

A FUTURE WITH HOPE
MISSION FUND CAMPAIGN

Tinton Falls, NJ, June 28, 2013 – The American Red Cross today awarded a \$1,500,000 grant to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for Superstorm Sandy recovery work with the elderly, disabled and low-income families.

“We are so pleased to partner with the Red Cross to help the most vulnerable populations within New Jersey who were affected by Sandy,” said Bobbie Ridgely, director of A Future with Hope, Inc. and the Sandy recovery efforts of GNJAC. “Thanks to this generous funding, we will be able to identify and work with Sandy survivors who require special care, and help them build a new future over the next 18 months.”

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has close to 600 congregations in the New Jersey area. It established an independent non-profit organization, A Future with Hope, Inc., to focus on relief and recovery, most notably in construction/repair and disaster case management. This grant will help an estimated 190 New Jersey families and repair 75 homes, as well as assist the organization to train and deploy up to 1,000 volunteers in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

“Sandy recovery in New Jersey is far from over, and by working together with organizations like the United Methodist Church, the Red Cross is able to extend its reach to families with specific needs across the state,” said Nancy Orlando, regional CEO, American Red Cross South Jersey Region. “Providing funding to partner organizations with the ability and experience to help our communities rebuild is an important part of our long-term recovery strategy in New Jersey.”

American Red Cross Awards \$1.5 Million to GNJAC to Help With Sandy Recovery



Pictured with Bishop John Schol are Nancy Orlando, regional CEO, American Red Cross South Jersey Region and Bobbie Ridgely, Executive Director of A Future with Hope, Inc.

Following Sandy’s devastating impact last October, the Red Cross immediately launched a large-scale emergency relief effort – the largest U.S. disaster response by the Red Cross in more than five years. After weeks of providing emergency relief, the Red Cross has been and continues to help people affected by the storm through its long-term recovery operation. Every day, trained workers are meeting one-on-one with families to assist with their recovery plans and provide financial support to help them move back into their homes or into longer-term rental housing.

Donations to the American Red

Cross after Superstorm Sandy have led to clear signs of progress and hope through New Jersey and New York eight months after the storm. As of June 2013, the American Red Cross has partnered with numerous organizations to support the recovery of individuals and families affected by Sandy, such as the National VOAD, Operation Hope, the Points of Light Foundation, the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, the Food Bank of NYC, the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, the Brooklyn Community Foundation and the United Methodist Conference of New Jersey. The Sandy recovery ef-



American Red Cross

forts include housing assistance, case management, mental health services and volunteer coordination. Additional community grants will be announced in the weeks ahead.

More information on the Red Cross Sandy relief and recovery efforts can be found at www.redcross.org/sandy-response.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

About the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference:

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is part of an 11 million strong global United Methodist Church that opens hearts, opens doors, and opens minds through active engagement with our world. GNJAC started A Future with Hope, Inc. in response to the devastation brought on our community by Superstorm Sandy. The goal of A Future with Hope, Inc. is to collaborate with NJ VOAD partners and county long term recovery groups to use volunteers from around the country to rebuild 500 homes in the next 5 years. Volunteer groups will be housed at our hosting sites in the region and help us rebuild the homes and lives of the most vulnerable populations affected by the storm. For more information, please visit www.afuturewithhope.org.

United Methodists Open a Sandy Recovery Volunteer Headquarters in Highlands, NJ

HIGHLANDS, NJ – A volunteer hosting site for Sandy recovery teams opened in Highlands, NJ July 15, 2013. Hundreds of volunteers through A Future with Hope, Inc., the Sandy relief and recovery nonprofit started by the Greater New Jersey Conference of The United Methodist Church, renovated the former Highlands United Methodist Church building which was flooded in the storm. The facility will regularly house 50 to 100 volunteers from around the United States during any given week. Teams of all ages will be working throughout Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, and Atlantic Counties to help rebuild homes in storm-ravaged communities.

The opening of the Highlands site marks an important milestone for A Future with Hope. It is the first site dedicated to hosting volunteers and will serve as a flagship for its operations. In addition to housing volunteers, the Highlands site will be available to serve community needs for the surrounding neighborhood. A worship service for the volunteers and the community will be held every Thursday evening.

A Future with Hope currently has eight homes under construction in the commu-

nities of Highlands, Keansburg, Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach, Ocean Gate, and Atlantic City. Each week, they host more than 100 volunteers from around the country who work with a construction supervisor to repair damage. Projected to use 20,000 volunteers over the next five years, the organization is committed to repairing 300-500 homes, rebuilding lives through counseling and case management and renewing hope in devastated communities.

Support has come from near and far to make this site possible. In addition to support from local United Methodist Churches, A Future with Hope has received significant funding from the American Red Cross, the Robin Hood Foundation and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

About A Future with Hope, Inc.

A Future with Hope, Inc. is a nonprofit organization created by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to lead relief and recovery efforts. The goal is to repair 300-500 homes and provide case management to 300 to 500 families over the next 5 years.

For more information about A Future with Hope, Inc. visit www.afuturewithhope.org.

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign

This fall, *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* will be in full swing in United Methodist Churches around the conference. Approved during the 2013 Annual Conference and officially launched with a comprehensive manual sent to all clergy and lay leaders, the campaign will raise \$12 million dollars over the next three years.

To help congregations implement the campaign, the conference is making available every resource possible:

- A comprehensive manual outlining each step and a timeline for implementation
- A 4-week worship series for clergy to use during the campaign
- A small group study on Three Simple Questions
- A list of guest preachers and speakers
- Videos on Imagine No Malaria and Sandy recovery work
- Field coordinators to work with volunteer leadership
- A webinar series to help campaign planners
- Mission ideas
- Promotional support from UMCOR
- And more.

These materials are being posted to GNJ’s website www.gnjumc.org/missionfund and can be emailed or mailed in hard copy by request.

In addition, thanks to a grant from Imagine No Malaria, the Conference has hired a full-time field coordinator, Rebecca Nichols, to support the campaign and congregations.

A cornerstone of this campaign is that 25% of all monies raised will remain in the local churches to support local mission. To encourage local mission, each congregation is encouraged to conduct a mission project during the four week campaign period. To aid in this effort, the conference will be sponsoring Hope Week, the last week of October, which will provide the opportunity for churches to participate in a tangible way in Sandy recovery while we mark the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. More information on Hope Week will be shared with congregations in the coming weeks.

“Mission work is why we are United Methodists. With this campaign, we have a unique opportunity to connect on the local, regional and global level”, says Rev. Dr. Regina Hendrickson, Sr. Pastor, St. Andrew’s Church in Cherry

Continued on page 3

A Message from the Bishop



Hope Springs Eternal

We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. —Romans 3:1-5

Recently I was having lunch with a colleague and we were talking about the state of the church, and particularly about the challenges we are having with declining worship and making new disciple trends. She said to me, "what people need right now is hope." Wow! I couldn't agree more. Hope is a powerful force and a significant inspiration for people.

That got me thinking. When and where have I experience hoped during challenging times? It brought me back to my days of playing football while in college. I remember one week we were playing an undefeated team. In fact this team had practically annihilated two teams that had beaten us. We were in for a challenge.

At the our first practice in preparation for the game, the coach called us all together and said,

The team we are playing this week is bigger than us, stronger than us and better on offense and defense than us. They have beaten teams that already have beaten us. If we are going to do well this week, we will need to be faster and smarter than they are.

That week we practiced hard on being faster and smarter than our opponent. We worked hard. We believed our opportunity was in the last quarter of the game, when because of their size, they would be tired and that if we worked hard and prepared well, we could out play them in the fourth quarter.

That Saturday, we went out and played like we could win. We did not panic that they were leading for the first three quarters of the game. Our goal was to keep the score as close as possible and then rely on our preparation to win the game in the fourth quarter.

Well, we lost the game but only by a couple of points. In fact we played better than any other team against the championship team. We played like winners. Why? Because we faced the hard realities of what we were up against. We recognized our strengths and we played like winners.

I actually believe this is what biblical hope is. It is not happy talk. It is not denying the challenges we have. It is facing reality with clarity, preparation, conviction and belief in how God has gifted us to be the church of Jesus Christ in challenging times.

The writer of Romans shares with us that challenges, character and perseverance produces hope. Hope is born out of great challenges.

Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is not ignoring our challenges or favoring positive talk over recognizing challenges. Hope does not believe things will change without suffering, character and perseverance. Hope is a theological word that comes to grips with the fact that we are overwhelmed, under resourced and facing situations that we cannot overcome except by being led by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Right now we are talking a lot about numbers because our realities are best visualized in the fact that we lost 10,000 worshipers (20% of our worshipers) in the last 10 years. Hope recognizes our congregations are having a harder time making new disciples and sustaining our ministries.

At the same time, we are witnessing hard realities being overcome with hope. *A Future with Hope*, our Sandy recovery ministry has moved forward to repair 10 homes despite the hurdles and adversity we faced. Whenever our staff is faced with another challenge from Superstorm Sandy, they meet, talk and pray and a path emerges. I have witnessed pastors and lay leaders face great odds and yet persevere through the challenges to grow and make new disciples.

Hope for us is recognizing that these are hard times for the church in our culture but not impossible times. The conference leadership is preparing to come alongside our lay and clergy leaders to equip and support you in the midst of the great challenges of our time. I invite you and your congregation to identify the realities you face and identify what it means for your congregation to be quicker and smarter. And then work hard to prepare for a great ministry. Help hope happen!

-John Schol

Are You Being Digested?

Did you know the communications coordinator published the GNJ Digest, an electronic newsletter, several times each week? Each week there are multiple editions 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 join our list to communications@gnjumc.org.

ATTENTION...

Special Session of GNJ Annual Conference Called

The Greater New Jersey Conference will convene a special session of Annual Conference for all clergy members and lay members on Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 9:00-12:30 to modify the budget, modify our organizational plan and affirm principles for developing spiritual leaders and growing vital congregations.

The team organizing our strategic plan has realized several important changes are needed to move our plan forward. The cabinet, as required by our Book of Discipline, has reviewed the request and voted to call a special session of Annual Conference.

This session will also remember the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. More information will be forthcoming about how your congregation can participate in this special remembrance and a day of mission. Please set the date aside and make plans to join us on Saturday, November 2.

October Deadline September 5

News, letters, photos, or other material must be in the hands of your associate editor by that time to assure consideration for publication.

Viewpoint articles may be e-mailed to the editor at editor@umrelay.org.

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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.

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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.

Port Colden Church NJ FFA Foundation Scholarship Benefit Breakfast



On June 8, the Port Colden Church held a benefit breakfast for a New Jersey Future Farmers of America Foundation Scholarship in memory of David Seeley. David was a graduate of the Warren Hills Regional High School FFA Program and a part of the Port Colden community. His untimely death was a shock to the community and, through the church, the community wished to establish a scholarship in his memory.

The community turned out in earnest to support this meaningful endeavor. People donated supplies, food, time, and resources to make the breakfast a huge success. The church collected \$2,500 in cash and checks; in addition to that, the church collected \$2,470 made out directly to the NJ FFA Foundation. The total amount the church and community raised for the foundation was \$4,970. The Seeley family expresses their gratitude over the outpouring of support and generosity towards this scholarship in honor of David. The scholarship had already been established, and this money will be added to it. The funds will be disbursed at the wishes of the Seeley family. The Port Colden United Methodist Church is served by Rev. Evan W. Rohrs-Dodge, and is a small, active, community-minded congregation. For more information about this congregation, go to www.portcoldenumc.com.

Future with Hope

Continued from page 1

Hill and a member of A Future with Hope Board of Directors.

Sandy recovery is the second leg of this campaign and a full \$7 million of the monies raised will be dedicated to the conference's work to help the most vulnerable populations in long term recovery. A Future with Hope, the nonprofit organization initiated by the conference to handle Sandy recovery, has started work on more than a dozen homes and has hosted close to 1000 construction volunteers since recovery work began in March. In addition to the generous support received by United Methodist congregations, A Future with Hope has received generous funding from UMCOR, The Robin Hood Foundation and the American Red Cross.

Bobbie Ridgely, Director of A Future with Hope, thinks the Mission Fund Campaign does more than raise money, "It is a great opportunity for churches to connect with local communities and make a difference in the lives of people in need. I'm excited for the work ahead and the opportunities to

connect with our local churches."

The third leg of the campaign is to help end deaths from malaria in Africa. Malaria is a treatable and stoppable disease. The conference support of Imagine No Malaria will help end the senseless deaths of thousands of people, mostly children, in Africa.

In his address at Annual Conference, Bishop Schol described the campaign and the need as God-sized. "Why do we do this?" said Bishop Schol, "When people hurt, United Methodists heal; when people lose hope, United Methodists become a future with hope; when people do not have enough, United Methodists help."

If you need a hardcopy of the manual or more information, please contact: Rebecca Nichols, 732.359.1047 (or rebeccanichols@gnjumc.org), Field Coordinator for A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign, Carolyn Conover (cconover@gnjumc.org) Director of Communication and Development, or Rich Hendrickson (rhendrickson@gnjumc.org), Stewardship Education & Development Coordinator.

Local Volunteers Help Rebuild Sandy-ravaged Home

*By Sharon Lurye Special to the BCT
(originally posted on the BCT website) PhillyBurbs.com*

A cloud of plaster fell from the ceiling, and the air was filled with the buzz of electric tools and the sound of people scraping walls. A crowd of people milled around a house, setting up cabinets, climbing ladders, and moving construction equipment to the backyard.

Outside, it was blisteringly hot and humid. Large windows in the living room revealed the ocean, a perfect view for a summer's day.

No one appreciated that view, however, on the day that Superstorm Sandy flooded the small home and made it unlivable for 8½ months.

But a group of volunteers from Burlington County is working to help rebuild the house after Sandy. They were all members of the United Methodist Church, and had come together to volunteer for an organization called A Future With Hope.

A Future With Hope Inc. is an independent nonprofit organization that the United Methodist Church started last year to aid in New Jersey's recovery in the wake of Sandy. Its goal is to raise \$22 million and rebuild 300 to 500 homes in the next three to five years, with a focus on helping the elderly, low-income people and the disabled. Recently, the organization received a \$1.5 million grant from the American Red Cross to help rebuild 75 homes across New Jersey.

A Future With Hope has several sites at the Jersey Shore for volunteers, and the organization's case managers are working with 52 families to get them the "resources and information to rebuild their lives," said Carolyn Conover, director of communications and development.

Fifty-eight volunteers, 50 of them from Burlington County, signed up on a mission with the Capital District of the United Methodist Church in Greater New Jersey. They are from 11 churches around the county and will come in three shifts over a two-week period. Leading them all is mission coordinator Jere Hopkins-Doerr, alongside construction manager Lou Strugala.

Hopkins-Doerr, a minister for the church who has eight years of experience in coordinating service missions, started planning the trip as soon as Sandy hit.

"There wasn't any discussion about what or where we were going to go," she said.

Since there are quite a few houses to work on, though, it wasn't until the day before the mission that Hopkins-Doerr knew exactly where her team was going. The first 17 volunteers arrived July 14 in Belmar to haul debris out of a church whose sanctuary had been destroyed. The next day, they moved on to a house in Highlands owned by a Vietnam veteran and his wife.

The couple, who prefer to remain anonymous, had lived in the house for 20 years. Before that, it belonged to the wife's mother, and before that to her grandparents. After the storm flooded the house, in the owner's words, "Everything was gutted."

The couple moved into an apartment, and their 21-year-old son, Austin, dropped out of college to help them rebuild their home. They couldn't stay in the apartment for long; the rent was unaffordable. Describing their search for help, the owner just said, "I prayed a lot."

Finally, the Highlands Solution Center connected them with A Future With Hope. Volunteers began the process of reconstruction, and the family was able to move back into its home a few weeks ago. It is still under construction — the

walls are unfinished, doors haven't been installed in every room, and they only recently got a refrigerator. But at least they have a roof over their heads.

On Wednesday, Austin was working with another man to install the first cabinets in the house. The 17 volunteers, including half a dozen teenagers, were busy scraping, sanding and spackling the walls.

"It's just the thing we've been taught to do," said Rick Craft, a high school teacher in Burlington Township. "When somebody's down and out, you do what you can to help them."

"I've always wanted to help people, and I just like giving back and making people feel better," said Jackalyn Beckett, 17, of Plumsted, Ocean County.

Another teenage volunteer, Morgan Spanier of Burlington Township, said that after going on a mission trip to Tennessee last year, "I appreciated things more because I saw what others had lost."

Lisa Butler of Pemberton said this was her sixth mission trip. She previously volunteered in Louisiana, Iowa, Tennessee and Africa.

"I get a lot out of it," she said. "I get this satisfaction, the feeling that you helped somebody. It's just a great experience. You get to meet a lot of different people and see a lot of different parts of the country."

She added, "I can't describe the feeling, when you've worked all day long and you come home and you're totally exhausted or drained."

"It's just a nice feeling."

This mission is particularly special, not just because it's close to home, but also because the owner was there to help with the reconstruction.

Gary Bartlett, a minister from Mount Laurel, described what it was like to meet the owners.

"It's wonderful to speak with (the owner) and his son, Austin, and to see their appreciation and hear their stories, (and) just connect with them as human beings," Bartlett said. "We all have gifts and graces that we can use to help one another. They're welcoming of that and appreciative. It's wonderful for them to allow the volunteers to come help them."

"I can't be grateful enough for everything they did for us," said Austin. "This never would have happened, I never would have been able to rebuild my house without them, and anything I can do to help them in return I will do for the rest of my life."

He's hopeful the house will be finished by September. After that, he plans to finish school, become a contractor, and work for Strugala so he can help people rebuild their homes.

Many residences in the neighborhood have yet to be rebuilt.

A man from neighboring Sea Bright, who asked to remain anonymous, said much of the money from recovery funds had gone to businesses and beach clubs, not to regular homeowners. He said there were 11 houses on his street, but that six families had not even started rebuilding yet.

"All the money is going to the beach clubs," he said. "It's not going to us. ... There's money for the rich, not the blue-collar guy. Not the regular guy."

Conover said A Future With Hope is looking for more houses to rebuild, and recommended that homeowners who need help call the organization at 732-359-1012.

"We are committed to helping New Jersey, out of the most vulnerable populations who were affected by the storm," she said.

**The October Issue Deadline
is September 5, 2013**



Global Relay

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

Making the extra effort with college students

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — Faculty members who make an extra effort to engage students at United Methodist-related colleges and universities are being recognized through the Exemplary Teacher Award given by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Division of Higher Education.

Encouragement, advice for Zimbabwe pastors

MUTARE, Zimbabwe (UMNS) — Moving from old to new congregations results in mixed emotions for both outgoing and incoming United Methodist pastors in Zimbabwe. Participants explored that and other topics and found inspiration during the recent 2013 pastors' school at Africa University.

Shoebbox Christmas is coming

SHEYENNE, N.D. (UMNS) — Soon treat-filled shoeboxes will begin arriving at the Spirit Lake Ministry Center here. But these are not ordinary shoeboxes. To children living on impoverished reservations in South Dakota and North Dakota, these treasure chests may be the only Christmas gift they receive. Last year, Dakotas Annual (regional) Conference missionaries Mike and Libby Flowers gave away 5,215 shoeboxes. "We would really like to break the 5,500 mark," Mike said. "We would need upwards of 30,000 to reach every Native American child on reservations in the Dakotas."

South Sudan, Sudan set up ecumenical councils

GENEVA (UMNS) — Two ecumenical councils in South Sudan and Sudan have been established, based on a decision reached through a lengthy process undertaken at the Sudan Council of Churches' 20th General Assembly July 3-7 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Student group seeks volunteer leaders

NEW YORK (UMNS) — The World Student Christian Federation's North American Regional Committee is looking to fill five vacant volunteer leadership positions. Applications are being accepted from students and recent graduates from both Canada and the United States to serve a two-year term. The deadline is Sept. 30.

African technologist takes home VNI Service Award

Nashville, Tenn. — Pierre Omadjela, Director of Communications and Development for the Central Congo Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, won third place in the inaugural Visual Networking Index Service Awards Program for his storytelling about the power of technology to connect people and lives. The VNI Service Awards were sponsored by Cisco Systems to recognize innovation in connecting the unconnected. Participants from 108 countries around the world wrote about topics such as communication for people with disabilities (Columbia) and using technology to empower rural farmers (Uganda).

ALOHA Math for a Good Cause

Somerville Church first-grader Matthew loves math and has a deep desire to help feed the starving. He also loves to share his ALOHA skills. ALOHA is an innovative program that teaches children techniques for handling numbers with speed and accuracy. Matthew's desire to help feed the hungry motivated him with an idea to use his mathematical gift. This is what Matthew did — he created a poster inviting folks to challenge him to a best-of five math race. ALOHA mental math problems were written out on a white board. He set his poster and his challenge up after church on two Sundays. Kids and adults who accepted Matthew's challenge then "raced" to calculate the answer first. Matthew won against all challengers and arrived at the correct answer always — very often before his challenger had even finished the first calculation of the series. It was a creatively awesome way to apply his ALOHA learning for a good cause. He raised \$50 for UMCOR, the United Methodist relief agency dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. Nearly 80 Church-goers stopped by to challenge young Matthew and each one was eager to hear his story — and play with his amazing abacus! Members of his church as well as the people at ALOHA are proud of what Matthew's achieved and for having the determination to do something for his fellow man. Well done!

Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS)

Fall "Family" Reunions

October 8, 2013

Green Village UMC, Green Village, NJ
10:00 a.m.

October 22, 2013

St. Peters UMC, Ocean City, NJ
11:00 a.m.

Following a Memorial Service for those clergy and spouses that have died this past year, the Rev. John D. Callanan, Director of Chaplains for the United Methodist Homes, will share a presentation on "The Spiritual Life of Retired Clergy."

Lunch is \$10.

Call Garey Hope (609) 291-5003 to make a reservation.



Journeying

The Secrets of Red Bird Mission

By Jodi Bischoff



Members of the Vernon Church had their lives changed by their service to others through the Red Bird Mission.

This past July, the Vernon Church sent nine members on a Red Bird Mission trip in Beverly, Kentucky. These members included Robin Jones, Chuck Reaves, Nancy Grimaldi, Nancy Adams, Sue Gales, Bobbi DeGraaf, Jodi Bischoff, Sam Perez, and Pastor Eunice Vega-Pérez. The weeklong journey gathered together one hundred and nineteen missionaries from ten churches across five states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Georgia. This was the first time that VUMC volunteered at the Red Bird Mission, but many of the trip's participants were veterans of the mission. Regardless of age, gender, color, or creed, they all became a united family as the children of God.

After a caravan of nineteen cargo vans pulled into the Red Bird Mission site in the mountainous region of Kentucky, the group knew there was no backing out. Besides the fact that the closest town was an hour away and the payphone only worked if you remembered your calling card, this mission was bigger than all of them. They believed that it was their duty to God, to themselves, and to the people of Beverly to finish what they had set out to accomplish. The team found it was easy to be selfless because they had nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Every day they prayed...a lot! Even if some missionaries had not practiced praying regularly before the mission, devotion to God became a routine exercise throughout the trip. They slept in beautiful bunkhouses and gathered for breakfast and dinner in the Cardinal House. Each crew was assigned a meal to clean up after. If someone felt like being a chef, they were also allowed to volunteer to make the meals with the staff from the mission. During work days, the crew packed lunches; cookies as a treat, and more than enough water for lunch at the work site. Crews worked and returned for dinner at 5:30, and thanked the Lord for their supply of energy once again (by that point everyone was drained). After dinner, many showered and headed to nightly devotionals to sing songs and converse amongst fellow missionaries.

The team from Vernon found the need to be great. Each person was assigned a worksite and crew to work with, so they may or may not have known anyone going into the van with their crew that day. The nametags saved them from mixing every single person's name up, and everyone else was in the same boat experiencing all that Red Bird had to offer. After just

one day of work, crews began to bond with one another and became close friends. The houses shocked many of the workers. There were three roofing projects, a few floors, windows, painting, ceiling fans and much more repaired by the team. The roofs leaked. The floors couldn't be walked upon or they'd cave in. The pipes sprang leaks every time the main water was turned on. The houses that were being fixed needed more than serious help. Only about three people had ever been on a roof, but experience isn't required when you're volunteering at Red Bird. A few construction experts present at the mission patiently taught the volunteers the finer points of home renovation, so even the most inexperienced crews were able to work quickly and confidently.

In the middle of the week, all workers were granted a day off.

In the end, all the projects were finished. The homeowners smiled bigger than ear to ear. Their hearts were soft and gentle, especially by the last day of work. The homeowners kept the crews company, helped out with the construction, and said thank you more than the volunteers ever thought possible. The hard work didn't sap their bodies' strength or drain their ambition. All the effort and energy they put into the seemingly simple tasks of hammering a nail or painting a wall changed someone's life completely.

It won't be simple to forget those people of Kentucky and other missionaries. It's easy now to try a little harder and help. It's easy to wave at someone who drives by. It was easy to rebuild those homes because something bigger than all of them pushed them. It is easy to work as hard as you ever had in your lifetime with the help of strangers to help a stranger because God asked you to. It's easy to be made new by going to Red Bird. It was easy for the Vernon team to understand what God's kingdom should be like. It's so easy to just accept the calling, so listen carefully because who knows if you'll be called next, maybe not to Red Bird but to help simply in town.

The Red Bird Mission community is run solely on donations, including the dentist, doctor and Red Bird Christian School. Some homeowners make an income off of the crafts they sell at the local craft store. They are accepting donations and help at any time. More information regarding the Red Bird Mission can be found at www.rbmmission.org. Thank you for helping support the missionaries sent to the Red Bird Mission trip.

Livingston Church Feeding the Homeless



Denise McDonald and Lomi Jagnandan, members of the Livingston Church are pictured here with Thai, the manager of Starbucks in East Hanover, NJ.

The Livingston Church is busy collecting baked goods from two of their local Starbucks. The baked goods are delivered to Isaiah House, a nearby shelter that houses and feeds homeless families. They collect the baked goods three times a week and deliver them in time for lunch. The families look forward to getting the special treats. In addition, the program was expanded recently to collect bagels from Cosi's, a local deli. Starbucks and Cosi's have

been very generous and they enjoy helping those in need. When Rev. Theresa Hoover contacted Cheryl Weeks, the community outreach director, to ask if they wanted to participate, she was eager to be part of the program. Isaiah House feeds several hundred people daily. The congregation at Livingston is in the process of expanding this mission outreach to other vendors and other shelters.

Farmingdale Pastor Retires



Rev. Dr. Wayne C. Richards and wife Dawn are pictured in front of the Farmingdale Church. Richards has served the congregation "faithfully and with devotion" according to one member, for the last fifteen years. He has retired to mark the conclusion of 48 years in ministry.

Faith Partners

Somerville - A new group of families began meeting this year before church services. They call themselves Faith Partners, and their gatherings reflect the FAITH5, a movement begun by Rev. Rich Melheim to assist families in their faith development. Two of the children in the group were inspired to begin their own ministries, based on their gifts and passions. Jackie Faltas, a 9 year old, decided to make homemade dog biscuits (see attached picture of Faith Partners group assisting with the recipe) to hand out. She received \$70 in donations and gave the money to the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter. Additionally, she collected old newspapers for the Shelter to use in the animal's cages.



Matthew Faltas, a 7 year old, decided to use his love for math to raise money for UMCOR. His story is highlighted in a separate article elsewhere in this issue of the Relay.



Annual BMCR Tour in the Works



Participants in the BMCR tour of Philadelphia will visit the sanctuary of Mother Bethel AME Church, the first church of the denomination founded by Richard Allen.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal cordially invites all churches to learn about the historical black connection in Methodism by visiting St. George UMC, Mother Bethel AME, Tindley Temple UMC, Zoar UMC and St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Visit the churches where Richard Allen, Charles Albert Tindley, Harry Hoosier and Absalom Jones served and learn more about our historical connections. Youth Confirmation Classes (ages 12-18) are encouraged to visit.

The fall tour will be on Saturday, September 21, 2013. The tour bus will leave at 8 a.m. from St. Paul UMC (201 Levitt Pkwy, Willingboro). A donation of \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth includes lunch and transportation. Make checks payable to BMCR of GNJAC. Send your check and reservation form to Patricia Mills, treasurer (Lawrence Drive, Apt. E, PO Box 448, Browns Mills, NJ 08015). For additional information, please contact the tour guide, Rev. Alfred Murray at 609-877-7034 or stpumc@verizon.net.

Young Adults Offered the Opportunity to 'Become Grace'

By Melissa Hinnen, GBGM

"I commission you to take the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world," Bishop John Schol said as he laid hands on 29 young adult missionaries who were being sent into service by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. The commissioning service was at the Interchurch Center Chapel in New York City on Aug. 12.

The commissioning followed three weeks of training, living in community and exploring the challenges and opportunities the young adults may face in the mission field. The missionaries come from around the world and will serve in 10 countries, including in the United States. Three of the Mission Interns graduated from Africa University. Two of the placements are through a new partnership with Restoration Generation, and three are serving in partnership with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's collegiate ministry program.

As he greeted the candidates and welcomed those witnessing the commissioning, Thomas Kemper, chief mission executive of Global Ministries, prayed, "Mighty and tender God . . . We are grateful for your call, the call to deepen and strengthen our connections both within your church and with the community at large."

Bishop Schol, who leads the Greater New Jersey Episcopal Area, offered a message based on Ephesians 4: 11-12. Talking about God's gifts, Bishop Schol noted that the United Methodist connection has been a gift as most of the young adults were raised in United

Methodist congregations, some attended Methodist-affiliated seminaries and many have been influenced by mission experiences. "And now," he said, "you are all stepping forward in ministry, being sent by the General Board of Global Ministries as missionaries."

He encouraged them to be authentic in their ministry saying, "We live out the gifts God has given us. Some are called to be a pointer of the way, a prophet making God's way clear."

"Use the gifts that God has given you," Bishop Schol continued, "and you will be offered the opportunity to sacrifice grace so that you can become grace."

The celebration was webcast live. More than 1,000 individuals and groups logged on to encourage and pray for the new US-2 and Mission Intern Fellows. Using #yams13, viewers tweeted messages of support. Former US-2 Devin Hanson p (@dev_m_hanso) tweeted, "Taking a quick break from Monday work, to follow livefeed of @umcmmission commissioning. Congrats #yams13!"

In a video, mission interns and US-2s from previous classes welcomed the young adult missionaries of 2013. Former US-2 Beth Bostrom said, "As you dive into this . . . social justice that we are called to — this way that we follow in Christ's footsteps — I hope you know you are part of a larger community of people who believe that God's love extends and calls us to be in all of the broken and beautiful places."

Continued on page 11

HYMN SING ATTENDANCE WINNERS!



Members of the Centre Grove Church hold the attendance banner won this year at the Delaware Bay District Hymn Sing event celebrated in May. The church brought a diverse group comprised of 15 persons that included children, youth and adults.

A Note from Archives and History

The historical societies of the former Southern and Northern New Jersey Annual Conferences have a rich past in publishing journals of historic interest within their respective geographic boundaries. The Historical Trail focuses on Southern New Jersey Methodism whereas the Circuit Writer embraces Northern New Jersey Methodism. The Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History is currently scanning these volumes for public consumption. Regional histories are more popular than ever and these publications are troves of information. The reader will find accounts about local churches, individuals and events that are both informative as well as uplifting. Over the next couple of months more editions will be added until each set is complete. You may find the PDF files on our web page at <http://www.gnjumc.org/>. Click on the Ministries tab and choose Archives and History.

CAMDEN COMES TO THE BEACH

Monday, July 29th was not a typical day in Cape May's summer season. For weeks in advance, members of Cape May Church, Cape May Point Nature Center, The City of Cape May, Cape May's Beach Patrol and Kiwanis Club of Cape May had been busy preparing to host nearly 100 children from the Camden Neighborhood Center for a Day at the Beach.

This was the second year that the Cape May Church sponsored and hosted the event. Early each spring, notices go in the church bulletin and boxes are placed in the narthex and back entry for contribution of beach toys. Carol Salinsky, Christian Education Coordinator, heads up the toy drive while overall coordinator, Jean Davis, contacts the other organizations and sets all the details in place. "The Neighborhood Center staff have shared that it is the first time many of the children have ever seen the ocean," said Mrs. Davis.

The Day at the Beach this year started early in the morning when the bus left Camden and later arrived at Cape May Point State Park. There, participants were met by a park ranger who presented a nature program. Next, the bus made its way to the Kiwanis Club of Cape May where the Camden neighbors were



Children and staff from the Neighborhood Center prepare for their day of fun and sun in Cape May.

greeted by Cape May UMC members of all ages. "Lunch is always a raucous, joy-filled time and the cupcakes prepared by the United Methodist Women are the highlight of the meal," mentioned Salinsky. While everyone enjoyed lunch, Lieutenant Tom Wyatt from Cape May Beach Patrol arrived to give a safety talk. This is an essential part of the day as organizers want to ensure the safety of all participating.

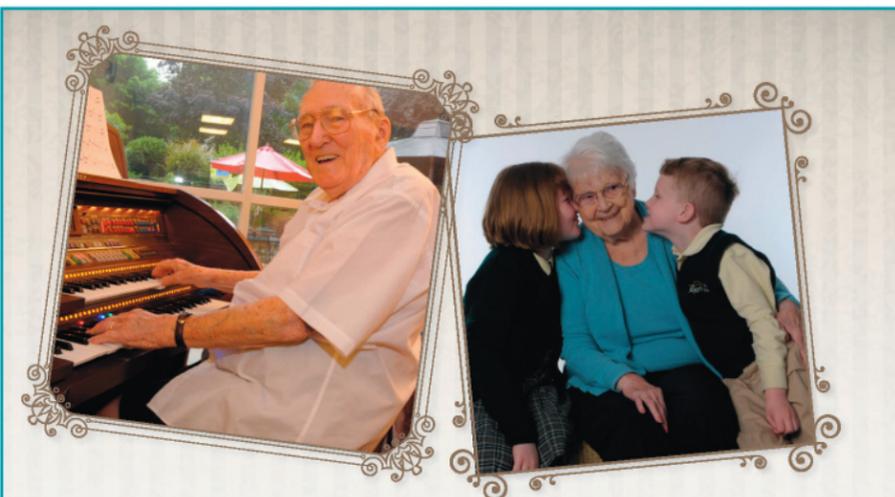
While the children enjoyed the nature program, their hosts were busy lining the walkway, from the Kiwanis Club to the sidewalk, with everything from shovels and pails, to sand castle equipment, to kites. Every visitor had the opportunity to pick a toy, and cross the street to enjoy a day on the beach.

On the way home, every guest was given a bag with great snacks, again provided by the United Methodist Women. "Here in Cape May, we believe we are part of the Camden Neighborhood Center neighborhood" concluded Mrs. Salinsky.

Happy 103rd Birthday!

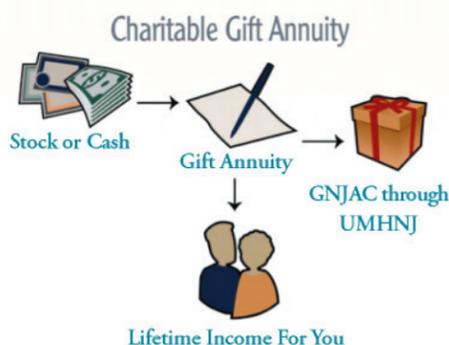


Evia Duton of St. Marks Church in Montclair, celebrated her 103rd birthday on July 21, 2013. Still going strong, Duton attends church regularly as well as United Methodist Women's meetings. Pictured with Ms. Duton is her daughter Helaine Penn.



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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.

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www.umh-nj.plannedgiving.org

MILLVILLE CHURCHES COMBINE FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO CHILDREN

MILLVILLE - On June 26, Second, Trinity and West Side churches joined forces to provide the community a day filled with food, fun and presentations of the Gospel by Jim Lovenduski, an evangelist with more than 40 years experience in reaching kids for Christ.

Located in a blighted urban neighborhood, the usually vacant backyard of Second Church was filled with the sights and sounds of a bouncy house and slide, hula-hooping, rubber chicken launching, pie-eating contests, tug-of-war competitions, archery and more. Free hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and drinks were liberally distributed. While the games were fun, Lovenduski skillfully incorporated a Bible lesson into each one as well. "Jim did an incredible job. He had the kid's attention every single minute, and brought the Bible lesson into every game so effortlessly. I've never seen anyone be able to hold their attention like that," said one volunteer.

Last year, Second and Trinity cooperated in offering a week-long Vacation Bible School that had an average attendance of 40 children each night. The goal for this year was to double that attendance through another traditional Bible school program. VBS planning began last November, but as the time drew closer, the planning committee saw that – even though the VBS materials had been ordered – a different approach was needed to make a bigger impact. The week-long VBS was scrapped, and Millville KidzFest 2013, a single-day event geared to children in grades K-5 and their families, was born.

Second Church's pastor, The Rev. Steven D. Elliott, who spearheaded the event, explains: "Had we done VBS as planned, we would have reached more children than last year, but the KidzFest format allowed us to reach far more children and their families than



we would have through VBS. KidzFest generated an attendance of 240 children and their parents." "We could never have done this on our own," said West Side's Sam Herdman, Jr. "No, none of us could have. This really shows the power of what can happen when our churches work together,"

added Second Church's Dave Sooy. In addition to contributions from the members of the three participating churches, a grant from Project Nurture, which uses the income from the proceeds of sale of the former Broad Street Church to support ministry to children in Millville, also helped fund

the day's activities. Looking to the future, Second, Trinity and West Side churches plan to offer a similar community outreach event again this coming fall. Photos of Millville KidzFest 2013 may be viewed on the Facebook pages of the Second and Trinity churches of Millville.

Pension and Retirement Webconferences Scheduled

Pursuant to the 2012 General Conference changes, effective **January 1, 2014 if you are a Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) participant, you must contribute to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) to prevent a reduction in contributions to your CRSP Defined Contribution (DC) account.** The Greater NJ Annual Conference has worked with the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits to host a series of three Webconferences. The Webconferences will assist Clergy in understanding the changes affecting their retirement and allow clergy to ask questions.

The Webconferences will be hosted by Ron Coleman (Conference Liaison) and Peter Hang (Benefits Educator) of the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits. They will be explaining the changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) and the matching contribution provision of the defined contribution (DC) component. Other topics of discussion include the Ministerial Pension Plan annuity conversion percentage, Ernst & Young Financial Services and the Benefits Access features that allow participants access to their own personal pension accounts.

The webconferences are scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:00pm**
- **Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 2:00pm**
- **Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 10:00am**

We encourage all active Clergy to participate in one of the three Webconferences listed above. Webconference login information will be made on the GNJAC website. The following link will be updated prior to each session: <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/683>. In the meantime you may visit the General Board website at <http://www.gbophb.org/CRSPchanges/>. If you have any questions pertaining to the Webconferences or have questions regarding the plan changes, please contact Alexa Taylor at 732-359-1038 or via email at ataylor@gnjumc.org.



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The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey Foundation, in partnership with MetLife, invites you to a no obligation, complimentary financial education workshop.

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VINCENT CHURCH STRENGTHENS TIES WITH ITS TANZANIAN MISSIONARIES



The Tanzania Mission Team from the Vincent Church in Nutley stand with their missionaries: Rev. Mutwale wa Mushidi and Kabaka Alphonsine in front of First Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. L-R: Allyson Lin, Barbara Carrino, Paul Raines, the missionaries, Becky Raines, Rev. David LeDuc, Constance Cherry. The team helped put a new roof on the church preschool, paint a residence for refugees, and is now working to raise funds to help the church purchase land and build an Annual Conference Complex.

Nutley, NJ/Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania — The six-member delegation from Vincent Church (VUMC), recently returned stateside following a very successful two-week mission trip to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The team gained numerous insights about the many challenges and successes UMC missionaries in Tanzania face daily. The trip ignited renewed excitement and commitment from the team to create a widespread fundraising and awareness campaign to raise vital funds needed to purchase land in Dar Es Salaam to erect the proposed UMC Campus Complex.

“Our trip was most successful and deepened our relationship with our missionaries, Kabaka Alphonsine and her husband, Rev. Mutwale Ntambo wa Mushidi, says Reverend David LeDuc, pastor of VUMC.” The visit proved ben-

eficial for all and gave us the opportunity to see first-hand the outstanding work our missionaries are doing with limited resources.” The delegation worked diligently with their hosts on numerous service projects including replacing the rooftop of the preschool building; painting refugee housing; and purchasing needed supplies.

The missionaries, originally from the Congo, have worked tirelessly during their nearly two decades of dedicated service in Tanzania and can be credited with establishing nearly 70 churches in this east African nation. The need for expansion is considerable and the new UMC Center in Dar Es Salaam will make a major impact on the growth of the United Methodist Church globally and, in Tanzania specifically.

The Tanzanian missionaries have proposed an ambitious plan for the Center including 11 specialized areas within the complex. The immediate construction projects will be the church building for worship; a residence for the pastor and one for the District Supervisor; the preschool for orphans and vulnerable street children; a school, both primary and secondary level; and a clinic. Additionally, the ten acres of land will also encompass a guest house for volunteer missionaries and visitors; plus a reception center; an annual Conference Headquarters with office space; a Women’s Training Center; a house for poor families; a garden; and, in the future, a college. A number of these divisions will generate an income stream that will assist churches in villages.

The area where the proposed land

will be purchased is known as Mbangala, in the southern section of the city. “This area is growing quickly as people are moving from villages in the countryside to be near the commercial capital,” says Rev. Mutwale. “A new road near the land is planned and will help provide access to the complex. We are eager to raise the needed funds, \$50,000.00, as soon as possible, so that the land does not get purchased by someone else.” The Vincent team has committed to help them raise these funds.

For further information about the UMC Tanzanian Annual Conference Mission Complex, to schedule a presentation, or for ways to contribute, please contact Rev. David LeDuc at: vincentumc@verizon.net or visit www.vincentumc.org.



Tanzanian women and children with members of the mission team following a training session for local women on how to make tie-died garments to sell to generate income. Many women have become widows and children have become orphans due to AIDS and other diseases. The women also learn other skills for raising a family along with values and Christian faith development.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC

The Importance of a Narrative or Ministry-Focused Budget

The most important connection we can make in the church with regards to stewardship and giving is the connection between what people give (time, talent, and treasure) and the mission and ministry that results from their giving. One way to do that is by creating a ministry-focused budget.

Scott McKenzie and Kristine Miller in their book, *Climbing Higher: Reaching New Heights in Giving and Discipleship*, describe the importance of creating a narrative budget. “The purpose of the ministry-focused budget is to translate money into ministry. Your members want to know how their gifts to your church are being put to good use. What ministry is taking place and how are people’s lives better because of their contributions.

The narrative or ministry-focused budget is a tool or a way to tell people how their gifts have been put to good use—and also tell them how their continued giving will be used to fulfill God’s vision for your ministry in the year to come.

To download one example of a Narrative Budget go to: <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/458>. For help in creating your own ministry-focused budget contact Rev. Dr. Rich Hendrickson at 732-359-1045 or RHendrickson@gnjumc.org.



Names and Images of God to be Explored in Survey

by Audrey J. Krumbach, GCSRW Director of Gender Justice and Education

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is seeking to rekindle conversations about the names and ways Christians talk about God, with a particular interest in understanding the impact of previous “inclusive language” movements.

In order to better understand the current attitudes within The United Methodist Church — and to shape future conversations about our theological priorities and language in reference to God — we seek participants in a survey about language for and images of God. We are especially interested in hearing from lay perspectives, and we’d like to hear both from those who

are strong supporters of “inclusive language” and those who do not believe it is an important or positive part of our faith. Please share this survey widely so that UMC voices can be heard.

Would you consider taking this survey yourself AND PUSHING IT FORWARD to the United Methodists with whom you are in contact?

The link to the survey is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/names4god>. The survey will be open until October 31, 2013.

Should you have questions, please call me at the GCSRW office: 312-346-4900.

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.

Saddlertown Celebrates Its Roots



On Saturday, September 21, the historic community of Saddlertown in Haddon Township will celebrate its roots. The area was established by escaped slave Joshua Saddler who, after gaining his freedom, purchased five acres in 1842 now known as Saddlertown. The celebration will take place on the grounds of the historic Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church, 504 Rhoads Avenue, Haddon Township, NJ, 08033. Activities include food, music, guided tours of nearby Saddler's Woods, history and genealogy displays, children's reenactments of historic events, tours of the church, and more. Rhoads Temple Church was established in 1893 by local residents and Haddonfield Quakers Charles and Beulah Rhoads, and stands on its original site in Saddlertown, retaining much of its original architectural design elements. The family-friendly event is free and open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New 'That's Church' Messages Highlight the Church in Action

United Methodist Communications asks members and seekers to Rethink Church from a historic perspective with the new 'That's Church' messages.

Nashville, TN – United Methodist Communications asks members and seekers to Rethink Church from a historic perspective with the new 'That's Church' messages.

"When we Rethink Church, we're honoring our denominational roots," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. "For more than 200 years, the Methodist movement has been putting faith into action. We believe faithfulness is nurtured in worship on Sunday morning and expressed by faithful acts the other days of the week. The people of The United Methodist Church continue to make a difference and help others. We think that's church."

The campaign will examine specific themes and highlight the denomination's work to advance social issues such as education, labor rights and food insecurity. Rethink Church will advertise the campaign nationally on digital and mobile channels and through strategically selected TV markets.

An excerpt from the education ad reads, "Introducing innovative teaching methods in the early 20th century... Creating inclusive classrooms in the 1950s. Educating 500,000+ students worldwide at United Methodist-related colleges and universities today. Then and now, we support learning opportunities that change lives. That's how we put beliefs into action. That's the way it's always been. That's Church."

"That's Church' demonstrates to seekers that the people of The United Methodist Church are not simply talking about these issues because they're trending," said the Rev. Larry Hollon. "We have always been talking about them. More importantly, we've been taking action."

In conjunction with the campaign, *RethinkChurch.org* will highlight content that illuminates the denomination's specific work around these Social Principles and with the guidance and assistance of the General Commission on Archives & History and the General Board of Church and Society, along with other denominational agency partners.

To learn more, go to *RethinkChurch.org*.

About Rethink Church

Rethink Church, the next evolution of The United Methodist Church's "Open hearts" welcoming and advertising campaign, highlights the many opportunities available within United Methodist churches to engage with the world – from literacy programs to feeding the poor. At *RethinkChurch.org*, visitors may interact, learn more about the church, and search for involvement opportunities.

The Neighborhood Center First Annual Golf and Dinner Classic

In celebration of its centennial anniversary, The Neighborhood Center in Camden, NJ will be hosting its First Annual Golf and Dinner Classic at Tavistock Country Club on Monday, October 21, 2013. Proceeds from this event will be used to support the operation of The Neighborhood Center's Community Kitchen.

Golf Classic

You are invited to a round of golf located next to Haddonfield NJ at one of New Jersey's most exclusive private country clubs. Lunch will be provided at 11:00 A.M., with a shotgun start at noon.



During the tournament, there will be prizes awarded for longest drive, straightest drive, and closest-to-the-pin, as well as awards for the first, second and third place foursomes. In addition, any lucky golfer to hit a hole-in-one will win a brand new car!

Dinner with Joe Conklin

After the tournament, we invite you to be our guest at the beautiful Tavistock clubhouse for a delicious dinner and live entertainment provided by Joe Conklin, one of the funniest comedians around.



Throughout the evening's festivities, a silent auction will be hosted which will feature celebrity sports memorabilia, trips to exotic locales, and a variety of other items to ensure that everyone who attends has an opportunity to go home a winner! Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM.

Honorary Chairperson

It is our pleasure to announce that the Rev. Dr. Robert Costello will be serving as our Honorary Chairperson for the Golf Classic. The Neighborhood Center would like to thank Rev. Dr. Costello for his years of faithful stewardship of our vital programs and celebrate his lasting legacy within the Gateway South District and the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.



Registration Information

Registration for the entire event (lunch, 18 holes of golf, dinner, and entertainment) is only \$225.00; cost to attend the dinner by itself is \$75.00. To register, please contact Tom Martin at (856) 833-0500 or via e-mail at tom@ncicamden.com.

Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

We are still looking for community partners who would like to sponsor our event - the following are the available levels of sponsorship and the benefits sponsors will receive. If you are interested in sponsoring our Golf Classic, please contact Tom Martin at (856) 833-0500 or via e-mail at tom@ncicamden.com.

Tournament Sponsor

\$25,000.00

Our tournament sponsor will receive a full-page ad and thank you from our Executive Director in our program, recognition during all tournament events and in all promotional materials, two complimentary foursomes of golf, and tickets to dinner for eight guests.

Major Sponsor

\$5,000.00

Sponsors will receive a full-page ad in our program, onsite recognition throughout the day's events, a complimentary foursome of golf, and tickets to dinner for 4 guests.

Dinner Sponsor

\$3,000.00

Sponsors will receive a full-page ad in our program, onsite recognition during dinner, and 8 tickets to dinner.

Lunch Buffet Sponsor

\$2,000.00

Sponsors will receive a half-page ad in our program, onsite recognition at the lunch buffet, and 4 tickets to dinner.

Practice Tee/ Practice Green Sponsors

\$1,000.00

Sponsors will receive a half-page ad in our program, onsite recognition on the practice tee or green, and 2 tickets to dinner.

Hole Sponsors

\$500.00

Recognition in our program and onsite recognition at one of 18 holes.

Church Official: In Congo, Every Day Is 9/11

By United Methodist News Service ~ By Pierre T. Omadjela*

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of the Congo (UMNS) — The United Methodist Church feels deep concern over violence that continues to plague the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly its most vulnerable citizens.

Officials from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society made that message clear during a recent visit to the African country.

"The church wants to pursue a sustainable peace that affirms human dignity, protection of natural resources and protection of human rights," said the Rev. Neal Christie, Church and Society's executive for education and leadership formation. "Every day in the DRC, there is a 9/11 taking place as long as the rape of women and plunder and forced dislocation are used as weapons of war in the eastern region of the Congo."

Christie and the Rev. Clayton Childers, Church and Society's director for annual conference relations and advocacy director for the Imagine No Malaria campaign, met July 22 with Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda of the denomination's North Katanga Area, as well as with Lambert Mende Omalanga, minister of communications for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Democratic Republic of the Congo has many natural resources," Lambert Mende told the church officials. "What we need is a just peace to allow us to work toward the development (of the resources). The countries



From left, Odimba Ado Omakinda, Pierre Omadjela, Neal Christie and Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda of North Katanga Area confer before meeting with leaders on July 23 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

UMNS photo by the Rev. Clayton Childers

surrounding us will benefit from that, and they will also develop."

President Obama has acknowledged that countries around Congo's eastern region bear some blame for ongoing conflict within Congolese borders.

"The countries surrounding the Congo, they've got to make a commitment to stop funding armed groups that are encroaching on territorial integrity and sovereignty of Congo," Obama said July 1 at a news conference in Tanzania, the last stop of his recent tour of Africa.

A United Nations-brokered peace agreement, signed by 11 countries, led

to the deployment of a U.N. intervention force. Its goal is to neutralize armed groups. But reports continue of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels in Congo fighting Rwanda, as well as M23 rebels fighting the established government in Congo.

The Reuters news agency reported that a U.N. analysis showed military officers from Rwanda and Congo were still fueling violence through their support of rival groups, despite the peace deal and intervention force.

The eastern region of Congo has been the scene of recurring violence

since 1998, with more than 50 armed groups having operated in the area, leading to an estimated four million deaths.

"The public still remembers our complicity in allowing genocide in Rwanda to go on," Christie said. "But when it comes to the millions who have been killed in the DRC, right next door to Rwanda ... the public is far too silent. That is tragic."

He added that the news media need to report on the role of the Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda governments in the violence in the eastern region of Congo, as well as on who profits from sustaining the conflict.

Ntambo thanked Christie and Childers, calling them "true friends" for helping him and a delegation meet in Washington last September with members of Congress, the State Department and the Obama administration.

The 30-member delegation of religious and civil society leaders brought a petition with more than one million signatures, calling for peace and dialog with Rwanda, but also accusing that country of war crimes and ongoing interference in Congo's internal affairs.

"Rwanda is killing our people" Ntambo said in testifying Sept. 19 before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee.

*Omadjela is director of communications and development for the United Methodist Central Congo Episcopal Area.

The Time is Still Now: the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington There Will Never Be Anything Like The 1963 March on Washington, Again!

Rev. Gil Caldwell



I have been "Thinking Out Loud" about why this 50th anniversary time of the March on Washington is so important for me and, I believe, for all of us. One reason: I realize at my age there will never be another time for me when there is such a convergence and acknowledgment of the Black racial journey and its relationship to many of the tribulations and triumphs of the USA. We have a way of "paying attention" to significant chronological anniversaries. There will never be another 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, which did so much to transform the practice, culture and history of us all. And as well, there will never be another 50th anniversary of what Chris Matthews of MSNBC says was the second most important speech in the nation's history: Martin Luther King's, "I Have A Dream", speech. (I believe Matthews said Abraham Lincoln's 2nd inaugural speech was the first).

Another reason; The role of religion, faith, spirituality (all, or your choice) in the re-shaping and transformation of life in the USA was made manifest by the March on Washington; it is and will be deeply rooted in history. Religion and the texts of religion have been responsible too many times, "used" to exclude rather than include, render some immoral by those who have not acknowledged their own immorality, and both maintain and sustain the inequities and inequalities of the *status quo*. In that "Great getting up morning" (The Spiritual), regardless of how your faith views life/existence beyond this life/existence, religion, and we who claim to be as followers of a faith, in some way will be challenged to respond to the question; "Why have I/we worshiped our Holy Script more than worshipping the God who inspired that Script?" And, for those of us who have followed Jesus, we must answer, "Why have I/we used him to justify our prejudices, rather than allowing his life, mission, and ministry to liberate us from them?"

The 1963 March on Washington was like a Holy Pilgrimage, where people of a diversity of faiths and no faith persuasions gathered to celebrate each other, the potential that was ours, and to "Dream" with Martin Luther King about that — that which was not yet, but could be if we had the will and courage to make it, "For Real". The 1963 March on Washington was one of the most significant Interfaith gatherings the nation and world have ever known. What has taken place since then validates its significance.

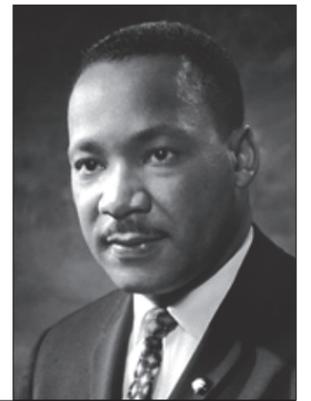
A final reason: the USA has been able to live and lead the world in believing that we are "much better than the rest of the world". We deplore the current violence in the middle east, while forgetting the violence and the deaths that were the result of our Civil War. Some demean Islam because Muslims are fighting Muslims in the middle east. Were not Christians fighting Christians in the Civil War? We are a nation of contradictions. Martin Luther King at the March on Washing-

ton, and the Civil Rights Movement in so many ways, helped the USA acknowledge the gap between our national creeds and our national deeds.

The March on Washington "set the table" as it made visible for the nation to see what the banquet table of the USA ought look like and be. It is time for all of us to sit at that Banquet Table.

(Quotations are from *African American Quotations*, Richard Newman, Editor, 2000)

Rev. Gill Caldwell is retired United Methodist clergy living in Asbury Park, NJ. He is former Associate General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race and one of the founders of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. As a long-time MFSA supporter, Gil's ministry of writing challenges the United Methodist Church to be the best it can be.



We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



"There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now."
— James Baldwin

Opportunity to 'Become Grace'

Continued from page 5

About Generation Transformation

As part of the closing litany, new missionary Jesse Rusicka declared, "We are agents of change, open to God's transforming power. We are Generation Transformation."

The 2013 class represents a transition for the young adult missionary program. In 2014, Global Ministries will launch a Generation Transformation Fellows program that will build on aspects of the historic mission intern and US-2 United Methodist programs.

Like their predecessors, the Global Mission Fellows, Mission Intern and US-2 Fellows programs will be faith- and justice-centered leadership development and mission service opportunities for adults ages 20-30.

The US-2 Fellows program began in 1951. During two years of service in each one's home country, US-2s boldly re-examine their roles and participation in unjust social structures. They inte-

grate faith and justice by learning, walking and working with communities in their struggles to address systemic injustice and human suffering.

The Mission Intern Fellows program, which began in 1977, is now a 25-month service opportunity. Mission Interns learn about and live out the transformative Gospel of Jesus Christ, while working with and as grassroots organizers and/or advocates in areas that include conflict resolution, peace, education, environmental justice, economic development, indigenous rights, and women's and children's issues.

Learn more about Generation Transformation at www.umcmmission.org/GT or email gmfellows@umcmmission.org. Follow @umcmmissionGT on Twitter for program updates. Please keep these young adults in prayer along with the communities they will serve. Financial support can be made through Advance #13105Z.

OBITUARIES

FRANK R. OSTERTAG, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Monday, August 5 in Newton, New Jersey. The funeral service will held on Saturday, August 10 at 11 a.m. in the Frankford Plains United Methodist Church, 99 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ 07822.

A memorial service will be held at the Bristol Glen Continuing Care Retirement Community, 200 Bristol Glen Drive in Newton, NJ 07860 on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Before his retirement in 1999, Rev. Ostertag served eight churches. He simultaneously served the United Methodist Churches of Port Murray and Mt. Bethel; simultaneously served the United Methodist Churches of Branchville and Frankford Plains; and also served the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Bergenfield; the United Methodist Church of Leonia; and retired from the Calvary Roseville United Methodist Church in East Orange in 1990. He later became the associate pastor of the Ridgewood United Methodist Church.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Eloise Ostertag, 200 Bristol Glen Drive, Apt. 409, Newton, NJ 07860. In lieu of flowers, gifts of remembrance may be made to the Bristol Glen Fellowship Fund, c/o UMHNJ Foundation, 3311 State Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753 or Drew University Theology School, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940.

DONALD DALE WESTOVER, widower of the Rev. Naomi "Pat" Westover, deceased Associate Member of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Tuesday, July 9 in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

A memorial service will be held at a time to be announced. Condolences may be made at www.lantermanallenfh.com.

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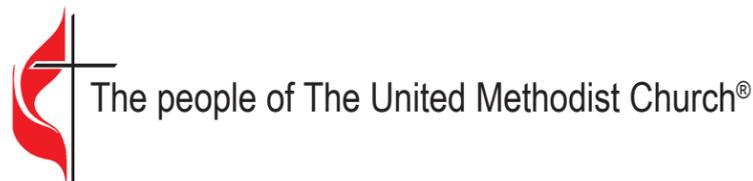
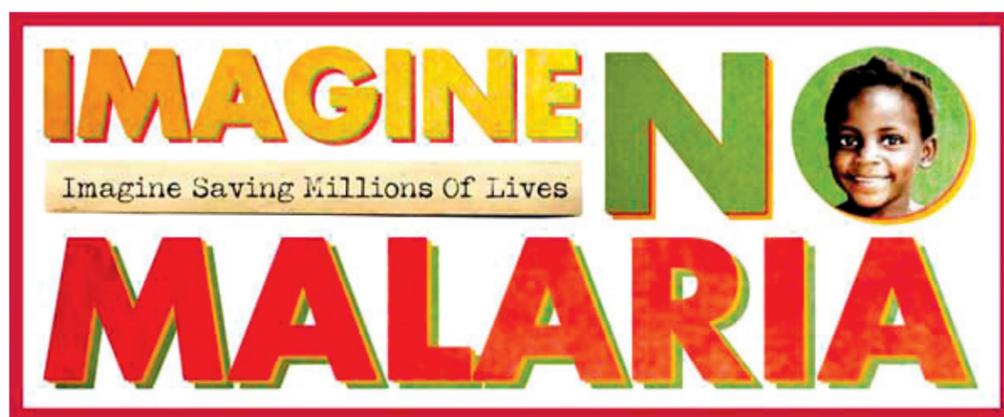
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