

An Easter Message from the Bishop

For whom are you looking?

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In one of the Easter Sunday scripture lessons, we read, "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' Supposing him to be gardener ..." (John 20:15, NRSV).

In the midst of grief, Mary failed to recognize the voice of Jesus, and mistook him for someone else! An existential situation, no? Have we not also experienced such confusion in our own lives and ministries?

Isn't it true that, like Mary, we mistake the identity of Jesus in the midst of our joy or sadness, celebration or grief, health or illness, richness or poverty? Fortunately, the power of Easter is expressed in the words of the hymn that we sing, "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs" (Hymn 304, verse 3, The United Methodist Hymnal: Book of United Methodist Worship, Nashville, TN: The United Methodist House, 2003).

In the midst of our challenges, Jesus asks, "For whom are you looking? For what are you searching? With what are you dealing? How may I help you?"

Yet, instead of seeking to hear the voice of Jesus, our tendency is to look for help in the wrong places. Perhaps we seek answers through the voices of secular media that diminish the power of the gospel message. Some of us reach out to things such as alcohol or drugs, gambling, or television.

In moments like this, we may not recognize that it is the Christ who is speaking to us through the voices of friend, spouse, teacher or...gardener. We are invited to cultivate an "ear to hear" the voice of the Lord speaking to us. The resurrected Christ challenges us to look beyond any present confusion and to discover, truly discover, the voice of the Lord guiding us, prompting us, challenging us to move forward in faith as His followers, His instruments of love, justice and peace.

When we are deeply connected and rooted in the power of Jesus Christ, we gain an ability to see beyond the confusion of our present age and

embrace the power of God in the midst of our search, our pain or joy. It is only when we are able to look beyond the false voices of despair and death that we not only see, but are able to enjoy, the power of the risen Christ in our personal and community lives. It is in those moments we express the words of Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28, NRSV Translation of the Bible) In this way we experience for ourselves the power of a dying and rising again faith and we become 'resurrection people'.

As Easter people we are not only empowered by the Resurrected Christ in the search for answers to our own questions, but also challenged by the power of Christ to help others identify Jesus in the midst of their struggles, challenges and questions. In the present age, there are many people asking profound questions about the meaning of life, the future of humanity and whether or not people of faith can bring hope to a world too often characterized by hopelessness. As the people of The United Methodist Church, we can be the ones to respond to the questions. We cannot, however, do this powerfully unless we ourselves are rooted in Jesus Christ. Therefore, may this Easter be not only a celebration in our lives but also a day when we call for self-examination with the questions, "Have I cultivated an ear to hear the voice of Jesus in my life? Do I belong to the 'resurrection people' who can provide

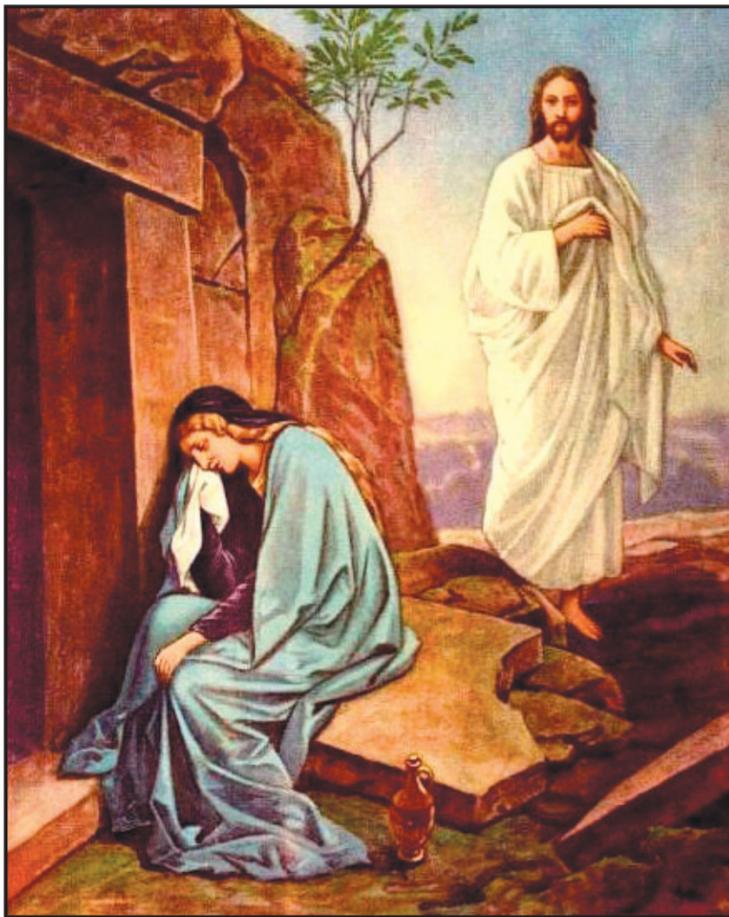
hope in an era too often filled with hopelessness?"

May God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Liberator, and the Holy Spirit our Guide, continue to lead us in this Easter season and always.

"God loves you all and so do I!"

Wishing you and your loved ones
a Happy and Blessed Easter,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



Bloomsbury & Asbury Young Adults Rethink Church



CITING JESUSWORDS instituting the Lord's Supper, the Bloomsbury and Asbury Churches have established a young adult ministry, the Wine Cellar. Read their story on the edGe, page 7.

Rambach Named New D.S. of Raritan Valley District

OCEAN – Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar has announced the appointment of the Rev. Barbara A. Rambach as district superintendent of the Raritan Valley District effective July 1, 2010. She will replace the Rev. Robert Scott who is retiring.

In a March 14 letter, the bishop praised the newly appointed superintendent's pastoral skills as well as her "deep passion for the connective and global aspects of the Church."

"Her administrative skills have been evident in her significant leadership of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the churches she has served and pastored," Bishop Devadhar wrote.

"This is an exciting time to be in the church and in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference," said the new superintendent-designate in her first comment since announcement of her appointment.



Rev. Barbara A. Rambach

"I am looking forward to my new role as district superintendent, and to serving together with the congregations and pastors of the Raritan Valley District," she declared.

(Continued on page 10)



Thinking Aloud

A sometime witness from a young adult to the Church-at-large

By Krista Hendrickson

I'd like to start out by asking you a question Rob Bell asks in his book, "Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith".

"Do you know anybody who grew up in a religious environment, maybe even a Christian one, and walked away from faith/ church/ God when they turned eighteen and went away to college?"

A daunting question that made me put down the book and stare at my white wall for a long while. How many teenagers have I witnessed firsthand pulling away from the church? Too many. And yes, I am afraid that I must admit that I'm becoming one of them. My college years at Rowan University, what with being a sophomore Writing Arts major, as well as a Residential Assistant for freshman students, things like classes, residents, friends, exercising, homework, papers, tests, quizzes, graduating, and the life beyond school are all problems swimming around in my mind.

So I'm busy, as probably most college students are, but is this really pulling me and many others away from the church? Rob Bell, the founding pastor of Mars Hill Church in Michigan, has been featured recently in spiritual short films called NOOMA, and his latest creation, "Velvet Elvis" has taken the cliché (of what the church is or isn't), nonsense that I once believed and given me a new, real answer.

I have always thought that teenagers pulled away from the church so frequently because it was in their rebellious nature. We had more "important" things to worry about like friends and sleeping. But Rob Bell points out another reason that needs to be looked at. After asking his question, Bell goes on to explain that as our intellectual strength grows, and we're introduced into more complicated and sophisticated means of knowledge, knowledge through Christ and knowledge through academics begin to butt heads.

As a teenager it's like we come to this fork in the road where we have to decide which path to take. Will we follow all that we've learned in church and take the left, or will we travel down the right road to where the future of our grades, college degrees and eventually our profession will come into play? It's an awful fork to come to and far too often does the left road get neglected. What Rob Bell calls for, and what I'm supporting as a teenager myself, is collaboration between the two. Parents, guardians, pastors, churches; they can't say it's God's way or the highway. We need to find a balance. God's way is that highway. It's a solitary road that's filled with many different lanes for everyone to travel on. Everyone's path to God is completely different and it's up to the adults and the leaders in these teenagers' lives to make sure they realize that things like intellect and being a good Christian go hand in hand. It's up to these people to make sure that teenagers stay on the highway, not in their own lane. As long as they stay on the highway, we'll all get to the same location.

(Krista Hendrickson is a member of the St. Andrews Church, Cherry Hill, and a sophomore Writing Arts major at Rowan University in Glassboro. Krista is one of two daughters of the Rev. Dr's Rich and Regina Hendrickson. Watch for future **Thinking Aloud** columns by Krista and/or others in future issues.)

EASTER AFFIRMATION

I search for a metaphor to illuminate Easter
and make sense of Resurrection.

What strand of evidence, what argument?

The blossoming of spring flowers?

The egg with its promise of life?

The butterfly, bursting the bonds of its cocoon?

The sunrise, awakening the dark and sleeping earth?

A melody of Mozart, a Bach cantata,

A Rembrandt masterpiece,

A double helix coil,

A small child at play —

Each offers its bit of truth,

a puzzle piece fit into the whole

like the Indian fable
of blind men and elephant.

But when all's said and done,
the Easter mystery remains.

Nothing in all creation
can explain its meaning
or express its grandeur.

For Resurrection is not a puzzle to be solved.

It is a song to be sung
and lived.

It is the ageless affirmation
That He is Risen... Risen Indeed!

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

"We Can Be Kind"

By Douglas Ruffie

GNJAC Coordinator of Congregational Development



David Friedman composed a beautiful song for singer Nancy La Mott entitled, "We Can Be Kind." The basic message of the song was that we can choose kindness as a way of life and when we do, we are all better off.

In the Christian context, Pastor Steve Sjogren wrote a book entitled, *A Conspiracy of Kindness* in which he told of the impact his church had on its community when they provided unexpected services. In a world where almost any action carries a price tag, unassuming acts of kindness can communicate to others the love of God and the God of love in ways that mere words cannot.

The "random acts of kindness" earned his church a reputation as a community that cared for people without expecting something in return. People were drawn to that kind of community of faith and wanted to be part of it.

A pejorative view of the Church is that anything it does for others comes with a hidden agenda. Sure we want more members, but our motivation too often is to increase offerings. Unchurched people want to know whether you care about them or their money. If we do care, truly care, for those not yet Christian or a part of our church, wouldn't we want to help them get to know Jesus?

Our job is to be kind. And loving. And caring, so that those who do not yet know Jesus can encounter him and then be exposed to the "way, the truth and the Life."

David Friedman expressed it well in the lyrics to the song (Midder Music):

*We can be kind
We can take care of each other
We can remember that deep down inside
We all need the same thing
And maybe we'll find
If we are kind to each other
That together we'll weather whatever tomorrow may bring*

*And it's not enough to talk about it
Not enough to sing a song
We must walk the walk about it
You and I
Do or die
We've got to try to get along.*



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Sudarshana Devadhar, Resident Bishop

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United Methodists Join to Change the World, April 24-25

"What if ... on one weekend all around the world, 11 million United Methodists came together to work with their local communities? What if ... as we serve people locally, we unite globally to eliminate a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds?"

Will Greater New Jersey United Methodists join with their sisters and brothers in the faith across the nation, April 24-25 in a united effort to Change the World? Members of the Wesleyan persuasion everywhere are encouraged to plan now to join in *this* church-wide event that prompts members to join with others in the community to make a difference locally and globally.

During that weekend, United Methodist churches are urged to create and participate in a service or fundraising event that helps effect positive and long-lasting change. So put your imagination to work — whether it's revitalizing a food-pantry program, creating a new ministry to help the homeless, or increasing awareness of global health issues like malaria. Churches can utilize existing ministries or initiate a new outreach event.

"Change the World challenges the people of The United Methodist Church to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries and Sunday school classrooms," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. "Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side-by-side with them to make a sustainable difference in diverse ways."

On April 25, World Malaria Day, The United Methodist Church will formally launch a \$75 million campaign called Imagine No Malaria to eradicate deaths caused by pernicious disease. Churches are being asked to host events such as camp-outs to experience sleeping under bed nets like families in Africa who rely on mosquito netting for protection against malaria. These events will help raise awareness and funds that support Imagine No Malaria.

The April *Change the World* event was created as part of the **Rethink Church** campaign in partnership with the United Methodist Publishing House and Imagine No Malaria. The concept for *Change the World* originated with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, and speaker at the recent Bishop's Convocation in Lancaster, Pa. Last October, Pastor Slaughter hosted a *Change the World* conference and authored a book by the same name that aligns with the vision of Rethink Church.

"The way we love is by serving people especially the poor and marginalized," said Mr. Slaughter. "The church in the world needs the reputation of being a community that helps people...a community of people that gives hope and that functions as salt and light in its neighborhood."

The Rethink Church campaign is seeking to utilize outreach events that embrace the concept of outward bound church to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. Rethink Church advertising will complement the April events, giving churches an opportunity to take advantage of the buzz generated by the ads.

The UMC of the Rockaways has developed designs for banners, t-shirts and business cards (and or stickers to wear on one's apparel) for *Change the World*. The church is willing to share the files with anyone interested in using them. They are not specific to the UMC of Skylands District congregation.

For more information about *Change the World* or to learn how you can create an event for your church, go to www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld.

The **Relay** would like to hear and share what your church is planning to do to *Change the World*.

UM Homes Open House this Spring

NEPTUNE – Along with crocuses and daffodils, spring brings its annual cycle of open houses at the United Methodist Homes, senior adult communities of the Greater New Jersey Conference. There, visitors will get a glimpse of daily life for residents providing evidence of the Homes motto describing the sites as places "where the people make the difference."

Here's the schedule of open houses: Bristol Glen, Newton, April 10 and May 1, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Collingswood Manor, Collingswood, April 17 and May 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Francis Asbury Manor, Ocean Grove, April 18 and May 6, 12 noon – 4 p.m.; Pitman Manor, Pitman, April 3 and May 1, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; The Shores at Wesley Manor, Ocean City, April 18 and May 16, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Once again, as the conference year wanes, United Methodists and the churches they represent prepare for the Annual Conference. That means it's District Conference season, when pastors, lay members and interested church leaders gather to consider the issues facing the conference. Here is this year's line-up.

District	Date	Time	Location
Cape Atlantic	May 8	8:30am-12:00pm	Central UMC, Linwood
Capital	May 22	9:30am-11:00am	Trinity Church, Roebing
Delaware Bay	May 15	9:00am-12:00pm	Asbury UMC, Woodstown
Gateway North	May 16	TBA	Livingston UMC
Gateway South	May 15	9:30am-11:30am	Chews UMC
Northern Shore	May 15	8:30am-11:30am	St. Paul's UMC, Brick
Palisades	May 16	7:00pm-9:00pm 5:30pm-7:00pm	First UMC, Englewood Multi Ethnic Dinner
Raritan Valley	May 8	10:00am-12:00pm	TBA
Skylands	May 22	9:00am-12:00pm	Newfoundland Church

The May Issue Deadline is April 5, 2010

SPARE CHANGE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



Students in the Sunday School of Christ Church, Lakewood, recently completed a service project benefitting earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Over a 4-week period they brought in donation cups filled with their spare change – their own money – to donate to Haitian relief through UMCOR.

Though only 15 children – mostly three-year-old through fourth graders aided by three high school students – they were able to raise \$151.64.

"So many times we hear negative news that goes on in Lakewood," noted Robyn White, Sunday School Superintendent at Christ Church. "These kids are really trying to do the right thing and make a difference. We are teaching them that you always help those in need."

The generous donors seem pleased with their achievement.

GET STARTED Now. Change the World on April 24-25

1. Consider how your congregation currently impacts its community. Do you have a food pantry, a clothing closet, an ESL program, a tutoring program, etc.?
2. Schedule an activity for an existing or new outreach ministry on either April 24 or 25, 2010.
3. Invite both your congregation and local community to be involved.
4. Use the Rethink Church World Malaria Day (April 25) Sermon Starter coming soon to www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld.
5. Collect a special offering to combat malaria.

THEN TELL US ABOUT IT

Enlist in a Good CAUSE

CAUSE (Christian Approach to Urban & Suburban Encounter), a non-profit organization in Jersey City providing a food pantry and thrift shop, is looking for people to serve as members of its board or round table. Interested persons may contact Ted King (973) 838-0015 or the Rev. Delores I. Smith (201) 433-1668.

Online Registrations Now Available to Conference Members

Initial responses to the recently established online registrations process for Annual Conference has been encouraging to the GNJAC Sessions Team.

After trying the system and working out a few glitches at the Bishop's Convocation in January, the GNJAC Sessions Team opened the process for the Annual Conference that will convene June 3 in King of Prussia, Pa.

"If you've visited the conference website recently, you may have noticed that the registration packet and online registration process are already there," explained a Session Team member. Those who receive the packet by regular mail can still register the traditional way, but they are encouraged to try the new system if they can.

"You may also download the forms and register by mail if you choose," said the

team spokesperson. "The online registration process saves time, work, and paper." The registration deadline is April 12. Payment for online registration can be with credit card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, or American Express), debit card, or checking account.

Display Table Request Forms - Those who wish to have a table at Annual Conference for display purposes should see the conference website for the forms to download and submit. The deadline for submission of such requests is May 8.

Special Group Luncheons at Annual Conference - Those who are in charge of arranging for special group luncheons (Drew Alumni, for example) are invited to visit the conference website to download the appropriate form and submit it also by May 8.



Global Relay

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

Special session of General Conference unlikely

NASHVILLE — Do not expect a special session of General Conference in advance of the 2012 meeting in Tampa, Fla. The limited amount of time to put together a special session, the cost and the U.S.-focused agenda for a worldwide meeting of United Methodist leaders are among the reasons it is unlikely, church leaders said in interviews this week. "My personal read suggests there may not be a call" for a special session, said Bishop Gregory Palmer, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops. "I don't see the votes to do it."

Groups discuss clergy job guarantees

NASHVILLE — A United Methodist commission charged with developing ways to improve clergy effectiveness is considering recommending the elimination of guaranteed appointments. In a joint meeting with the Committee on Faith and Order on March 16, members of the Ministry Study Commission raised concerns about the practice of promising ordained clergy lifetime jobs. The ministry commission and the Committee on Faith and Order shared their work as both groups prepare reports to the 2012 General Conference.

Agency aids Haitian medical evacuees

MIAMI — For two Haitian families receiving medical treatment here, the earthquake that nearly destroyed Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12 is a scar that will never fade away. Estamene Lamour and her daughter, Stania Jean, and Alice Michaud and her daughter, Guilene Honore, say they are haunted by the disaster. They are not alone. Church World Service organized support for severely injured Haitians airlifted to U.S. hospitals, and the four are among the 62 medical evacuees and accompanying family members received by late February by the service's Miami office. Five more were sent to the relief agency's Durham, N.C., office, and an affiliate, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta, received 45 Haitians.

Chile faces long road to recovery

NEW YORK — While Methodists assess the damage caused by the massive Feb. 27 earthquake here, a feeling of uncertainty lingers for survivors of Chile's disaster as the country struggles to recover. Continuing aftershocks and televised images of damage, desperation and violence left everyone "in a state of unhealthy alert," the Rev. Shana Harrison, a United Methodist missionary based in Santiago, said in an e-mail. "Please continue to keep the Chilean people in your prayers," wrote Harrison, executive director of the Foundation Crescendo, a workshop and group home for adults with intellectual disabilities. "There is a long, long road ahead."

Innovative churches worship despite blizzard

BALTIMORE — On Sunday, Feb. 7, when almost all churches in Maryland were closed because of snow, some clergy in the Baltimore-Washington Annual (regional) Conference conducted Sunday services electronically. The Rev. Ramon McDonald of Mount Oak Fellowship United Methodist Church in Mitchellville, Md., delivered his sermon, "Focus on Jesus," from the comfort of his own home. More than 100 people heard the sermon by picking up their phone or turning on their computer.

'Wesley' may be coming to a theater near you

NASHVILLE — A Moravian preacher is bringing the film "Wesley" to a movie theater near you. The two-hour movie that is slowly building a platform in theaters across the United States brings to life the story of the founder of Methodism. The Rev. John Jackman, 53, pastor of Trinity Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., says he got into the movie business as a way of telling stories of redemption, and John Wesley's story has enough action for several films. "I wish I could have made this into a mini-series," Jackman says. "There is enough great material here to make an eight-hour film."

UMCOR helps Haitians stay in U.S.

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Committee on Relief's Justice for Our Neighbors has joined with Church World Service and other organizations to hold free clinics in churches and offices to help Haitian immigrants apply for permits to stay in the United States. Haitians eligible for temporary protected status are those who have resided continuously in the United States since Jan. 12, and who have been physically present here since Jan. 21. The deadline for applying is July 20. "We're talking about a community that already is stressed," says Panraevee Vongjaroenrat, Justice for Our Neighbors director. "On top of that, now they have lost family in Haiti or have surviving relatives who want to join them here."

Mixing hoops and beer endangers youth

NASHVILLE — As the NCAA men's basketball tournament kicked off March 18, United Methodist leaders were among those offering warnings about the unhealthy association of athletics and a barrage of beer ads. "The alcohol industry relies on advertising at college-level sports to encourage young people to become lifelong customers, some who become alcoholics," said the Rev. Cynthia Abrams, director at the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. The agency sponsors the Campaign for Alcohol-Free Sports TV through its alcohol prevention coalition to highlight the consequences of alcohol advertising on young people, Abrams said.

Pastors file IRS complaint about D.C. 'church'

WASHINGTON — United Methodist clergy are part of a group of 13 Ohio ministers challenging the tax-exempt status of a town house here that claims to function as a church. "We are concerned that an exclusive residential club for powerful officials may be masquerading as a church," the Columbus clergy wrote in a complaint about the C Street Center filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The C Street town house is an affiliate of an international Christian network known as the Fellowship, *The New York Times* reported. The group sponsors the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington and some state capitals each February.

Africa University supports Haiti relief

MUTARE, Zimbabwe — In a country where hyperinflation snatches the opportunity for many to go to college, students at United Methodist-related Africa University are reaching out to Haiti, more than 7,500 miles away. The students of the university recently presented a \$500 check, given in memory of the Rev. Sam Dixon and the Rev. Clinton Rabb, to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Dixon and Rabb, two mission leaders, died from injuries received in the earthquake. "At Africa University, we are taught to care for one another, and we realize we have so much freely given to us at this institution," said Angeline Mafemba, a student.

Drew Expects to Recover Stolen Wesley Documents

MADISON — Officials at United Methodist-related Drew University hope to recover valuable historical documents — including original letters written by John and Charles Wesley — allegedly stolen by a student who tried to sell them.

William John Scott, a freshman from Longmeadow, Mass., was arraigned on theft charges March 15 in the U.S. District Court in Newark, after the FBI found 11 of the stolen letters in his dorm room.

Among the missing items was a letter written in December 1766 by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, to George Merryweather, a friend and supporter.

Also found in Scott's room were letters from U.S. presidents, including Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, William McKinley, Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower and letters to prominent Methodist Bishop Herbert George Welch from such notables as Madame Chiang Kai-Shek of China, then-Vice President Richard Nixon and U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy.

"From our perspective, the fact that this was handled so swiftly and thoroughly by the FBI is one of the reasons we're so optimistic we'll be able to recover all the missing documents," said David Muha, chief communications officer at Drew University.

The documents — including 20 Wesley letters valued at \$5,000 to \$12,000 each — were stolen from the United Methodist Archives Center on campus, where Scott had been part of a work-study program since last fall. The center includes the Methodist Library, the Wilson Reading Room and the archives of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History.

The Rev. Robert Williams, the commission's top executive, said the missing items appeared to have been those owned by the university and not from the denomination's collection. The commission does have copies of the stolen documents. "All of the Wesley letters that were taken had been scanned and are in our database," he explained.

Contacted by dealer

Muha said university officials became aware of the theft on March 9 after being contacted by a dealer of historical documents in London. The dealer had receive a sale offer for about 10 of the Wesley letters, which arrived in Federal Express package with a return address of William Scott in Longmeadow, Mass.

The dealer's representative became suspicious, according to the FBI complaint, "in part because these important and valuable documents were shipped in an unprofessional manner — two of the letters were damaged in transit." The representative contacted the Archives Center because it is a "well-known repository of significant Wesley letters."

On March 13, using a search warrant, the FBI found a folder in a dresser in a closet of Scott's dorm room that contained six Wesley letters and about 11 other historical documents. He was arrested the following day and charged with theft of an object of cultural heritage from a museum.

Scott was paid by the university under the work-study program, but "because he was working on processing materials, he was under our supervision," Williams said.

"I, along with our archival staff, was dismayed there would be such a betrayal of trust by someone who has worked with us through this school year."

Scott had access to the secure storage room where the Wesley letters and other historical documents were kept because part of his job was to assist people doing research at the center.

First theft at center

Both Williams and Muha said the student work-study program at the archives center had operated successfully for more than 20 years without a theft.

Williams stressed that the theft should not diminish the good work of many other students, both past and present. "This is a partnership," he added. "We work closely together, the two entities, to provide this wonderful research facility."

Researchers and members of the public never have access to the areas where documents are stored, Williams pointed out. "Obviously, we are ready to review security issues for even our student employees."

Drew University President Robert Weisbuch has asked Dean Andrew Scrimgeour to lead a review of university security procedures and report back by April 10, Muha said.

Scott, who was released on bail following his appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo, faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 if convicted.

Drew is now trying to recover the stolen documents. The items found in Scott's room remain on campus "locked in an evidence box," Muha said, and the London dealer is returning the letters in his possession.

Muha said officials are tracking down other documents that were sold.

[A March 22 New York Times blog reported that it had obtained e-mail exchanges between Scott and a Maryland rare book dealer containing negotiations for the sale of some of the documents which Scott claimed he had inherited from his grandfather.]

(Linda Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.)

The **RELAY** Online
www.umrelay.org



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Easter Signs of Hope in Voorhees

You can't drive through a suburb in South Jersey without seeing the proliferation of some very interesting lawn signs. Everything from "garage sales" to "work-from-home" signs adorn crossroads and byways. Commuters are given information in a blink-of-an-eye about losing weight, electing candidates or best buys on gently-used dinette sets.

Using this admittedly low-tech marketing strategy, Hope Church in Voorhees (Gateway South District), has launched a campaign to distribute hundreds of lawn signs throughout the area pointing travelers to a new website, www.15thAndVine.com.

"We decided to play off John 15 where Jesus says 'I am the vine and you are the branches ...'", said Lead Pastor Jeff Bills, explaining how the passage will be used as the theme to Hope's Easter message.

"**This Year Do Easter!**" That's the first invitation a visitor will see when they log onto



the site. Along with directions, links to the church's other websites, and a blog by Pastor Bills, the website aims at being a landing page for people searching for a worship experience this Easter.

"It's the perfect marriage of low technology to high technology," the Hope pastor said. "And here's the best part: It's, cheap! Each member was asked to give \$10 and was given two signs, one for their lawn and the other to be placed in a high traffic area nearby." Hope church will place about 300 of these signs throughout the area.

The [15thAndVine.com](http://www.15thAndVine.com) website was produced using the free online software, WordPress. Purchasing the rights to the web address cost about ten dollars.

"Our prayer is that people who are looking to connect with God and a vibrant community of faith will notice the sign, log onto our site, and ultimately come to worship with us on Easter morning," Pastor Bills concludes.

— Glenn Ferguson

Red Bank Witnesses to Green Faith in Environmental Coalition

RED BANK – The Red Bank Church is going green. The church has entered into a two-year certification process toward becoming a GreenFaith sanctuary, through the direction of GreenFaith, New Jersey's Interfaith coalition for the environment. The Northern Shore congregation is the first United Methodist church in the conference to be accepted into the program.

Founded in 1992, GreenFaith aims to inspire, educate, and mobilize people of diverse spiritual backgrounds to rediscover their relationship with the sacred in nature, and to restore the earth for future generations.

GreenFaith anchors its endeavors on a set of beliefs shared by the world's great religions:

- caring for the earth is a religious value and environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility
- we grow spiritually through our relationship with the earth
- everyone has the right to live in a

clean, safe environment

- people of faith have a vital role to play in restoring healthy ecosystems around the world.

Why did the church decide to take this journey of faith?

"For several years through outreach and education programs, we have been working on projects to reduce energy output at the church and encourage our members to do the same at home," explains Janie Schildge, Outreach/GreenFaith Chair at Red Bank.

To illustrate the church's zeal, Ms. Schildge checks off a laundry list of environmental initiatives:

- CFL bulbs and durable water bottles have been available for sale and new members are given "green" water bottles when they join.
- Brightly painted recycling bins can be found in nearly every room at the church.
- Such films as "An Inconvenient

Truth" and "Kilowatt Hours" have been shown to youth and adults; an energy audit was conducted by Green Faith;

- Most lighting fixtures have been changed to efficient florescent fixtures.
- At Sunday fellowship time and in church events, only fair trade organic coffee and tea are served, and a variety of healthy food choices have been added to the usual cookies.

"We have also worked with our community environmental and shade tree committees to mulch and care for new trees in parks around Red Bank, and

members participated in the Porch light project, giving away CFL bulbs to homeowners and renters around Red Bank," continues the church's Green Faith coordinator. "Over two years our church will carry out a range of initiatives to integrate environmental themes into worship, religious education, facility maintenance, and social outreach, with the goal of working with other faith communities to better care for the world around us."

"Our congregation is enthusiastically participating in this adventure," she concludes, inviting inquiries about the process to www.greenfaith.org, or by contacting the Red Bank Church.

Keep up to Date with
Relay Online @ UMRelay.org

Middle East Peace Missions Aired at Titusville Church



PEACE MISSIONERS. William Jacobsen (*center*), director of mediation services at the Peace Center in Langhorne, Pa., discusses recent peace missions to the Middle East at the Titusville Church in February. Dr. Jacobsen, a former TUMC pastor is joined by fellow trip participants Larry Snider (*left*), coordinator of the Interfaith Community for Middle East Peace, a Delaware Valley organization that includes Christians, Muslims, Jews and people of other faiths, and the Rev. Danny Thomas (*right*), pastor of the New Covenant Church, Trenton.

Following showing of a film chronicle of a trip to Israel and the West Bank filmed during a 2009 trip. On another trip, Dr. Jacobsen traveled with an interfaith group that included lay and clergy Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Unitarian Universalists, and other conflict specialists. Following the film, discussion centered around the difficulty of life in this conflict-prone region where ill will and mistrust pass from one generation to another. The presenters also told of inspiring Israelis and Palestinians they had met in their travels, whose lives are devoted to building interfaith bridges of understanding. The key message: The desire for peace and mutual understanding starts within individual hearts and minds; only then can true peace take root.

This program was part of an ongoing TUMC evening discussion series, open to the public. Prior discussions have focused on gang violence and the root causes of poverty and hunger in New Jersey.

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Pitman Manor
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Saturday, May 1
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Pitman, NJ
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Collingswood Manor
Saturday, April 17
Monday, May 4
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Collingswood, NJ
856.854.4331

The Shores at Wesley Manor
Sunday, April 18
Sunday, May 16
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Ocean City, NJ
609.399.8505

Francis Asbury Manor
Sunday, April 18
Sunday, May 6
12 noon – 4 p.m.
Ocean Grove, NJ
732.774.1316

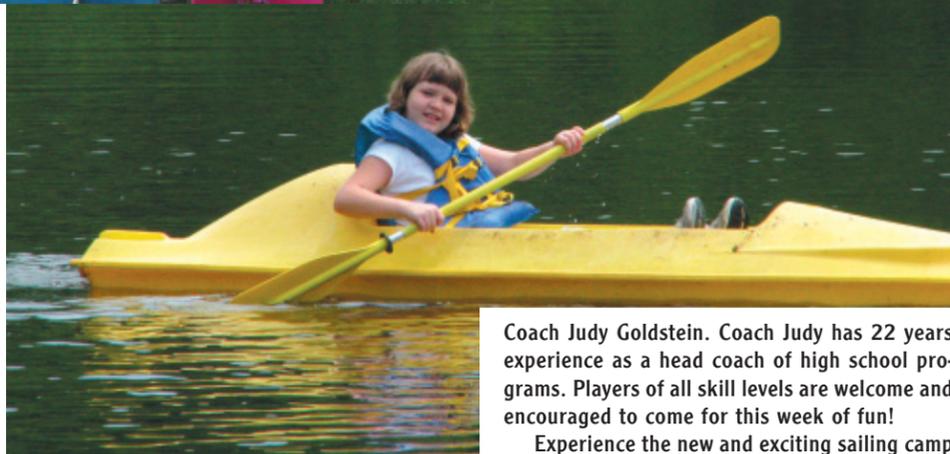
A Summer Full of Fun at GNJ Conference Camps

No more teachers!
No more books!
Summer is right
around the corner!



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is To Inspire, Explore and Ignite a new and deeper relationship with Jesus through nature with the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministry.



Coach Judy Goldstein. Coach Judy has 22 years experience as a head coach of high school programs. Players of all skill levels are welcome and encouraged to come for this week of fun!

Experience the new and exciting sailing camp "Sailing the Big Boats" offered various weeks at Pinelands Center at Mount Misery for campers, 7th to 12th grade. You will learn basic sailing knowledge, safety skills and duties of the skipper and crew, while learning coastal navigation hands on. Campers 13 and older can obtain a New Jersey State Boating certificate. This special camp is limited to 8 campers per week so REGISTER SOON!

The Counselor-in-Training program has been condensed into a two week leadership training camp event called "Path4Teens™ Leadership Camp" and will bring attendees new skills. Campers will discover their unique gifts, talents and natural tendencies. It begins at the Pinelands Center at Mount Misery, but will include training time at the Aldersgate Center as well. Campers must have completed 10th grade.

COLLEGE STUDENTS Looking for Some Fun? We're Looking for You!

Looking to have some fun in the sun, while sharing God's love with children and youth? Both camps still have staff positions open for the 2010 camping season. If you or someone you know is interested in a summer camp position, please contact the office at Pinelands Center at Mount Misery for more information by calling (609) 893-3354. There are also volunteer positions available on a weekly basis.

Don't sit around being bored. Join in the summer camp fun at either **Pinelands Center** at Mount Misery or **Aldersgate Center**.

What? You haven't camped before? With tons of exciting camps and new weeks to choose from - this is the perfect time to dive into the world of GNJ camping or to return for another season!

Whether you want to play in the mud and get dirty or enjoy fun in the water - there is a camp week that is sure to interest everyone!

Each week there are several camps to choose from based on age and things you are interested in. No matter which week you choose, there is plenty of time to enjoy camping favorites - field games, swimming, campfires and S'mores. At camp, you never know what surprise will pop up next!

While you are having fun at camp, your family can be assured that you are having a great time with a fully trained staff. Each Bible-based camp is well-planned by a camp director who specializes in the week's focus. And in addition to the fun you will be having, you will be learning more about God by spending time in the outdoors, prayer and Bible study.

Want a chance to see the camps before sign-



Love sports? Interested in Field Hockey? Come experience "Field Hockey Transformation" at Pinelands Center at Mount Misery. Come to learn, fine tune your skills, improve your game sense and learn new skills with



ing up? Come visit Aldersgate Center during their Open House on Sunday, April 25th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or at Pinelands Center at Mount Misery on Sunday, May 2nd from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This is a great way to tour the camp, meet some of the staff, ask questions and sign up for camp!

Want to see a full listing of summer camp opportunities? Get your parents permission and sign online to www.gnjumcm.org.

Exciting Camping Experiences!

Come learn three simple rules for following God while having a bunch of fun! "A Wesleyan Way of Living" at Aldersgate for senior high campers will be a hands on lesson focused on doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God. Campers will have a chance to experience ministry by working in soup kitchens and helping to build homes for habitat.

ALDERSGATE CENTER

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Fax: 973-383-4428

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Bloomsbury 'Wine Cellar' Offers Young Adults a 'Safe Place' to Gather

"Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he told the apostles, "Take this wine and share it with each other. ...After the meal he took another cup of wine in his hands. Then he said, "This is my blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes his new agreement. (Luke 22:17, 20).

Citing Jesus' sacramental metaphor from Luke, the Bloomsbury and Asbury churches on the Raritan Valley District have found a way to "Rethink Church," with the establishment of the Wine Cellar. Equally apt would have been a citation of Jesus' other metaphor about "new wineskins."

The Wine Cellar is a "safe space" for young adults where they can be themselves, find peace and feel acceptance. "It is an open and welcoming place, where ALL young adults are welcome to come and experience meaning and belonging in community with other young adults," says Jill Gicherman, Bloomsbury's director of youth and young adult ministries.

The Bloomsbury and Asbury churches in Hunterdon and Warren County transformed an average church basement into a "comfy space" for young adults to gather. The doors have been open since October 2009.

"We have seen a ton of new faces," says Jill. "They've played lots of board games and done lots of laughing. They come to hang with old and new friends, work on homework, join a group discussion or watch favorite movies or TV shows. But more importantly talking to each other about their lives and their journeys."

Aside from the "awesome" snacks, "amazing" coffee, and a "super comfy lime green couch, my favorite part of The Wine Cellar is the prayer board," says Jill. "The first night we opened I watched those who came walk up to the board and start writing names. I have seen them add names and we have celebrated the answers to prayers in the weeks to follow."

Worship is on Sunday evenings and it has been incredible," the young adult leader continues. "The style of worship, the atmosphere, as well as, a relevant message have been incredible. Every Sunday the sharing around the communion table is what makes the Wine Cellar more than a place for young people to hang out. This cup of forgiveness and this offering of love and grace has been a powerful experience. People are coming and bringing back friends to hear the word of God."

The Wine Cellar ALL young adults are welcome to come and experience meaning and belonging in community with other young adults.
An open and welcoming place where...

Free Wi-Fi & Network Printer Comfortable Atmosphere Great coffee & Good food Live Music Large-Screen HD TVs



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	7 - 11 PM
Tuesday	7 - 11 PM
Friday	7 - 11 PM

Come to hang with old and new friends, work on homework, join a group discussion on faith, films, politics, or theology, watch your favorite movies or tv shows, play games, and more!

ATMOSPHERE



Sunday Nights
@ The Wine Cellar
7 - 11 PM
Join us for dinner, fellowship, and worship. ALL are welcome - believers, seekers, and skeptics. The Wine Cellar is a safe place where questions & doubts are received along with praise & prayer.
Worship begins at 8 PM.

The Wine Cellar @ Asbury United Methodist Church
429 Old Main Street Asbury, NJ 07702
For More Information, Call Jill @ 908-574-5261
visit us at bloomsburywmc.com for updates!



"In my biggest hopes and my best dreams, I couldn't have even imagined this ministry being possible! By being a part of this new journey, God's grace has been shown in abundant ways. I am looking forward to all of the amazing things to come. My hope is that the "good word" will spread and we will continue to grow in our community of faith.

Jill welcomes enquiries about the Wine Cellar, which is open Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 7-11 p.m., with worship Sunday night at 8. She may be contacted by phone at 908-574-5261 or by e-mail at jerin517@hotmail.com.

Youth Service Fund

Youth Service Fund Grants are now available through the Greater New Jersey Conference and also the General Board of Discipleship Youth Organization in Nashville. The Youth Service Fund is created by youth for youth. Grants will be given only to projects that are YOUTH-RELATED. Priority will be given to projects that are YOUTH-LED. Completed applications must be postmarked by **June 1, 2010**. More information can be found at www.gnjumc.org

Extreme Makeover: Girls ONLY!!



Biblical and Beautiful
April 9th and 10th Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery
For All Girls in 6th-12th grades ~ Cost is \$40 a girl
More information and registration details found at www.gnjumc.org
Deadline: March 19th!

It's more than just a makeover! All Girls: All God
Sponsored By the Raritan Valley District Youth Team of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Speaker and Worship Leader - Margaret Cottrell Keefer from Grace Again Ministries



Curriculum Crazy was a huge success. We had several churches from around the conference come and explore new and old curriculum for Sunday School, small groups studies and Vacation Bible School. The GNJ Conference Media Center has everything that your church needs to put on a great VBS this summer. If you missed Curriculum Crazy but want to check out the hottest new materials for VBS contact the Media Center or stop by to take a look.



Christian Educators Spring Event "Sunday School 101"

This day of learning is designed to give Sunday school teachers and Christian Educators of all ages (pre-k-adult) tools and ideas to keep your ministry with children, youth and adults exciting and fun! Learn about classroom ideas, curriculum, service projects, mission experiences, classroom discipline, Safe Sanctuaries and so much more.
Check out www.gnjumc.org for more details. Registration is required!

Upcoming Youth Worker Training Saturday May 1st

Come learn how to lead small group ministries with your youth and/or young adult groups. This Exciting training will be lead by Rev. Varlyna Wright GNJ Leadership Development Coordinator.
Please RSVP to Ginny Kaiser by April 23.
Cost is \$15 a person which includes lunch and resources.



Great Adventure and Star 99.1 present Third Day on June 5, 2010.
Join youth and young adults from around the GNJAC for a fun day at Great Adventure. Admission includes fun at the park and a ticket to see Third Day. More details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE!

Youth Weekend held in Ocean City NJ will be held September 10-12, 2010. Guests include Tony Cruz and Group 1 Crew. More details coming later this month!

CHANGE THE WORLD EVENT

Change the World Event, Youth and Young Adults groups around the United Methodist Church are being challenged to Change the World. Join young people from around the Greater NJ Annual Conference to raise awareness of needs in the communities in which we live and around the world. Be sure to let us know what your group is doing to Change the World on April 24th-25th. For more information visit www.rethingchurch.org/changetheworld.

Featured GNJ Change the World Event

Take Time to Be Holy... Take Time to Give God's Love Franklin Lakes UMC is having a 24 hour famine beginning on April 24th. The youth are leading the congregation in a time of fasting and financial support for CUMAC, The Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community, in Paterson. The church is breaking the fast with communion on the Sunday 25th before a pot luck dinner. Then the youth are tie-dyeing pillowcases for a woman's and children's shelter in West Milford New Jersey, so all new patrons can receive new pillows and pillowcases upon arrival.

Stewardship Tips

By Rich Hendrickson
GNJAC Coordinator of Stewardship
Education and Development



Sometimes we come across a piece of material that speaks with eloquence beyond our skills. Here is just such a piece.

I Am Your Church Budget

{Anonymous}

Through me,
Families are launched in marriage,
Persons are baptized,
The young are trained in Christian character.

I provide a Church School and youth activities for your children.

I provide music to enrich your worship, and
Preaching services to help you live more nobly.

I heat and cool your Church building and
Keep it in repair for your comfort and use.
I do your custodial work.

I help train ministers in the seminaries, and
I provide assistance to those who retired after years of faithful service
To God through the Church.

It is through me that the sick find spiritual strength,
The troubled and discouraged are steadied.

I go out into the wide world, preaching the Gospel in every language.
I carry the Word to people of every race, color, and clan.

I am your budget. Believe in me; support me, that I may carry on in your name.
With your help, I make possible all of these services.
As the budget, ***I am you at work.***

But I do need your help. I do need your support.
Without you to under gird me, ***I am helpless.***
You are my foundation, my supporting walls.

I am your money, your prayers, your concern — translated into action.
I can do only what you, through sacrifice, make it possible for me to do.

RELAY REVIEWS

Book Review

by Dan Casselberry

Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale
By Ian Morgan Cron
NavPress
Paperback, 253 Pages

This little gem came to my attention in a rather unconventional, indirect way. A few months ago, I traveled to Greenwich, Connecticut, with a church member to attend a memorial service for one of her friends. The various tributes to the deceased (a person I did not know) were inspiring, making me wish I had known this person while he was living. One of those tributes, was given by the Rev. Ian Morgan Cron, and it was not just the content of his remarks, but the emerging essence of his caring and humanity that made me wish to know more about Cron.

With a quick Google search and even faster Kindle download, I was soon reading Cron's novel, *Chasing Francis, A Pilgrim's Tale*.

The main character of *Chasing Francis* is Chase Falson, the pastor of Putnam Hill Community Church, a large and growing evangelical congregation nurtured by him from its infancy. By all accounts and appearances, Chase is the model for successful pastoral ministry, but in his interior life, a storm is on the horizon.

The sudden tragedy of a child's death in the church becomes the catalyst for Pastor Falson's crisis of faith, causing him to question the doctrinal certitude of "his belief in a God who could be managed and explained". As a result, a sermon he preaches in the wake of the child's death poses many hard questions rather than the pat answers his congregation had come to expect from him. He has arrived at the conclusion that he has been captive to a theology that overpromises and underdelivers. A congregational firestorm erupts, fueled by an opportunistic, subversive youth minister who wants Chase's job, leading to a forced sabbatical.

Seeking to sort things out, Chase travels to Italy to visit a relative who happens to be a Franciscan friar. It is there that he begins to envision a deeper kind of faith inspired by the life and work of St. Francis of Assisi and the caring community of priests who bear his name.

Chasing Francis is a book that should appeal to clergy and laity alike. Cron describes his book as "wisdom literature", because it is not designed to be "pure fiction". The last section of *Chasing Francis* includes a study guide, making it particularly useful for small group discussions in the church context.

Highly recommended!

W. Michael Campbell, AIA ARCHITECT CHURCH DESIGN AND RESTORATION

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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.

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Confirmation Reunion at Bloomingdale



Pictured above are past confirmands who spoke during the reunion. They are, (l. to r.) Steven Hanisch, Leif Hanisch, Brian Ball, and Erin Hallock.

Invitations sent out from the Bloomingdale Church drew confirmands from classes 2000 through 2009, their families and mentors, to a Confirmation Reunion Sunday service, February 28.

Past and present confirmands took part in the worship service as four of them spoke about how much their church family means to them and how their church experiences, their mentors, and the congregation have positively influenced their lives.

"It was a very moving and meaningful service," said Cheryl DeBlasio, church publicist. The congregation hopes to extend an invitation next year to all previous confirmation classes, Ms. DeBlasio explained. An all-church luncheon followed the service.

Archives and History Commission Launches a 'Ministry of Memory'

GNJAC – A growing number of churches are finding their way into the Greater New Jersey Repository, a collection of congregational histories maintained by the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

"One of the most basic tenets of the Christian religion is that God is actively involved in human history," notes Wilber Watkin Lewis, a member of the commission, citing the Bible, the creeds and the familiar communion confession, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." "In that confession," he adds, "we cite our belief in the activity of God in Christ in the past, present and future... It is a central element of our faith."

"Our histories are an affirmation of our faith that God continues to be active in and concerned about our world. They are our testimony to the world and future generations, reminders of God's past and future goodness."

The Conference Commission on Archives and History invites all congregations to participate in the ministry of remembrance by submitting church histories to the commission, which for the first time will be awarding an annual prize. Histories may be sent to the commission at the conference office, 1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712-4733.

Active local churches with histories currently in the Greater New Jersey Repository are:

Allendale, Alpine, Anderson, Andover, Arcola, Asbury Church – Staten Island, (NY), Asbury, (NJ), Asbury – Camden; Barryville (NY), Wesley Church – Bayonne, Bernardsville, Bethel Church – Hurffville, Bloomfield Park, Boonton, Bound Brook, Broadway (NJ), Butler, Caldwell, Cape May Courthouse, Clifton – Belle-Vista, Cokesbury, Congers, Cross Keys, Demarest, Denville, Dickenson Church – Staten Island (NY), Dover, Downer Church – Williamstown, Emmaus Church – Smithville, Epworth Church – Palmyra, Fairfield, Ferry Ave Church – Camden, First Church – Arlington, First

Church – Asbury Park, First Church – Bridgeton, First Church, Englewood, First Church – Hammonton, First Church – Montclair, First Church – Salem, First Church – Stony Point, (NY), First Church – Summit, Flanders, Flemington, Frankford Plains Church – Augusta, Franklin Lakes, Free Union, Galilee Church – Englewood, Gladstone; Glassboro, Grace Church – Dover, Green Village, Hackettstown, Haddonfield, Haledon, Hamilton Church – Neptune, Harmony Circuit, Harrison, Haverstraw (NY), Hawthorne, Hilton Church – Maplewood, Hope, Hurdton Church – Lake Hopatcong, Irvington, John Wesley Church – Swanton, Kearny, Kemble Memorial – Woodbury, Kenilworth, Kingsley Methodist Church – Staten Island (NY), Kingwood, Lafayette Church – Jersey City, Landisville Friendship, Leonia, Little Falls, Livingston, Lyndhurst, May's Landing, Mendham, Midland, Milltown, Mintola, Morristown, Mount Horeb, New City, New Providence, Newton, Nutley, Old First – West Long Branch, Orange, Oxford, Park Church – Weehawken, Parsippany, Passaic, Paterson, Pearl River, Pennington, Phillipsburg, Piney Hollow – Franklinville, Pitman, Plainfield First, Port Jervis, Rahway – First, Richwood, Ridgefield Park, Rockland County, Rutherford, Sergeantsville, Simpson Church – Perth Amboy, Somerville, South Orange – Vailsburg Church, Sparrowbush, Sparta, Spring Valley (NY), Springfield, St. Luke's Church – Long Branch, Stillwater – Harmony Hill, Stockholm, Stratford, Succasunna, Suffern (NY), Summit, Sussex, Teaneck, Thiells, Titusville, Totowa, Tranquility, Trinity Church – Staten Island (NY), Trinity Church – Newark, Trinity Church – Rahway, Verona, Vienna, Waldwick, Warren County Church, Warren Street Church – Newark, Waterloo, Wayne, Wenonah, Wesley Church – Belleville, Wesley Church – Edison, Wesley Church – Roselle, West Paterson Church – Paterson, West Side Church – Hopatcong, Westfield, Westside Church – Paterson, Westwood, Woodbridge, Woodrow Church – Staten Island (NY), Wyckoff.

This list represents a small portion of the active congregations in the GNJ Annual Conference. Where the name of a church is the same as the location, a single name is listed.

OBITUARIES

BETILOU HOLLAND, wife of retired elder, the Rev. Elbridge T. Holland, died March 5, 2010. A memorial service will be held on April 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church of Newton, 111 Ryerson Ave., Newton, NJ 07860.

The service will be followed by a reception in Holland Hall at the church to which all persons are welcome.

Ms. Holland was a former Director of Christian Education for the United Methodist Church. She was an active leader and often a featured speaker in church and community groups. For several years, she served on the governing board of the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey and was chairperson of its Strategic Planning Committee at the time when building a facility in the Newton area was being considered.

She served four times as an elected delegate to the General Conference of

The United Methodist Church and served two four-year terms on the General Board of Church and Society. She was also appointed as a United Methodist representative to the governing board of the National Council of Churches and was the first woman elected to serve as chairperson of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy which has the responsibility for the quadrennial assignment of bishops.

The family has requested that memorial contributions go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in honor of her life. Checks should be made payable to GNJAC and sent to GNJAC, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712 (earmarked UMCOR in memory of Bettilou Holland). Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Elbridge T. Holland, 200 Bristol Glen Dr., Apt. 356, Newton, NJ 07860-2337.

CARL ERRICKSON, 72, husband of the Rev. Beverly Errickson, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died March 16, 2010. Memorial Services were held March 19 at The Shores at Wesley Manor and at the St. Mark Church, Hamilton Square, March 21.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he later worked for many years prior to his retirement for Public Service Electric and Gas Company.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and two grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to The Shores of Wesley Manor, 2201 Bay Ave., Ocean City, NJ 08226 or to St. Mark United Methodist Church, 465 Paxson Ave, Hamilton Square, N.J. 08690. Messages of sympathy may be sent to the Rev. Beverly Errickson, 2201 Bay Avenue, Apt. 275, Ocean City, NJ 08226-2574.

ALMA L. BIPS, wife of retired elder, the Rev. Herman O. Bips, died February 5, 2010 in Fort Myers, Florida.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on February 19, 2010 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Herman Bips, 3625 Kings Crown Ct., Fort Myers, FL 33908-1650.

Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25-26
NRSV

Drew Plans Farewell for Retiring Dean Maxine Beach

MADISON — Friends, students and staff of Drew Theological School will gather April 15 at Craig Hall on the Drew campus to honor Maxine Beach as she completes a decade as the head of the United Methodist-related school here.

Beginning with a 10 a.m. Communion service, the day of tribute will continue with a luncheon in the Seminary Hall Atrium and a time to honor Dean Beach back in Craig Chapel.

Maxine Clarke Beach came to Drew as dean of the Theological School in 2000. In that capacity she has given both academic and administrative oversight to the work of the school. In addition, she is a member of the University Senate of the United Methodist

Church and the executive committee of the World Methodist Council.

Prior to coming to Drew she was Associate General Secretary of the General Council on Ministries of the United Methodist Church and vice president and chief academic officer at United Theological School. She holds a masters degree is from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Boston University.

She teaches in the Hebrew Bible department of the school. She was the first woman to head the Theological School.

To honor Dr. Beach's ministry, a book of letters, messages and memories written by alumni/ae, current students, faculty and other colleagues has been assembled by the Drew Theological Student Association for presentation to her. In addition, A Maxine Beach Legacy of Leadership Fund is being solicited to enable future deans to shape the curriculum and the educational experiences of Drew students.



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Women Face Long Road to Change in Church

A United Methodist News Service report on women in The Church

By Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

Women have made major inroads in The United Methodist Church, but many of the issues the first Commission on the Status and Role of Women tackled in the 1970s remain on the radar today.

"It is very easy to take for granted that women are pastors and that women of all colors are bishops, district superintendents and top agency executives," said Garlinda Burton, an African-American laywoman who heads the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women. "But it was less than 40 years ago that we had no women bishops."

And few students in seminaries.

"When I first went to seminary at Vanderbilt in 1955, there were only four women in the student body. When I transferred to Claremont in 1960, there were four women students, no women faculty or administrators," said the Rev. Nancy Grissom Self, one of the first two commission executives. "Now both seminaries have student bodies that are 50 percent-plus women."

Virginia Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer was ordained an elder in 1977.

"The period reflected intensely the reality of the first wave of clergywomen in the United States, women who were graduating from seminaries, completing candidacy and entering annual (regional) conferences for appointments and the journey toward full ordination," she said.

Not every woman made it. "It was a time of heavy casualties of women

getting into conferences but many not staying," Kammerer added, "or entering extension ministries because of the discrimination.

"It was absolutely a time for all clergywomen to bond together—for survival, support, affirmation and empowerment—and for strategizing how to offer our best gifts to the church we loved (which) at the same time . . . was rejecting us."

Those were the early years of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, which began as a study commission in 1968 and became a full-fledged agency eight years later.

A nurturing family

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed was one of the commission's first executives.

"The greatest gift I received from COSROW was living within an organization that transmitted education for social change through the lens of transformative leadership," said Reed, now president of Bethune-Cookman University.

Serving on the commission in the early 1980s was Kammerer, who was elected to the episcopacy in 1996. She, too, credits the commission with nurturing her.

"The very connective nature of our United Methodist Church has made a big difference in supporting and encouraging me along the way," she said. "The commitment to inclusiveness . . . has been a strong thread of passion for me."

Barbara Ricks Thompson, who served as the commission's first president, agrees.



(Relay photo by John C. Goodwin)

SYMBOLIC of the change in leadership within the church is the appointment of women to key positions. Here, newly-appointed district superintendent-to-be, Barbara Rimbach, then co-chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, addresses the Annual Conference.

"I know that who I am today in large measure is due to my life in The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. From childhood, most of my developmental experiences stemmed from some facet of the church," she said. "As an African-American, the church was the primary avenue for the wide range of experiences and contacts not readily available in the general society."

A bumpy road

The road has not been without potholes, Burton said.

"I'm very clear that my position as an agency exec was made possible by

the risk-taking advocacy of groups like COSROW, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Commission on Religion and Race and United Methodist Women.

"Those groups spoke truth about the destructive, counter-Christian impact of gender and racial discrimination on the cause of Christ in our church, and opened the doors for creative, committed women and people of color to take our rightful place at the leadership tables around the world," she added.

"Justice for women in church leadership is still a relatively new concept in our denomination."

In the early days, Kiyoko Kasai Fujii said, "we worked a great deal on individual advocacy related to sexual and gender discrimination." It was usually on a case-by-case basis, the former commission executive said. Now, she noted, the commission is training leaders and groups in advocacy related to sexual harassment and other hot-button issues.

Main issues remain

Much has changed, but much remains the same, women leaders said.

"The issues have shifted. But even though we have high-profile women, there is still discrimination in the local churches," Self said. "As the (membership) declines, women often receive less consideration for appointment because churches still seem to feel that men—especially young men with families—are preferred."

Women also still experience sexual harassment, Reed said.

"The church needs to identify and cultivate younger women into leadership," she said. "We are locked into old paradigms without seeing the needs of a new generation. Some young women at my institution are brainwashed by lyrics and fashion. What is the church doing to help them become critical thinkers? Today, many young women are abused and exploited, but unaware."

In the broad scheme of things, however four decades is a relatively short time.

Retired Pastor Lana Thompson Sutton, Naperville, Ill., likened the church to a ship.

"The church was—and still is—like a huge ocean liner," she said, "whose captain and navigator are trying to turn the ship to follow a new path on a new map, but it takes a long time to change direction."

(Barbara Dunlap-Berg is internal content editor for United Methodist Communications.)

Rimbach Named RV Superintendent

(Continued from page one)

The Rev. "Bobbie" Rimbach began her clergy career as a local pastor assigned to the Forked River Church. While there, she received her ordination as an elder in the Southern New Jersey Annual Conference in 1990.

From Forked River she was appointed associate pastor at Red Bank and then pastor of the Manasquan Church where she served for nine years. In 2007 she was appointed senior pastor at Morrow Memorial Church, Maplewood.

Ms. Rimbach has served on numerous conference and district committees. She chaired the Education Committee in the former Southern New Jersey Conference and was a member of the merger Transition Team. A member of both the Southern NJ Conference and the GNJ Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), she served as the chair of the Conference BOOM from 2004 to 2008. She has also served as a member of the Primary Task Team.

She is presently a member of the Gateway North District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

2010 CALENDAR OF DISTRICT RESOURCE DAYS

The District Resource Days in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference bring some of the most prominent and inspirational thinkers and opinion-makers to where you can see them and interact with them in person. Here is the list of remarkable learning opportunities coming to the conference in 2010. Mark the Dates Now!

	RESOURCE #1	RESOURCE #2	RESOURCE #3	RESOURCE #4
CAPE ATLANTIC		April 15 Rev. Kevass Harding: Evangelism – Reaching the UnChurched Clergy: 8:30am-2:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Trinity UMC, Mamora	September 30 - Rev. Norma Cook Everist: Church Conflict: From Contention to Collaboration Clergy: 8:30am-2:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Oasis UMC, Pleasantville	October 28 Rev. Lloyd Rediger: Healthy Pastor, Healthy Congregation Clergy: 8:30am-2:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Emmaus UMC, Smithville
CAPITAL		April 16 & 17 Jenn Rodia: Rethink Church and Then Some Fri.: 9:30am-2:00pm Sat.: 9:00am-1:00pm At: First UMC, Delran	October 13 Stephanie Moore Hand: Rethink Ministry with Youth & Young Adults Time: TBA At: Ewing, Trinity UMC	Fall 2010 Gary Dorrien: Rethink Discipleship Time: TBA Place: TBA
DELAWARE BAY		May 3 Rev. Melvin Amerson: How to cultivate the culture of giving. Clergy: 8:45am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Broadway UMC, Salem	September 24 William Easum: Renewing and/or transforming an existing church that isn't growing. Clergy: 9:30am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Hope UMC, Voorhees	November 18 Rev. Gil Rendle: Clergy: 8:45am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Pitman UMC
GATEWAY NORTH	April 15 Bishop Michael Coyner: Connecting Newcomers to Christ in the New Century. Clergy: 8:30am-1:00pm Laity: 7:30pm-9:30pm At: Verona UMC, Verona	May 6 Kelly Sisney: Humor in Ministry Clergy: 8:30am-1:00pm Laity: 7:30pm-9:30pm At: Community UMC, Kenilworth	November 2 & 3 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy: 8:30am-1:00pm Laity: 7:30pm-9:30pm At: Vincent UMC, Nutley	November 2 & 3 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy: 8:30am-1:00pm Laity: 7:30pm-9:30pm At: Vincent UMC, Nutley
GATEWAY SOUTH		June 7 Dr. John Holbert Clergy: 12:30pm-4:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-8:30pm At: Stratford UMC	October 18 CANCELLED	Time:TBA At:TBA
NORTHERN SHORE		Oct. 2 Cheryl Hemmerle: UMCOM Creative Use of Media in Worship Time: 8:30am-2:00pm At: Whiting UMC	November 4 & 5 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy: 8:30am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: TBA	November 4 & 5 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy & Laity: 9:00am-2:00pm At: TBA
PALISADES		May 7 Kelly Sisney: Clean Christian Comedienne Clergy and Laity: 6:30pm-9:30pm Dinnerand program in honor of Mother's Day At: Paramus: Arcola UMC & Arcola KUMC	September 23 Rev. Mary Huycke: Redeveloping the Congregation Clergy: 8:30am-3:00pm Laity: 6:30am-9:00pm At: Clergy: Wayne UMC; Laity: Tenafly UMC	November 4 Dr. James Fleming: Biblical Resources Clergy: 8:30am-3:00pm Laity: 6:30pm-9:00pm At: Teaneck UMC
RARITAN VALLEY			September 25 Dan Smith: "Renewal – Practical Steps" Time: TBA Place: TBA	October 23 Kathleen Billman: "Developing Multicultural Awareness – Re-learning the World" Time: TBA Place: TBA
SKYLANDS		April 8 M. Garlinda Burton: "Empowering Laity" Clergy: 9:00am-3:30pm Laity: 7:00-9:00pm At: Rockaway UMC	September 16 Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane: "ReThink Church" Clergy: 9:00am-3:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: ButlerUMC	October 28 Rev. Tyrone Gordon: "Church Growth" Clergy: 9:00am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00-9:00pm At: Sparta UMC

OPPORTUNITY FILE

A roundup of coming events in the Greater New Jersey Conference and beyond. Send items of conference-wide interest to the Opportunity File at Editor@umrelay.org or UMRelay, 1 Mayflower Ct., Whiting, NJ 08759.

April 3 — Pitman Manor Open House

PITMAN — Come see the many faces of United Methodist Homes at this first open house of the season at this facility in the family of adult communities “where people make a difference” across the GNJAC. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Also **May 1**.

April 10 — Open House at Bristol Glen

NEWTON — Come see the many faces of United Methodist Homes at this premier facility in the family of adult communities “where people make a difference” across the GNJAC. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also **May 1**

April 8 - 11 — Men’s Walk to Emmaus Weekend

GNJAC — Renew the spiritual fire that energizes, informs and motivates Christian leaders in this three-day experience replicating the post-resurrection walk recorded in Luke 24. This Skylands Walk to Emmaus for men is part of a world-wide movement sponsored by the Upper Room. FFI: Log on to www.gardenstateemmaus.org

April 11 — Homeless Prevention Benefit

BRADLEY BEACH — Northern Shore District churches are renovating a parsonage for short term housing with social services counseling. Sunday Buffet, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.; entertainment at Giamano’s, 301 Main St. (Tickets are 50 percent tax deductible), Journal ads are available. Contact Deaconess Helen McCahill at helenmccahill0305@aol.com or (732) 988-1151.

April 15 - 18 — Women’s Walk to Emmaus Weekend

GNJAC — Renew the spiritual fire that energizes, informs and motivates Christian leaders in this three-day experience replicating the post-resurrection walk recorded in Luke 24. This Skylands Walk to Emmaus for women is part of a world-wide movement sponsored by the Upper Room; at Sacred Heart Retreat Center. FFI: Contact Judy Mazinozzi at judym@yahoo.com

April 17 — Open House at Collingswood Manor

COLLIINGSWOOD — Come see the many faces of United Methodist Homes at this warm and homey facility in the family of adult communities “where people make a difference” across the GNJAC. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also **May 4**

April 18 — Open House at Francis Asbury Manor

OCEAN GROVE — Come see the many faces of United Methodist Homes at this historic facility in the family of adult communities “where people make a difference” across the GNJAC. 12 noon to 4 p.m. Also **May 6**.

April 18 — Open House at the Shores at Wesley Manor

OCEAN CITY — Come see the many faces of United Methodist Homes at this seaside facility in the family of adult communities “where people make a difference” across the GNJAC. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Also **May 16**.

April 22 - 23 — Scouting Ministry Training

MORGANVILLE — A new program for training scouting ministry specialist will be held at Monmouth Boy Scout Council here, open to all scouting leaders in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. For details log on to the NSD UMM at http://www.gbgm-umc.org/Northern_Shore_District_UMMen/Northern%20Shore%20Scouting.htm.

April 24 — UMW Spring Meeting

HADDONFIELD — “Foods from the Bible” served up verbally by Judith Krall-Russo will be on the menu at the United Methodist Women’s Spring Meeting at the Haddonfield Church. The day-long program will include three afternoon workshops. Canned goods for food banks and UMCOR health kits will be collected at the traditional ingathering. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 27 — ARMS Luncheon Meeting

OAKHURST — Spring meeting of the Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses at First Church here will have as its featured speaker Maxine Clarke Beach, dean of the Theological School, Drew University in Madison.

May 13 - 16 — Women’s Walk to Emmaus Weekend

GNJAC — Renew the spiritual fire that energizes, informs and motivates Christian leaders in this three-day experience replicating the post-resurrection walk recorded in Luke 24. This Garden State Walk to Emmaus for Women at Keswick is part of a world-wide movement sponsored by the Upper Room. FFI: Log on to www.gardenstateemmaus.org

June 13 — Walk for All Ages

NEPTUNE — United Methodist Homes 16th annual *Walk for All Ages*. Registration at Great Auditorium Pavilion 12:30 p.m.; Walk begins from Ocean Pathway at 1:30 p.m. For more information visit www.umh-nj.org or call (732) 922-9800 x121.

June 25 - July 6 — Yakama Reservation Peace Trip

GNJAC — Annual bridge-building visit to White Swan’s 150 year old UMC congregation in Washington state. Visit Seattle, interact with Native children in the church’s summer program, worship and learn about Native respect for the elders. Meet Native leaders, learn history from an Indian perspective, visit a local artist and the Yakama Museum. Ages 13 & up. Airfare plus \$300. Contact Helen McCahill at (732) 988-1151 or helenmccahill0305@aol.com

July 9 - 19 — Taize Pilgrimage

GNJAC — Annual pilgrimage to the retreat center in France. Cost is reduced to maximize opportunity. For more information or to request an application please contact Erica Munoz at (732) 359-1042 or Emunoz@gnjumc.org. Application deadline is February 20.

Attention 700 MHz Band Users

Churches using wireless microphones should check their equipment to see if they are operating on the 700 MHz band (698-806 MHz). The FCC has ordered that organizations that include churches and businesses must stop use of such equipment by June 12.

The FCC estimates that 25 percent of wireless mics operate in the spectrum, meaning thousands of churches likely are affected. The ban results from an FCC auction that sold off rights to the 700 MHz frequencies to wireless providers like Verizon, AT&T and others.

For users who are unsure whether their devices need to be replaced, the FCC has compiled a list of affected devices accessible at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/manufacturers.html>. Users with further questions may call 1 (888) CALL-FCC or may contact their equipment manufacturer.

Share Your Relay

Do you know someone who would enjoy reading the Relay each month?

Maybe someone who used to receive it as a local church official.

Or a retired clergy person who somehow has fallen through the cracks.

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Or maybe a youth member of the church.

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April 17-18, 2010

led by

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Professor Emeritus, St. Paul’s School of Theology

Hosted by: Triinity United Methodist Church of Ewing

1985 Pennington Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08618

Tuition for the two day event is \$30, which includes lunch on both days, as well as a copy of Dr. Sample’s book “Earthy Mysticism”. College students may attend the workshop free of charge, but advance registration is required for all participants.

For further information, call 609-306-6403. To register, complete the form below and return with payment made payable to Trinity UMC at the address above.

Craft of Discipleship Registration Form

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____ Payment enclosed (\$30 per person)

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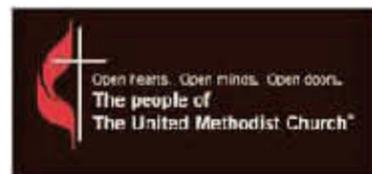
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