

Special Session of GNJAC Will Consider Additional Conference Center Costs

By JEFF WOLFE

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey has scheduled a special session of the annual conference from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 27 at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove to help decide the next step for its plans to build a new conference center in Neptune. The estimated cost for the new building is approximately \$700,000 more than originally projected. At a meeting with the Board of Trustees in August, the leaders of the conference decided to request a special session to address the issue.

In May of 2014, the conference voted overwhelmingly to approve construction of the new facility. The legislation set a budget cap of \$4 million. This summer bids for the building came in at \$5.5 million and through value engineering and design modifications, GNJ has reduced that cost to \$4.7 million.

"The goal of the new building is to provide the conference with appropriate meeting and worship space for our clergy and lay leaders," said Lou Strugala, president of the Board of Trustees and chairman of the building team. "As

designed, it also allows us to further the mission work of our conference."

To increase expenditures for the project, approval is needed at an annual conference session. Rev. Strugala believes the building can be completed without increasing shared ministry. "The main idea is that we don't want to increase apportionments," Strugala said. "The Board has options that will allow the building to go forward while remaining cost neutral."

The rising cost is due to a number of factors. Contractors are charging more and including a premium because

which has also impacted the bidding. The original cost for the building was estimated to be about \$120 per square foot, but that has increased to \$172 per square foot.

The increase is still under the normal cost of about \$200 per square foot for a 20,000 square foot office building thanks to the general contractor being a United Methodist, the architect being a man of faith and some subcontractors who are United Methodist. Each has found a way to save some cost and the conference has also received engineer advice on how to save money.

There are several options that will be discussed at the special session of annual conference. In addition to increasing the budget, the architects are preparing an option to reduce the size of the building which will include an estimate of the cost savings and an inventory of the resources lost by reducing the size.

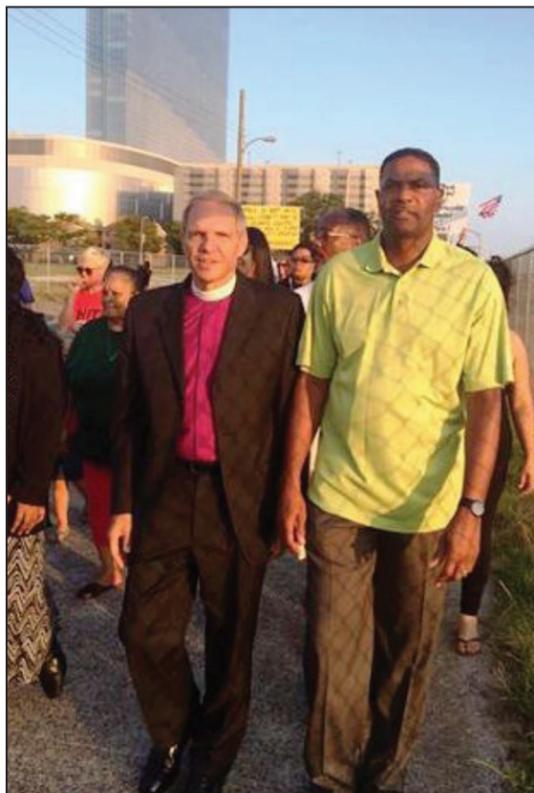
Once it is decided just how to proceed with the new building, construction will begin and is expected to take about 18 months.

Information on the special session will be emailed directly to voting members on Monday, September 15. More information will also be available on the GNJ website at gnjumc.org.



Conference Responds to Atlantic City Layoffs

By Jeff Wolfe



Bishop John Schol and Rev. Clifford Still, of Hamilton Memorial UMC, during August 20 march in Atlantic City.

The United Methodist's Church's stance against gambling has been clear for centuries. Their mission to help those in need, no matter their circumstance, has been clear as well.

Those two issues are intersecting with more than 6,000 people in the Atlantic City area facing unemployment with the closing of the Showboat, Revel and Trump Plaza casinos.

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference Bishop John Schol made it clear that although he is against gambling, he has compassion for those who will be losing their jobs. Bishop Schol and Reverend Clifford Still of Hamilton Memorial UMC were among about a dozen clergy and a few hundred city residents who participated in an Aug. 20 march and special prayer service in Atlantic City to support those facing job losses.

"There are going to be a lot of hurting people," Bishop Schol said. "No matter what industry, we want to be there to support them."

While clergy were concerned

about the long-term effects gambling would have on the surrounding communities when it was legalized in 1976, they are just as concerned now about the long-term economic health of those same communities.

"Atlantic City is important to Greater New Jersey and so we support a new vision in Atlantic City to grow other businesses and to create a city that offers entertainment for the entire family," Bishop Schol wrote in a letter to GNJUMC leaders after the march. "As the culture and economy change, United Methodists are committed to the long term health of Atlantic City and all communities within Greater New Jersey."

The Bishop also points out that some people losing their jobs are United Methodists.

"We have members who oppose gambling, we have members who work in the gaming business and we have members who gamble," Bishop Schol said. "Our concern for the people of Atlantic City and the region is because the significant layoffs will hurt families, the local community and the stability of the area."

These actions haven't changed the church's opinion on gambling.

"For the past several decades I have protested the legalization of gambling,"

Bishop Schol said. "I believe gambling preys on the most vulnerable."

There will be an increase in the vulnerable people and families in the South Jersey region.

"Families, local businesses and the community will all suffer greatly," the Bishop said. "Many, maybe most of those losing their jobs are hotel workers, wait staff, cooks, and cleaning staff. We pray for a new vision for Atlantic City, for the financial health of the families and for sustainable jobs."

The Cape Atlantic District is on the front lines of the issue. District Superintendent Brian Roberts is putting in place the Atlantic City Economy Committee within the District. Their first meeting will be in September and their goal is to provide a quick and caring response to the crisis.

While prayer will be an essential part of the process, Bishop Schol applauds Cape Atlantic's efforts and emphasizes that it will need to be followed by action.

"Our commitment is more than prayer," Bishop Schol said. "The team will develop a long-term vision and a caring response for people's emergency and counseling needs. We plan to work with other faith communities, elected officials and community organizations."

Organizations Unite to Rebuild Long Branch Home

Pictured from left to right: American Red Cross President for Humanitarian Services Cliff Holtz, American Red Cross Divisional Vice President Don Herring, United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey Bishop John Schol, Director of Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group Eric Nedelkoff, Long Branch Council Member Joy Bastelli, Long Branch Covenant Church Pastor Tony Moss, Communication Director of Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund Eileen Lofrese, Lutheran Reformation Church Reverend Matt Cimorelli, Episcopal Dioceses of NJ and Newark Disaster Coordinator Keith Adams, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ Disaster Relief Coordinator Amy Pennenga, Lutheran Reformation Church Sandy Relief Coordinator Debbie Keszler, A Future With Hope Director Bobbie Ridgely, American Red Cross CEO of the South Jersey Region Nancy Orlando.

See story on page 3



A Message from the Bishop



Part 5 - From 14 to 41%

This article is part five of a five part series about growing 41% of our congregations to be highly vital by 2018. Vital congregations are vibrant congregations whose disciples are testifying how they, the congregation and the community are changing because of God's movement in and through the congregation. These congregations are also growing worship, professions of faith (new disciples), small groups, community justice and mercy ministries, and giving to mission.

There are five movements congregations need to be exploring:

1. From membership to discipleship
2. From static to vitality
3. From activity to transformation
4. From manager to turnaround spiritual leader
5. From wandering to metrics.

The complete articles for this series may be found at

www.gnjumc.org/from14to41

Today I will explore *from wandering to metrics*.

In the book of Exodus, we read about the exodus of the Jews out of Egypt. They left Egypt and headed for the Promised Land. They wandered a bit and the couple hundred mile journey took them 40 years. That's a lot of wandering.

There are a lot of reasons why it took so long, mainly a generation needed to die so that the former habits would not be replicated in the new land. We all wander a bit. Sometimes our minds wander as we think about different things and sometimes people on vacation venture down roads and paths to wander and enjoy the time they have. Wandering is not bad. Good things occur on the journey.

But a life that only wanders keeps everyone wondering.

For the past 40 years, The United Methodist Church has been doing some wandering. A lot of change was occurring in the culture and in the church and the church needed to explore what is next.

Now it's time to use our last 40 years of experience to shape our future. One key piece in shaping our future is metrics. Metrics are things we use to measure progress. Metrics are measurable and most often have numbers attached to them. For instance, health is measured by blood pressure or our pulse or our weight. Metrics are not the only thing we use, but are one important piece. In the church we use three things to measure health and vitality:

1. Stories of Transformation. Are new disciples being made? What new life is being witnessed to by disciples from the congregation?
2. Ministry. What ministries are occurring? Does the congregation have a balanced ministry of worship, witness, faith development, mission and stewardship? These are the five key ministries of a congregation. Are these ministries impacting lives and drawing new people?
3. Metrics. How many people are involved in worship and ministry? What's the number of new professions of faith (new disciples)? Is our income keeping pace with our ministry needs and spending? How many people are being served through the mission ministry of the congregation?

A recent study found that people in The United Methodist Church are averse to metrics and numbers. More so in The United Methodist Church than other growing churches. In fact many of the growing United Methodist Churches pay close attention to metrics and goals.

Without clear direction, measures of accountability and evaluation along the way, our churches tend to wander. Seasons of wandering are fine to help us determine what God has for us next but churches that have built their ministry on wandering tend to be adrift and declining.

I invite all of our congregations to encourage storytelling, engage in meaningful and purposeful ministry and measure progress that is appropriate to the congregation and context.

I am already seeing evidence of greater vitality in our congregations. Since we began the Vital Congregations Movement, Greater New Jersey has more than doubled its number of vital congregations. God is leading us through our challenges.

The leadership and staff of Greater New Jersey are here to work with you and support you in your journey. Contact your superintendent about how we are ready to support your congregation to grow your vitality. Together and with God's help, we will grow from 14 to 41% highly vital congregations.

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey

YES, YOU ARE BEING DIGESTED!

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

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

Northern Shore UMW & the Allen Project Invite you to Ocean Grove, NJ To Celebrate 125 Years of Deaconesses October 24, 25, 26, 2014

Donations; B & B deposit \$50

Friday, 24th, 6-8 pm Benefit Supper for Allen Project with music at St. Paul's UMC Fellowship Hall

Weekend at The Melrose B & B with 2 breakfasts
(3 blocks to boardwalk & beach)

Saturday Speaker - Deaconess Barbara Skarbowski,
Disabilities Specialist for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Q & A on Deaconess & Home Missioner roles, Tour of UM Home,
Allen Project site and graves of many deaconesses who served and died in
Ocean Grove when there was a deaconess home in the community.

Saturday evening meal at a local church with
more stories and community building.

Sunday worship at local churches. Afternoon free.
Participate in any or all events

CONTACT: Deaconess Helen McCahill
76 Whitefield Ave. #321, Ocean Grove, NJ 07756
732-988-1151 or helenmccahill@optimum.net



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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.

Organizations Unite

Continued from page 1

It takes cooperation and partnership with all level of non-profit, government and community organizations to make a full recovery from the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. A perfect example of this partnership is the recovery team that has helped April and Russell Woods rebuild their home in Long Branch. The Woods' home was one of thousands damaged or destroyed during Superstorm Sandy in October of 2012.

A Future With Hope, American Red Cross, United Methodist Committee on Relief, the First Lady's Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, Robin Hood Foundation, Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey and Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and Newark in cooperation with Long Branch and state government all contributed in the complete rebuilding of the Woods' home. On Thursday, August 21, representatives from these organizations joined to draw attention to the effectiveness of these partnerships in recovery.

"When it comes to helping people recover, especially after such a devastating storm as Sandy, partnership is essential," said Bishop John Schol of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. "We feel it's a part of our mission to serve people at all times, but it's especially important in times of such dire need. We look forward to continuing this mission with A Future With Hope."

Russell Woods didn't have much hope during the night of the storm and in the days and weeks after. He abandoned his home the night Sandy hit shore when the water was about chest-high. After the storm he learned the flood waters had

compromised the house's foundation and that the house would have to be completely rebuilt.

"The storm was just devastating," Russell Woods said. "Then to have to go through the process of trying to get our house rebuilt was also exhausting. I don't know what we would have done without the help of everyone involved."

While insurance did cover some of the cost, we couldn't rebuild without help."

"This is the kind of thing that can happen when everyone works together to help others," Schol said. "To see a home rebuilt from the ground up, reminds us that anything is possible when we combine our resources."

The American Red Cross has played a significant role in the on-going recovery from Sandy by supporting many recovery and rebuilding organizations. It donated \$1.5 million to A Future With Hope to directly help those hit hardest by the storm.

"We have a long history of being there to help people recover from disasters," said American Red Cross President for Humanitarian Services Cliff Holtz. "There was and still is significant need for those affected by Sandy and we are more than pleased to be a part of the coordinated effort by A Future With Hope and others to help continue the rebuilding process for the entire Jersey Shore area."

The Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund chaired by New Jersey's First Lady Mary Pat Christie is also a significant partner with A Future With Hope and provided a grant of \$750,000 to help rebuild 50 Sandy impacted homes. The Woods' house is one of the projects they are helping to fund. "Recovery takes years. We are glad to partner with orga-

nizations like A Future With Hope who will be here for the long term to help people, like Russell and April get back into their homes," said Mary Pat Christie, Chair of the Fund. To date, the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund has provide \$33.8 million in grants to more than 100 organizations who are on ground restoring lives, rebuilding homes and aiding communities.

Volunteers from the Brooklawn United Methodist Church are working on the home this week and it is estimated the home will be complete by October, 2 years after the storm.

About A Future With Hope:

A Future With Hope is a nonprofit organization started by the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey to lead relief and recovery efforts after Superstorm Sandy. Volunteers come from all over the United States to rebuild homes. The organization's goal is to use 20,000 volunteers to help rebuild 300 to 500 homes and provide case management to affected families.

Through the end of July, A Future With Hope has rebuilt more than 69 homes and they will have more than 100 homes rebuilt by the end of 2014. Volunteers have completed work in 21 different communities including Atlantic City, Brick, Forked River, Highlands, Keansburg, Little Egg Harbor, Manahawkin, Ocean Gate, Union Beach and others. A Future With Hope has 15 host sites that can house 350 volunteers from out of state each week. To date, it has hosted more than 7,500 volunteers from 38 states. For more information please visit afuturewithhope.org.

Northern Shore to Welcome New District Superintendent at September 7 Installation Service

NORTHERN SHORE DISTRICT – The invitation is out to the Northern Shore District and across the Greater New Jersey Conference to a September 7 installation service that will be held to formally welcome the Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson as district superintendent.

The 6 PM installation service will be held at First Church, Toms River.

The Rev. Hendrickson assumed her new post July 1, succeeding the Rev. Fran Noll, following her appointment by Bishop John Schol at the annual conference in May. At the time of her appointment to the district she was serving as pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Cherry Hill. Earlier appointments included Summit and at St. Peter's, Ocean City, where she was associate pastor.

The invitation is extended to all. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



Local Church Apportionments: Still a "Taxing" Conversation!

A number of years ago now the nomenclature around our denominational financial obligations changed from calling them Apportionments to Shared Ministries or Ministry Shares. The truth of the matter is that we hear and read all these names attached to the monies that each local church local church and the annual conference collects, keeps, and sends off to the United Methodist Church. There has been a real emphasis over the last few years to change the conversation around Apportionments/Shared Ministries from one of a "church tax levied by the conference and denomination" to one of a real opportunity to be part of significant ministry that is changing lives in the name of Christ locally, nationally, and globally. Many congregations have caught hold of the idea that Shared Ministry funds are just that; ministry dollars! Others have yet to make that connection.

So for those of you that still see Apportionments/Shared Ministries as a Church tax here's a description of your tax dollars at work:

- helps to improve literacy by providing salaries for teachers
- cares for orphans of AIDS and genocide
- trains farmers in sustainable agriculture
- provides essential medicine and medical supplies for clinics, hospitals and other health programs
- supports nutrition and health education programs
- trains city people in rooftop gardening
- provides air transportation for people with critical medical needs
- helps rural villagers dig wells for farm irrigation and clean drinking water
- provides four-wheeled drive vehicles and motorcycles in hard to reach areas
- builds churches and provides seminary education in emerging nations

This is just a small sampling of what is being accomplished on a daily basis. In all of these ways, we continue the legacy of John Wesley when he said, "the world is my parish." All of this is made possible because churches large and small, pool their resources. Because we are a connectional church, we can make a huge impact.

A Celebration of Saddlertown



On Saturday, September 20, at 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine) 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 from a Maryland slave owner, 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, in Haddon Township, Camden County. Activities will include food, music, guided tours of nearby Saddler's Woods, genealogy displays, history discussions and reenactments, tours of the church, children's games, 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.

For more information contact Reverend Alice Cook, (856) 661-9366, pastor of Rhoads Temple UM Church, or event chairperson Marion Carpenter, (856) 470-6727.

The October Issue Deadline is September 8, 2014

Mentoring Celebration at Galilee



Robert Lambert (center); (left to right) Leon Taylor, Mentoring Coordinator; Lizo M'Timkulu, Love in Action Coordinator; Harold Kelly, Mentor; and Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, Pastor of Galilee United Methodist Church.

Galilee Church in Englewood, NJ in partnership with the Englewood Public Library, initiated a mentoring project for students last fall. The goal of the project was to assist students in enhancing their education.

Robert Lambert, a fourth grade student at the McCloud Elementary School in Englewood, attended the project once a week. He was tutored in math and science by Harold Kelly, a member of Galilee. When the project ended in June, Robert was presented with a certificate of achievement and several gifts. A pizza and hot dog dinner was given in his honor at Galilee. Robert was the only student to complete the project.

"I had lots of fun in the tutoring program and hope to come back next year. I learned to multiply, divide and subtract faster," said Robert.

Lynn Kaminski, reference librarian and library mentoring coordinator, matched students with mentors. Galilee has four certified mentors through the New Jersey State Board of Education. Galilee United Methodist Church is located at 325 Genesee Avenue in Englewood, NJ. For more information call the church at 201-567-0009.

VIEWPOINT

Kin-dom vs Kingdom — It Makes a Difference!

Betty Quackenboss

Recently, the phrase "kin-dom of God" has become hugely popular—in sermons, study guides, music and in the title of a course currently being offered at Drew. "Kin-dom" is generally used to replace the biblical term Kingdom. Some substitute it in the Sermon on the Mount or The Lord's Prayer (Thy kin-dom come). Many argue that "kin-dom" is preferable because it suggests an inclusive community of equals in which people treat others as they would treat their immediate families or kin. Noble intentions? That is the crux of the problem — discerning the intentions of those substituting "kin-dom" in the context of the New Testament.

Most attribute "kin-dom" to the late Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, a self-described Latina Feminist Liberation Theologian and founder of Mujerista theology, who taught at the Drew Theological School. In a memorial message to the university community in May, 2012, Dean Jeffrey Kuon summarized the reasoning of his departed colleague on this point as follows: "In rejecting the word kingdom she helped popularize the word kin-dom because it is obviously a sexist word that presumes that God is male. Second, the concept of kingdom in our world today is both hierarchical and elitist." See, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, *Women of God, Women of the People*, (1995) pg. 21.

A major criticism of the substitution of "kin-dom" is that kingdom expresses clearly the sovereignty of God and "kin-dom" suggests only a kind of filial relationship with the Supreme Being. The "kin-dom" of God does not speak to God's reign over the kin. But, then, Isasi-Diaz explains, "We do not use 'reign' because it is elitist." (Ibid.)

The term "kin-dom" is being embraced by preachers of many denominations. The Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry of the First Parish Church United in Westford, Ma., stated in a sermon titled "Thy Kin-dom Come" (2011), "I've always struggled with all this kingdom language. I've associated it with Christianity's dark, triumphal tendencies. The Kingdom of God sounds like a power-focused enterprise, one that would justify the Crusades...and, what meaning, comfort or inspiration would I find in a male oriented, power-focused hierarchical concept?" She quotes John Buehrens, past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of America, "The Kingdom of God is a kingless kingdom."

In March, 2014, Congregational pastor, Sara Ofner-Seals of Norwich, Conn. preached, "Unfortunately for us, the word kingdom is an outdated word...So, what if we could get rid of that one little word that can be so problematic for us? Or, what if we made just a tiny, little change—so tiny we just removed one letter, and instead of praying for the kingdom of God, we started praying for the kin-dom of God?" How does one respond to that?

"Kin-dom's" growing popularity in United Methodism raises cause for alarm. While its use sometimes seems benign, this radical distortion alters meaning to suggest an attempt to de-throne God in some kind of New Age adaptation, replacing a sociologist's dreamworld for sound Christian theology. What should concern us all is that serious proponents of "kin-dom" seem bent on eliminating from our religion a God who is supreme and in control. That strikes at the heart of the faith of most Methodists. The implications go far beyond avoiding the use of masculine references to God. They suggest a significant change in theology.

From a lay perspective, the Christian Kingdom of God is present here and now, established by Jesus and available to all who follow Him. It is a spiritual community in which, through God's grace and guided by the Holy Spirit, we repent, receive comfort and forgiveness and undergo spiritual rebirth. We look forward to the fulfillment and perfection of the present Kingdom when Christ will come again to reign, bringing an end to suffering, injustice, poverty and evil. (Rev.21) If we are serious about our surrender and repentance, of course we must devote ourselves to acts of mercy as well as acts of piety working diligently to further God's Kingdom on earth. Authentic Christian faith makes it impossible to be comfortable doing less.

So, should we assume nefarious motives every time someone uses the word "kin-dom"? Probably not, because many mean well, simply using it as a catchy word to promote good things. However, in order for the world to be transformed in a meaningful way, we will need the wisdom of Holy Scripture as it has been handed down to us. And, we will need to question the theologies we are being fed, especially when they seem to depart from standard United Methodist beliefs.

It is time for the Laity to move beyond being mere consumers to active participants in the process of our Christian education. It is important for Clergy to research the origins and implications of such terms before using them. And, it is time for all of us to work to preserve and defend the faith in a world that needs it more than ever.

Betty Quackenboss is a lifelong United Methodist who worships at the Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick, NJ and serves as Church Council chair and vice president of the UMW. She is a certified Lay Servant and currently sits on the Raritan Valley District Committee on Ordained Ministry

EVANGELICAL NETWORK MET DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Evangelical Network for Renewal and Growth (ENRG) had its annual meeting during the evening of Thursday, May 29th. The members approved the Bylaws and a Board of Directors was elected. The members of the Board of Directors are: Rev. Paul Jaw, President; Rev. Daniel Amey, Vice-President; Creed Pogue, Secretary-Treasurer; Rev. Beth Caulfield; Rev. Alan Darby; Rev. Steven Elliott; Rev. Lewis Hiserote; and Paul Lehto.

ENRG seeks to promote renewal and growth in numbers as well as spiritual formation within the GNJAC by advocating orthodox Christian and Wesleyan values. They want to promote prayer across the conference and provide a community for evangelical clergy and laity for prayer, worship and Scripture study as well as discussing and addressing critical issues to create a shared voice.

The next ENRG meeting will be at 10 AM on Saturday, September 20th at St. Paul's UMC at 714 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ 08724. More information will be posted with the Digest. You may "Like" their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GNJENRG for more updates.

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A Place at the Table highlights systemic issues that propel a cycle of poverty and hunger and is a moving depiction of the reality of food insecurity that many in our community face. Following the film, a panel of experts will engage the audience in a conversation about these issues and what we can do to impact change.

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Young People's Ministry: Looking Ahead

By Jeff Wolfe

It's not that young people in the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference don't like to go places. They're just going to different places now.

The shift in preference has caused some waves in the GNJUMC young people ministries. A gradual decline in paid camperships at Aldersgate and Pineland camps over the past few years caused the conference to rest those camps from the traditional weekly programs this summer. The result is that Aldersgate, located in Newton, is closed, while Pinelands, in Browns Mills, has remained open by hosting some day camps and individual church youth group retreats.

However, the fact that youth groups still like to go on weekend retreats is good news for another part of the conference, which is hosting IGNITE Oct. 3-5 in Wildwood for young people in grades 7-12. There were over 500 in attendance at the youth conference in Ocean City last year and while it's still early in the process, those numbers should grow this year.

A key question facing GNJUMC leaders is how to re-establish a desire for a week-long camp experience while keeping attendance at weekend youth conferences high. There very well could be a common thread in the success of both ministries.

"Young people are looking for relevance in this particular day and age," said Matthew Na, the Director of Professions of Faith and Youth. "They are looking for more connection. Wherever they can find that, they are going to go. A conference, or a concert, can pull in people pretty easily. This generation is more of an 'I will believe it when I see it' type. They

camping experience is near and dear to my heart. I'm still close with a lot of my daughter's friends and I know for these youth and young adults how important the camps are."

Lovallo, her co-chairperson Creed Pogue, Na and others cited a number of reasons as to why parents are deciding not to send their children to overnight camp for a week or two in the summer. One trend is many youth groups spend a summer week away on a mission trip rather than at camp. In fact, one group from Virginia recently came on a mission trip to help A Future With Hope with the ongoing Sandy recovery effort. That's one week those particular young people didn't spend at a traditional summer camp.

"Some say that this generation is spoiled, but I don't think that's the case," Na said. "It's more they won't sign on the dotted line ahead of time because they can test the waters more. They are a generation that is committed more to saving the world. They don't mind doing things if they know there is a real purpose they have chosen, and not one that has been chosen for them. If they believe in it, they will do it."

Part of the challenge for the camping ministry is to get young people to believe they can make differences in their own lives and the lives of others while being disconnected from today's technological amenities. It's common for teenagers to have a cell phone that keeps them updated on friends' lives through texting and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

That's an issue that Jestie Higgins, the



want to see it up front."

What the GNJUMC didn't see in 2013 was the amount of campers it needed for the two camps to break even financially. Pinelands and Aldersgate had a combined 450 week-long, overnight campers last summer. The result was an operating deficit of \$587,000, bringing the combined losses at the camps in the last five years to more than \$2 million. The deficit led to an early April decision by the Camping Ministries Board to pause the traditional camping program in 2014 to give leadership the opportunity to consider what can be done differently to ensure success for the camps in the coming years. While looking at the numbers made the decision seem like a common sense one, it still wasn't easy.

"It was a sick to my stomach, painful kind of decision," said Jennifer Lovallo, a chairperson of the Camping Ministries Board. "My husband and I had volunteered as directors to do performing arts camps, our kids have grown up at camps, my one daughter came to Christ through the camp, and the whole summer

Director of Camping who now oversees both Aldersgate and Pinelands, has thought a lot about in recent years.

"I studied camp ministry in seminary, and I wanted to know why it started to begin with," said Higgins, who has been involved in camp ministry at various locations around the country for seven years. "Camping started because parents were worried about industrialization and children losing touch with natural surroundings. It persists for the same reason in this technological era. It's important to engage with youth in different ways. I know what the experience of camp is and what it can do in a person's life, but for people who have not been to camp it's hard for them to trust that."

Ironically, technology may be at least part of the answer to developing that trust. "One of my top priorities is getting a new website that can really showcase us in a positive way," Higgins said. "That way we can always be engaging and sharing photos and sharing news and communicating with our community year round, not just while they are here for

African American Heritage Tour Begins Journey with a Visit to the White House



Members of the tour pause for a picture before resuming in their journey of discovery.

The 20th Annual African American Heritage Tour began its journey in grand style with a tour of the White House in Washington, D.C. The forty-three travelers explored the historic pictures, portraits, beautiful period furniture, and gardens. They said they were especially excited to view the rooms where the White House news briefings were held, the dining room for the famous White House dinners, and recognize the chairs used by President Barack Obama when he greeted dignitaries from other countries.

The Heritage Tour continued in Charleston, South Carolina and surrounding islands where the Gullah-Geechie people reside. At Boone Plantation, where cotton, rice, and indigo were major crops, the travelers visited the house, gardens, and cabins and were treated to a theater production that recreated life on the plantation before the Civil War. The Avery Research Center, Emanuel AME Church, and the Old Slave Mart were also visited. At each site, the Heritage Tour group was given a detailed explanation of the significance of the place and its role in history.

A step-on guide led the group's coach through several Gullah islands showing sites related to these communities of black people who have retained cultural connections that transcend enslavement. While on the Islands the group saw the "Angel Tree" that is several stories high, has a twisted and multi-branching trunk and is estimated to be the oldest living tree east of the

Mississippi River.

On John's Island, the tour visited the gravesite of Porgy Smalls. Mr. Small's life story inspired "Porgy and Bess" the book by DuBois Heyward, the opera by George Gershwin and several movie and theater productions. Because the Gershwin family refused to give performances before segregated audiences, "Porgy and Bess" was not performed in Charleston until 1970. The final evening of the tour included a dinner theater at which the group heard excerpts from "Porgy and Bess" performed by several members of the original production.

The tour also included a demonstration of Sweetgrass basket weaving and visits to the beautiful covered market that is a major tourist attraction in Charleston.

The Heritage Tour group visited Trinity United Methodist Church in Bennettsville, SC. Trinity Church incorporates three churches that have joined congregations. One of those churches is the original Galilee United Methodist Church. One hundred years ago, members of the South Carolina church moved north and established the Galilee church in Englewood.

The members of the 2014 African American Heritage Tour left the tour more knowledgeable of their and our country's history. Zandra Strother was the tour coordinator. The African American Heritage Tour is an outreach program of Galilee United Methodist Church. Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson is Pastor. For more information about the church or the tour, please call the church at 201-567-0009.

those short visits."

In recent years, both Aldersgate and Pinelands have had some facility challenges to overcome as well. The Wesley Retreat Center at Aldersgate, which was open year round and could house about 75 in a dormitory-style setting, burned down in the late 2000s. It has yet to be replaced. Hurricane Sandy caused water damage at Pinelands, some of which is still being repaired.

While there will be work necessary to re-open Aldersgate and Pinelands, Higgins sees the possibilities in each place. "They both have enormous amounts of potential," Higgins said. "When I walk around both sights, I just imagine the things that can be happening."

Erica Munoz saw a lot happen while she was the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator from 2008 until this past spring. She has a heart for both the camping ministry and the weekend conference. "We created IGNITE with the idea that it would become much bigger than youth weekend," Munoz said. "The idea was to make it bigger and better."

That's also the idea for the camps in the summer of 2015. How it will work out is too early to tell, but Lovallo, Higgins and others believe the camping ministry has a future with hope, too.

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Retirees, Class of 2014



Back row, L-R: Ramon Evangelista, Charles Wagner, John Jung Kwon, Robert J. Williams, Bo Joong Kim, Zacharie Cazeau, Larry S. Long, Thomas Kinter. Front row, L-R: Caroline Smallwood, Doris Haley, Betty L. Megill, Beverly Jones, Kathleen B. Morris, Marcia Krause Bilyk, Dorothy Dann, Theresa Hoover, Diane W. Koob. Not pictured: (Elders) Sony Augustin, John Lawrence Brasher, William Elkins, Lawrence Harris, William Jacobsen, Ellen Little, Paul Maliel, Edmund Martin. (Associate Members) Elizabeth K. Mitchell. (Local Pastors) William Foster, Doris Haley, Albert H. Moir, Ramon S. Putnam, Maria Royle

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2014



Resource booklet offers biblical texts, advocacy suggestions, expert contacts. Every year since its founding in 2007, the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) within the World Council of Churches has organized a World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel (WWPPI). This year, it will be observed Sept. 21-27. Theme will be "Let My People Go!" The observance will focus on the critical issue of prisoners.

sheets, and other information on the theme of prisoners in Palestine Israel

Incorporate into worship

Congregations are encouraged to incorporate WWPPI resources into their worship planning for the week of Sept. 21, and to keep the people of Palestine Israel in their prayers throughout the year.

Resources will be posted on the



World Week for Peace Palestine Israel is September 21-27 this year. www.worldweekforpeace.org

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches has prepared a booklet containing resources for each day's observance during the week..

The international working group for WWPPI, in partnership with Christians in Palestine and elsewhere around the world, has been creating resources for communities to observe the week through worship, education and advocacy. This year's resources will include:

- A message from the churches in Jerusalem
- A worship liturgy authored by Palestinian Christians
- A booklet designed to assist congregations and communities in observing the week
- A dossier comprising articles, fact

WWPPI website and the WWPPI Facebook page.

"It has been 66 years since the partition of Palestine hardened into a permanent nightmare for Palestinians," according to the WWPPI website. "It is now 47 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza overwhelmed the peaceful vision of one land, two peoples."

Churches participating in WWPPI will "send a clear signal to policymakers, community groups, and their parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that ends the illegal occupation and secures the legitimate rights and future" of people living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the WWPPI website states. Participants in the week

Continued on page 8

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United in Action



First Church, Bridgeton, in collaboration with St. Andrews's Episcopal Church, hosted a Children's Summer Enrichment program for the month of July. The children gathered on the parsonage grounds of First Church to play games and have a lunch. Afterwards, community volunteers, pastors and youth read stories to the younger children from donated and borrowed books from the library. Members of the churches also provided a structured arts and craft program for the children. During the third Thursday of July, First Church provided funding and supervision for 75 children and parents to attend Splash Park for an evening of water fun. The program concluded with children gathering at the parsonage for fun, hot dogs, sandwiches, juice, French fries, and fried whittings.

Ignite Conference Adds Noted Author and Speaker to Its Schedule



By **JEFF WOLFE**

Anti-slavery activist Zach Hunter has been a guest at the White House and has appeared on CNN and several other television networks. Now, he's coming to the IGNITE Conference for young people in Wildwood, Oct. 3-5 to share his story on how young people can make a difference.

"I love Zach and his heart," said comedian and "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader" host Jeff Foxworthy. "At a young age he understands that once you've tasted purpose, it's really hard to be satisfied with mere existence. He's a leader in a growing group of young people that understands our time on earth is a gift -- they don't want to waste it."

Hunter started making a difference at age 12 when he learned about the issue of slavery and human trafficking and began his Loose Change to Loosen Chains organization to raise money to help fight those issues.

"I was empowered by my parents and a few key leaders at my church and school to follow the passion I discovered to help those in need," Hunter said. "I read everything I could and learned the stories of the people I wanted to help. Then, as a kid who struggled with anxiety my whole life, I got in front of my church and school to show the faces and tell the stories of kids just like me who, unlike me, didn't have their freedom."

Hunter released his fourth book, "Chivalry: A Quest for A Personal Code of Honor In An Unjust World", last year.

His other books are "Be the Change," followed by "Generation Change" in 2008 and "Loose Your Cool" in 2009. He is 22 and recently entered a new phase of his life as he and his wife Emily have a 3-month old daughter Lily.

He joins a speakers list that includes featured speaker Preston Centuolo and newly added speaker Nelba Marquez-Greene, who became known for her "Love Wins" campaign after her 6-year-old daughter Ana was killed in the Sandy Hook school shootings on Dec. 14, 2012. Marquez-Greene, who is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and her family also started the Ana Grace Project in conjunction with Klingberg Family Centers, which includes the Center for Community and Connection. The goal of the center is to find ways to build community and interpersonal connection to prevent violence.

Youth groups throughout New Jersey have signed up for IGNITE. "My youth group is super excited about attending Ignite this year. They have attended youth events in the past years and they had a wonderful experience but this one promises to be awesome; they are inviting their friends, spreading the news and doing fund raisers to cover all costs!" says Pastor Rolando Santiago, St Paul Centenary Church.

To register for the event, go to ignitenj.com.

Important News about the Tutoring & Literacy Center (TLC)



CUMAC's programming has always been in response to community need, and while usually that has meant adding or expanding programs, sometimes that means the opposite. Recently they found the need again shifting in Paterson. As community schools are growing stronger, there are more options for afterschool enrichment (beyond merely test prep) for the youth. Increasingly, parents are opting to have their children stay in school rather than navigate the challenges of street violence and transportation to get them to off-site after school programs. Accordingly, fewer kids have made their way to the Tutoring & Literacy Center prompting the Center to make the difficult to decision to make this school year TLC's last.

TLC began as an informal partnership between CUMAC and the Paterson Avenue United Methodist Church (now a part of New Birth UMC). Children from Paterson's schools used to make their way to the church after school as it represented a safe haven in the community. As the church realized that these children

TLC had an impact on the lives of over 200 young people.

For each of these children, TLC provided a space to learn and grow. Volunteers and staff used after school time not only to teach, but to provide the students with guidance and encouragement. For kids like Emmanuel, afternoons at the program were invaluable. Just a year ago, Emmanuel was struggling with school and could read and write only a few words; now he is an Honor Roll student approaching his schoolwork with confidence. Emmanuel's achievements echo that of so many others in the program. TLC is thankful for all their wonderful stories and the progress made over the last several years.

While the end of this school year will mark the end of the TLC program, CUMAC will continue to be focused on the health of youth and mindful of their changing needs. They will continue to help with school readiness by running a school supply drive and distributing needed materials to area youth. They will also remain committed advocates



indeed needed that security, assistance in focusing on their academics, and guidance to make sound decisions in a challenging environment, they reached out to CUMAC to partner.

The decision to join in the TLC endeavor was a natural fit for CUMAC's programming: founded by a teacher who noticed his students couldn't learn if they were hungry, CUMAC would now work to help underprivileged children prioritize education so they could break the cycle of poverty. In 2008, CUMAC was able to fully license TLC as a NJ state approved after school program. In the six school years and interim summers since formal incorporation, CUMAC has served nearly 100 youth (many for multiple years). Between the siblings that also joined them for special programming or outings, and the dozens of youth who came to TLC prior to licensing, CUMAC estimates that

of breakfast before the bell in schools.

Should the time come that CUMAC sees a gap in youth programming that needs to be filled, they will not hesitate to revive the Tutoring & Literacy Center.

As CUMAC prepares for the next chapter in their work, they are deeply grateful for the partnerships and friendships made along the way. CUMAC would like to thank all of their incredible donors, volunteers and supporters who assisted the Tutoring & Literacy Center over the years.

What has been accomplished through your generosity and dedication has helped change many lives in the community. Thank you for making it possible.

To see photos and stories from CUMAC's Tutoring & Literacy Center please visit CUMAC's website (www.cumacecho.org) or share your comments on the CUMAC blog (<http://www.cumacecho.org/cumac-blog.html>).

Seaville UMC Host Site for A Future With Hope

By Jeff Wolfe

Cricket Brennan knew she was doing a good thing when she volunteered to be a host site coordinator for A Future With Hope. She didn't realize it would turn out to be one of the very best things she could ever do.

Brennan is the host for volunteers who stay at Seaville United Methodist Church in Cape May County. It is one of 15 sites along the coast that gives volunteers from around the country a place to stay when they come to help rebuild houses damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

"It's been an amazing experience for me and my family as a whole," said Brennan who was named Citizen of the Year by Noon Rotary Club of Upper Township last year for her work with A Future With Hope. "It's not a one person job. My husband (Marty) is involved and I have a 2-and-a-half year old and we've been hosting teams since before she could walk. Now, this is something that is second nature to her. To see how she builds relationships and how she makes an impression on them and they make an impression on her has been great."

Becoming a host site has been meaningful mission work for churches that weren't sure how to play a role in recovery from the October 2012 superstorm.

"This has been the most wonderful thing," said Heidi Hibbs, the host site coordinator at Somers Point United Methodist Church in Atlantic County. "We now have life in the church from Sunday to Sunday. The building feels used and loved."



Host site volunteers from the Lacey United Methodist Church help out with kitchen duty.

It isn't always easy. Bethany St. John's doesn't have shower facilities, so before they could become a host site they needed to find a solution. Pastor Hutchinson called a friend who owned a local fitness center and through the connection made a deal that would give volunteers access to showers at their convenience.

"Many people don't realize the valuable service of our host sites. Our host volunteers are the best. We couldn't do the work we do without them," said Denise Tiedemann, Volunteer Coordinator for A Future With Hope.

While it is true that host site volunteers work hard to serve volunteers, they also are blessed to see how God works in the lives of those volunteers.

"We had one mom that was here with her group," Hutchinson said. "She said she always knew her son was a good kid, but never realized what an amazing God-fearing young man he was until she saw him in action. She saw God in her son, in his compassion to total strangers and his hard work."

Brennan was especially appreciative of a group that made a five-day drive from California and stayed to work for two weeks during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. "Originally we were thinking of not having a team over the holidays because it's so busy for the church," Brennan said, "But we thought if these people are doing this work, and they are the ones giving up their Christmas holidays, we can support them."

What the host site coordinators do get to see that incoming volunteers do not, is the progress that is made on each property from week to week.

"I've gone to some of the work sites and it's been pretty cool," Hibbs said. "You see houses from start to finish. Several weeks ago, there was a group that gutted a house in Ocean City, then last week's team was putting dry wall on it. I thought wow, what a difference from being gutted to this."

The host site coordinators also get a first-hand look at people who want to make a positive difference.

"A lot of people in my generation are agnostic at best," Brennan said. "They say how you can believe in God when horrible things happen. I tell them to look at the response from these people. Look at these people giving up vacation time and giving up their holidays to come here and do manual labor. I don't see God in the destruction and devastation. I see God in the opportunity He creates from it."

World Week for Peace

Continued from page 6

will be involved in activities focused on three main principles:

1. Praying with churches living under occupation
2. Educating about actions that can create peace
3. Advocating with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice

Daily theme

The sub-theme for each day will focus on one aspect of the Palestinians' struggle living under occupation, with a special focus on prisoners and arbitrary detentions.

Sept. 22: 1948, 1967 and Jerusalem prisoners

Sept. 23: Administrative detention

Sept. 24: Child prisoners

Sept. 25: Harsh prison conditions

Sept. 26: Conscientious objectors

Sept. 27: A day of action and advocacy

A booklet containing a variety of resources for each day will enable observances to be action packed. In keeping with the intent of the week to "Pray, Educate, Advocate," the booklet includes biblical texts, suggestions for advocacy, contacts of expert organizations, audio-visuals, liturgy and other useful resources.

The following links will enable you to read the official World Week for Peace Palestine Israel "Invitation & Fact Sheet" in English, French, German, or Spanish.

Editor's note: For more information regarding the Palestine-Israel situation, contact Mark Harrison, director of Peace with Justice at the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). You can also download a free advocacy packet prepared by GBCS in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries: "Working for a Just & Lasting Peace in Israel & Palestine."

The "Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum" is an instrument to "catalyze and coordinate new and existing church advocacy for peace, aimed at ending the illegal occupation in accordance with UN resolutions, and demonstrate its commitment to inter-religious action for peace and justice that serves all the peoples of the region."

The World Council of Churches brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. At the end of 2013, there were 345 member churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

A FUTURE WITH HOPE HOST SITES

Aldersgate UMC, East Brunswick
Bethany St. John UMC, Pt. Pleasant
Christ UMC Parsonage, Lakewood
First UMC of Toms River, Toms River
Highlands Host Site, Highlands
Keansburg Parsonage, Keansburg
Lacey UMC, Forked River
Lighthouse Alliance Community Church,
Little Egg Harbor
Middletown UMC, Middletown
Old First UMC, West Long Branch
Park UMC (Mission House), Bloomfield
Red Bank UMC, Red Bank
St. Andrews UMC, Toms River
Seaville UMC, Seaville
UMC of Somers Point, Somers Point

The congregation at Bethany St. Johns in Pleasantville feels the same way. Bethany is a church that has struggled with attendance but has seen a significant increase in worshippers since they became a host site.

"It's been fabulous for us," said Bethany pastor Carol Hutchinson. "It's been so God-inspired."

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St. John's United Methodist Church
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Who Should Attend?

If you are interested in learning more about being a UMVIM team leader or hosting mission teams this training is designed for you. Team Leader Training is required for all first time United Methodist Volunteers In Mission team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not.

What is UMVIM?

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love In Action" through short-term mission service in the United States and abroad. It provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders. We continually nurture our contacts with these leaders to respond to the needs of local communities and to provide comprehensive project information.

Registration

\$35 UMVIM Manual and lunch

\$10 Lunch (Manual can be shared by leaders of same church.)

Register online at www.gnjumc.org

For more information contact the conference UMVIM Coordinator, Kathy Ahmad at kahmad@comcast.net or 732-865-3730.

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OBITUARIES

ALF O. OLSEN, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on July 22 in the Adirondacks, NY. A memorial service was held on August 9 at the United Methodist Church in Butler, NJ.

Born in Lista, Norway, he grew up in Brooklyn, NY and subsequently Roxbury, NJ. He was called by God into the pastoral ministry early in his life. He served in the United Methodist Church at appointments in West New York, NJ; Staten Island, NY; Bound Brook, Butler, and Stanhope, NJ. He retired from the ministry in 1993, but continued to serve the Lord throughout the rest of his life. Alf was a visionary and true adventurer, who loved life and possessed an insatiable thirst for knowledge. Alf and Arleen traveled extensively and now reside in Pennsylvania.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to his widow, Arleen Olsen, 826 Rosehill Drive King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Gifts of remembrance may be sent to: Gospel Volunteers, P.O. Box 250, Speculator, NY 12164.

KEITH A. BRENDLER, lay member to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference representing the Island Heights United Methodist Church, died on Thursday, July 31. A memorial service was held on August 7th at the Island Heights church.

Condolence messages may be sent to his widow, Joann, 209 Keats Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753-6931.

CHARLES G. HANKINS, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Saturday, August 9. Rev. Dr. Hankins served as District Superintendent of the Southwest District of the former Southern New Jersey Conference. A memorial service was held on August 23 at Whiting United Methodist Church.

Charles served his community and the Lord in the Methodist ministry (40 years, retired), as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve (26 years, retired, Commander), and as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (22 years). Over the course of his life, Charles served the New Jersey church communities of Bay Head, Spring Lake Heights, Farmingdale, Fair Haven, Merchantville, Vineland, Red Bank, Whiting and Pine Beach. In 1997, Charles retired as District Superintendent of the Southwest District of the Greater NJ Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Nancy, 12 Lake Ridge Blvd., Whiting, NJ 08759. In lieu of flowers, gifts of remembrance may be made to: The Whiting United Methodist Church or to Heifer International.

Author's Correction

The April issue of the Relay included an article about the Act of Repentance service that was to be part of the Annual Conference session in May. The article contained an erroneous statement regarding St. John's UMC early history that needs to be corrected in light of additional evidence forwarded to me by Dr. John Norwood. Those who attended the Act of Repentance during annual conference will remember Dr. Norwood as the person who led us in the singing during the service. He is an eminent scholar in Native Peoples studies who has done extensive research on the Nanticoke-Lenape people in the area. Yes, St. John's was part of the former African-American Delaware conference. This should come as no surprise due to the fact that as persons of color these native Christians found homes in the African American congregations because of the rejection of their race from most area European centric New Jersey churches which included Methodist congregations. My statement about how native peoples went from church to church and finally landing in St. John's is incorrect and I apologize for the statement by not expanding St. John's history in the article. By 1863, native peoples who were part of an African Methodist Episcopal in Gouldtown left the church to form St. John's in order to create a congregation which centered on traditional expressions of Native American spirituality within their Christian worship. Hence, St. John's has always been a native Methodist from start. St. John's became a beacon for later Christian Nanticoke-Lenape tribal members. The church became the historic seat for tribal government which lasted over a century. The statement proved to be hurtful to some of our area native United Methodists and rightfully so since it cast their identity in a historically wrong light. Like many of us who are not of Native American descent, I, too, am on a journey of repentance and daily discovery of this multi-faceted hidden history while struggling to incorporate the spirituality that St. John's radiates in order to make my own spirit more complete."

Mark Shenise

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*Reverend David LeDuc
Vincent United Methodist Church
Nutley, NJ*

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