

Variables and Constants Mix at Annual Conference

An annual conference is a little like a mathematical formula with its sprinkling of variables and constants. The 2010 session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is no different than all the others.

When the lay and clergy members of the GNJAC gather in King of Prussia, Pa. June 3-5 at the Valley Forge Convention Center, there will be enough of the familiar to make conference members feel comfortable and enough of the new to keep their interest piqued and keep them on their toes.

There will of course be the constants, the usual business — reports of the various boards and agencies, resolutions of various sorts, elections of conference officials. There will be a bittersweet remembrance of deceased members in the Tribute Service, stimulating challenges in the episcopal address delivered by presiding Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, the poignant farewells to retired clergy and the welcome to the newly commissioned and ordained.

Among the variables at Valley Forge are this year's visiting speakers, John Holbert, leading the popular morning Bible study, and Stephanie Hand, the conference preacher.

The Rev. Stephanie Moore Hand is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Human Services and a Masters Degree in Christian Education from Pfeiffer University, Charlotte. She completed her seminary requirements from Hood



Stephanie Hand

Theological Seminary, Salisbury N.C. and has received her professional certification in Christian education and youth ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference. In 2008, she was commissioned as the first African American deacon in the WNC Conference.

Ms. Hand is presently outreach manager for the W.I.S.H (Working Initiative for Supportive Housing) Program, which assists the working homeless population in the Charlotte region to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Appointed to St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Charlotte, she serves as a ministry consultant for education and leadership development at the



John Holbert

WNC Conference office for ethnic and justice ministries. She is also a life coach, assisting people to live out fully God's "true purpose" for their lives.

The conference preacher has been the keynote speaker for national and regional conferences. She has led retreats for women, youth and children and workshops on leadership/church revitalization and has served in a variety of posts both within her annual conference and beyond.

She and her husband, Walter "Chip" Hand Jr. are parents of two children Ashlee (9) and Walter III (7). She enjoys traveling, having fun with her family and friends, and lots of laughter. The North Carolina woman describes herself as "passionate about telling the

old, old story about the love of Jesus Christ, to a 21st century generation."

The Rev. John C. Holbert was born in Indiana, raised in Arizona, and educated in Iowa and Texas. A graduate of Grinnell College, he studied at Perkins School of Theology and received his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in 1975.

He was ordained an elder in the Central Texas Annual Conference and served as interim senior minister of First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth (1994) and First United Methodist Church, Dallas (1997). He has been a local church pastor in Louisiana, professor of religion at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, and is now Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology.

His teaching specialties are Hebrew Bible, literature and preaching. Among special interests are fiction and storytelling. Dr. Holbert's literary works include *Preaching the Ten Commandments* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002); *Preaching Job* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999); *Holy Root, Holy Branches: Christian Preaching and the Old Testament* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995); *Psalms for Praise and Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995); *A Storyteller's Companion to the Bible: Genesis* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991).

In addition to his eight books, Dr. Holbert has authored many articles in scholarly and church journals. He was the editor for the Psalms and Canticles material of the 1989 United Methodist

(Continued on page 15)

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR SEESE SCHOLARSHIP

Greater New Jersey pastors are invited to apply for the **Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship** for continuing education. For several years awards have been offered to pastors whose plans for continuing education have led to strengthening their ministry in the local church.

Guided by Rose Seese of Gibbsboro, widow of the Rev. Harry Seese, and supported by ongoing gifts, the scholarship honors her late husband who died while serving the Medford Church.

"This is a good opportunity to support clergy in continuing education," said Ministries Team Coordinator, the Rev. Lyssette N. Pérez, "We are thankful for their generosity."

Application procedures and eligibility requirements can be obtained by contacting Ms. Pérez in the Conference's Ministries Team Office, (732) 359-1040, or (877) 677-2594, ext. 1040.

United Methodist Map to Change in June

A UMNS report by Richard Peck

United Methodists will draw a new map of U.S. structures following May and June sessions of its regional annual conferences.

United Methodist clergy and lay members in annual conferences in New York, New England and Pennsylvania will say goodbyes to friends and conference structures when they meet this May and June.

Members will say goodbye to Troy, North Central New York, Western New York, Wyoming, and Central Pennsylvania conferences and hello to the Upper New York and the Susquehanna conferences.

Troy Conference members in Vermont will join the New England Conference, and Troy members in northeastern New York will become part of the Upper New York Conference.

United Methodists will no longer be confused to find that the Wyoming Conference is composed of 300 congregations in northeastern Pennsylvania and southern New York. Pennsylvania churches in Wyoming Conference will merge with Central Pennsylvania Conference to form a new conference with a proposed name of the Susquehanna Annual Conference.

Wyoming Conference churches in New York will become part of the Upper New York Conference along with members of North Central New York Conference, Western New York Conference and the New York section of Troy Annual Conference.

Reduce number of bishops

These conference realignments re-

sult from membership losses that require four of the five U.S. jurisdictions to eliminate one bishop by 2012. Only the Southeastern Jurisdiction will retain the same number of bishops.

The North Central Jurisdiction will combine Minnesota Conference with the Dakotas Conferences to form one episcopal area. There will be no change in conference structures, but one bishop will preside over the conferences instead of the current two.

The South Central Jurisdiction will reduce the number of bishops from 11 to 10 by combining Nebraska, Kansas East and Kansas West into one episcopal area. There are no plans to change conference structures. The two states were served by one bishop prior to 1952 when the states became separate episcopal areas.

The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops is exploring a variety of options for how to adjust to having one less bishop. Ideas include the Pacific Northwest Conference and Oregon-Idaho Conference becoming one episcopal area and possibly moving the Alaska Missionary Conference to link with another conference. The bishops will continue to explore these possibilities.

The Western Jurisdiction Committee on Conferences is proposing a merger of the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone conferences to become the Mountain Sky Conference. The action would not reduce the number of bishops as both conferences are currently served by one bishop. The jurisdictional committee is also recommending redrawing

the boundary lines of the Desert Southwest Conference.

Conference highlights

None of the talk of merger and even sad goodbyes will detract from ordination services that always highlight annual conference sessions. Men and women will kneel at the altar rail where superintendents and family members join the bishop in placing hands on the heads of those being ordained elders and deacons.

Many conferences also provide time for retiring clergy to speak to the assembly.

Once upon a time, clergy held their breath when the bishop announced the appointment of pastors, but that is no longer the case. Pastors know well ahead of time whether they will be returning to their former churches or packing for new assignments. The "fixing" of appointments by the bishop is generally ceremonial, and, in many cases, only changes are announced.

Most conference sessions begin with the singing of "Are We Yet Alive," and there is usually a memorial service for conference members who have died during the year.

Worship, sermons and reports usually occupy most of the agenda. Members also consider conference budgets and frequently debate resolutions that address social justice issues or denominational policies.

(The Rev. Richard Peck is a retired clergy member of the New York Annual Conference and a freelance writer in Nashville.)

EDITORIAL

Where's the Beef?

Meatloaf. Ground meat (usually beef) with onions, seasonings, a little bit of bread crumbs, and topped with tomato sauce. Of course there are variations according to taste but those are the basic components to a very basic dish. It's hard to get it wrong, except, apparently, if you're cooking for 1400 guests who have spent all day sitting in a windowless room.

Some of the feedback that was received following the 2009 session of Annual Conference was that some people didn't like the meatloaf that was served one evening for dinner. For one or two, it was just the fact of the meatloaf's existence. For others, it was that the portion was too large. Others thought it was dry; some thought it was too "heavy." A few people mentioned some combination of the above. Admittedly, the number of people who complained about the meatloaf was relatively small; less than fifteen out of 1400. Still, something about these comments lingers in the mind like a heavy meal after a day's inactivity.

After many hours of worshiping God, hearing inspired preaching and teaching, considering and voting on resolutions that give direction to the conference's ministry, it's meatloaf that matters. After participating in the final steps of an arduous ordination process and sharing this high moment in the ordinands' lives, it's meatloaf that matters. After remembering those who have gone before us into glory and sharing in the sacrament that is a means of grace and identifies us as people of Christ, it's meatloaf that matters.

To be fair, the Sessions Team asked for the conference members' opinions about all phases of the sessions, including the meals, and fair criticism is an integral part of the process of perfecting what we do. However, the forcefulness of some of the comments on the meatloaf was hard to swallow. It is difficult not to think of Jesus' teaching: "it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." (Matthew 15:11) What is it that dwells in all of us that almost seems to compel us to speak unkindly to one another at times? Often, anger expressed about what seem to be trivial matters is masking deeper feelings about other things. Those things should be explored, prayed about, and surrendered to God for healing. Too often though, experience in the life of the Church has taught us to be wary, even of our brothers and sisters. There are countless examples: the undue vehemence of a member of the trustees over what color to paint the doors of the church; the threats to leave the church if the finance committee doesn't do what someone thinks they should; the anonymous letters that circulate among some folks in the congregation if the pastor says something they don't like... Somehow, for some people, the Church should be about pleasing them and if it doesn't trouble will surely follow.

Our bishop has rightly stressed the importance of "holy conferencing;" that there is a way that we should be together to do the work of the Church. It is akin to the koinonia of the early Church described in Acts 2. The fellowship of the followers of Christ wasn't limited to appeasing the desires of the majority of the people. The Scriptures say that they were *devoted to fellowship*. They understood that being in the Church means having a broader perspective and a deeper commitment to living together in Christian love than one would find in the world in general. Things are not always going to be the way we might want them. The question is; have we come to serve or be served? As the GNJAC convenes in Valley Forge next month, may we all be mindful to heed the call to holy conferencing, serving God and dealing with each other with love and respect. Just something to chew on...

Not to worry; there will not be meatloaf.

— Glenn Ferguson

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A Message from the Bishop

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Greetings in the precious name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we continue our journey as Easter people, let us mark our calendars for three events of significance on May 23 and 24, 2010.

They are the days of Pentecost, Heritage Sunday, and Aldersgate Day.

On the day of Pentecost we not only celebrate the birthday of the Church, but remind ourselves of the anointing power of the Holy Spirit which brought together people of different colors and backgrounds to make a powerful witness for the Holy Spirit. The power of these people of God, united in the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, was so great and moving that people suggested, "They are filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13).

When the Church is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit it can move things for glory beyond our belief. The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr. writes, "... the 'anointed ones' remain alert and expectant of emerging signs of the kingdom. Just as Jesus gave a summary of kingdom occurrences as authenticating evidence of his vocation, so Christians in whom the Spirit works are to expect signs following" (James Forbes, *The Holy Spirit & Preaching*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989, p.51).

The second day, Heritage Sunday, is a reminder of our history as God's people. In an article on the website of the General Commission on Archives and History, it is written "The underlying message of all Heritage Sunday observances is that history is an essential part of the church's ministry, and that all members of the church family can celebrate our shared heritage." History helps us to reflect on the past and to chart the future. Minor details and major events of the history of the Church and other organizations are crucial.

In one of the churches I served, after I had prepared a bulletin for a Sunday service, my secretary said to me, "Do you really want to sing that hymn?" My reply was, "Yes, it goes well with the Scripture reading and the theme for Sunday." With great reluctance and hesitation she shared with me, "This hymn was sung the last time in this church after a painful announcement. This may bring back those memories." Following that conversation we decided that it was not the right time yet to sing that hymn. I as pastor would have reopened some wounds had I not known that information. As a Church we have great things to celebrate in our history; we also have some painful parts in history which cannot be repeated again. Heritage Sunday needs to help us and remind us who we are and whose we are.

Aldersgate Day reminds us of the vital spiritual experience of John Wesley on May 24, 1738, when he proclaimed that his heart was "strangely warmed," and that he truly experienced the salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on these three major events in our United Methodist calendar, may we ponder prayerfully on these questions:

Are we anointed by the Holy Spirit?

Do we as individuals and as a Church remain alert and expectant of the signs of the Kingdom of God and authenticate those signs through our Christian witness and service?

Do we know and understand our denominational history?

Do we understand our social principles?

Do we have the knowledge of our local church history and its significance?

How is it with our soul?

Do we have the personal knowledge of our Creator God, Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, and guide the Holy Spirit?

Do we remember our baptism and remain thankful for that grace in our lives?

May God continue to lead us and guide in this Pentecost season and always,

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Sudarshana Devadhar, Resident Bishop
The Greater New Jersey Conference ~ 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

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FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT
George A. Imhoff, Advertising Manager,
P.O. Box 115, 190 Diamond Spring Road
Denville, N.J. 07834 • Phone (973) 627-0260 e-mail: gai42adv@optonline.net

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

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Robin E. Van Cleef
Editor
1 Mayflower Court
Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: (732) 350-6444
e-mail: editor@umrelay.org

Jack Shaw
Contributing Editor
1001 Wickapecko Drive
Ocean, NJ 07712
Phone: (732) 359-1048
e-mail: JShaw@gnjumc.org

Erica Munoz
edGe Editor
1001 Wickapecko Drive
Ocean, NJ 07712
Phone: (732) 359-1049
e-mail: EMunoz@gnjumc.org

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Skylands & Palisades Districts
George A. Imhoff
190 Diamond Spring Road
P.O. Box 115, Denville, NJ 07834
H: (973) 627-0260 Fax: (973) 627-2214
e-mail: gai42adv@optonline.net

Capital & Cape Atlantic Districts
Daniel Casselberry
37 Carlton Ave., Ewing, NJ 08618
H: (609) 434-0061 e-mail: dbcassel@comcast.net

Delaware Bay & Gateway South Districts
Glenn C. Ferguson
141 Marcshire Dr., Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 671-0707 e-mail: mumc.pastor@comcast.net

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

Gateway North and Raritan Valley Districts
Interim: Jack Shaw
1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712
Phone: (732) 359-1048 e-mail: JShaw@gnjumc.org

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

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Mission School Offers Learning and Fun for Adults, Youth, Children



GNJAC — The annual Cooperative School of Christian Mission will again unfold in the Greater New Jersey Conference this summer, with sessions at two locations — one in Caldwell, the other in Lakewood — pursuing identical studies under the general theme “**Faith – Hope – Love in Action.**” Co-sponsoring the schools will be the GNJ Conference and the GNJ United Methodist Women.

Georgian Court University will be the site of the Lakewood school, July 9 to 11, while the Caldwell session will meet at Caldwell College, July 23-25.

Open to all — men and women, laity and clergy — the school each year offers opportunities for learning, worship

and fellowship, all focused on mission themes of the General Board of Global Ministries.

At each site, participants will choose from the study themes, one on spiritual growth, a Geographic study, a General Issue, and a Conference study. Spanish and Korean language classes will be offered. This year's study themes are:

- **For the Love of God: John's Letters**, an in-depth study of the three Johannine epistles in the New Testament. Leaders in English will be Wendy Whiteside and Rosa Williams. A Korean instructor in Caldwell will be announced. Spanish language class in Lakewood will be taught by Hector Burgos.

- **Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible** will explore an overview of history from Bible times to the present, the country's ethnicities, religions and languages that lead to conflict, the way Sudanese women are contributing to peace, and some ways in which people of faith can embrace and affirm Sudanese people. Leaders will be Joy Phillips in Lakewood and Danny Howe in Caldwell.

- **Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity** explores the theology of mission and evangelism in the twenty first century context and examines biblical mandates for mission. Leading this class will be Kathy Burkhart & Ramon Evangelista in Lakewood and Kathleen Stone and Jay Brown in Caldwell.

- **Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity** will offer an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. This study will explore the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. Leaders will be Richard Hendrickson in Caldwell and Doug Ruffle in Lakewood.

In addition to the three day school, both sites will offer an abbreviated, fast-track event on Saturday, July 10 in Lakewood and July 24 in Caldwell, presenting two mini classes. Participants may join full time registrants for a meal and plenary session.

Youth School – Lakewood

A Youth School, a coed program for 7th through 12th grade graduates, will offer a weekend to visit area mission

sites, meet other Conference Youth, and learn about the mission study **Embracing the World: Faith, Hope, Love in Action** as well as opportunities for worship and fun! The School will be held at the Georgian Court University, in conjunction with the adult School. School planners warn that space is limited and urge youth to register soon. Leaders are Douglas Goldsborough Sr. and staff.

Children's School – Both Sites

A one-day school for children who have completed grades K through 3, and a class for grades 4 through 6, focusing on Sudan will be offered at both Caldwell and Lakewood. Study materials and lunch are included in the registration. A guardian attending the adult School of Christian Mission must be on the premises. Leader is Noemi Anderson.

Clergy and advanced lay speakers seeking recertification who are enrolled full-time may qualify for one CEU credit.

Additional information and registration is available by downloading the school brochure from the conference website at www.gnjumc.org.

GNJ again Plans Adult Taizé Pilgrimage

GNJAC — The GNJ Conference is once again sponsoring an adult spiritual journey to Taizé, the ecumenical retreat center in France that each year draws thousands of pilgrims from around the world. The journey is designed especially for persons 30 and older and will run from October 14 to 25. This year's group will travel to the center via Geneva.

A pilgrimage to Taizé offers an opportunity to seek communion with God through common prayer, singing, personal reflection and sharing. It has been described as an “experience of personal growth and corporate responsibility.”

Accommodations at Taizé are rus-

tic, with pilgrims sleeping in tents in their own bedrolls. Food, showers, and other accommodations are very simple and special diet requests can not be accommodated.

The stated GNJAC goal is “to discover new depths of faith that enable us to make disciples for Jesus Christ who are committed to a world-wide connective sharing of the gospel, in word and deed.” The adult pilgrimages last year and this year are a response to a request following several years of successful youth retreats to the French center.

For additional information log on to the conference website, www.gnjumc.org or the Taizé site, www.taize.fr/en.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY AWARD:

The Conference Commission on Archives and Church History, for the first time will be presenting a *Local Church History Award* at the Annual Conference session, June 3-5. Local churches are invited to submit an updated church history on or before May 14.

Submissions may be made by e-mailing Lperez@gnjumc.org in a PDF format, by fax (732) 359-1040 or by regular mail to:

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
Local Church History Award
1001 Wickapecko Dr.
Ocean, NJ 07112

Make sure that you include the current name of the church, location and contact information.

“This is a great opportunity to tell the story of your congregation,” says Ministries Team Coordinator Lyssette Perez. For more information, contact Ms. Pérez at (732) 359-1040.

Dialogue on Inclusive Ministry Seeks to Open Doors

RETHINK CHURCH ~ Door Opener No. 11

HAZLET — *Relay's* series of Open Door stories about how the church ministers in new ways, Rethinking Church, have all been about existing ministries. This month we look into the future at possibilities yet unrealized.

“An Open Door Dialogue on Inclusive Ministry,” a presentation sponsored by the Special Needs Ministry Committee of the GNJ Board of Global Ministry, will be held at St. John's Church here, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be The Rev. William Gaventia, director of community and congregational support at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and associate professor of pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The day will include wor-

ship and workshops focusing on how congregations can Open the Door to ministry with persons with disabilities.

Invited to the event are pastors, Sunday school leaders, outreach and witness leaders, and anyone wishing to understand more about a theology of Inclusion.

Workshop topics include a discussion of disability etiquette, ideas for accessible worship, an overview of a theology of disability, and a how-to session on adapting curriculum resources for persons with intellectual disabilities.

“We are opening one of the 10 thousand doors for persons with disabilities,” says the promotional brochure for the event. *To which we add: This is Door Opener No. 11 with only 9,989 to go.*

Sparta, Newton Churches Join Forces for Haiti Benefit Concert, May 15

NEWTON — In an effort to assist the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) in its ongoing ministry to victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti, the combined choirs of the Sparta and Newton churches will present a concert of sacred music on Saturday, May 15 at the Newton Church. The 4:00 p.m. concert will be followed by a pot-luck supper.

Musical selections will include works of traditional and contemporary composers, colorful instrumentation and the vocal power of forty singers under the direction of Rich Kelley and Richard Harley. There will also be bell choirs, hymn singing, solos, and anthems interspersed with scripture readings and prayers, with the Rev. Diane Koob of Sparta and the Rev. Dr. Dor-

othy R. Dann of Newton presiding. The music and scripture readings will follow the seasons of the year.

“The entire offering will go to UMCOR, which will see that it does the most good in Haiti,” explains a spokesperson. “UMCOR is well known for its efficient use of every dollar. Haiti is not in the headlines or on the evening news anymore. But the need is tremendous and will be for years to come. Our hope is that our success will be so great as to inspire other churches to undertake similar efforts.”

The Newton Church, site of the concert, is located at 111 Ryerson Ave. in Newton. Additional information is available from either church, (973) 383-4450 (Newton) or (973) 729-7773 (Sparta).

Cokesbury Closing in Teaneck

Cokesbury, the retail arm of the United Methodist Publishing House, has announced that it will close its Teaneck store on May 15.

The store is currently running a sale on all in-stock items with reductions of 55 percent through May 8 and 75 percent May 10 through May 15.

‘3 Simple Rules’ Are Basis for Christian Education Workshop

HAZLET — “Three Simple Rules for Christian Education” will be the theme of an all-day workshop at St. John's Church, here, May 15, under the auspices of the Conference Christian Education Ministries Committee and the Christian Educators Fellowship.

Presentations will include “Do Good,” “Do No Harm,” and “Stay in Love with God,” based on John Wesley's principles for living as interpreted by Bishop Ruben Job.

First presenter will be Luz T. Young, a retired teacher, outreach/evangelism coordinator at Oasis Church, Pleasantville, and a facilitator for the development of Hispanic Ministries National Plan in the Northern Shore District. She is also a lay speaker and lay missionary.

The “Do No Harm” presenter will be Eun Young Park, education coordinator at Arcola Church, Paramus, where she oversees all children/youth ministries from K-12.

“Stay in Love with God” will be presented by the Rev. Joseph McCarthy, congregational care pastor at Trinity Church, Hackettstown. After 19 years as a Roman Catholic priest, he became a United Methodist minister in 1988. He also serves as the coordinating pastor of several Skyland District churches.

Additional information and registration downloads are available at the conference website.

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

Your Freedom of Expression

The **Relay Online** continues to be an easy way to express your views and opinions, submit a devotional Reflection, make Prayer Requests, or simply catch up on the news and events around the GNJAC. We want to hear from you — ALL of you!

The June Issue Deadline is May 5, 2010



Global Relay

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

Momentum builds for major church change

NASHVILLE — The Connectional Table, meeting in Manila, Philippines, as the *Relay* goes to press, was expected to address the momentum for change that is rapidly building across The United Methodist Church. The Connectional Table, created by the General Conference in 2004 to bring vision, mission and money together in a single body in order to align and focus the relative independent elements of the church, is designed “to be a forum for the understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church...” Bishop John Hopkins, chairperson of the Connectional Table, says that “it will be easier to accept change in the church than it will be to accept responsibility for change in ourselves.”

Church plans \$10.4 million project for Haiti

STAMFORD, Conn. — As America’s first lady appealed to the world not to forget Haiti, the United Methodist Committee on Relief backed a three-year, \$10.4 million earthquake relief and recovery program for the ravaged nation. The relief agency’s directors approved funding for the “Helping Haiti Rebuild” Project on April 13, the same day as Michelle Obama’s surprise visit there. The board’s mission volunteers office announced that more than 3,000 individuals volunteered for future work team assignments to Haiti.

New GBGM head uses global roots to lead agency

NEW YORK — Thomas Kemper, 53, a German lay person and former missionary, fluent or conversant in seven languages, and abundantly skilled, has assumed the post of top executive of United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Though his passport is German, he is a citizen of the world. His resume includes two years as manager of a youth hostel and working with Vietnamese boat people in London, residence in an African village to do research for a master’s thesis and a decade as a missionary in Brazil.

Congo community prepares for nets

BONGONGA, Democratic Republic of Congo — A South African superstar, government officials and religious leaders traveled down a rough, muddy path to a neglected neighborhood on April 15, bringing hope wrapped in square plastic bags. Never had a VIP visited this community of more than 8,000 poor families. The dignitaries visited local homes to hang mosquito nets as part of the April 15 World Malaria Day celebration. The United Methodist Church provided \$150,000 for the distribution of 30,000 nets. The money was raised through the United Nations Foundation’s Nothing But Nets program, and the nets were provided by the Anglican/Episcopal Church’s Nets for Life. The celebration also marked the kick-off of The United Methodist Church’s Imagine No Malaria campaign.

Texas clergywoman to lead UMCOR

STAMFORD, Conn. — A Texas clergywoman who helped coordinate the distribution of mosquito nets in Côte d’Ivoire, planned disaster response to Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, and developed a leadership program for pastors is the new chief executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The Rev. Cynthia Harvey, 50, was elected as deputy general secretary of UMCOR and its parent agency, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, on April 13 during the board’s spring meeting.

United Methodists ride in Vietnam

STAMFORD, Conn. — The Rev. Dennis Miller, who averages 10,000 miles a year on his Harley-Davidson, is traversing the hills of Vietnam to meet United Methodist pastors. Miller, senior pastor of the Grove City (Ohio) United Methodist Church, is part of a motorcycle gang that has the approval of West Ohio Bishop Bruce Ough. The bishop and the Rev. Jung Song Kim, director of mission initiatives for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, are joining other United Methodists in Vietnam for the April 17 dedication of the new United Methodist Church center in Ho Chi Minh City.

Pilot project to begin for Haiti volunteers

STAMFORD, Conn. — United Methodist mission volunteer work in post-quake Haiti will focus on housing, health, education and pastoral services under a six-month pilot project expected to begin by early May. Funded by a \$565,000 grant from UMCOR, the program will involve both Haitians and volunteers from the United States and from Methodist churches in the Caribbean, Latin America and other parts of the world. More than 3,000 people have registered interest in going to Haiti.

Canals save lives in Congo village

KAMINA, Democratic Republic of Congo — People thought Bishop Nkulu Ntamba was crazy when he directed villagers to dig out canals in this central African village. Four years ago, the United Methodist bishop saw that his hometown of Kamina was constantly flooding, and homes were washing away. When the floods settled, stagnant water remained, creating breeding conditions for mosquitoes, which carry malaria. “So, we decided as a church the only solution was to dig the canals, which would help drain water and take water all around the city,” Ntamba explains. The canals were based on an overgrown system dug decades earlier by the colonial Belgian government. Ntamba’s project has led to a reduction in malaria in Kamina.

Cokesbury sales fight malaria

NASHVILLE — NASHVILLE — Inspired by the Mike Slaughter book, “*Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus*,” Cokesbury, retailing arm of the United Methodist Publishing House, is donating 5 percent (up to \$50,000) of all product sales from April 7 to April 10 to the *Imagine No Malaria* campaign. People aren’t looking for religious meetings, says Slaughter. “They’re looking for religious meaning.” Members of his Ohio church find that meaning in reaching out and changing the world. Slaughter writes about the experience in his book.

Fund established for coal miner families

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Annual Conference, the state Council of Churches and the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia have established a Montcoal Mine Disaster Fund. Some \$17,000 has already been received in this fund to be divided among the families of the 29 miners who died and the two who survived following an April 5 explosion.

Amity team reaches China earthquake zone

GYENGU TOWNSHIP, China — In response to the April 14 earthquake in China, a rescue team from the Amity Foundation, a partner with The United Methodist Church, arrived in Gyegu Township early April 16. The team went to a horseracing stadium where He Wen, an Amity executive, reported several thousand earthquake survivors had found shelter. Tents, blankets and food are in short supply. An Amity team in Xining has loaded quilts, food and water bound for Gyegu. Donations to support UMCOR’s response and help earthquake survivors can be made to International Disaster Response, China Earthquake, UMCOR Advance #982450.

Education agency promotes collaboration

NASHVILLE— Collaboration is key to addressing the challenges facing The United Methodist Church today — challenges that include a widespread mistrust throughout the connection, says the Rev. Russell Richey, a professor of church history at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, addressing members of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry in March. “We have a lot of mistrust of one another,” he said. “We don’t trust the bishops; we don’t trust the agencies; we don’t trust the annual (regional) conferences. If there were some way of dispelling this mistrust, I think that would be key.”

Official says Haiti relief needs coordination

NEW YORK — Now that the international community has pledged nearly \$10 billion in aid to Haiti, a way is needed to delineate roles and responsibilities on the ground, says a United Methodist relief official. About 900 agencies currently are working on earthquake relief in Haiti, and many critical issues remain to be sorted out, noted Thomas Dwyer, the top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s nongovernmental organization.

Pastors reach out to miners’ families

MONTCOAL, W. Va. — More than a half-dozen United Methodist clergy offered a ministry of presence to the families and loved ones of coal miners killed or missing following the April 5 explosion that claimed 29 lives. West Virginia Bishop Ernest Lyght called for prayer for the miners and families. He asked God to “surround us with a sense of calm in the midst of our distress. We ask that your holy presence might bring comfort to all the families touched by this incident.”

Disaster ministry provides home, answer to prayer

SLIDELL, La. — Nearly five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the Louisiana United Methodist Disaster Response Ministry is still building homes for survivors. In late March, the ministry led 21 teams from 12 states and three foreign countries in finishing a new home for Linda Meyer, framing three other homes and working on 19 other projects. For Meyer, the dedication of her home was an answer to prayer and a joyous milestone on a journey that has been marked by tragedy and loss.

Bishop Muzorewa, church leader and statesman, dies at 84

HARARE, Zimbabwe (UMNS) — Friends and colleagues remember Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa as a great preacher, a witness for Africa in the Council of Bishops and a leader of Zimbabwe’s struggle for majority rule. Muzorewa, 84, died April 8 after a battle with cancer.

Call to Action group seeks to increase church vitality

NASHVILLE — Many United Methodists would agree there are gaps between where the church is and where it wants to be. A decline in membership in the United States and growing fiscal problems represent two of many such gaps. The 12-member Call to Action Committee, meeting here April 6-8, set plans to gather data from across the United States to help the church discover ways to bridge these gaps.

Long after earthquake, Armenia receives support

NEW YORK — Mr. Vardges, a resident of Gyumri Elderly Home in Armenia, spends his days tenderly caring for the residence’s vegetable patch. He is one of 157 people who live at the home supported by grants from United Methodist Committee on Relief. “With decreased assistance from the international community, UMCOR is the only organization that continues to assist our efforts,” said Director Olya Mkrtychyan. “For more than 10 years, we have felt UMCOR’s love and support toward the marginalized members of our society.” Gyumri, Armenia’s second largest city, is still recovering from an earthquake that occurred 22 years ago. UMCOR has focused its efforts on supporting seven state-run institutions.

Agency staff reductions alarm black caucus

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Church is “moving backward” in the racial-ethnic makeup of general agency staff, according to Erin Hawkins, head of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race. She spoke to leaders of Black Methodists for Church Renewal prior to a March 24-26 meeting in Jacksonville, Fla.

Pastor’s petition pits Phillies against their phoes

PHILADELPHIA — The Rev. Jeff Raffauf, of West Lawn United Methodist Church in Reading, joined Jewish and Roman Catholic counterparts in praying over the baseballs prior to the Philadelphia Phillies’ home opener at Citizens Bank Park, April 12. The ceremony was organized by a classic rock station in Philadelphia. In his blessing, Raffauf asked for the balls to be blessed “so that we will vanquish our NL East competitors, slay the overpaid Yankees, and once again dance on Broad Street.”

RELAY MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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The June Issue Deadline is May 5, 2010

GNJ United Methodists Invited to Celebrate Aldersgate Day

"Había una vez, y dos son tres..."
 This is a Spanish idiomatic expression, the common phrase used by story-tellers when they begin to read a story in Spanish. It's one that United Methodists might well adopt, suggests the Rev. Lysette Perez, GNJ Ministries Team Coordinator. It literally means, "There was one time, plus two are three..." the expression might not make too much sense at first, she notes, "but if we pay close attention to it, it implies that one story can lead to another...and another...and another..."

"The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, not only because of its structure, but also because there is a wonderful story of faith that beautifully binds our present with the past," Ms. Perez continues. "One story is connected with others." The story begins in the 18th century with a small group of students at Oxford led by John Wesley, Methodism's founder, seeking to live a holy life according to the Scriptures.

Accepting an appointment as a missionary in Georgia, then a newly founded colony in the New World, John Wesley sailed with his brother, Charles, at the end of 1735. After a couple of years, the brothers returned home frustrated because their venture in the New

World was not as successful as expected. On the way home, when a strong gale struck the ship, Wesley became fearful and began to doubt his salvation.

Plunged into a deep spiritual crisis upon his return to England in 1738, John Wesley remembered with admiration the spirituality of the Moravians, a German religious group he and his brother had encountered on the storm-swept ship. Impressed by the depth of their faith and their emphasis on salvation by faith alone, Wesley experienced conversion at a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London on May 24, 1738. "He felt something special in his heart, a special burning of the Holy Spirit," notes Ms. Perez. "After this event, his ministry was transformed, marking the course of church history forever."

It's a familiar story to United Methodists, and the Ministries Team coordinator invites the conference to join in, quoting an old hymn. "I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory... because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do." This hymn, written by Katherine Hanke in 1868, continues to be a favorite.

"John Wesley told his story and

wrote about it," says the Ministries Team coordinator. "Therefore, as Wesley did, let us continue to share the story of Jesus and our own 'Aldersgate' stories with others."

Telling the story is the "Ministry of Memory" according to the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH). To this end, the GNJ Conference Commission has invited United Methodists to celebrate Aldersgate Day on **Sunday, May 23, at the Aldersgate Church, 568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick at 4 p.m.**



Williams

Keynote speaker for the event will be the Rev. Robert J. Williams, general secretary of the GCAH since 2006 and a clergy member of the conference. In addition to serving GNJ churches, he has taught

United Methodist studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

"Let us celebrate Aldersgate Day!"



concludes Ms. Perez, who invites readers to visit the conference website, www.gnjumc.org to get a brochure for this event or contact her at (732) 359-1040.

The Conference Commission has also announced that for the first time it will be presenting a *Local Church History Award* at the annual conference session in June. "This is a great opportunity to be involved in the 'Ministry of Memory,'" Ms. Perez observes.

Princeton Enlists Handbells for Healing in May 15 Fight Against Riverblindness



Daniel Shungu, founder of United Front Against Riverblindness, congratulates Akiko Hosaki (left) and Hyosang Park after a recent concert.

PRINCETON — Though the bite of a small black fly can make millions of Congolese people go blind, the ringing of handbells may guard against this disease. To this end, solo handbell artist Hyosang Park and pianist Akiko Hosaki will perform a benefit concert for the United Front Against Riverblindness (UFAR) on Saturday, May 15, at the Princeton United Methodist Church (PUMC). An offering (suggested donation \$10) for PUMC's mission trip to the Congo will be received.

"The music of handbells can heal one's spirit," says Ms. Park, "and Akiko and I hope our concert will bring physical healing to the people of Congo."

Of the 60 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 13 million are at risk of contracting onchocerciasis, known as riverblindness, says Daniel Shungu, founder of UFAR. A socially disruptive disease, it starts with an excruciatingly itchy rash, and when it leads to blindness, children must leave school to be full-time caregivers for family members.

There is a drug for riverblindness, provided free by Merck & Co., but it is a challenge to get the drug to remote villages and ensure that every person it annually for at least 10 years.

Ms. Park, organist and handbell choir director at PUMC, Park has master's degrees in sacred music and piano performance from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and teaches at St. Jerome Catholic School I West Long Branch.

A collaborative pianist and vocal coach, Dr. Hosaki is currently pianist coordinator at the choir college and the organist/choir director at Hillsborough Reformed Church in Millstone.

UFAR is an African-inspired, US-based nonprofit charitable organization that aims, in partnership with other organizations, to eradicate onchocerciasis.

The the 7 p.m. concert on May 15 will feature works that include compositions by Massenet and Satie in arrangements by Ms. Park and Dr. Hosaki.



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Thinking Aloud Rusty Halos

by Krista Hendrickson

When I was younger I always believed that Christians traveled around with invisible halos over their heads to represent their faith in God. They were halos only Angel's or God himself could see and I believed them to be beautiful, glowing with the light of heaven. It's an interesting concept if you think about it, all the Christians in the world identified by halos over their head. Beautiful.

While this concept of halos with heavenly light faded out as I grew older, I just recently heard a song that reminded me of this childhood fantasy. The song is called "Rusty Halo" by the Script and has a few lines that really got me thinking. Here they are: "Now I'm looking at the Bible trying to find a loop hole. Yeah I'm living for revival dying for a new soul. Now there's no light to guide me on my way home. Now there's no time to shine my rusty halo." Powerful lyrics, yes, and lyrics that took me right back to that childhood vision

of Christians walking around with halos over their head. So what if this concept was true? What if every one of us posses a halo?

Take a second to think about how yours would look.

Shinny, luminous, or would yours be rusting in decay? Are you taking time to buff your halo or are you just leaving it up there for the wind, rain, and pounding sun to slowly corrode? Moving back to the lyrics, how many of us have searched the Bible for a loop hole? I know I have, let me give you some examples: "There has to be a scripture in here that says I don't have to pray every day. That's just taking up too much time!" or "There's got to be away around this being nice to everyone thing". We're all guilty of it, it is in our nature. We're constantly looking for the easy way out of things. But what if I were to tell you that for every "loop hole" or "short cut" you took, your bright, shinny,

and glory filled halo lost a little lust? Lost a little of its sparkle? For every loop hole you take your halo grows a little more rusted until eventually it's decayed so much that it just falls to the ground, broken. The worst part is that it's happened gradually: a few fibs here or there, a few nasty comments, a few missed Sunday's, forgotten prayers, forgotten Christian values. All these things permit the rust to grow around your halo until you can't spruce it up any more and your halo is lost. So what can we do to "shine our rusty halos"? That's simple: BE GOOD CHRISTIANS. Let people see your halo. Pray, go to church, read the Bible, spread the world, do good deeds, make good choices. Live as though your halo is shinny for the world to see. Live proudly. Live like a Christian and you will shine your rusted halo.

Youth Worker Training

Saturday May 1st ~ 9AM - 2 PM

Youth Worker Training: *Small Group Ministry:* Training on how to start a small group ministry for youth in your local church. Small groups are a great way to help youth deepen their relationship with God, engage in life-changing conversations, and grow spiritually. Come learn and get ideas for small groups. Led by Rev. Varlyna Wright, Leadership Development Coordinator, Greater New Jersey Conference (Registration and coffee from 8:30-9:00a.m.) Greater NJ Conference Office 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712 Cost: \$15 (payable at door) - Includes lunch and resources. RSVP by April 26th to Ginny Kaiser at 732-359-1043 **Hurry!!! Space is limited!**

Three Simple Rules For Christian Education

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May 15, 2010

St. John's United Methodist Church in Hazlet, NJ

Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00	Registration and Coffee
9:00-9:30	Opening Worship
9:30-10:45	"Do No Harm"
10:45-11:00	CE Moment on Vacation Bible School
11:00-12:15	"Do Good"
12:15-12:30	What's new in GNJAC!
12:30-1:15	Lunch
1:15-1:30	CE Moment on Cross Generational Curriculum
1:30-2:45	"Stay in Love with God"
2:45-3:00	Closing Worship

Registration available at www.gnjumc.org

THE NOW!!
Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life.
1 Timothy 4:12

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May 22, 2010

9:00 am 12:00 pm

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1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, New Jersey

Registration forms available at www.gnjumc.org

Camper's Corner

We look forward to check-in day to see campers enter their cabins with excitement, energy, and maybe even a few nervous anticipations.

It is especially exciting to watch the mini-campers arrive, our youngest campers. They attend for 3 days and 3 nights to get a sampling of what camp has to offer, without the long time away from home and family. This shortened camp is designed especially for campers entering grades 1, 2, or 3, and who have never attended camp before. Our loving, caring, positive Christian role models will help your first-timer fit in, feel accepted, and participate in camp activities that will leave them wanting to come back year-after-year.

For the older campers who want to continue their camp experience, would love eventually to be on staff, but are not quite old enough, we are implementing a new leadership training opportunity. The Path4Teens™ leadership program is designed to build leadership skills and character into young people who would like to serve in ministry at Church, camp, or even as a Christian in the workplace. Does your child enjoy canoeing, navigating a low-ropes course, swimming, and having a lot of organized fun and fellowship with other children? These things and more are available at the Aldersgate Center and Pinelands Center at Mt Misery! New for 2010, we have a special pre-ASA certificate course in sailing, the Path4Teens leadership training, and family camping opportunities. These experiences help to build character in your child, which will last a lifetime.

Jesus said: "let the little children come unto me." Campfires and vespers provide great opportunities for children to share personal testimonies and experiences which will encourage others in their walk with the Lord.

Brochures and registration forms are available, and some of the camp events are beginning to "fill up." If the event you desire becomes filled before your registration is processed, we will place your name on a waiting list; should an opening become available, we will let you know about it as soon as possible.

Oh, yes, we would love to have you at camp too! Yes! There are several ways for adults and families to experience the camp life this summer. You may volunteer your time as an event director or as an assistant. Event directors coordinate the specialty of the camp event as titled. Volunteer assistants help with program activities, supervision, in the kitchen, at the waterfront based on certifications, or as needed under the direction of the Program Assistant.

Finally, there are several family camping opportunities: Memorial Day and/or Labor Day weekends at both camps; or family camping at the Aldersgate Center. Call 609-893-3354 to make your individualized special arrangements. One way or another, we hope to see you at camp this summer!

Timothy J. Goodwin

Director of Camping Ministries

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries, Inc

Third Day Concert June 5, 2010

Six Flags Great Adventure and STAR 99.1 presents CELEBRATION featuring Third Day in concert at the Northern Star Arena performing songs from their latest album Revelation at 6 p.m. Concert is free with park admission. Doors open at 5 p.m. For ticket information on how to go with the GNJAC Youth and Young Adult team check out our website after May 1st at www.gnjumc.org

UM Portal:

Open to faith, not church

by Mike Ratliff

As the United Methodist Church seeks more involvement from members of the Millennial generation, new research indicates the church must relate to today's young adults differently than it did with earlier generations to be successful. Building real, faith-based relationships with individuals in the Millennial generation is a must to introduce them to Christ and his teachings and to discover who God is calling us to be as the church in the future. Looking to this generation to save the church as we know it from extinction is a mistake.

Significant findings that can inform our current work with the 18-29-year-old age group in the church are included in a recent Pew Research study, "Millennials, A Portrait of Generation Next."

The study's snapshot of this age group says one in four members of the Millennial generation are unaffiliated with any particular faith. This is more than Generation X (1 in 5) and Baby Boomers (1 in 7.6) when they were the age of the current young adult population.

This doesn't mean that current young adults are not interested in the essentials of a belief system. Their likelihood of praying every day tracks very closely with that of young adults in prior decades. Their stated beliefs in the absolute certainty of God's existence mirror that of Generation X at the same age. They also believe in life after death, heaven, hell, miracles and angels and demons at a rate that is reflective of adults of every other generation today.

Comparative information in the study indicates that religious behavior increases as adults grow older. It would also appear that worship attendance follows the same trend. Though this has been true with Generation X and Baby Boomers, the difference among those affiliated with mainline denominations seems to increase only slightly with age.

What does this mean for the United Methodist Church as we seek to involve members of this generation in the church?

- Young adults don't affiliate in the same way as adults older than 30. Membership and Sunday morning worship attendance are not the measurements we can use to gauge interest/participation.

- Young adults are extremely open to faith. It is, however, an openness that moves beyond traditional Christianity and embraces other faith traditions and sometimes synthesizes their own version of faith. It also extends to social issues like abortion and homosexuality.

- Young adults are marrying later, which creates a delay in the conventional wisdom that they will return to church when they settle down and have children. (This still happens, but later, and with a smaller percentage than we have assumed.)

Does this mean that the church is doomed? Not necessarily, but it does mean today's young people require new relationships with the church relationships unlike those of previous generations.

In a recent informal poll, United Methodist young adults were asked what would make them feel welcome their first time in a church and also what would be necessary for them to return. The answers were clearly about the importance of relationships ("someone knows my name"), authenticity of worship (style of worship was less important) and a church that has a purpose and is living it out.

We may be losing young people in the church because of what we aren't doing for them. However we're mostly losing them because of who we aren't being for God!

Living as the body of Christ with intentionality and purpose will attract young adults (and other adults) to Christianity and our churches. When we stop trying to attract them to save our church, and begin seeking them because they are persons of infinite worth who are searching for the salvation of our timeless God through faith in Christ, the floodgates will open in whatever form the United Methodist Church of the future takes.

There are more than 40 million young adults in the United States, and the Pew Research survey projects that 64 percent of them are "absolutely certain" of God's existence. Three-fourths of young adults stated that they were affiliated with some faith group, and about that many believe in life after death, heaven and miracles.

What a great opportunity we have to be in ministry. If we only will.

The Rev. Michael Ratliff is associate general secretary of Young People's Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD).

Grace Church, Wyckoff, Cheers Troops with Boxes for Iraq, Afghanistan

WYCKOFF — For the fourth consecutive year, Grace Church, here, is teaming up with its local VFW and American Legion Posts to send 300 care boxes to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Each box," explains Leigh Bolton, co-chair of the church's Mission Committee, "includes over 30 items, including personal care products, snacks, beef jerky, playing cards, magazines, Girl Scout cookies and, most importantly, a personally created letter or picture to remind the soldiers that every box is sent with love and appreciation for the sacrifice they are making for us back home."

The effort is supported by all age groups at the church and members of the community are also invited to become involved. Included in the past have been local athletic groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, community classrooms and local military groups.

Sunday, May 23, will be "Boxing Day" at the church. Participants will fill the boxes between worship services and pack the truck that A.R.M.S. will send to pick up the boxes and ship them overseas. Children will color patriotic pictures to include in the boxes they fill as a special thank you to the soldiers, and people of all ages will join together in the project. Official U.S. flags will be available for persons interested in displaying them on the grave of a veteran.

"The effort," noted Ms. Bolton, "was initiated in memory of Freddie Porter, a young member of our church who was tragically killed in a Navy Seal training accident. Freddie was a role model for the youth of our church and he regularly volunteered to help the homeless in Hackensack, and was a positive influence on the children of his



EVERYBODY LENDS A HAND at Grace Church, Wyckoff, preparing care packages for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here children color drawings to bring cheer to lonely soldiers, while adults pack the 300 cartons to be sent overseas. The project which has been going on for four years has the support of community groups.

home town community of Garfield."

"We have added a new item to the boxes this year," said Ms. Bolton. "We hope to include much requested knitted helmet liners for as many soldiers as possible. We are asking yarn shops, women's clubs, YMCAs and YWCAs, youth groups and all other interested knitters to help us send these helmet liners."

The pattern for the knitted helmet liners is available free of charge at GUMC.org and completed liners may be dropped off at the church or mailed to: Grace United Methodist Church, 555 Russell Ave., Wyckoff, NJ 07481. "Monetary donations to help pay for the wool yarn are welcome," Ms. Bolton notes. All helmet liners provided by May 20, will go in this year's shipment. However,

this is a year-round project and helmet liners will be received at any time for future shipment to the soldiers.

Only wool yarn should be used for the helmet liners. For questions about knitting, call Mary at (201) 891-4055 or Dot at (201) 445-6046. To find out more about how you can help in this project, call Ms. Leigh Bolton at (201) 891-9221.

Central Church, Linwood, Makes Disciples Through Missions

LINWOOD — It's a long way from Linwood to Uganda, but the distance was shortened considerably when 18 members of Central Church and seven constituents left earlier this year for a two-week mission trip to the Watoto Children's Ministry in Kampala. There they helped construct a teacher's home and an elementary school classroom in Watoto's Suubi Village.

Having raised the money for construction costs and travel expenses through individual contributions and a fund raising effort, Central United Methodist took a big step in both cementing its relationship with the Watoto organization and in demonstrating to the community its passion for making a difference in the lives of others.

CUMC has sent, in the past dozen years, five teams to Pass Christian, Mississippi to help with the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort, several teams to Smolensk, Russia, to assist in developing a fledgling church there and now is organizing a team of skilled workers to go to Haiti. Its well-recognized missions program raised over \$160,000 last year to fund local, national and international programs. Church leaders are convinced this outreach has contributed to a significant increase in new members who are anxious to participate in mission work



TIME OUT. Resting from their labors of constructing a teacher's home and a classroom in Uganda, the mission team from Central Church pose for a group photo.

and thus to witness for Christ.

Central's 2010 Uganda effort left team members excited and eager to return. And a 2012 trip is under serious consideration by the church's Youth Program.

CUMC is also enlisting new sponsors for Watoto orphans, now numbering more than 2,000, who are housed, fed, clothed and educated in a caring Christian environment.

While the trip itself was exhausting, the satisfaction gained by team members in seeing walls go up, windows and doors set and a concrete slab morph into a dwelling and/or classroom was priceless. The team also spent time touring a completed Watoto village, including its homes, school, medical center, woodworking shop and church. The team found satisfaction in dedicating the new structures they built in honor of a deceased church member who himself was highly devoted to mission work.

To emphasize the importance and critical need for financial sponsors of these Ugandan children, all of whom have lost one or both parents to either civil war or AIDS, CUMC presented a Watoto Weekend in April, with all proceeds going to the sponsorship effort.

For more information, contact the CUMC office at (609) 927-4882.

Annual Audits

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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.

Into the Fire

A UMNS Narrative
By David Briggs

*This is the first in a three-part series, **Death and Resurrection in Haiti**, from the United Methodist News Service, telling the behind-the-scenes story of mission workers trapped in the rubble of the Haiti earthquake. To read the other gripping installments of this series, log on to http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.5887711/k.6E3F/Special_Coverage_Haiti.htm*

Afternoon, Jan. 14, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The moments of silence grow more precious.

The six men and women are trapped amid jutting pieces of twisted steel and concrete chunks in the darkness under the rubble of the Hotel Montana. They make peace with their fate.

The Rev. Clinton Rabb no longer attempts to hide his pain. He and the Rev. Sam Dixon, two United Methodist mission leaders, both over 6 feet tall with a combined weight of more than 500 pounds, lie side by side, their feet pinned under a concrete beam. Beside them, the Rev. James Gulley, his limbs free, tries to offer comfort.

The three share 40 square feet of space with two other colleagues, Rick Santos and Ann Varghese of IMA World Health, a humanitarian group. They have no food or water. They are captive beneath a 3-foot-high ceiling of concrete debris.

On the other side of a wall, a sixth colleague, Sarla Chand, a United Methodist who works with IMA World Health, sits bloodied and bruised. She can hear and speak to her friends, but she can find no opening wide enough to be comforted by their touch.

The six came to Haiti to find ways to provide medical care to this poverty-stricken Caribbean nation. Now, as days pass into nights with little prospect of rescue, some have begun talking of their own deaths and preparing messages for loved ones.

When they pray together, however, two requests have remained constant from the moment the earthquake struck Jan. 12.

“God, find a way out for us.” And one other prayer of the faithful: “Take care of the people of Haiti.”

Morning, Jan. 12, Hawthorne, N.Y.

His friends describe Rabb as part United Methodist circuit rider, part Wesleyan scholar, part Indiana Jones and part “MacGyver,” the laid-back television action hero.

The world traveler is always as eager to develop house churches in Cambodia and Laos or preside at baptisms in Russian prisons as he is to jump on and ride a Genghis Khan warhorse in Mongolia, even if that means falling off and breaking a few ribs.

Rabb, director of mission volunteers for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, fell ill during a trip to Cuba the week before the scheduled Haiti mission. He mostly stayed in bed the weekend through the late morning of Jan. 11 with a cold and a high temperature. But he never considered canceling the trip to Haiti.

His last words to his wife this morning before he leaves from his New York home for the airport are, “How do I look?” She replies, “You look good.” The Rev. Suzanne Field Rabb cannot tell if her husband hears her yell “Godspeed” before the cab pulls away.

Rabb catches a flight and arrives in Port-au-Prince in time for an evening dinner with five colleagues at the Hotel Montana.

The aid workers meet at the Hotel Montana to discuss ways The United Methodist Church and IMA World Health can cooperate to improve health care in Haiti, and in particular, strengthen United Methodist clinics in need of supplies and personnel. The dinner also is a much-anticipated reunion for Rabb and Chand, who have not seen each other since they worked together at the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in 2003.

Striding into the lobby of the Hotel Montana, the mountainous Rabb goes over to Chand, who is more than a foot shorter, and gives her a bear hug.

The six aid workers embrace and greet one another in the lobby of the luxury hotel. With its well-tended gardens surrounding the hotel’s signature century-old mahogany tree, this is a refuge on a hill where the distant bright lights of the city provide a sparkling view from the rooftop restaurant.

Just before 5 p.m., the laughter of good friends accompanies Rabb, Dixon, Varghese, Santos and Gulley as they walk along the white marble floor past the registration desk. Chand, a couple of steps behind, finishes sending a message on her Blackberry.

They never make it to the restaurant.

A few miles away in Petit-Goâve, Jean Arnwine, another church-related mission worker, fits glasses on the last of some 130 men, women and children being cared for at a United Methodist eye clinic. This is the second day of her



A CRUCIFIX stands amid the rubble of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the January 12 earthquake. In the Montana Hotel, six Christian relief workers were trapped. Here is their story. (UMNS Photo by Mike DuBose)

first volunteer mission trip to Haiti, and she is already making plans to return in 2011.

She had asked to join the volunteer team a year earlier, and there was no one Dr. Gary Fish of Texas Retina Associates wanted more than Arnwine to be with him in Haiti. She was an efficient, compassionate person with patients at home, and her grace under pressure was ideal for the chaos of a field clinic in Haiti.

Three seconds later, all of their lives—and the lives of hundreds of thousands of others—will be changed by a natural disaster that challenges the world to respond to the suffering of innocents. Finally, the stories of the estimated 230,000 people who died in the Haiti earthquake can be told amid the tears of the survivors who stay by their side.

Just before 5 p.m., Jan. 12, Port-au-Prince

“It’s an earthquake,” Gulley cries out, as the earth moves beneath his feet in the Hotel Montana.

Within seconds, the ceiling and the rest of the hotel come crashing down on Gulley and his five colleagues.

The floor gives way, and they plunge into darkness. The dust from the collapsing debris is so thick it is difficult to breathe.

Dixon says, “My legs are broken.” Then Rabb tells them, “My legs are broken, too.”

Chand, who had been a couple of steps behind, is hit on the head and thrown forward on her face, ending up alone on the other side of a wall of concrete.

“I may have some broken ribs, but I think I’m OK,” she calls out.

They have only a few sticks of gum and a Tootsie Pop for food. A bag with bottled water and energy bars that Chand had with her is crushed under the rubble dividing her from her colleagues.

Rabb and Dixon have serious injuries, and five of the six are sprawled on their sides in a 5-foot-by-8-foot cell, an unstable ceiling of concrete only three feet above them.

But they are all alive. The reception desk created a barrier that prevented them from being crushed. Cooler air filtering in from under the beam alleviates the initial fear they would not have enough oxygen.

Gulley powers up his laptop computer, hoping for another miracle. There is no outside connection.

And the wait begins.

Morning, Jan. 17, New York

Clara Jean Arnwine, Sam Dixon, Clinton Rabb. By Sunday, Jan. 17, all three are bound in death with an estimated 230,000 Haitians who perished in the earthquake.

The praise and thanksgiving from across the church for the safety of the mission workers in Haiti turns into a more somber period of reflection.

“Our grief is overwhelming,” says West Ohio Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Afternoon, Jan. 20, Dallas

Days of mourning follow, as one funeral and memorial service after another raise up the lives of those who died on missions of mercy.

In Dallas, 10 of the 11 surviving members of the medical mission team to Haiti wear carnations in honor of Jean Arnwine’s love of flowers at a service at Highland Park United Methodist Church.

More than 800 people pack the sanctuary, joining together to sing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” as the woman who could not wait to go to Haiti on a mission, who gathered more than 600 pairs of glasses for the poor there, is remembered as a symbol of love.

In Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 22, worshippers fill Edenton Street United Methodist church to celebrate the life of Dixon, the head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, who traveled the world serving others. Those paying tribute include the Mennonite Central Committee, the Vietnamese National Caucus and Methodist groups in Brazil, Bolivia, Latvia, Britain and Honduras.

“Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?” Dixon’s friend, the Rev. William Simpson, says in a eulogy referring to 2 Samuel 3:38.

(Continued on next page)

TRAPPED in the twisted ruins of the Montana Hotel, these five missionaries engage in a valiant struggle for life. Three died; two survived.



Sam Dixon



Clinton Rabb



Jean Arnwine



Sarla Chand



James Gulley

In the last of the funerals, on Jan. 23 in Austin, Texas, Bishop Juan Albert Cardona presents a plaque to Suzanne Rabb in honor of her husband, Clinton. The Methodist Church of Colombia, he says, pays homage to this man who loved all people.

“No one,” Cardona says, “has love as big as those who give their life for their friends.”

In a spirited part of the service, worshippers sing “Peace Like a River,” the song Dixon, Rabb and the others trapped in the Hotel Montana sang to give themselves peace.

More hands begin clapping with each verse until the congregation seems to become one in voice and movement as celebrants proclaim:

*“I got love like an ocean.
I got love like an ocean.
I got love like an ocean,
In my soul.”*

Morning, March 1, Port-au-Prince

Gulley stands amid the rubble of the Hotel Montana with the driver who dropped him off just before the earthquake.

Barely a month after his ordeal, the 64-year-old is back in Haiti, living out his commitment to stand with the people in this impoverished nation.

He says he cannot answer the question of Job, why some people such as Dixon and Rabb suffer and die, and others such as himself in a similar situation do not.

What he felt called to do was to attend the annual meeting of the Methodist Church of Haiti, to make a statement that he and The United Methodist Church are determined to walk together with the people of Haiti.

He is not alone.

Sarla Chand still cannot believe Dixon and Rabb died.

“Somehow, I don’t feel they’re gone from me. I feel they’re around me,” she says. “It’s a total mystery, what was God’s plan” in their deaths.

What is not a mystery is that she has a calling to make sure the work IMA World Health began with The United Methodist Church continues and is expanded.

“I am determined,” she says, to “not let this drop.”

In Dallas, Fish is among those committed to get the rural eye clinic in Petit-Goâve back up and running, perhaps with a new name such as The Jean Arnwine Memorial Eye Clinic.

“You bet,” Fish says from his office at Texas Retina Associates. “We have to rebuild that building.”

The enormity of the need is striking to Gulley during his time in Haiti. While at the late February church meeting, he and other leaders were trapped in a church when 28 inches of rain fell. He came face to face with the reality of Haitians displaced from their homes, now facing the rainy season in open fields where people sleep beneath pieces of plastic and cloth.

“It’s just mind-boggling to me,” Gulley says. “There’s no way that I can walk away from them and not do whatever I can do.”

The remains of the Hotel Montana are one of his last stops in Haiti. It is a bright, sunny morning March 1, the day before he goes back to the United States. For Gulley, it is “a solemn occasion, a solemn place.”

He learns how the hotel collapsed forward, burying him and his colleagues so far down that they could not hear the cries of his driver, Eric, or other Haitians roaming through the debris calling out names of loved ones.

Not for the first time, Gulley makes a connection with the biblical Lazarus. Like Lazarus, he says, he was entombed with no hope and brought back to life.

The memory of his late colleagues, Sam Dixon and Clinton Rabb, fills him with sadness.

What has not changed, Gulley says, is their calling from God through Christ.

“It’s not my mission. It’s not Clint’s mission. It’s not Sam’s mission. It’s God’s mission,” he says. “It’s going to take us as instruments of God’s power and presence to transform Haiti.”

Present day, Hawthorne, N.Y.

From her home in suburban Hawthorne, a 19th-century Dutch farmhouse she

shares with two dogs, a cat and a parakeet, Suzanne Rabb writes letters to her late husband, just like she would when he was away on a mission.

She also talks to Clinton Rabb throughout the day, telling him what is going on or that she misses him. She can experience her husband comforting her, understanding her sorrow.

Sometimes, this connection is “so painful, I can barely breathe. Sometimes, it gives me the great breath to get through the day ... as another holy day.”

What also gives her and her children strength this Lenten season is their commitment to honor Clinton Rabb. The room seemed almost to “catch on

fire,” Suzanne Rabb recalls, the day they decided to set up a charity in his name, where through passionate mission and service her husband’s ministry would live on.

Not only will they collect money, but she and her children have made vows to go on missions themselves.

What Suzanne Rabb tells her husband is the message of resurrection that she and others who endured the flames are taking to the people of Haiti.

“We are not finished yet, us together.”

The fire still burns.



The Rev. Suzanne Field Rabb (left) and Cindy Dixon share a moment following a memorial service for the Revs. Clinton Rabb and Samuel Dixon at The Riverside Church in New York.

(UMNS photo by John C. Goodwin)

The United Methodist Foundation of Greater New Jersey

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seeks to strengthen Church ministries,
create new disciples for Jesus Christ,
and supports the United Methodist connection
by preserving and growing
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through the creation and administration
of endowment funds.*



President: Paul Edwards

971-669-8521

email: pbedwards@hotmail.com

Secretary: David Mertz

609-497-2330

email: mertzcctrl@aol.com

SHARED MINISTRY FIRST QUARTER REPORT

As directed by a vote of GNJ Annual Conference in 2006, the **RELAY** publishes periodic reports on the payment status of our churches. In cooperation with the GNJ Council on Finance and Administration and the Office of the Treasurer, the United Methodist **RELAY** presents the 2010 Shared Ministry Report for the first quarter.

The first column of the report refers to the local church's 2010 Shared Ministry participation percentage. The second column represents the percentage

paid by the local church toward 2010 billings. Billings are a combination of expenses including the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) that provides clergy with a pension for their years in ministry with the United Methodist Church; the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) which provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits to eligible clergy of the United Methodist Church and their families; The Local Church Property and Liability insurance; the Annual

Conference Health Insurance plan and the Annual Conference Worker's Compensation Insurance. At this point the goal of each local church should be to have paid 25 percent.

The tithes and offerings of the United Methodists in each local church in Greater New Jersey link us to United Methodists in our conference, our jurisdiction, our nation and throughout the world. Together we are making a positive impact on people that live next to us and live far away from us in the

name of Jesus Christ.

The treasurer's office reports that at the end of the first quarter we are on a par with last year's exceptional year of giving. If you are not already doing so, we invite you to use the resources available to help your church meet the responsibilities and expectations of every church. Please contact the Conference Office at 1001 Wickapecko Dr. in Ocean, NJ 07712. Call toll free to 877-677-2594 or 732-359-1000.

CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2010 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2010 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2010 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2010 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2010 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2010 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2010 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2010 YTD BILLINGS % PD
GATEWAY SOUTH			BERGENFIELD: GOOD SHEPHERD	16.67%	25.00%	BELFORD	25.00%	9.29%	CALIFON	0.00%	0.00%
AUDUBON	25.00%	25.00%	BLOOMINGDALE	20.38%	25.00%	BELMAR: FIRST	16.67%	16.67%	CALIFON: FAIRMOUNT	0.00%	8.33%
BARRINGTON: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	CLIFTON: BELLE VISTA-SIMPSON	0.00%	0.00%	BRADLEY BEACH: FIRST	25.48%	25.00%	CHANGEWATER	16.64%	25.00%
BERLIN: CENTENARY	15.02%	25.00%	CONGERS	25.45%	25.00%	BRICK: ST PAUL'S	25.90%	25.00%	CLINTON	16.67%	25.00%
BLACKWOOD	24.96%	25.00%	CROSS KOREAN	0.00%	0.00%	BROOKVILLE UMC	0.00%	16.62%	CRANFORD	25.00%	25.00%
BROOKLAWN	11.24%	16.67%	DEMAREST	0.00%	25.00%	EATONTOWN: MONMOUTH GRACE	0.00%	25.00%	DUNELLEN	1.33%	0.00%
CAMDEN: ASBURY	0.00%	9.89%	DEMAREST:YOBEL KOREAN	8.33%	25.00%	FAIR HAVEN: CHRIST	24.96%	25.00%	EAST BRUNSWICK: ALDERSGATE	25.00%	25.00%
CAMDEN: BETHEL	7.62%	25.00%	DUMONT: CALVARY	7.26%	25.00%	FARMINGDALE: FIRST	8.33%	16.67%	EAST BRUNSWICK: CALVARY	0.00%	25.00%
CAMDEN: FAIRVIEW VILLAGE	8.33%	25.00%	EAST RUTHERFORD: CHRIST	25.57%	25.00%	FORKE RIVER: LACEY	16.62%	16.67%	EAST MILLSTONE	25.00%	25.00%
CAMDEN: FERRY AVENUE	N/A	16.67%	ENGLEWOOD: FIRST	8.33%	0.00%	FREEHOLD: FIRST	8.33%	25.00%	EDISON: WESLEY	0.00%	0.00%
CAMDEN: NEW BEGINNINGS	0.00%	0.00%	ENGLEWOOD: GALILEE	19.78%	19.02%	FREEHOLD: JERSEYVILLE	16.67%	25.00%	EDISON: NEW DOVER UMC	7.24%	19.07%
CAMDEN: PARKSIDE	8.33%	8.33%	ENGLEWOOD: KOREAN COMMUNITY	16.67%	25.00%	HAZLET: ST JOHN'S	25.00%	25.00%	EVERITTSTOWN	27.71%	25.00%
CHERRY HILL: FIRST KOREAN	25.00%	25.00%	FRANKLIN LAKES	6.48%	16.67%	HOWELL: CHURCH OF THE MASTER	25.71%	25.00%	FINESVILLE	25.00%	25.00%
CHERRY HILL: OLD ORCHARDS	0.87%	25.00%	GARNERVILLE	0.00%	0.00%	HOWELL:SQUANKUM	25.00%	25.00%	FLEMINGTON	15.36%	5.93%
CHERRY HILL: ST ANDREW'S	16.20%	25.00%	HACKENSACK	16.67%	25.00%	ISLAND HEIGHTS: FIRST	12.83%	25.00%	FRENCHTOWN	0.00%	0.00%
CLARKSBORO: EVANGELICAL	25.00%	25.00%	HALEDON: CEDAR CLIFF	1.66%	1.66%	JACKSON	3.33%	25.00%	GLADSTONE	25.00%	25.00%
CLARKSBORO: ZION	8.33%	25.00%	HASBROUCK HEIGHTS:FIRST	25.00%	16.67%	JACKSON: PLEASANT GROVE	25.00%	25.00%	HAMPTON:NORTH HUNTERDON	10.99%	20.58%
COLLINGSWOOD: EMBURY	25.00%	25.00%	HAVERSHAW: LA RESURRECCION	25.00%	0.00%	KEANSBURG: FIRST	7.22%	25.00%	HARMONY TWP: MONTANA	0.00%	16.67%
COLLINGSWOOD: FIRST	10.85%	25.00%	HAWTHORNE	0.00%	0.00%	KEYPORT: CALVARY	8.33%	7.28%	HIGH BRIDGE	13.21%	25.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: FRANCES CHILDS	0.00%	0.00%	HILLSDALE UMC	25.00%	25.00%	KEYPORT: EL MESIAS	0.00%	0.00%	HIGHLAND PARK: TRINITY	8.40%	8.33%
DELAIR: ST MATTHEW'S	0.00%	0.00%	LEONIA	0.00%	19.67%	LAKEHURST	16.67%	25.00%	HILLSBOROUGH: MOUNT ZION	25.00%	25.00%
DEPTFORD: ALMONESSON	16.62%	0.00%	LEONIA: BETHEL UMC OF N.J.	0.00%	0.00%	LAKEWOOD: CHRIST	0.00%	0.00%	KINGWOOD	0.00%	25.00%
DEPTFORD: MT ZION-WESLEY	55.92%	25.00%	LIDLAND PARK	8.33%	16.67%	LITTLE SILVER: EMBURY	25.00%	25.00%	LEBANON: ROUND VALLEY UMC	16.67%	16.67%
DEPTFORD:NEW SHARON	25.00%	12.20%	NEW CITY	1.54%	25.00%	LONG BRANCH: ASBURY	14.77%	16.34%	LEBANON:COKEBURY	0.00%	25.00%
GIBBSBORO	7.50%	25.00%	OMEGA KOREAN MISSION UMC	0.00%	0.00%	LONG BRANCH: ST LUKE'S	25.00%	25.00%	MANSFIELD TWP: ANDERSON	0.00%	25.00%
GIBBSTOWN: CLONMELL	8.33%	16.67%	PAMONA:LADENTOWN	7.22%	8.33%	MANAHAWKIN	8.33%	21.16%	MARTINSVILLE	0.00%	0.00%
GLENDORA: CHEVS	13.36%	25.00%	PARAMUS: ARCOLA KOREAN	8.29%	8.33%	MANASQUAN	6.73%	25.00%	METUCHEN: CENTENARY	16.67%	16.67%
GLOUCESTER: HIGHLAND PARK	25.00%	25.00%	PARAMUS:ARCOLA	18.17%	16.67%	MIDDLETOWN	11.02%	25.00%	MILLTOWN	25.01%	25.00%
GLOUCESTER: TRINITY	24.96%	25.00%	PARK RIDGE	7.65%	25.00%	MORGANVILLE	25.00%	25.00%	NESHANIC STATION: NESHANIC	25.00%	25.00%
HADDON HEIGHTS: FIRST	0.00%	25.00%	PASSAIC:FIRST	2.67%	7.77%	MORGANVILLE	25.00%	25.00%	NEW BRUNSWICK	0.00%	16.67%
HADDONFIELD	8.33%	25.00%	PATERSON TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	NEPTUNE CITY: MEMORIAL	8.33%	25.00%	NEW PROVIDENCE	25.00%	23.32%
HADDONFIELD:RHODS TEMPLE	24.96%	25.00%	PATERSON: CHRIST	8.47%	1.20%	NEPTUNE: HAMILTON	16.67%	16.67%	OLD BRIDGE: SIMPSON	25.00%	25.00%
LAWNSIDE: MT ZION	25.00%	25.00%	PATERSON: MADISON PARK-EPWORTH	16.67%	25.00%	NEPTUNE: WEST GROVE	12.50%	7.49%	OXFORD: COLONIAL	0.00%	0.00%
LINDENWOLD: LUCASTON	25.00%	25.00%	PATERSON: PATERSON AVENUE	0.00%	25.00%	OAKHURST: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	PATTENBURG	0.00%	0.00%
MAGNOLIA	25.00%	25.00%	PEARL RIVER	25.00%	25.00%	OCEAN GROVE: ST PAUL'S	25.00%	25.00%	PHILLIPSBURG: WESLEY	0.00%	17.38%
MANTUA	0.00%	25.00%	RIDGEFIELD PARK: FIRST	16.67%	16.67%	OCEANPORT	16.67%	16.67%	PISCATAWAY: CHRIST	25.00%	25.00%
MANTUA: BARNSBORO	25.00%	25.00%	RIDGEWOOD	0.00%	0.00%	PT PLEASANT: CENTRAL	1.11%	16.67%	PLAINFIELD:COVENANT	2.38%	0.00%
MANTUA: MOUNT ZION	25.60%	25.00%	RUTHERFORD	8.33%	13.28%	PT PLEASANT: HARVEY MEMORIAL	3.33%	25.00%	PORT MURRAY: MC CREA MEMORIAL	25.00%	25.00%
MERCHANTVILLE: TRINITY	16.67%	16.67%	SPRING VALLEY	5.65%	0.00%	RED BANK	33.33%	25.00%	QUAKERTOWN	0.00%	0.02%
MONROE TWP: NEW BROOKLYN	25.00%	25.00%	STONY POINT: FIRST	12.30%	8.33%	SEA BRIGHT: FIRST	16.67%	16.67%	SAYREVILLE	8.33%	8.33%
MT EPHRAIM: FIRST	16.67%	15.15%	STONY POINT: TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: WALL	25.00%	25.00%	SCOTCH PLAINS: FIRST	7.22%	25.00%
NATIONAL PARK: FIRST	12.65%	16.67%	SUFFERN	13.46%	25.00%	SPRING LAKE: ST ANDREW'S	0.00%	25.00%	SERGEANTSVILLE	25.00%	25.00%
OAKLYN: EMMANUEL	27.87%	25.00%	SUFFERN:VIOLA	3.09%	21.50%	TOMS RIVER: CEDAR GROVE	25.01%	25.00%	SOMERVILLE: FIRST	16.67%	25.00%
PAULSBORO: BILLINGSPOET	20.00%	25.00%	TENANECK	0.00%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: FIRST	24.96%	25.00%	SOUTH AMBOY: TRINITY	0.00%	16.67%
PAULSBORO: ST PAUL'S	4.17%	25.00%	TENAFLY	0.00%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST ANDREW'S	16.67%	19.20%	SOUTH PLAINFIELD: WESLEY	21.07%	25.00%
PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	16.67%	THIELS	8.33%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST MATTHEW'S	82.22%	25.00%	SOUTH RIVER: CONKLIN	25.00%	25.00%
PENNSAUKEN: EAST PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	16.67%	TOWTA	0.72%	25.00%	UNION BEACH: GRACE	1.71%	1.71%	SPOTSWOOD: TRINITY	0.00%	23.54%
PINE HILL: MEMORIAL	16.67%	14.36%	UPPER SADDLE RVR: BERGEN HIGHLANDS	5.43%	23.23%	WARETOWN	0.00%	25.00%	WARREN TWP: MOUNT HOREB	16.67%	25.00%
SICKLERVILLE	0.00%	25.00%	W. PATERSON: APPENZELER NAIRI	0.00%	0.00%	WARREN GROVE	100.00%	25.00%	WARREN TWP: SPRINGDALE	0.00%	25.00%
STRATFORD	25.00%	25.00%	WALDICK	6.61%	0.00%	WAYSIDE	25.00%	25.00%	WARREN TWP: UNION VILLAGE	16.67%	16.67%
SWEDESBORO: REPAUPO	24.96%	25.00%	WANAUKE: MIDVALE	0.00%	16.67%	WEST BELMAR	0.00%	24.99%	WASHINGTON	0.00%	25.00%
TURNERSVILLE: ST JOHN'S	14.95%	25.00%	WAYNE	0.00%	0.00%	WEST CREEK	25.00%	25.00%	WASHINGTON: PORT COLDEN	25.00%	17.08%
VERGA WELFARE	30.00%	25.00%	WAYNE: BETHANY	25.00%	25.00%	WEST FARMS	23.18%	25.00%	WEST PORTAL	37.56%	25.00%
VOORHEES: GLENDALE	0.00%	0.00%	WESTWOOD	17.40%	25.00%	WEST LONG BRANCH: OLD FIRST	17.26%	10.57%	WESTFIELD: FIRST	0.00%	25.00%
VOORHEES: HOPE	13.11%	25.00%	WESTWOOD: GRACE KOREAN	0.00%	0.00%	WHITING	25.00%	25.00%	WHITEHOUSE	25.00%	25.00%
WENONAH	25.00%	25.00%	WYCKOFF: GRACE	25.00%	25.00%						
WEST BERLIN: ST JOHN'S	16.67%	16.67%				CAPITAL DISTRICT			CAPE ATLANTIC		
WEST BERLIN: WESLEY	25.00%	25.00%	GATEWAY NORTH			ALLEN TOWN	30.00%	25.00%	ABSECON	8.33%	8.33%
WEST DEPTFORD: ST PAUL'S	24.96%	25.00%	BAYONNE: BERGEN POINT	15.03%	N/A	ATCON	25.00%	25.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: ASBURY	0.00%	0.00%
WESTMONT	25.00%	25.00%	BAYONNE: WESLEY	24.96%	25.00%	BEVERLY	0.00%	8.33%	ATLANTIC CITY: HAMILTON MEMRL	26.79%	25.00%
WESTVILLE	7.25%	14.96%	BELLEVILLE: WESLEY	0.00%	0.00%	BORDENTOWN: TRINITY	0.00%	16.67%	ATLANTIC CITY: VENICE PARK	16.67%	25.00%
WILLIAMSTOWN	25.00%	25.00%	BLOOMFIELD: PARK	0.00%	25.00%	BROWNS MILLS	24.96%	25.00%	AVALON: FIRST	16.67%	25.00%
WILLIAMSTOWN: CROSS KEYS	42.24%	25.00%	CALDWELL	25.00%	23.29%	BUDDTOWN	25.00%	25.00%	BELLEPLAIN	26.79%	25.00%
WOODBURY: COLONIAL MANOR	25.00%	25.00%	CHATHAM	25.00%	25.00%	BURLINGTON: BROAD ST	25.00%	25.00%	BLUE ANCHOR: GRACE UNION	8.33%	16.67%
WOODBURY: KEMBLE MEMORIAL	7.53%	25.00%	E. ORANGE: CALVARY-ROSEVILLE	8.33%	13.46%	BURLINGTON: ST MARY STREET	16.67%	21.58%	CAPE MAY	25.00%	25.00%
WOODYLYNE: ASBURY	25.00%	25.00%	E. ORANGE: PARK AVE -ST JOHN'S	24.96%	25.00%	CHATSWORTH	25.00%	25.00%	CAPE MAY CT HOUSE: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
			ELIZABETH: EPWORTH	25.00%	25.00%	CINNAMINSON: ASBURY	25.00%	25.00%	CONOVERTOWN	8.14%	25.00%
			FAIRFIELD	41.58%	25.00%	COLUMBUS: WESLEY	25.00%	25.00%	DELMONT	25.00%	25.00%
SKYLANDS			GREEN VILLAGE	8.33%	25.00%	COOKSTOWN	16.62%	16.67%	DENNISVILLE	25.00%	25.00%
ANDOVER	24.96%	25.00%	HARRISON:DAVIS MEMORIAL	0.00%	0.00%	CRANBURY	25.00%	25.00%	DIAS CREEK	16.67%	16.67%
AUGUSTA: FRANKFORD PLAINS	16.62%	16.67%	HOBOKEN: COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	CROSSWICKS	3.17%	8.33%	DORCHESTER	24.96%	25.00%
BARRYVILLE	16.67%	25.00%	IRVINGTON	0.00%	0.00%	DELANCO: DOBBINS MEMORIAL	16.67%	25.00%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ASBURY	24.96%	25.00%
BELVIDERE	0.00%	13.60%	IRVINGTON: HAITIAN	14.86%	0.00%	DELRA: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ZION	25.01%	25.00%
BLAIRSTOWN: FIRST	5.01%	25.00%	JERSEY CITY: BETHANY-BROWNE MEMORIAL	16.62%	6.40%	ELLISDALE	25.00%	25.00%	ELDORA	24.33%	25.00%
BLAIRSTOWN:WALNUT VALLEY	0.00%	7.91%	JERSEY CITY: CHRIST	25.00%	25.00%	EMLEY'S HILL	0.00%	0.00%	ELM	0.00%	0.00%
BOONTON	33.88%	25.00%	JERSEY CITY: CHURCH OF COVENANT	24.96%	25.00%	EWING TWP: TRINITY	25.00%	16.67%	ELWOOD: ELWOOD GASKILL	25.00%	25.00%
BOONTON TWP: ROCKAWAY VALLEY	0.00%	8.33%	JERSEY CITY: CLAIR MEMORIAL	0.00%	0.00%	FIELDSBORO	0.00%	0.00%	GOSHEN	0.00%	0.00%
BRANCHVILLE	16.68%	25.00%	JERSEY CITY: FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN	0.00%	0.00%	FLORENCE	0.00%	0.00%	GREEN CREEK: BETHEL	25.00%	25.00%
BUTLER	0.00%	8.33%	JERSEY CITY: LAFAYETTE	0.00%	8.33%	FREEHOLD: SILOAM	0.00%	25.00%	HALEYVILLE	25.00%	25.00%
BUTZVILLE	25.00%	25.00%	JERSEY CITY: TRINITY	8.29%	8.33%	HAMILTON SQ: ST MARK	5.01%	25.00%	HAMMONTON: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
DENVILLE COMMUNITY	25.00%	25.00%	KEARNY: CALVARY	25.00%	25.00%	HAMILTON TWP: CHAMBERS	8.33%	8.33%	HAMMONTON: PINELANDS	25.00%	25.00%
DINGMANS FERRY	0.00%	8.33%	KEARNY: FIRST	16.62%	16.67%	HAMILTON TWP: GROVEVILLE</					

SHARED MINISTRY

(Continued from Page 10)

CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2010 YTD	MAR. 2010 YTD		
	SHARED MIN % PD	BILLINGS % PD		
BRIDGETON: JOHN WESLEY	16.67%	16.67%	MILLVILLE: TRINITY	0.00%
BRIDGETON: TRINITY	25.00%	25.00%	MILLVILLE: WEST SIDE	0.00%
BRIDGETON: WEST PARK	16.26%	25.00%	MINOTOLA	0.00%
BRIDGETON: WOODRUFF	25.00%	25.00%	MONROEVILLE	0.00%
CANTON	25.00%	25.00%	MONROEVILLE: AURA	2.41%
CARNEY'S POINT: FIRST	16.67%	25.00%	MONROEVILLE: FERRELL	25.00%
CEDARVILLE	0.00%	25.00%	MONROEVILLE: FRIENDSHIP	30.00%
CLAYTON: TRINITY	3.61%	8.33%	MULLICA HILL: TRINITY	16.62%
DEEPWATER: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	NEWFIELD	25.28%
DEERFIELD	24.51%	25.00%	NEWFIELD: PINEY HOLLOW	16.62%
DIVIDING CREEK: ZION	25.00%	19.45%	NEWPORT	25.00%
ELMER	28.80%	25.00%	PEDRICKTOWN: HUDSON	4.43%
EWAN	25.00%	20.42%	PENNS GROVE: EMMANUEL	25.00%
FAIRTON	8.14%	25.00%	PENNS GROVE: ST PAUL'S	25.00%
FRANKLINVILLE	13.60%	16.67%	PENNSVILLE: TRINITY	25.00%
FRANKLINVILLE: PLAINVILLE	25.00%	25.00%	PIESGROVE: SHARPTOWN	24.97%
GLASSBORO: FIRST	3.98%	25.00%	PITMAN	25.00%
HAINES NECK	16.67%	16.67%	PITTSBORO: OLIVET	25.00%
HANCOCK'S BRIDGE	25.00%	25.00%	PITTSBORO: UNION GROVE	19.45%
HARRISONVILLE: ST JOHN'S	24.96%	25.00%	PITTSBORO: WILLOW GROVE	16.67%
MALAGA	25.00%	25.00%	PORCHTOWN ZION	8.33%
MILLVILLE: CENTRE GROVE	0.00%	0.00%	QUINTON	25.00%
MILLVILLE: FIRST	16.67%	16.67%	QUINTON: HAVEN	24.96%
MILLVILLE: FOURTH	16.67%	25.00%	RICHWOOD	25.00%
MILLVILLE: MT PLEASANT	25.00%	25.00%	ROSENHAYN	16.67%
MILLVILLE: NEWCOMBTOWN	16.67%	16.86%	SALEM: BROADWAY	25.00%
MILLVILLE: SECOND	25.00%	25.00%	SALEM: FIRST	8.98%
			SALEM: MT HOPE	24.96%
			SEWELL: HURFFVILLE BETHEL	25.00%
			SWEDESBO: BETHESDA	25.00%
			SWEDESBO: CENTRE SQUARE UNION	24.91%
			VINELAND: FIRST	24.96%
			VINELAND: SOUTH VINELAND	0.00%
			WILLIAMSTOWN: DOWNER	25.00%
			WOODSTOWN: ASBURY	25.00%

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

Existing for Non-Members

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



"The church is the only society in the world that exists for its nonmembers."

Those words, spoken in the 1900s by William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, pose an awesome challenge to any congregation or denomination that considers its core purpose to be evangelization, sharing the gospel of Christ with the world. It is difficult to exist essentially for others, placing self-preservation and the attainment of comfort and esteem last among one's reasons for being. Jesus Christ lived and died for others; but his example is hard to follow.

Somewhere along the way, many churches forget about existing for nonmembers and begin focusing their activities, concerns, and ministries inward. Pastors begin functioning as chaplains or caretakers of self-contained congregations. Members want more and more of their pastors' attention focused among the pews and less in the parish. Eventually, such congregations often lose their way. They cease to bear fruit and begin to wither on the vine.

Can you imagine what the church would look like if it existed for its nonmembers? Can you imagine that instead of wanting your needs satisfied, you are driven by the desire to serve the needs of others? And what would happen if not only you but the entire church believed that way, lived that way, served Christ in that way? How would you look upon a visitor to the church, if your whole focus of ministry were geared to non-members? How would you view the church's programs, property and finances?

As followers of Christ, we have the most precious gift ever given to human beings: the gift of fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. And it is a gift meant not to be kept, but to be given away to others.

A church that exists for its non-members has a wide focus to its ministry that includes the unchurched people in its community. It includes visitors to its worship services, Sunday School classes, and community events, and the parents whose children attend the church's preschool but who don't attend worship themselves. It includes those whom members come to know through outreach to the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, and the lonely. Members of such a church view almost every ministry within the church as part of its outward mission. The choir, the musicians, the Christian educators, even the ushers feel compelled to take their respective ministries out from the sanctuary into the community.

Can your church exist for its non-members?

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, Roebling
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

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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 #2	RESOURCE #3	RESOURCE #4
CAPE ATLANTIC		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		October 13 Rev. Joe Daniels: "Beggining for Real Church" Time: TBA At: Ewing, Trinity UMC	Fall 2010 Stephanie Moore Hand: Rethink Ministry with Youth & Young Adults Time: TBA At: 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: Leadership Clergy: 8:45am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Pitman UMC
GATEWAY NORTH	May 6 Kelly Sisney: Holy 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	May 3 Rev. Roy Oswald Managing Polarities in Congregations Clergy: 10:30am-2:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: TBA	June 7 Dr. John Holbert: "That Old Loudmouth from Uz: Preaching the Book of Job" clergy "Will the Real God Please Stand Up" laity Clergy: 12:30pm-4:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-8:30pm At: Stratford UMC	September 24 Rev. Bill Easum: "The Nine Steps of Unleashing Your Church" Clergy: 10:30am-2:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Hope UMC, Voorhees
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: Hamilton UMC, Neptune	November 4 & 5 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy & Laity: 9:00am-2:00pm At: Hamilton UMC, Neptune
PALISADES	May 7 Kelly Sisney: Holy Humor in Ministry Time: 8:30am-1:00pm Clergy & Laity: 6:30pm-9:30pm Dinner and 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 At: TBA
SKYLANDS		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

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Three bedroom house located at 3 Old Haverstraw Road, Congers, New York 10920.
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Girls Find Grace in Makeover Ministry

"You are fearfully and wonderfully made."

This was the message participants heard again and again during the Extreme Makeover Girls Weekend hosted at Pinelands Center at Mount Misery recently.

The weekend, Extreme Makeover 139, led by Margaret Keefer of Grace Again Ministries, focused on transforming the girls' lives from the inside out, focusing on Jesus' love for each.

Ms. Keefer led worship and workshops, all centered on Psalm 139. Through small group activities and larger group sessions Margaret led the girls through self-reflection that would help them transform and grow, no matter at what point of their faith journey they were.

Friday night the girls gathered in small groups and created masks. Using images and words from magazines, half of the mask represented how the world portrays females, while the other half reflected how the girls saw themselves. Some words used to describe the world's image were "sexy, hot and pretty," whereas on the other side, "natural, smart, pretty and fun" were some of the words used.

The girls focused on how easy it is to become distracted from the plans God has for each of us. Small groups of girls wrote all their distractions on a balloon. During worship later that afternoon, one girl from each group popped the balloon, in a conscious decision to be aware of these distractions



and to stay on God's path.

A highlight of the weekend was a Saturday afternoon fashion show, which taught the girls how to dress stylishly and trendy without being inappropriate. Some of the tips focused around the length of skirts, the tightness of clothes and showing too much skin.

"It's possible to dress trendy with-

out spending a lot of money, purchasing many of the outfits that were modeled at clearance prices," Ms. Keefer emphasized.

In the closing worship, each girl was given a choice between a fake pearl necklace, given to them earlier, or a real pearl claimed as they would leave their counterfeit at the cross. Jesus

died for each of us, so that we could have something more, something that was real, Ms. Keefer explained. The fake pearls, she said, represent the things from the world they were giving up, a reminder, she said, of the decision each girl had made to follow Jesus.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

In the late 1890's Blondin was the most famous of all tightrope walkers. His greatest feat was walking across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. Ten thousand people gathered to watch. First he crossed from the Canadian side of the Falls to the American side. Everyone in the crowd was chanting, "Blondin! Blondin! Blondin!" as he stepped off the tightrope onto the solid ground.

Blondin cried out to the crowd, "Do you believe in me?" "We believe in you!" the crowd cheered. "Since you believe in me I will now go back across the tightrope and return to the Canadian side of the Falls. Only this time I will carry someone on my shoulders. Do you believe I can do it?" In a frenzy of excitement the crowd responded, "We believe! We believe!" "Then who will go with me?" Blondin asked. The crowd immediately fell silent. After a long uncomfortable pause one man stepped forward out of the ten thousand. "I'll go with you," the man said as he climbed on the back of Blondin's shoulders. For the next three and half hours Blondin, with the man perched on his shoulders, inched his way back to the Canadian side of the Falls.

Ten thousand stated that they believed, but only one really believed. Believing is not just giving verbal assent to a propositional statement. **Believing is giving one's life without reservation into the hands of the One in whom we believe.** When we say we believe in God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit; when we say "we believe in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" we need to act upon those beliefs with our whole being and give our time, talent, and treasure to that work. Our discipleship and our stewardship are inseparable.



Belford Treasurer Honored for 30 Years' Service



BELFORD – It was a "complete surprise" for Ray Wolchak, treasurer of the Belford Church, when he was honored recently with a retirement luncheon after 30 years of faithful service to the church. "I didn't know how they kept it a secret, because I usually know everything happening in the church," quipped the treasurer. Pictured here with Mr. Wolchak, second from left, are (l. to r.) Administrative Board Chair Joan Myers, Florence Wolchak and Pastor Matthew Linden.

TRANSITIONS OBITUARIES

ALBERT KEYES LAYTON, 79, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference died April 12, 2010 in Oil Springs, Kentucky. Funeral services followed on April 16 at the Old Springs United Methodist Church.

A child of a Methodist parsonage, whose father was a pastor and district superintendent in the Southern New Jersey Conference, Mr. Layton responded to the call to ministry in 1957, serving student appointments first at Bayville and then at Adelphia. Subsequent appointments included several Camden charges: Broadway, where he was associate pastor, Union-Kaighn and Centenary-Tabernacle.

In 1968 he moved to St. Paul's Church, Paulsboro, and four years later went to Clarksboro, then to First and Second churches, Gloucester (1974) and Berlin (1977). In 1980 he was appointed dean of students at Union College, Barbourville, Ky.

Mr. Layton completed his pastoral ministry, returning to New Jersey where he served Broadway Church, Salem, until his retirement in 1987.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Layton, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his widow, Patricia Layton, P.O. Box 171, Oil Springs, Kentucky 41238-0171.

CLAIRE MABEL TURK, wife of the Rev. Harold F. Turk, retired elder of the GNJ Conference, died, April 20, 2010.

The funeral service was held April 24 at Evangelical United Methodist Church, Clarksboro.

Memorial donations may be made to ProMusic Conservatory, P.O. Box 7342, Wilson, NC 27895 or to the Memorial Fund of Evangelical United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 238, Clarksboro, NJ 08020.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to ev. Harold Turk, P.O. Box 377, Richwood, NJ 08074-0377.

JANET WADAS, wife of the Rev. Thomas A. Wadas, elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on April 11, 2010. The funeral service was held April 16 at the Vincentown United Methodist Church, in Vincentown.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Thomas Wadas, 220 Ridge Road, Southampton, New Jersey 08088.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth. "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 14:13 RSV

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SUNDAY SERVICES

June 13-10:30am-Rev. Duffy Robbins, Professor of Youth Ministry,
Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

7:30pm- Mark Cable "Family Trust" concert program

June 20-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dr. Ron Smith, President, Wesley
Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi

June 27-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. John Guest, Senior Pastor,
The Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley, PA

July 04-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rebecca Manley Pippert,
Salt Shaker Ministries, Louisville, KY

July 11-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Tom Harrison, Senior Pastor,
Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

7:30pm 56th ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Directed by Dr. Jason Tramm

July 18-10:30am & 7:30am- Lee Stroble, Award-winning journalist
and best selling author of "The Case of Christ"

July 25-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dave Dravecky, Former Major League
Baseball player and Christian motivational speaker.

141st ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

Special Service- Fri. July 30- 8:00pm Rev. Charles Stanley, Senior
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Founder and President
of In Touch Ministries, Atlanta, GA

Aug. 01-10:30am- Rev. Charles Stanley, Senior Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Atlanta, Founder and President of
In Touch Ministries, Atlanta, GA

7:30pm- Dr. David Olshine, Director of the Youth Ministry,
Columbia International University, Columbia, SC

Aug. 08-10:30am & 7:30pm- Bishop Pete Weaver, Bishop, New
England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Aug. 15-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor
Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

Aug. 22-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dr. Haddon Robinson, past President
of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is the Harold
John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching

Aug. 29-10:30am-Rev. Dr. Cleophus J. LaRue, the Francis Landey
Patton Associate Professor of Homiletics at Princeton
Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ

7:30pm SACRED MASTERWORK CONCERT

Sept. 05-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dr. Mitch Glaser, President, Chosen
People Ministries, New York City, NY

Sept. 12- Commissioner Philip Needham, Territorial Commander,
Southern Territory, Salvation Army

BIBLE HOUR

9:00-10:00am Monday through Saturday

Bishop Janes Tabernacle

June 21-26- Dr. Ron Smith, President, Wesley
Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi

June 28- July 3- Rev. David deForest, Pastor, The Reformed Church
of Tinton Falls, NJ

July 5-10- Rev. Paul Lawler, Senior Pastor, Christ Church,
Birmingham, AL

July 12-17- Rev. David Harrington, Pastor, Good Hope Baptist
Church, Asbury Park, NJ

July 19-24- Pastor Lloyd Pulley, Senior Pastor, Calvary
Chapel, Old Bridge, NJ

July 26-31-Pastor Gayle Erwin, Founder of Servant Quarters,
Cathedral City, CA

141st ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

Aug. 2-6- Dr. David Olshine, Director of the Youth Ministry,
Columbia International University, Columbia, SC

Aug. 7- Dr. David Schroeder, President, Somerset Christian
College, Zarephath, NJ

Aug. 2- Evening Sessions: 8/2&3-Rev. Dennis Blackwell,
8/4- Rev. David Olshine, 8/5& 6-Pastor Tommy Miles

Aug. 9-13- Bishop Pete Weaver, Bishop, New England Conference
of the United Methodist Church.

Aug. 14- Rev. Scott Hoffman, Chief Administrative Officer, OGCMA

Aug. 16-21-Rev. Ellsworth Kalas, Senior Professor of Homiletics
Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY

Aug. 23-28- Dr. James Fleming, Director, Biblical Resources Center,
Advisor of Biblical Ministries, UMC, LaGrange, GA

Aug. 30-Sept. 4- Rev. Roger Casey, Senior Pastor, Rock Church,
New York City

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



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vision, skill development and inspiration. Experience this
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Shalom Week: Theology and Practice of Shalom

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Biblical Resources Seminar: "The Good Shepherd Lecture Series"

Mon. Aug. 23 to Fri. Aug. 27, 10:30 am -12:30pm. Grove Hall
Led by Dr. James Fleming. Seminar fee \$125. Continental Breakfast

Christian Shows in The Great Auditorium

July 23- Bridgefest Concert Event www.bridgefest.org

July 31- Amy Grant & Sara Groves

Aug. 21- Newsboys

Sept. 26-The Bishop's Annual Songfest

BEACH FESTIVAL

July 24- Bridgefest w/ Bridge FM www.bridgefest.org

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

Tuesday Evening Bible Study on the South End Beach

July- 7pm with Rev. David Cotton, Chaplain, Jersey

Shore Medical Center, Neptune, NJ

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS

CALL OGCMA At 732 775-0035

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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.

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

May 22 — Safe Sanctuaries Workshop

OCEAN — The Conference Office at 1001 Wickapecko Dr. will be the site of this workshop for pastors, workers with children and youth, trustees, church council representatives and PPRC members. Download registration form from the conference website and return to Ginny Kaiser, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean NJ 07712. Deadline, May 17.

May 23 — Aldersgate Celebration

EAST BRUNSWICK — Aldersgate Church, named for a turning point in Methodist history, will host this event sponsored by the Conference Commission on Archives and History and celebrating the pivotal moment when John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed, the moment that empowered the Methodist Movement. (See story, page 5)

June 3 - 5 — Annual Conference

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. — Elected lay members, pastors, and other clergy under appointment will gather at the Valley Forge Convention Center for this annual three-day ritual of prayer, praise, preaching, planning and palaver that has been going on ever since the first conference in Baltimore in 1784.

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.

October 14 - 25 — Adult Taize Pilgrimage

GNJAC — This second adult journey to the Taize retreat center in France will offer 30-somethings and older a glimpse of the spiritual nurture conference youth have been experiencing for several years.

Annual Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Hymnal.

The Texas scholar is also a musician. He has extensive vocal solo experience, having sung in musicals, opera, and oratorio.

Dr. Holbert and his wife, Diana, an ordained UM minister now serving as senior pastor of Grace Church, Dallas, have two children: a married son, Darius, and a daughter, Sarah.

Darius, perhaps inheriting his father's gifts for music, has sung with the Texas Boys' Choir, and is now a studio musician in Los Angeles, writing for film and TV. He and his father have written an opera based on the book of Job, entitled "Job's Truth."

The conference will get underway following registration, with the Tribute Service and Holy Communion. The opening day business will include the separate clergy and laity sessions, and a plenary session where the conference will transact the mandated corporate business. If the powers that be can keep the conference on schedule, a series of awards will be presented by mid afternoon. Then follows Ms. Hand's first message.

Thursday night is the bishop's night, with the Episcopal address followed by the celebration of appointments.

On Friday, following breakfast and Bible study with Dr. Holbert, and Ms. Hand's second address, the business of the conference will unfold, focusing on ministry, with the report of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Board of Ordained Ministry. The plenary session Friday afternoon will conclude with the District Superintendents' Report. Friday night is reserved for the Ordination Service.

The frequent and sharp debates which once characterized the annual conference sessions, have in recent years given way to calm and reasoned consideration of issues as the

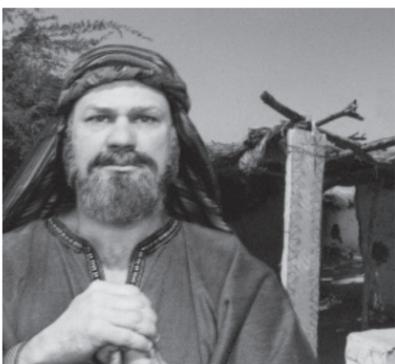
Wesleyan concept of "holy conferencing" has gained the ascendancy. A number of important issues will nevertheless come up for discussion and/or action. Among them:

- A report on the "Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities," dealing with two of the four foci of ministry adopted by the General Conference, leadership development and new church starts.
- A report on the Study Structure Task Force recommendations authorized by last year's annual conference.
- Proposals to add two new at-large members to the Primary Task Team, and to empower the newly created executive committee of the PTT to act for the conference between sessions.
- An equitable salary proposal that would set the minimum salary for elders in full connection at \$35,544, an increase of \$697 over last year.
- A resolution from a lay member that, if passed, would require submission of an "alternative balanced budget" along side whatever proposed budget CF&A might submit.
- A recommendation that all clergy regardless of status or appointment be afforded the same benefits.
- A motion to create a "multicultural center" in Atlantic City by buying one of the financially beleaguered casinos in that city.
- A new apportionment plan to determine the 2011 shared ministry obligations of each church that will not include membership or attendance in the formula.

When conference members head home for another year of ministry they will have much to mull over as they weigh the variables and constants of ministry in the GNJ Conference.

The business of the conference will conclude on Saturday, aiming at an adjournment by 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAYS OR REVIVAL!



Joseph - the Husband of Mary



Judas - the Betrayer



Peter - the Big Fisherman

I have been privileged to hear Lee Weaver preach and see his Biblical dramas. Audiences are captivated by his presentations... I am happy to recommend him.

—UMC Bishop Richard C. Looney, President, The Foundation for Evangelism

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—Dr. Charles Adams, Superintendent, President and CEO, Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Give Lee a call; you won't be disappointed. The minute he walks into a room you instantly feel a sense of excitement and anticipation. His portrayal of Judas was truly exciting. It generated a fabulous question and answer period that was the most interesting, challenging and thought provoking discussion of the life of Judas that I've ever experienced. Inspiring... Biblically correct... spirit-filled.

—Jim Rush, Former District Superintendent, Former Superintendent of Epworth By The Sea St. Simons Island, Georgia

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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.

Sending a kid to camp?



For generations young people have been going to camp at the Aldersgate Center and the Pinelands Center at Mt Misery. For generations they have been learning more about themselves and their walk with God in an environment unlike any other. They have built memories and commitments that last a lifetime.

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