

Annual Conference Meets at Valley Forge, June 3-5



Praise, prayer and policy in roughly equivalent proportions are the order of the day when United Methodists meet at the Valley Forge Convention Center, June 3-5, for the annual session of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

This view of the conference taken at the 2009 session conveys something of the flavor of the event.

Leading off on Thursday with the Tribute Service and Communion in the morning and the Bishop's episcopal address at night, the conference will include reports on ministries past and resolutions paving the way for the future.

Highlights of the three-day event will be services of ordination and commissioning of ministerial candidates, and addresses by two visiting speakers, Stephanie Hand, and John Holbert.

The Rev. Stephanie Hand, the conference preacher is scheduled to bring three addresses, while the Rev. John Holbert will lead two breakfast Bible studies.

Approximately 1,200 clergy and lay members of the conference, along with several hundred visitors are expected.

(Photo by John C. Goodwin)

Greater Newark Region Endeavor Gains Momentum

NEWARK — On a warm spring evening, April 28, representatives of 23 Gateway North District churches met at Franklin - St. John's Church bent on continuing the momentum for revitalized ministry in and around the city of Newark.

Pastors and laity from the churches joined Bishops Sudarshana Devadhar and Felton May, Mrs. Phyllis May; Conference Lay Leader Ressie Fuller; District Superintendent Bob Costello; Rev. Doug Ruffle of the conference staff, and Host Pastor Lloyd Preston Terrell. Also present was the Rev. Tanya Bennett, chaplain of Drew University, accompanied by Jazzmine and Jayda, two young women from Drew.

The meeting included worship, words from the two bishops, Mr. Costello, and the Drew guests.

Pastor Reggie Bynum of Park Avenue - St. John's Church, East Orange, opened with a message from Nehemiah 2:17, "Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.'" (NIV)

He asked those gathered if they had been tried by the fire. "There are lots of trials for our urban churches," he said, encouraging the churches to work together for the common witness of Jesus Christ in the urban area.

District Superintendent Costello welcomed those gathered and thanked them for their presence.

"We need to find new ways to be in ministry to the community, ... new ways to work together," he said. Reminding his hearers of Bishop May's question when they met initially in December, 2009, he asked "Is there hope for our churches?" The answers we have been receiving over the last several months are a resounding "yes!", he noted.

Bishop May spoke of a recent trip to Zimbabwe where he gave a eulogy for recently deceased Bishop Abel Muzorewa, first African Bishop of The United Methodist Church and the first

Prime Minister in Zimbabwe. Bishop May had likened Muzorewa to David versus Goliath, small of stature but "one who stood against the principalities of powers of his day."

"Where are the giants in this land today? Are you willing to slay them?" he asked. "We have used lots of programs. But there is a stone in our bag we need to use: a stone called 'Jesus.'" "Let's take Jesus out of the bag," the bishop continued. "Let's set Jesus free into this community."

"There is nothing we cannot do in this city to make sure there is plenty for all," said Bishop May, "to set people free of addictions. We can start by

(Continued on page 4)

GNJ Churches Go into Action to Change the World

Responding to a challenge to "Change the World," United Methodists around the globe enlisted for an April weekend of world-changing endeavors as part of the denomination's Rethink Church Initiative.

United Methodist News Service reports that more than 1,000 congregations from the United States to Zimbabwe went into their communities April 24 and 25 to do ministry and improve lives. From cleaning up parks to sharing meals with the homeless, thousands of United Methodists around the globe worked to make a difference on Change the World Weekend.

Among the churches involved in the weekend of service were many Greater New Jersey congregations. Here in alphabetical order is a summary of what some of them were doing in the name of Jesus Christ to change the world.

Malaria, Nets and Hospitality

ABSECON — Dealing with malaria became a focus of the Absecon Church in its Change the World observance. "We changed the world that day by donating part of the love offering to purchase malaria nets," the church reports.

Occasion for the donation was an afternoon tea with guest speaker Lisa Whitaker of the ecumenical Youth with a Mission. The guests tasted delectable

tea sandwiches, and desserts "led us away to lands across the sea as she explained how 'Hospital-i-tea' traditions were bestowed on her in her travels. ... While the fellowship was wonderful, the opportunity to hear and see how others across the globe welcome guests warmed our hearts. Hebrews 13:2 reminds us to always entertain strangers, and some that attended that day started out as strangers and left as friends."

Ministering to a Homeless Encampment

BAYHEAD — On Sunday, April 25, the people of St. Paul's Church here skipped church — sort of. After a brief praise service in a dry, comfortable

(Continued on page 8)



HEALTH KITS assembled by members of Vincent Church, Nutley, are placed before the altar on Change the World Sunday, April 25. The effort was part of a three-point outreach that included working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Newark and a mission team to Redbird Mission in Kentucky.

OUT OF MY HEAD

Museum Builders Are we on the Right Track?

by Jack Shaw



When my family gets together on holidays, after the meals and usual pleasantries involving everyone, the men in the family adjourn to a competitive round of board games.

Our favorite is a bookshelf game from many years ago called *Rail Barons*. The board is laid out with all the famous railroads in the United States and the object is to move back and forth across the country buying and selling railroads earning money from trips.

Each time I play the game I am reminded of that golden age of railroading when railroad owners were among the richest, most prominent and influential people in the country. That leads to a reflection on what happened to that dominant industry. Most historians would observe correctly that the rail barons forgot what business they were in. They thought they were in the railroad business when they were really in the transportation business. Eventually, other forms of transportation surpassed and supplanted railroading, leaving it a shell of what it was once. Around our nation you can find some grand old train stations. Some of them may be servicing trains still, but many are just museums, a stately reflection on what was but is no more.

One wonders whether, as a church, we have lost sight of what business we're in. That is, we're not in the "church" business, we're in the business of being the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we are and wherever there are people who need him... which is...last time I checked... everywhere.

Coming from a communication background, there is another interesting example which comes to mind. In the early days of the home video market, Sony Corporation had developed Betamax and JVC (Panasonic) was developing VHS technologies. Both were far enough along that they elected not to cooperate on a uniform format. Sony knew that Betamax was a superior technology and so held it tightly in their small network of authorized dealers. JVC elected to make VHS available to any who wanted it. They also recognized that people cared more about length of recording and compatibility than "quality." The result was that they overwhelmed the marketplace with VHS dealers and demand and consumer friendly pricing. They made such a point of meeting people where they were that the 'superior' technology of Betamax was driven from the consumer market, essentially rendering it irrelevant.

Do we tend to cling to a sense of religious or denominational superiority? Are we so convinced that our way of doing things is so clearly superior that our "consumers" will eventually find their way to us? Have we consequently allowed ourselves to be overwhelmed in the marketplace of seekers that we are becoming irrelevant? Fruitful congregations are growing all over this country. What are their characteristics?

In this issue of the *Relay* are a number of short stories about efforts made by our friends and neighbors as part of the *Change the World* weekend in April. These stories are about folks who looked outside the traditional confines of their institutions to find ways to help others. If you have a question about what being a disciple is or making disciples is, you might check out and share some of the ideas in those articles. We can take their ideas, or better yet, take a look at our own communities and come up with our own ideas to *Change the World*...or ... we can enjoy our stately, superior, but essentially irrelevant museums.

A Message from the Bishop

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

A study Bible that I enjoy and cherish immensely is the Wesley Study Bible, NRSV. As a United Methodist, I appreciate the historical and theological connections that Biblical scholars have made to the studies in this Bible.

The Wesleyan core term "Christian conferencing," is described in the footnotes of Galatians 2 of this study Bible: "To confer with Christian sisters and brothers can be a means of grace. Together we can study the Scriptures, discuss how best to apply them to our lives, and then hold one another accountable for living faithfully. In this way God can work through the body of Christ. For individuals, this happens best in small groups as we process the decisions we face daily. Such conferencing offers some of the best opportunities for growth in faith and action. On a broader level, congregations and whole denominations use Christian conferencing to discern God's will and make decisions about their lives together. Beginning in 1744, John Wesley gathered preachers together annually for a conference about what to teach, how to teach, and what to do (how to regulate doctrine, discipline and practice). As a means of grace, such conferences should always be open to the role of the Holy Spirit in shaping our thoughts, actions and decisions" (*The Wesley Study Bible, NRSV, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009, p.1425*).

As we reflect on this commentary in the context of our Holy Conferencing at Valley Forge on the theme "Disciples Transforming the World Through Presence," we are reminded that Holy Conferencing in the Wesleyan tradition is a means of grace and

- is not just a business meeting
- is not just a routine gathering
- is not just a mandatory gathering
- is not just a social get together

but much more than all of the above.

It is a time where we gather in Christian love and respect for one another, despite our theological, political, and cultural differences and open ourselves to the movements of the Holy Spirit in shaping our "thoughts, actions and decisions" so that we may truly be the body of Jesus Christ in the world. As members of the Annual Conference we not only hear what God is telling us through Holy conferencing but also take to our local churches (mission stations) what we discerned through teachings, preaching, decisions and celebrations at the Holy Conferencing at Valley Forge.

Please receive one another at Valley Forge with radical Christian hospitality and kindly share faithfully at your local churches and communities the highlights and decisions of our Holy Conferencing there.

Also, please encourage your churches to be in prayer for the Church as we gather together.

"God loves you all and so do I!"

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



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Biblical Food Talk Offers Appetizing Menu at UMW Meeting

What do cucumbers, spinach, artichokes, leeks and fennel have in common? They were all eaten by people who we read about in the Bible, that's what. Judith Krall-Russo shared her knowledge of the subject at the GNJ United Methodist Women Spring Meeting at Haddonfield Church, April 24.

The great variety of biblical foods, methods of preserving with salt or vinegar, the core diet of bread and salt, and class stratification by forms of bread were among her topics. Recipes still familiar today—such as cucumbers, yogurt and dill include use of cucumbers as a cosmetic.

Of the 140 attending—including men and children—28 were newcomers who were welcomed by Lesley Koengetter, membership coordinator, who distributed dish towels with timely Bible verses.

Among the new faces was Roslyn Lee, a divinity student at Drew Theological Seminary, who is in the process of starting a UMW unit on campus. She was awarded a scholarship to the UMW Assembly April 20 to May 2 in St. Louis. Jazelis Adorno-Burgos and Inhyoung Staudinger were two other scholarship recipients.

Many of the attendees planned to go to Assembly. In fact, eighty green scarves with gold embroidered letters saying "Greater New Jersey United



FOOD FOR THOUGHT. Judith Krall-Russo shares her knowledge of biblical foods at the Spring Meeting of the United Methodist Women. The annual gathering drew 140 to celebrate signs of growth, and acts of love under the banner "Faith, Hope, Love in Action."

Methodist Women: Faith Hope Love in Action" were sold.

The Haddonfield UMW reported a unique plan of three rotating presidents, a good idea for units having trouble filling leadership positions.

The Rev. George Morris, pastor of the host church, and Bishop Devadhar brought greetings. Mr. Morris noted that, "UMW keeps alive the social consciousness in their churches." One of the ways that is accomplished is by collecting items for those in need. Carole Nelson left with a vanload full

of UMCOR health kits, collected with the tragedy of Haiti still in the news. There were also, 99 cans donated for a food bank.

The Bishop Devadhar spoke about our growing numbers, especially in the Korean churches.

Other speakers included:

- In Sook Song, the president of the Korean Network, who shared how their membership continues to expand.
- Tim Humeniuk, executive director of the Neighborhood Center,

Camden, who spoke of the Summer Enrichment Program there.

- Rosangelica Acevedo-Delgado, a Board of Global Ministries missionary in Puerto Rico, who spoke of coming to the United States from Puerto Rico as a US-2 missionary in 1979.

Three afternoon workshops touched on the topic of food.

- Cynthia Kent presented "Living in Each Season" to show how not only food but lives should be governed by God's four seasons.
- Carol Vacchiano and Harrison Davis, director of Fellowship House in Camden, led a workshop entitled "Our Church's Commitment of Feeding the Poor and Sheltering the Homeless." She described how Wall Church, where Carol is a member, has a garden that produces food for a local food bank.

- Ann Wilson used the Japanese Tea Ceremony as a way to introduce Japanese customs that she became familiar with during her time as a missionary in the country.

The Meeting ended with a time of song led by Vice President Mary Bode.

(Story source, Cathy Smith, GNJUMW Conference Communications Coordinator)

Directory Available at Conference

Members of the annual conference who were photographed last year by Olan Mills photographers may pick up their copy of the 2009 Pictorial Directory at the conference registration desk at the Valley Forge Convention Center during this year's session.

Olan Mills has supplied only enough directories for those who participated in last year's picture taking event. Eligibility will be noted on name badges.

The directories available this year will have photos and names only. A complete directory that will include clergy and laity contact information will be produced following this year's annual conference.

Olan Mills representatives will be on site this year on Friday June 4 for the benefit of those who failed to have their picture taken last year.

Drew to Offer Certificate in Spiritual Formation

MADISON — Drew Theological School has announced that it will offer certification in spiritual formation beginning next fall. The new program, available to lay persons, ordained deacons and elders, and diaconal ministers, will provide biblical, theological, and historical introductory studies and skill development in Christian spiritual formation in a setting of support and accountability.

The non-degree certification program will consist of five required 3-credit courses and a variety of electives

from "Spirituality of Joy," to "Celtic Christianity" and the Taizé summer Pilgrimage to France.

Optional formats will include on-line classes, week-long intensives either on-campus or at retreat centers, and traditional semester-based classes. Information about procedures, costs and a full description of courses and dates are available by visiting www.drew.edu/theo/certification, or by calling Nancy VanderVeen, coordinator of continuing education at nvanderveen@drew.edu or (973) 408-3084.

Health Screening Offered at Conference

ProCheck health screening, a simple blood test providing information related to a variety of health issues, will be offered at the Annual Conference at Valley Forge Convention Center, June 3-5, free of charge to persons covered by the GNJ's HealthFlex medical plan or Medicare.

Testing will provide information about cholesterol levels, heart disease risk, stroke risk, diabetes risk and management, thyroid abnormalities, kidney disease, anemia or iron overload, and

liver disease and risk of prostate cancer in men.

The test will be administered upon presentation of medical ID cards. Persons not covered may receive the test for a fee of \$115.

ProCheck screenings will begin early on the mornings of the conference (8:00 am on Thursday and at 6 am on Friday). For the most accurate results, participants should fast from midnight until after your ProCheck blood draw.

Additional information is available on the GNJ Digest.

Philadelphia Boys Choir in Concert at St. Peters, Ocean City, June 26

OCEAN CITY — The Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale will present a two hour "concert extravaganza" at St. Peter's Church here June 26.

Directed by Jeffrey R. Smith, the ensemble will offer a program weaving together folk, jazz, spirituals, patriotic and musical theater.

The 7 p.m. concert will include the premier of "Into the Light," written by Robert S. Cohen specifically for the cherubic voices of the choir. The musical journey will range from African American spirituals to an acappella arrangement of the Susa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

16th Walk Joins all Ages in Community and Celebration

In the First Century B.C., Marcus Tullius Cicero said, "We were born to unite with our fellowmen, and to join in community with the human race." In the 21st Century A.D. humanity still finds benefits in joining together.

That's why on June 13 the sixteenth Walk for All Ages invites people not only to walk and support the United Methodist Homes' Fellowship Fund, but to join in a day of community and celebration.

During the one-hour registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Great Auditorium Pavilion on Pilgrim Pathway, members of the Auditorium Choir led by Dr. Jason Tramm will perform. The Ocean Grove Historical Society will offer tours through the historic tent neighborhood. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m. along the boardwalk, and ending at Francis Asbury Manor on Stockton Avenue.

At Francis Asbury Manor, walkers will enjoy lunch and be entertained by a strolling magician, vocal artists, marimba musicians, Lippy the Clown, face painters, and games. The friendly and historic town offers beautiful tree-lined streets and parks, shopping, restaurants, culture, beaches, fishing, and lovely ocean views.

The Walk for the Ages challenge has roots in early 20th century Ocean Grove when the congregation of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church accepted a challenge to establish a home for seniors. From this humble beginning the Homes has become what it is today—a national model for senior care. St. Paul's continues to participate in the annual event.

Last year President James C. Batten designated the event, the Nancy Gilbert Rhodes Walk for All Ages to honor a member of the Absecon Church who raised more money than any other group for many consecutive years. Ms. Rhodes is now a resident at the Homes' Ocean City community, The Shores at Wesley Manor. Last year, the Nancy Gilbert Rhodes Trophy, a traveling award, went to the Absecon United Methodist Church, led by a team of three women following in Rhodes' footsteps: Debbie Bailey, Susan Reitmeyer and Carol McMahon.

Proceeds from the Walk benefit the Homes' Fellowship Fund, which supports Homes' residents who have outlived their financial resources. This forms a great motivator for walkers, who personally contribute and/or raise funds from others.

Bridge Health Coverage Available to Older Children

OCEAN — Bridge health insurance coverage is now available for older children not now eligible for employer-provided coverage. In order to prevent an unnecessary interruption in coverage for older children currently covered under the conference HealthFlex, the plan will continue coverage for certain children currently covered until new provisions take effect on January 1, 2011.

The recently enacted healthcare reform act requires health plans, beginning January 2, 2011, to cover partici-

pants' dependent children up to age 26 if the children are not eligible for employer-provided coverage. Participants whose children are not currently covered in HealthFlex, but who would be eligible for this coverage, may enroll the child or children during the HealthFlex Annual Election period in November 2010 for coverage beginning next January.

Additional information is available from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

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.



Global Relay

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

Catholic-Jewish Supreme Court sign of change

NASHVILLE — Of the 111 justices who have served on the U.S. Supreme Court, 91 have been Protestant. But if Solicitor General Elena Kagan is confirmed as the 112th justice, no Protestants will sit on the nation's highest court for the first time. The good news is that it's a significant turning point in a country where Catholics and Jews have faced centuries of discrimination because of their faith. For some observers, the news is also bittersweet because a tradition of influential Protestant voices that has included United Methodist Justice Harry Blackmun will be missing from the court.

Oklahomans pick up pieces after twisters

OKLAHOMA CITY — United Methodist leaders were assessing damages and preparing relief plans after tornadoes galloped across Oklahoma May 10, killing seven people, critically or seriously injuring dozens, destroying and damaging homes and businesses and leaving thousands without electricity. In a symbol of hope, Tecumseh United Methodist Church Pastor Keith King was trying to retrieve pieces of a broken stained glass window when he found its centerpiece — a picture of the Bible — unbroken.

United Methodists respond to storm stricken South

NASHVILLE — United Methodist churches across the U.S. Southeast opened their hearts and their doors to people stricken by early May storms that killed at least 30 people. The bad weather moved through Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia, bringing thunderstorms, tornadoes and extreme flooding. While disaster response teams across the south were assessing damages, helping people affected by the storms, the United Methodist Committee on Relief gave the church at large the opportunity to respond by giving via the "U.S. Domestic Disaster Response," UMCOR Advance #901670.

Volunteers repair homes after 2008 Iowa floods

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — After coping with flood damage for more than two years, Don and Sandy McSpadden will return to a repaired home following a May 18 ceremony in Cedar Rapids. The event caps the work of nearly 400 volunteers from across the United States and Canada who worked to repair 14 homes over the past six weeks through the Neighborhood: Cedar Rapids project of Church World Service. The United Methodist Committee on Relief was among the participating partner organizations.

Church leaders seek freedom for Cuba travel

NEW YORK — Two ecumenical leaders have written to President Obama to ask for an end to restrictions on religious travel to Cuba. The letter, signed by the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, head of the National Council of Churches, and the Rev. John McCullough, the United Methodist who leads Church World Service, noted that restrictions imposed in 2005 by the Bush Administration "have the effect of severely limiting participation in Cuba missions by U.S. churches and congregants."

Epworth League launches youth organization

MILWAUKEE — The Epworth League is a new, grassroots effort to launch a worldwide young adult organization. Sponsored by Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, a small congregation near Milwaukee, it consists of both global and local church-based chapters. The organization is based on the original Epworth League, which operated from 1889 to 1939. Local chapters focus on missions, spiritual growth and community building. The league provides each local chapter with a mentor to help people start and grow their chapter. Further information is available at www.epworthleague.org.

Study guide promotes peace

GENEVA — The World Council of Churches has published a study guide, "Telling the Truth About Ourselves and Our World," about overcoming violence. Available in English, French, German and Spanish as part of the build-up to the May 2011 International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica, the guide provides resources for discussion of the convocation's central themes: peace in the community, peace with the Earth, peace in the marketplace and peace among peoples.

Sierra Leone village embraces mission team

PANGUMA, Sierra Leone — Both Muslims and Christians gave an eight-member mission team from Pennsylvania an unforgettable welcome during a visit to this West African community. The team from Camp Hill (Pa.) United Methodist Church arrived here in late February following a commuter jet trip to Newark, a flight to London Heathrow, a seven-hour flight to Freetown, Sierra Leone, and a 250-mile van trip to the community of Panguma. The local people overwhelmed the volunteers with a reception that showed appreciation for the group and the sacrifice it made in journeying to eastern Sierra Leone.

Women march for immigrant rights

ST. LOUIS — Guided by a century-old history of assisting immigrants, members of United Methodist Women joined others across the nation May 1 in making a public witness on the immigration debate. Their rally and march — which drew about 2,000 people, including residents of St. Louis — occurred during the April 29 - May 2 United Methodist Women's Assembly. For many of the participants, including Claudia Knight, a member of Pahrump Valley United Methodist Church in Nevada, the march was a way "to show we care about immigrant rights."

Cowboys Rethink Church

EQUINUNK, Pa. — Some folks are more comfortable in jeans and cowboy boots than Sunday best. Real cowboys in rural Pennsylvania have formed a church where it is OK to do your morning chores and then wear your work clothes to worship. The laid-back atmosphere of "cowboy church" attracts families who might not set foot in a traditional church building. You can view UMTV's "Cowboys Rethink Church" at http://umtv.org/archives/cowboys_rethink_church.htm

To reach millennials, 'break outside the box'

ST. LOUIS — Erica Williams, 26, the Washington-based deputy director of Campus Progress, and Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent of "PBS News Hour," both know about millennials — people 18 to 29 years old. They shared insights of what is considered the most ethnically diverse generation in U.S. history with participants at the April 29 - May 2 United Methodist Women's Assembly.

Highlights of the Council of Bishops Meeting

Goodpaster becomes bishops' new president

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A former Mississippi pastor committed to engaging United Methodists in hands-on mission took office May 7 as president of the international Council of Bishops. Illinois Area Bishop Gregory Palmer, outgoing leader, handed the presidential gavel over to Charlotte Area Bishop Larry Goodpaster with the words, "May you direct and assist us in the building up of God's work." Goodpaster will serve a two-year term.



Bishop Goodpaster

Bishops urge action on immigration

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The controversial Arizona law giving police broad powers to detain suspected illegal immigrants is mobilizing United Methodists across the denomination to work for immigration reforms. The Council of Bishops at its spring meeting offered prayer and support to Phoenix Area Bishop Minerva Carcaño in her opposition to the new law, which she said "not only invites abuse, but gives wing to racial profiling." In turn, Carcaño asked bishops from each regional conference to appoint a member or members to form local "rapid response teams" to disseminate information about developments in the immigration debate and ways church members can respond.

Bishops cast out fear with HIV tests

COLUMBUS, Ohio — United Methodist bishops and some of their spouses lined up in small groups throughout the morning May 3 for HIV/AIDS testing, administered by Columbus-based Ohio Health. More than 130 people were tested. The testing was a visible commitment to a major issue of global health, one of the four areas of focus in The United Methodist Church. In welcoming church leaders to participate, Ohio West Area Bishop Bruce Ough said the action makes a public statement "that combating this deadly disease begins with testing."

Church rejects move toward regional bodies

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The United Methodist Church rejected several amendments that could have paved the way for making the church in the United States one of several regional bodies throughout the world. The United Methodist Council of Bishops on May 4 announced and ratified the results of voting from some 135 annual conferences on constitutional amendments approved by the 2008 General Conference. For a proposed amendment to be ratified, two-thirds of the aggregate number of voting annual conference members must approve. Only five of 32 proposed amendments — all unrelated to the regionalization measures — were approved by the conferences.

Bishop Weaver to address General Conference

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The United Methodist Council of Bishops elected Boston Area Bishop Peter Weaver to give the Episcopal Address at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Fla. Weaver, a former council president, was bishop of the Philadelphia Area from 1996 to 2004, when he was assigned to the New England Annual (regional) Conference. The election came during the council's May 3-7 meeting in Columbus.

Newark Region Endeavor

(Continued from page 1)

working together towards cooperative summer Bible schools."

The summer schools project was the first choice among several forms of cooperative ministry, chosen by the representatives of the churches themselves, said Superintendent Costello. At the meeting that evening they determined which of the 23 churches represented would cooperate in the initiative, setting a date to work out the details of the Summer Bible Schools.

"Open Doors is not about others coming to us but opening our doors so that we can go out into the neighborhoods," said Mr. Costello.

Drew Chaplain Bennett told how, in the wake of the shooting deaths of four students in Newark, people of faith came together to take the city back. "We started with nine women in a High School," she said.

Jayda, also from Drew, shared her story. "I was jailed from the time I was 15 to 18 years old. Now I am one of the nine women that Tanya mentioned. I have re-dedicated my life to give back to the community." She now works with young women in the city helping them to deal with issues that affect them, she said. They have initiated a program that brings city women to the Drew campus for several days to open their minds and hearts to new possibilities for their future. "We teach these women that they are persons of worth," said Jayda.

Jazzmine, a senior at Drew's College of Liberal Arts, shared how meaningful it has been for her fellow college students to engage in the Newark ministry. Drew University is looking to expand its "Nine Strong Women" program, she said. The Shalom Zone foundation, an initiative of the General Conference created in 1992 to promote relationships and prosperity in troubled communities,

has given support, and the General Board of Global Ministries has given a seed grant.

Again addressing the group, the Bishop invited them to open their doors to recruit people in their communities. "It is overwhelming to see young people like Jayda and Jazzmine involved in such significant work. I have faith in what you will do this Summer and beyond in the greater Newark area."

Bishop May announced that representatives from around the Northeastern Jurisdiction will gather in Newark September 29 - 30 to see what is happening.

"Every church is a saving station," he said. "Your task is to find persons from your congregations who will get involved. Let's do something in the name of Jesus Christ that addresses the real needs of people! Are you ready?"

Another young adult, George Reynolds, from Franklin - St. John's Church, was introduced by Dr. Lloyd Terrell. Mr. Reynolds, who recently participated in a debating forum at Harvard University, gave a recitation to those gathered and received rousing applause.

Bishop Devadhar closed the meeting with a prayer of thanks for the recent positive signs of growth and vitality in the Greater New Jersey Conference. He noted the recent anti-immigrant legislation enacted in the state of Arizona. "We need to give our witness in our area of our love and concern for immigrant peoples. This is a responsibility not only for our pastors but all baptized Christians. Jesus Christ is calling on all of us to make a difference in the world. We are called to be risk-takers for the sake of Jesus Christ."

The greater Newark regional endeavor continued to plan for the future at a May meeting.

— Douglas Ruffie

**The July/August Issue Deadline
is June 10, 2010**

TRANSITIONS OBITUARIES

DOROTHY W. WATT, wife of Retired Elder and former Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, The Rev. Dr. George Watt, Jr., died on May 5, 2010. A Memorial Service was held at the Morristown United Methodist Church on May 29, 2010.

Gifts of remembrance may be designated for the sound system at the Dorothy W. Watt and George Watt, Jr. Chapel at Bristol Glen, c/o The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey, 3311 Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753-3440.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. George Watt, 19 Wiltshire Drive, Boonton Twp., NJ 07005.

DOLORES BOWEN, widow of the Rev. Frederick H. Bowen, died May 11, 2010. The funeral service was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Long Branch, May 15.

Mrs. Bowen was a church musician, and had most recently served as choir director and organist at St. Luke's. She was active in the life of churches served by her husband, and also was employed in various offices and agencies of Monmouth County.

She is survived by two sons, three daughters and four grandchildren. Messages of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Cindy Knudsen, 7204 Duncans Ridge Way, Fuquay Varina, N.C. 27526 and Mr. Timothy Bowen, 113 Hunter Drive, Newfield, NJ 08344.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Organ Fund at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 535 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740.

MARJORIE ANNE BRYANT, wife of the Rev. Robert O. Bryant, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died March 31, 2010 in Whiting. A funeral service was held April 5, with interment following April 6 at the Whiting Memorial Park.

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, June 19 at 2 p.m. at the Whiting United Methodist Church.

In addition to Mrs. Bryant's lifetime of service in support of her husband's ministry, she was a registered nurse, employed at the Morristown and Overlook hospitals and as a school nurse in the Vineland area.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, two sons and four grandchildren.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Robert Bryant, 611B Willow Lane, Whiting, NJ 08759.

Memorial gifts may be directed to the Centenary Fund and Preacher's Aid Society, Greater New Jersey Conference, 1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712 or the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, 1 Union St., Suite 301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691.

EROLINA ROMERO, wife of the Rev. Perfecto Romero, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on March 30, 2010 in Miami, Fla. Her funeral was held at April 1.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Perfecto Romero, 5401 SW 127th Place, Miami, FL 33175.

Retiring Pastor Na Has Led Flock to New Levels of Ministry

When the Rev. Koo Yong Na stands before the 2010 Annual Conference with colleagues entering the retired relationship, he will look back on 40 years of ministry that have left an indelible brand. Pastor Na symbolizes a whole class of "good and faithful servants" whose unique gifts, graces and achievements warrant the tributes of the moment.



Pastor Na

During his tenure at the Korean Community Church in Englewood, Dr. Na helped lead the congregation to new levels of mission and ministry. Originally located at the Leonia United Methodist Church, the congregation bought a building that had served as a synagogue for a Jewish congregation in nearby Englewood, and have added to it to meet growing needs.

Dr. Na leaves a legacy of mission that has impacted the greater Englewood area as well as the worldwide church. Under his leadership the KCC has initiated ministry among Spanish-speaking people sponsoring an academy in the Spanish language to help them learn skills in carpentry, electricity, plumbing, construction, computers, and English as a second language. The KCC now hosts a Spanish language worship service every Sunday.

The KCC also initiated a mission outreach to Chinese ethnic Koreans living in the area and the English speaking descendants of Koreans through English language worship services.

Since 1990 the KCC has helped start 10 new Methodist churches in Paraguay, and have built a Vocational-Technical School in Urubuka, about a five hour drive from the capital of

Asuncion. They have sent a missionary (in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries) to Mongolia and have underwritten the purchase of a roving Medical Ship ministering to people living in the Amazon River region.

Dr. Na came to the United States in 1969 and enrolled in the Master of

Divinity program at Drew Theological Seminary ('72) where he would eventually earn the Ph.D. degree as well (1984). In the summer of 1970, he served as the 'international counselor' at Camp Aldersgate in Swartswood.

While in seminary he served as youth pastor at Vincent Church, Nutley. From 1974-1976 he served as the Christian Education Minister at Centenary United Methodist Church in Metuchen. While at his next appointment as pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Rahway he also served as a new church planter by starting the Korean Church in Morristown. He continued to serve the Morristown Korean Church while engaged in his doctoral program at Drew. In 1984 he was appointed to the Korean Community Church where he has served as senior minister until his retirement this month.

What is the next thing that Dr. Na will be given charge of? He will serve as professor in a seminary in Seoul, Korea, for the next few years.

"We wish him and his wife, Young Ja, bountiful blessings as they move on to the next phase of ministry," said the Rev. Doug Ruffle, conference staff member. "We thank them for their faithful service to our conference for lo, these many years."

CENTENARIAN



Frances Osmun, longtime member of the West Portal Church, Bethlehem Twp., on the Raritan Valley District celebrated her 100th birthday recently in the company of family and friends.

The Relay joins members of her church and all members of the Conference in wishing her good health and God's continued blessing.

MILESTONE AWARD WINNER

The Rev. David L. Bailey, Sr., whose Ranch Hope for Boys and Girls has ministered to troubled youths for more than a half century, was recipient earlier this year of the National Religious Broadcasters Association's (NRB) Milestone Award.

He has been selected for the honor for *The Wondrous Story*, his radio ministry now celebrating its 50th anniversary. *The Wondrous Story* is heard through stations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the West Indies.

"From a simple seed, planted in faith, has grown a ministry to hundreds of youths over the decades," noted NRB President and CEO Dr.



Frank Wright in a news release. "Rev. Bailey's story is truly a 'Wondrous Story'." The presentation was made at the NRB banquet in Nashville.

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Camaraderie, Carnivores and Campfires

MISSION STATEMENT

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



By Jan Carrato

Have you read the beloved children's classic *The Wind in the Willows* in your youth or perhaps read it to your children? Like many in this genre, it beautifully portrays pastoral adventures among young friends, many from diverse places and backgrounds soon to bond.

The stuff of our formative years, storytelling, mystery, adventure, discovery, morality, growth, and camaraderie live in the camp experience. Like Grahame's fictional characters, today's kids could be "simply messing about in boats" or spending a fabulous and memorable summer at camp.

Both the 150-acre Pinelands Center at Mount Misery and the 400+-acre Aldersgate Center foster the mission to inspire, explore and ignite a new and deeper relationship with Jesus through nature with the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministry.

Holy ground indeed — 1.1 million acres of the Pine Barrens were designated the Pinelands National Reserve and in 1978, a United Nations International Biosphere Reserve in 1983. The sand that composes much of the Pine Barren's soil, called sugar sand by the locals, makes **Icky, Sticky Mess** (1st-3rd grade); **Slime, Grime and Muck...Oh Yuck** (4th-6th grade); **Dirt, Mud and Crud** (7th & 8th grade), and **Monster Mess** (9th-12 grade), all the more



appealing. In addition to a messy good time, they'll create all kinds of crafts, swim and enjoy every aspect of camp life.

Did you know these uncommon soil conditions support a unique and diverse spectrum of plant life, including orchids and carnivorous plants? You can explore these and other Pine Barren wonders in **Hulitt Camp** (4th-grade & up), while hiking, or hunt for treasure in the forest during **Adventure Camp** (4th-6th grade). The Pine Barrens

boasts at least 39 mammal, 300+ bird, 59 reptile and amphibian, and 91 fish species.

If your children live for sports, several programs will surely capture his/her imagination: **B-Ball and All**, **New Sailing Camp**, **Field Hockey Transformation**, and **Sports Galore**. On the same theme, they can go **Horseback Riding**, increase **Archery** skills or fly to **Skateboard Camp**.



The Pine Barrens is home to the 17 trillion gallon Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system which contains some of the purest water in the United States. If you love water sports try **Splish, Splash** (3rd & 4th grade), **Wet Fun on the Run** (5th & 6th grade), **New Sailing Camp** (7th-12 grade), **Splash Fest** (9th-12th grade) or **Delaware Challenge** (7th-12th grade).

In the bucolic countryside of Sussex County, the larger of the two camps, the Aldersgate Center, lies among wide-open fields, forests with great trails, hills and Swartswood Lake. The 550-acre hole dug out by glaciers thousands of years ago and surrounded by 10,000 acres of Kittatinny Mountains, offers great fishing and sports.

Freshwater anglers can sign up for **Fishing Around** (4th-6th; 7th-11th grade). Swartswood Lake is stocked with lake trout population, channel catfish, large and small mouth bass, chain pickerel, pan fish, and walleye. Of course **Messing About in Boats** (9th-12th grade), **Waterworks**, or **Swim and Sports** (1st-3rd grade) also bring wet fun.

For creative types Carpentry and Construction, Music Camp and Performing Arts develop and nurture imaginations and skills. Like the

(Continued on next page)



Pinelands Center, Aldersgate is truly a nature lover's delight as they can observe spectacular wildlife from bald eagles to the unique plant life, including sycamore, willow, basswood and hickory, hemlock, maple and oak trees.

Specialized camp experiences are a new exciting offering. Leadership training, counselor-in-training, **A Wesleyan Way of Living and Community Service Camp** (9th-12th grade) cater to more mature youth. The latter yields up to 20 hours of community service credit, vital to the college-bound. The new **Path4Teens Leadership Camp** (for teens having completed 10th grade) is designed to help teens discover their leadership capacity, career inclinations, character values and interpersonal skills.

Adult and Family Camps include **Special Needs** (age 18 and



above) for developmentally disabled adults. In addition to the spectacular menu of choices, campers with Hispanic backgrounds may explore their heritage through **Jovenos Para Cristos** (7th & 8th grade; 9th-12th grade) or **Ninos Para Cristos** (1st-3rd grade).

All camp programs foster opportunities to grow closer to God and encourage spiritual formation. Many of the programs are offered at both camps such as Hair, Nails, Beach and Bible. While it attracts teens with indulgences such as makeovers and facials, it too focuses on the inner person.

Mary Beth Ghegan states, "Our experience last year started with the open house and the tour of the Aldersgate. I admit I was a little anxious sending my 14-year-old daughter to camp for the first time. She had a wonderful time at **Hair, Nails, Pool and Beach**. She loved her counselors, ropes course, lake, chatting with other girls, and sleeping in the air-conditioned chapel."

For adults and families both camps have reopened the family camping options for Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Each includes a newly designed program with fun, fellowship and worship. Do you come from a family of locavores? The amenities include chefs who purchase food locally; menus please all palettes.

MUSIC CAMP

Musician Mark Miller and worship leader Tanya Bennett will preside over Music Camp, July 18-24 at the Liebenzell Retreat Center, Long Valley. The camp is in association with the GNJAC Camp and Retreat Ministries.

Interested parties may contact Mr. Miller at mark@markmillermusic.com or the Rev. Ms. Miller at tbennett@drew.edu.

Also newly opened, the family campgrounds at the Aldersgate Center allow you to design your own unique summer vacation package. Don't delay making your summer plans. The 2010 summer camp brochure has arrived. To download a brochure, learn about the Open House and obtain more complete information please visit www.gnjumcm.org.

Volunteer and paid positions for Committed Christians who would like to help lead children to Christ are available. For any necessary information please contact Pinelands Center at 609-893-3354.

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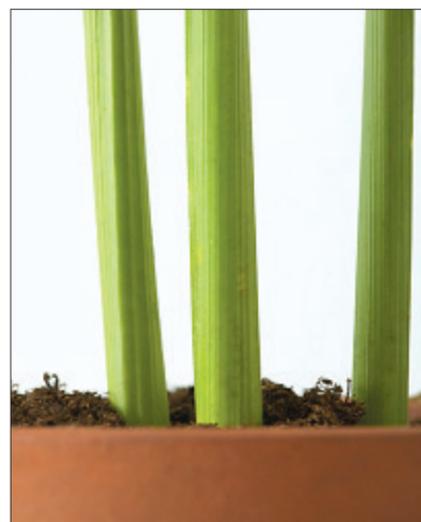
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The United Methodist Foundation of Greater New Jersey

GNJ Churches Find Many Ways to Change the World



HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS is offered to residents at Lakewood's "Tent City" by members of the Bay Head Church who left the comfort of their own sanctuary on Change the World Weekend to offer the love of Christ.

(Continued from page 1)

sanctuary, reports Pastor Scott Bostwick, "we loaded up a convoy of vehicles and drove to the homeless camp, "Tent City," in Lakewood to worship with the residents outdoors in the rain. Close to 50 members and friends of St. Paul's, including the church's praise team, trekked through the mud to worship and fellowship with the residents; over 75 meals, prepared by members of St. Paul's the day before, and cases of water and juice provided multiple meals for the 25 or so residents of the camp.

"This is what it means to live out Christ's call on our lives, and it's a great way to make a difference and change our little corner of the world" said Jane Marion, Missions and CAMP (Community Action Ministry Programs) coordinator. Pastor Scott Bostwick agreed.

"I'm so blessed and humbled, not only by the willingness of the people of St. Paul's to move beyond the walls of the church, but especially by the residents of the camp, who were so gracious to have us, and so excited that they built a platform for us to lead worship from."

See Your Garden Grow

GLASSBORO – If human life began in a garden, the Glassboro Church is on the right track. They chose as their Change the World project a "community garden" The idea came about when church treasurer, David Walters, put two ideas together: a way to use a previously empty and non-productive lot adjacent to the church parking lot, and the call to Change the World.

The garden will grow a variety of vegetables, many not so common (kale, hot peppers, broccoli, etc.), which will then be donated to the local food bank, the Samaritan Center in Glassboro.

On Sat., May 15, the group returned to finish the planting. A two-barrel system for collecting rain water, set up by co-coordinator Liz O'Keefe, is also now in use.

'A Child Shall Lead Them'

HACKETTSTOWN – It took the 4th and 5th graders at Trinity Church to lead the congregation in the observance of Change the World Weekend. On Friday, April 23rd and Saturday,

April 24th, the Trinity "Sprouts" (4th and 5th graders) held a Lock-In to participate in the weekend by devoting their time together to learning more about malaria. They watched and discussed the United Nations Foundation movie "When the Night Comes." The Sprouts played games from NBC's new game show, *Minute to Win It*, as "a fun way" to designate Sprouts mission money to *Imagine No Malaria*. The result of the Lock-In: A total of "48 nets for our brothers and sisters in Africa," reports Ginny Thorp. "In addition, Trinity's 4th and 5th graders now have an increased awareness about malaria and an increased desire to help others throughout the world."

'Peace by Piece' Solves the Puzzles

KINGSTON – The Kingston Church contribution to Change the World Weekend coincided with the Princeton Communiversity, an annual partnership of the nearby town and university. Kingston's contribution was "Peace by Piece" a service project that consisted of constructing a giant puzzle.

In support of peace-making efforts around the world, church and community members worked together assembling the pieces. Church members distributed 1,152 puzzle pieces to attendees at the Communiversity festival in downtown Princeton. For each puzzle piece returned to KUMC's booth and



'MOVIN ON UP' is this young Sprout at the Trinity Church Lock-in for Change the World Weekend.

placed on the puzzle board, money was pledged to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) global peace-building initiative.

A total of 1,138 puzzle pieces were returned to the booth. With the help of local merchants, organizations, and attendees at the Communiversity festival, \$1,682.50 were raised for relief funds.

Participants also helped assemble school kits for refugees.

Noah's Ark a Reminder of God's Love

FORKED RIVER – It didn't take 40 days and 40 nights to build the ark that Lacey United Methodist Church constructed for a Change the World event on April 24.

About 20 church members — youth and adults — worked together on building the ark, making the props, setting

believe in Jesus, He will help destroy the meanness and selfishness in peoples hearts and teach us to love one another."

LUMC donated the ark to the Popcorn Park Zoo for the animals to climb aboard and as a reminder of God's promise for all creation.

Shoes, Food and Worship

LINWOOD — At Central Church here, worship was the focal point for Change the World Sunday, with Pastor Ronald Watts preaching on the theme "Changing the World with Love." But it wasn't all words. There were shoes — a mountain of shoes, covering the altar and cascading down in front and on both sides. "We estimate, 1,000 pairs," was the report.

On that same Sunday a "missions ambassador" from the church's mission team was sent to Haiti to make connections, take down some supplies,



POPCORN PARK ZOO was the setting for this reenactment of the Noah story by the Lacey Church designed to tell how the love of God for all creatures can change the world.

up with speaker equipment, spreading a canopy, painting biblical backdrops, and preparing the setting complete with cloud, sun and a large rainbow.

The idea behind the project was to Change the World by bringing the love of God into the community via a Noah's Ark skit. And what better place for Noah's Ark than a zoo — the Popcorn Park Zoo, a Lacey Twp. refuge for aged and disadvantaged animals.

The church team arrived at 9:30 a.m. to set up the stage area and ark. They made flyers to give out to all who entered the zoo stating the skit schedule. There was a table for children to make an animal mask; there was a semi-circle of chairs around a stage area; there were Noah goodie bags filled with a printed coloring book telling the story of Noah's Ark, animal stickers, inspirational stickers, and information about the Lacey Church.

"Our plan was to present the skit from 11:00 to 3:00, but that was not God's plan for Noah and his family," notes Donna Jones. God blessed us with a beautiful sunny day. People flocked in and the skit went on every half hour, reaching over 100 children and their families telling them about how much God loves them.

"Noah was right," said the narrator. "God had a better plan. God gave us God's Son, Jesus Christ, so that if we

and analyze how best to respond and continue to minister to the needs there.

The church also used CTW Sunday to do something they often do — they sent a "Mission Beyond Our Walls" to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission to lead a Sunday Worship service there. Another Mission Beyond Our Walls team of 12 went to an Atlantic City soup kitchen the following Tuesday to feed about 400-500 hungry people.

"We also gathered another Mission Beyond our Walls team to go to Atlantic City's Asbury Church the following Saturday to feed the hungry from the streets," notes Pastor Watts. "It was a great week impacting the world around us and the world beyond us!"

3-Pronged Offensive of Love

NUTLEY — Vincent Church in Nutley, NJ developed three events for Change the World Weekend. One part was the sending out of a mission team on a week-long trip to assist with home repairs at Red Bird Mission, a United Methodist mission center in Beverly, Ky. Redbird serves the needs of the impoverished people in the heart of the Appalachian mountains. While that team of three were enroute to Appalachia, a second group, a servant team went to work at Habitat for Humanity in Newark. Seven folks from Vincent

(Continued on next page)

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spent all day Saturday doing site cleanup, roofing work, and marking studs for electrical installation on a new home being built.

The third prong of outreach was to collect supplies and assembling health kits for disaster relief through UMCOR. With an initial goal of 50 kits, the church brought in and the team assembled 165 kits! Setting up on the front drive of the church, they interacted with Saturday morning strollers.

The whole effort has inspired this Global Missions Partner congregation to even deeper and fuller mission in the community and to the world. A Care Kitchen, to further the ministry of the church's Care Pantry, will be starting in late June to provide a monthly hot meal to those in need — one more way to change the world and to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Attacking Riverblindness

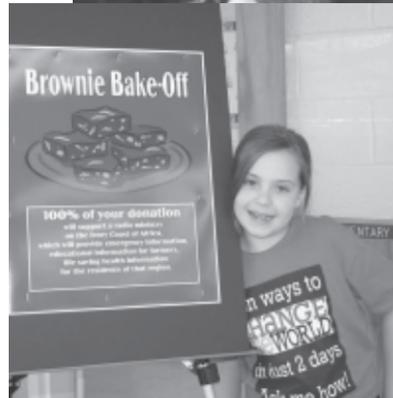
PRINCETON — For "Change the World" Day, children and adults from the United Methodist Church in this academic center re-enacted what happens to riverblindness victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Riverblindness is a disease contracted through the bite of a small fly in Africa. (See *Relay*, May, 2010, p.5) To raise awareness for the church's mission to support the United Front for Riverblindness, two eight-person teams paraded through the streets of Princeton during the Communiversity town/gown street festival. The adults pretended to be blind, and the children led them with sticks, and wore sandwich boards with slogans like "Ask Me About Riverblindness" and "Just \$10 saves six people from going blind."

'What a Great 2 Days!'

ROCKAWAY — It was like loaves and fishes and a lot more when the UMC of the Rockaways celebrated Change the World Weekend. "What a great 2 days!" was the verdict after a time of gastronomic delight. Ten individuals and five restaurants contributed chili for a Chili Cook-Off. And the winners. Well there was Alexis Diner and youth winner 13-year-old Nick Crocetti, but the real winners were those who sampled the different chilis in exchange for their voluntary donations which totaled \$350 by the end of the day. And even after so many people tasted chili during a two hour period, there were 78 quarts of chili left! Loaves and fishes, indeed!

It was a similar story for the Brownie Bake-Off, with attendees making donations and sampling the chocolaty confections made by children who attend the Rockaways Church along with the Girl Scouts. Winner of the bake-off was 9-year-old Carly Smith.

The food emphasis may have been inspired by Cookies for Kamina (fresh-baked cookies for a donation) a



FOOD, CLOTHING... and lots of love marked the CTW celebration at the UMC of the Rockaways that included clothing donations to St. Philip's Ministries in Paterson totaling 157 boxes, a brownie bake-off and chili cook-off that generated donations from appreciative samplers.



"WE WOULD BE BUILDERS" says this Habitat for Humanity team from Vincent Church, Nutley, one of three groups that included one to Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, and another group that made UMCOR health kits for disaster relief.

project that for several months has made possible the housing, clothing, feeding and educating of a child at Kamina Children's Home in North Katanga.

Clothing — 157 shipping boxes — were donated, sorted and packed for delivery to St. Philip's Ministry in Paterson. "I am humbled by this experience," said Volunteer, Karen. "So many people have donated - and so many of the clothes are in such good condition. Many still had their tags on them."

Other activities included collection of 25 boxes of pet supplies for Noah's Ark, a nearby animal shelter; 50 health kits were assembled, and 30 sewing kits completed. Spiral wishing wells were swishing all day on Saturday, with the swirl of coins for insect-repellant bed nets to combat malaria. \$500 will go to purchase 50 nets for Uganda.

Partners in the effort included three local Girl Scout groups, the Denville-Rockaway Women's Club and the Rockaway Rotary Club. People donated money for Camden Neighborhood Center's Summer Enrichment

Program, then had a chance to chomp down on a first class hotdog - with fixings.

\$75 was collected to help provide



WORLD CHANGERS in Wildwood Crest and Midvale Church, Wanaque, did their bit by picking up litter — from the dunes in the shore area — or from selected locations in the Palisades District town.

safe drinking water in Sudan.

"Most importantly," says Pastor Jean McMullen, "dozens of men, women and children visited the church to participate in Changing the World. Many, if not most, asked if we would do this again next year! The answer - a resounding 'yes'.

At a closing worship celebration monetary donations, clothing, and pet supplies were blessed, as were 12 Prayer pillows requested by visitors who attended the event.

A Step toward Rethinking Church

SERGEANTSVILLE — "A wonderful step into the idea of 'Rethinking Church'." That was the way Pastor Lin Smallwood summed up the Change the World program at this Raritan Valley District Church. "We're thinking of doing this again in the fall."

What they did was a two-part effort. The first was a community drive to collect food for two local Food Pantries, one in Flemington, the other in Lambertville.

During the week members of the Sunday school and parishioners went door to door in the community passing out paper bags with a letter and list of dry items attached that the pantries indicated they needed. Many parishioners took an extra bag for a neighbor to fill. Bags were to be returned on April 24.

The response was good. Many people who returned bags were new faces to the church. "We collected 90 bags of food," Pastor Smallwood reported. Among the comments received were words of commendation. "This church is always doing something good," said one. "We have to help our

neighbors; if we don't who will?"

The second emphasis was the Imagine No Malaria appeal.

"During Sunday services we talked about World Malaria Day and how we can eradicate Malaria. We have collected a total of \$404.00 for the Imagine No Malaria program.

Midvale Cleans Up

WANAQUE — The Midvale Church here chose as its project the world-changing task of sending a group of eight to pick up trash at three locations in town.

Nine large bags of trash and litter were collected. Among the notable acquisitions: children's balls, a Halloween pumpkin, a trash lid, a lawn mower blade and a hub cap.

A portable sign placed along the road at each location announced to passing cars on Wanaque's busy thoroughfare that Midvale United Methodist Church was "cleanin' up"

"A few persons thanked us for doing what we were doing," reports Pastor Don DeGroat. "Some honked horns. We did talk with a few pedestrians and bicyclists. It was a beautiful day and we had a great time."

Changing the World One Scrap at a Time

WILDWOOD CREST — Like Midvale, the Wildwood Crest Church changed the world one scrap of litter at a time.

On Saturday April 24th, 17 members and friends of the church fanned out from the church at Ocean Ave. and Fern Street and picked up trash around the walkway and beach area.

Why a beach clean up? Pastor Tom Lavery explained. "We are an integral part of the Wildwood Beach. Located just two blocks from the sand we have a responsibility to care for this part of creation. It seemed a natural choice." Bags of trash were picked up from the walkway and beach area and still more was carefully retrieved from the nearby dunes. Paper, plastic, lumber and even a serviceable shovel were removed, bagged and set aside for disposal.

While some were gathering the trash, others were offering free bottles of water to walkway users.

"We sought to meet people's needs," Pastor Lavery said. "It was warm. Lots of people appreciated a drink of water."

Focusing on malaria

With World Malaria Day falling on the weekend, many congregations raised money for the church's work in fighting the disease, which kills a child under age 5 every 30 seconds in Africa. The launch of the denomination's Imagine No Malaria campaign on the afternoon of World Malaria Day, April 25, climaxed the weekend. The campaign aims to help eradicate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015.



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VITAL CONGREGATIONS

Lady Bugs, Research and Development

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



New Church Starts are the "Research and Development" wing of the Church!

Some people question why we are starting new churches when we already have some 585 in our conference. For one thing, United Methodism and its predecessor denominations were at their best when there was a strong church planting ethic. Between 1870 and 1920 we averaged planting one new church a day! People get excited about new ventures.

This year we covet your prayers as two new church planting initiatives begin work: A second campus for the Sharptown United Methodist Church in the Logan

and Woolwich Townships area and the rebirth of the Barnegat United Methodist Church, known now as "Barnegat Anew."

Barnegat Anew, which is already under way, underscores how New Church Development serves as the "Research and Development" department of the church. In April of this year the launch team of the church, under the direction of Pastor Erik C. Hall, invited area residents to a "Ladybug Release." Kirsten Mosher, who works on the Barnegat Anew team shared about the special event.

"On Saturday, April 24, 2010, in honor of "Change the World Day" Barnegat Anew sponsored a "Ladybug Release" and park cleanup at Project Playground in Barnegat. The Barnegat Anew core team was joined by community partners, Curtain Call Theater Arts School, Monmouth Academy and The Little Gym in presenting the event. During the event, students learned about the benefits of ladybugs, played games and received their own bag of ladybugs to release in their home garden.

"The goal of the event was to make the Barnegat community aware that even the littlest 'thing' can make a difference in the world. How often it is in life that joy, hope, faith and peace seem too small in the face of all the big problems in our world. Small and beautiful... hope, when we release it into our lives and world, has the potential to turn everything around... tip the balance for good.

"Ladybugs, like hope, are small and beautiful... but seemingly no match for the big bad world. But, taken together and released consistently, have the potential to turn everything around. They eat harmful pests and contribute to healthy growth of food and flowers; a great, green, and environmentally friendly alternatives to chemicals and pesticides. Together we released many ladybugs into nature. They will help control the harmful bug populations and tip the balance for good.

"What do you get when you combine 300+ elementary school students & 9,000 ladybugs... a lot of smiles, love and laughter."

In addition to helping so many children and families learn something about our environment and have fun at the same time, Barnegat Anew made lots of new contacts. Families – 150 of them shared their email addresses with the launch team. The entire event served as a friendly 'touch point' to the community for those involved in the new church plant.

There is no reason why an existing church could not sponsor a similar event to the "Ladybug Release." Time and again, new church plants are experimenting with new ways to reach people that the entire church can benefit from. That's why New Church Planting is the "Research and Development" wing of the church. We will be sharing stories from our new church plants in this column as well as through the Church Health E-letter. Stay tuned for more exciting results from our "R&D" department.

RONALD AND FRIENDS



JUST IMAGINE a yellow jump suit with the famous Golden Arches on a field of red emblazoned on the chest, a chalk-white clown face and a flaming red wig. If you were part of a group from Emmanuel Church, Oaklyn, (Gateway South District), you don't have to use your imagination. All you needed was a community missions trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Camden which offers a home away from home for children and their families who are in need of special medical treatments at nearby hospitals in South Jersey and Philadelphia. The Emmanuel team, led by Sharron Williams, provided a variety of entrees, casseroles, and desserts for Ronald's 40 guests from Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas and Wyoming, staying at the facility located adjacent to Cooper Hospital. In addition to serving the food and cleaning up afterwards, church members had the opportunity to meet and spend time in caring conversation with some of the residents as they shared the joy of Jesus Christ. Pictured with Ronald McDonald are Sharron Williams, Nancy Bancroft, Pastor Gary Bartlett, Lynn Cahilly, Carol Doron, Donna Szymkowski, Bonnie Hunt, Doris Cippon, Carol Corbo, Mary Lou Gaud and Janet Maddison.

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Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



"The real interesting thing about it is that a changed heart is a generous heart. The old way is to desire to have good flow toward us. The new way is to want the good to flow out of us."

—S. Truett Cathy, Founder of Chick-Fil-A

This quote from S. Truett Cathy appears in Ken Blanchard's book, *The Generosity Factor: Discover the Joy of Giving Your Time, Talent, and Treasure*, (Zondervan, 2002.) In Chapter 16, entitled *Putting It All Together*, Cathy describes the difference between living a life bent on success, versus living a life with significance as the goal. A "successful" lifestyle is marked by the desire for wealth, achievement, and status. Persons striving for "significance" in their life are recognized by their generosity, service, and healthy relationships.

When you measure yourself in terms of wealth, achievement, and status it is easy to fall into the "enough is never enough" trap. The more you get the more you want and the less chance you ever have of being content and satisfied. When you focus on living a spiritually significant life you begin from a place where you already know you're loved and accepted — which are the most important gifts you can receive. When you're striving for wealth, achievement, and status the most important question is, "What do I need to possess next?" To the spiritually significant person the most important question is, "What is God asking of me?"

When asked, "How will I know when I have truly attained significance?" S. Truett Cathy answered with these simple, yet profound words: "You will know by the sincerity of your generosity, by the joy you find in service, and by the selfless nature of your relationships. You will know by the depth of your changed heart."

The July/August Issue Deadline is June 10, 2010



New "Selections" C.D. From Marcia's Melodies



Marcia and Chuck Hendron have produced a C.D. named "Selections". It is a culmination of 20 years of writing music to honor the Lord. Included are solos, several fine choir numbers, a quartet, The Canticle in C, featuring the Magnificat, Simeon's Song as well as two "Glorias". You will hear two of Marcia's hymns sung by the audience, and a Benediction. These "Selections", were taken from three of Marcia's concerts, and are graced with appropriate comments by Chuck. You will enjoy this one!

A new hymn, named "Mary" has been composed by Marcia J. Hendron. "Mary" is about the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, from his mother's point of view. She **was** an extraordinary woman. This hymn is a tribute to her faith in an Almighty God, her endurance, and her calm assurance that "With God all things are possible". "Mary" was planned as a song for use in women's ministries. However, Marcia has been encouraged to develop it into a simple hymn, and then, into an anthem. These will be composed later in the summer.

The C.D. (at a cost of \$ 15.00) and indeed, all of Marcia's music, is available to you either at Hendron's home, or at the Auditorium Bookstore.

Chuck & Marcia Hendron
32 Pitman Ave.
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756
Phone: 732-988-3191 or at
marciamelodies@verizon.net



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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.

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 11 - 13 — Revive Ecumenical Celebration

TRENTON — Trinity Cathedral will be the site of this three days of Christian Proclamation and Celebration for people passionate about their Lord and the call to justice. FFI: Log on to www.revivejustice.org

June 12 — VIM Leadership Training

HAZLET — St. John's Church will host this 9-to-4 session for persons interested in learning more about being a UM Volunteers in Mission team leader. FFI: Contact Ginny Kaiser at the conference office, (732) 359-1043.

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. Highest fundraising youth group will receive free registration for Youth Weekend. For more information visit www.umh-nj.org/walk or call (732) 922-9800 x121. See story page 3.

June 19 — Ecumenical Family Picnic

TITUSVILLE — Washington Crossing State Park will be the site of this family picnic sponsored by the New Jersey Council of Churches. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks provided. Each family asked to bring a covered dish, salad or dessert. Anyone able to provide live music or lead games for children may contact the Rev. Jackie Burgess at pastorjackieburgess@verizon.net. Only cost: Park fee of \$5 per car.

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 - 11 — School of Christian Mission

LAKEWOOD — "Faith, Hope, Love in Action" will be the theme of this annual Cooperative School of Christian Mission jointly sponsored by the GNJAC and UMW at Georgian Court University here. Study themes will include a survey of the Letters of John, Sudan, Global Christianity and a discovery of the Joy of Simplicity under the heading of "Enough." Learning, fun and fellowship for everyone — laity and clergy, women and men. One day children's session and youth school as well. FFI: See May Relay (umrelay.org, p.3) or log on to the conference website, gnjumc.org.

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.

July 10 — UM Night at the Phillies

PHILADELPHIA — United Methodist Men will sponsor this night of baseball and good fellowship with United Methodists from Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey areas. UMMen will try to match or surpass their achievement last year when they raised \$1,700, evenly divided between Nothing But Nets and Haiti Relief.

July 23 - 25 — School of Christian Mission

CALDWELL — "Faith, Hope, Love in Action" will be the theme of this annual Cooperative School of Christian Mission jointly sponsored by the GNJAC and UMW at Caldwell College here. Study themes will include a survey of the Letters of John, Sudan, Global Christianity and a discovery of the Joy of Simplicity under the heading of "Enough." Learning, fun and fellowship for everyone — laity and clergy, women and men. One day children's session as well. FFI: See May Relay (umrelay.org, p.3) or log on to the conference website, gnjumc.org.

September 10 - 12 — Youth Weekend

OCEAN CITY — NOW is the time. NOW is the theme of this annual September date with sun and surf for youth 9th through 12th grades. Fun, faith and fellowship in an awesome mix. Performances by Group 1 Crew, Tony Cruz and more. Register on line any time. gnjumc.org. FFI: Check next month's edGe page.

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.

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.

VIEWPOINT

Restore the Sabbath

by Frederick Boyle

I am convinced that until Christians become obedient to the Ten Commandments given to Moses in Exodus 20, and restated in Deuteronomy 5, our country will continue to decline in ethics and morality. We need to remember that God did not offer these Commandments as options, nor did God suggest that we can pick and choose among them; they are a complete meal, not a buffet.

My primary concern and call to Christians today is for obedience to maintaining the Sabbath. I am convinced, and God has promised that if Christians will maintain the Sabbath, God will increase the blessings we have received; blessings of family, abundance, and health.

When Christians stop treating the Ten Commandments as if they are options from which they can choose, children's sports will not be played on Sunday because too many students will not show up for the game, and stores will close because of a lack of interest and sales. Before 1960, there were ample opportunities for children's sports and adult shopping, and when Christians return to obedience to God's Word, there will still be ample opportunities.

I am not suggesting that the government pass laws regarding maintenance of the Christian Sabbath; or that Jews, Muslims, agnostics, Hindus, Buddhists, and atheists become Christian. If other people want to play sports or go shopping on Sunday, by all means let them do so. But God gave us a Commandment to set aside a day for rest and to gather together to offer thanksgiving and praise for all that we have received — and God Commanded that we keep it as a perpetual remembrance.

Based on the shocked and defensive reactions I receive from Christians when I suggest that keeping the Sabbath is of no less importance than abstaining from worshipping idols and murdering people, I know that this reminder will be met with ample excuses and objection, if not accusations that I am naïve and foolish to think that we can be obedient to God in this way in the 21st century United States. But please, before you castigate me in print or ignore me as some kind of overzealous religious nut, read Deuteronomy 28:1-2, and measure the depth of your faith in God's Word.

(The Rev. Frederick Boyle is pastor of Old First Church, West Long Branch.)

Church Relations Director United Methodist Homes of NJ

Under the direction of the Vice President Advancement, the Church Relations Director will implement giving strategies that will benefit United Methodist Homes, United Methodist Churches and identified ministries. The director will work as a member of the Advancement team to coordinate efforts to identify, cultivate and solicit prospects and serve as a resource for planning and execution of capital campaigns and major gifts programs.

Qualifications: B.A. from an accredited university or college.

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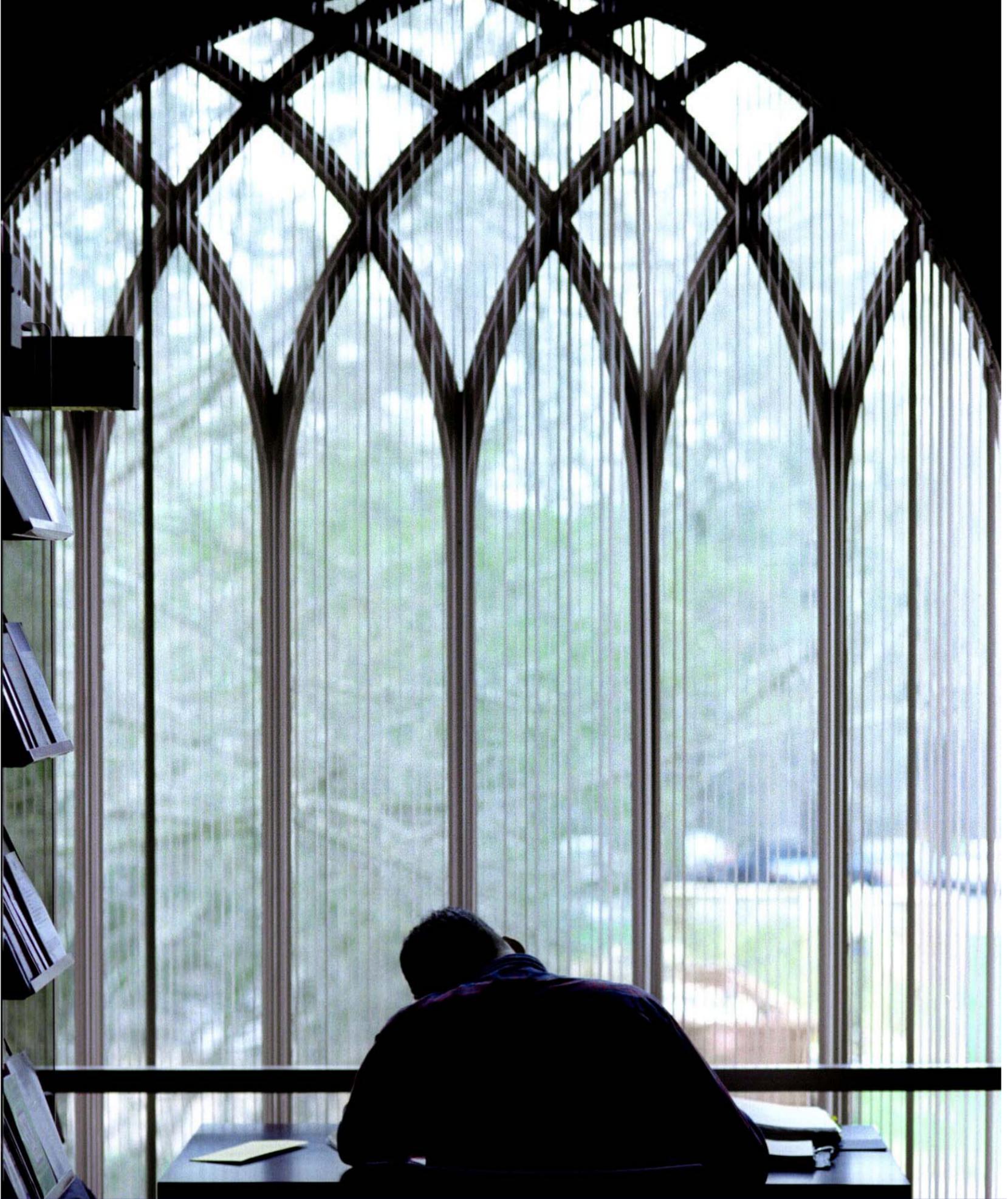
Job skills: Ability to identify, cultivate and solicit prospects. High quality of both written and verbal interpersonal and communication skills.

Job Knowledge: Knowledge of all fundraising vehicles and programs and fundraising software and data management systems.

Compensation: Competitive salary and benefits.

Contact: Luise Didato at 732-922-9800 ext. 131 or ldidato@umh-nj.org.

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