has reached and blessed so many," Vega-Perez said. "As I have witnessed how this ministry is making a difference in our community, and as I have seen the perseverance of so many in keeping this ministry alive; I think of the words from the Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit (Galatians 6:9, MSG)."

Capital District Team Volunteers For AFWH



By Lori Mitchell
lorimitchell@hotmail.com

For the third year in a row, a team of churches worked together to form the Capital District Mission team and volunteer with A Future With Hope.

About 30 people joined the team representing eight churches including New Egypt, Moorestown, Allentown, St. Mark Hamilton, East Pennsauken, Pemberton, Tabernacle and Fairton.

Some of the team commuted from home each day, while others were hosted by Lacey UMC in Forked River.

The groups was divided into three different sites.

One group went to Tuckerton where workers filled in a water pipe ditch that was 30 feet long, built stairs and a platform for a meter reader, caulked wires and pipes under the house, put up screens and mitered and installed molding and kick plates.

Another group finished work at a house in Little Egg Harbor so a family could get its certificate of occupancy. That group installed a closet, fixed window sills, did drywall work inside and caulked and boxed a drain outside.

The third group worked in Seaside Heights and helped install a roof.

This trip is the 10th trip for the Capital District Mission team which plans to return to A Future With Hope next summer as well.



Photos provided
At top, a member of the Capital District mission team does some work to help finish up a home restoration. Below, members of the team go over plans for a house under construction.



CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Ebenezer UMC Celebrates 225th Anniversary

Ebenezer UMC in Auburn celebrated its 225th anniversary in September. The church was started when Francis Asbury stopped at the Seven Stars Tavern for refreshment and after preaching a soul-searching sermon, he appointed one of his preachers to look after the new field. The celebration included a service of praise, worship and fellowship at its present site at 59 Main St. in Auburn, where it has stood since 1890. The name Ebenezer was chosen because of its meaning... 'Stone of Help'. Among those in attendance on Sept. 13th were county and regional leaders, the Rev. Charles Green and retired Elder and Blythe MacDonald, the great-granddaughter of former pastor Aaron J. Smith ((1926-1930), who provided a beautiful rendition of 'Be Still My Soul'.

Magnolia Road UMC Hosts Mental Health First Aid Training

Magnolia Road UMC in Pemberton Township held a Mental Health First Aid Training in August. Members of the congregation who already have been trained in first aid, CPR and other emergent live saving techniques, participated in the national program to learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, as well as an action plan to be used in crisis and non-crisis situations. When engaging in community outreach, Mental Health First Aid is one tool which allows the church members to better serve all people. The church has also provided training for Christian Caring Center and other local nonprofit organizations that provide direct service to homeless people and others in need. Magnolia Road UMC pastor Rev. Vanessa Wilson has been a Mental Health First Aid Instructor since 2014.



The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey

New Disciples • Vital Congregations • Transformed World

Search Now Open For: GNJ Director of New Disciples

We are seeking to fill the position of Director of New Disciples to resource congregations and leaders in the area of making new disciples and starting new faith communities. The successful candidate will have:

- An ability to develop lay and clergy spiritual leaders,
- A demonstrated track record of achieving outstanding results,
- An ability to engage individuals and congregations to assess their gifts and strengths, set S.M.A.R.T. goals, achieve their goals and evaluate progress,
- An ability to lead engaging workshops, facilitate peer learning groups, serve as a coach, and
- An understanding of vital congregations and how to grow vital congregations.

The Search Committee will begin the review of applications on October 15, 2015. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

Please review full job description and instructions for applying at: www.gnjumc.org

THE CONNECTION

A blog on the 5 markers of vitality by the
Connectional Ministries Team

www.gnjumc.org/connection



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Social Media Workshop Benefits GNJ Churches

By Jeff Wolfe

jwolfe@gnjumc.org

Social Media is more prevalent than ever in society and has become another avenue for churches to communicate.

That's why social media was one of four learning tracks at Greater New Jersey's Laity Leadership Academy in September at Haddonfield UMC. Those in attendance heard and learned about how to use social media as a communication platform.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, learn new tips and share in fellowship," said Paige Chant, the communications specialist at Morrow Memorial UMC in Maplewood. "Afterward, I felt inspired to develop a comprehensive strategy for using social media in a more effective way, not only for publicity and promotion purposes, but as a way of expanding our church's sense of community, hospitality and outreach."

The primary social media tool that churches use is Facebook, while Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are also used to a lesser extent. One thing instructor Brittney Reilly, GNJ's Online and Digital Communications Manager, emphasized is that simply having an account on any of those social media sites is not enough. It's important to use and update those accounts on a regular basis.

"We got tips such on the importance of posting on a daily basis to look more vital," said Laura Jaskot, a Certified Lay Servant and Worship Committee Chair at Broad Street UMC in Burlington. "There's nothing worse than a social media page that isn't current. I've made a concerted effort to post more on Facebook."

Other items of discussion included knowing the difference between a Facebook group and a Facebook page, when and how to use hashtags, seeing examples of a church newsletter, and viewing a livestream example presented by Delran UMC pastor Chris Miller. Haddonfield UMC pastor Chris Heckert also gave a presentation on how churches can leverage all types of media for ministry.

"I absolutely feel that using more social media can help the church," Jaskot said. "First, it can help reach people who aren't currently members or who haven't attended in some time. Second, it can reach people very, very quickly with a lot of information."



Photo by Lori Smith

Lori Smith and Elise Smith Easterling share a fun moment during the Laity Academy at Haddonfield UMC in September.

Another area covered included some guidelines to use when creating a church website. Some at the workshop said their churches have plans not just to create a website, but to do it correctly.

"We are looking forward to creating a website the right way for the right reasons," said Robert Hatfield, a Lay Servant and council person at Pleasant Grove UMC in Jackson. "I think, too, that social media is something we all should become involved in since this is becoming a social media culture."

Stephen Latus, a communications volunteer at Christ UMC in Piscataway, said his church has used that culture by keeping its Facebook page active.

"I'm convinced that Facebook is enabling our church to build a greater sense of family," Latus said. "The workshop reinforced the importance of what we're already doing and provided practical ideas for taking further steps to share the exciting things we do in our community."

One of the goals of the academy is not just to provide information, but to give those in attendance the tools and motivation to return to their churches and be active in creating a social media ministry.

"I came back very energized and ready to move forward boldly with our church's social media plan," Jaskot said. "There are three of us that are going to be working on our church's website as well, making sure that it is current and relevant."

The other tracks at the academy were vital small groups, inspiring worship and an evangelism church. Each track was designed to give participants hands-on tools they can use to transform their ministry.

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS M. COYLE, retired Associate Member, died on Sept. 25. A viewing and funeral was held at Sweeney Funeral Home, Riverside, N.J.

Memorial Donations (In lieu of flowers) may be sent to: The First United Methodist Church of Riverside, P.O. Box 427, Riverside, NJ 08075.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his spouse Connie at 208 E. Washing Street, Riverside, NJ 08075.

BETTY FOLLANSBEE, wife of retired pastor David Follansbee, died on Sept. 17. A service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich, RI.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. David Follansbee at 29 Cedar Pond Road, Apt #2, Warwick, RI 02886.

REV. GLENN MILLER, an Elder in Full Connection, who was currently appointed at Vincentown United Methodist Church, died on Sept. 21. A viewing and service were held at Vincentown UMC.

Memorial donations (In lieu of flowers) may be sent to the Vincentown United Methodist Church at 97 Main Street, Southampton, NJ 08088 or the American Diabetes Association or the American Cancer Society.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Jeanne Miller at 220 Ridge Road, Southampton, NJ 08088.

CAROLINE De ESPOSITO, wife of Rev. Pat De Esposito, PL at Fairfield UMC, died on Aug. 21. A service was held at Bethel Presbyterian Church.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pat De Esposito at 274 Brighton Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07017.

MARILYN FOOTE, spouse of retired Elder, Rev. Eugene Foote died on Aug. 22. A service was held at Ocean Grove Memorial Home with an interment at Hamilton Methodist Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.oceangrovememorialhome.com.

REGINALD CRUTE, spouse of Full Elder Hillary Johnson Crute, died on Aug. 22. Viewings were held at Trinity UMC in Spotswood, Antioch Baptist Church, New York, N.Y., and a service was held at Salem UMC, New York, N.Y.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Hillary Johnson Crute at Trinity United Methodist Church, 70 Manalapan Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884.

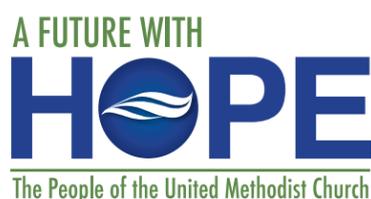
WHEN PEOPLE HURT, UNITED METHODISTS HELP

Commit your work to the Lord - Proverbs 16:3



In the three years since Superstorm Sandy devastated our shores on October 29, 2012, the people of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey have helped rebuild **183 homes**.

**Our work continues.
There are thousands of people that still need help.
Give to the Mission Fund.**



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