

‘...And the Winner is...’

From the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes to the Oscars and Emmys, awards celebrating notable achievements have become deeply embedded in our culture. No wonder then that the church has appropriated the practice as well. Every year at the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference a number of churches and individuals are presented with awards in honor of some significant ministry.

Among the awards presented annually are:

- **The Christian Unity Award**
- **The Harry Denman Evangelism Award**
- **The Francis Asbury Award**
- **The Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship**

This year, a new honor was added to the list as the Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History bestowed its first honor, the 2010 **ANNUAL CHURCH HISTORY AWARD** To the Chatham Church for Bill Birdsall's 273-page history, *A Firm Foundation: Tales of a "Cornerstone" and of a People*, which documents the history of the Chatham United Methodist Church and its environs since colonial times. The church received a John Wesley bust and a certificate to recognize its accomplishment. Shown here is the Rev. Robert Williams presenting the award with Mr. Birdsall to his left in the tan vest.



The **HARRY DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARDS** honor one youth, one lay person and one clergy person from each conference who have demonstrated their effectiveness in helping persons to experience the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ. Denman Awards are made on nomination of local churches, and are presented by the Foundation on Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship.

The 2010 youth award was to Jacob Sprengle, a youth from Cross Keys United Methodist Church and was accepted by his pastor, the Rev. Brian Greco. The laity award, pre-



sented by the Rev. Douglas Spencer and the Rev. Larry Potts, went to Ann Dice, a layperson at St. Peter's Church, Ocean City. The clergy award was presented to the Rev. Koo Young Na, Pastor of the Korean Community Church, Englewood.



CHRISTIAN UNITY AWARDS celebrate "people and churches who look beyond the walls of their own churches and find ways to partner with other churches" in ministries of justice and ecumenical worship.

In previous years we have presented one award to an individual and one to a congregation. This year we added a third category: young adults committed to ecumenism. This year's Congregational Award went to the Middletown United Methodist Church (I).

The individual Award, presented by the Rev. Jessica Campbell, went to the Rev. Carol Davies of Bethel Church, Hurffville (not shown here).

The newly established Young Adult Award was presented to Katelyn Einstad from Pitman Church, shown here receiving the congratulations of the Bishop.



The **FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD** is bestowed upon the Rev. Derrick Doherty, (I.) Waretown pastor. The award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution in fostering ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level. Presenting the award on behalf of the conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry is Carol Pendleton, Chairperson (c.) as Bishop Devadhar looks on.



The **HARRY A. SEESE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**, honoring the memory of a deceased conference pastor is presented by the Rev. Lyssette Perez to Douglas E. Rea, pastor of First Church May's Landing, but now the newly appointed pastor of the Faith Community Church, Bayville. Ms. Perez, is former Ministries Team Coordinator, and now pastor of Asbury Church, Camden.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

The 'MissionInsite' Tool

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



We have an exciting new tool to help local churches in their mission and ministry. As a conference, we have decided to become clients of "MissionInsite." This ministry tool will help your local church analyze your geographic location and engage in mission and ministry in new ways.

MissionInsite will equip you with an interactive, map-driven, web-based resource, called The M I System. More than demographic information, MissionInsite provides tools to help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You will find resources to help you connect with people living in the area where

your church is located. All data contains current year updates for population, households and families in the study area, as well as age, income, ethnicity, phase of life (generational) and lifestyle segments, which are called "Mosaic." You can project out five years to see how the experts predict changes that will happen.

In addition, to finding out who lives in your area and what makes them 'tick,' you can do things with the tool to plot where your members live. MissionInsite uses Google Maps to pinpoint where your folks live. You can order (for a nominal fee) a list of new movers into the neighborhoods of your parish; chart where a member of your church lives and where a newcomer lives so that person-to-person connections can be made.

You can get started by navigating your Internet browser to www.missioninsite.com. Follow these easy steps:

1. Click on the resources link located under the **local churches** section and review the "how to register" instructions before beginning your registration.
2. Begin the Registration Process using our GNJAC account number ID: p9qcv.
 - a. Complete the Registration Information.
 - b. Create your own User Name and Password.
 - c. Check your email.
 - d. Enter your Password and Activation Code (provided by MissionInsite) to complete the registration process.
 - e. Login to your study, as described in the "How to Register" instructions. When you log into your study your church will appear on the map.
3. Mouseover the **Help Tab** located on the tool bar on the upper left of your window. The Help section includes Support Videos and Documents. Click on each tab to review the material available to assist in your use of the MissionInsite System. When you have a question, the first place to look for an answer is the "Help" section.

We are excited about the possibilities that MissionInsite will offer to our local churches. We will be holding training sessions at upcoming District Days of Learning to help you get the most out of this congregational development tool.

Digest Continues

The *GNJ Digest*, thrice-weekly e-mail newsletter will continue in the same format as in the past, pending analysis of a recent electronic survey. Fears that the publication would be jeopardized by the termination of the post of communications coordinator were laid aside in a recent announcement from the conference office. Editing the e-newsletter will be Stewardship Coordinator Rich Hendrickson.

Items for the *Digest* should be sent to communications@gnjumc.org, either in e-mail text or MS Word.

A Message from the Bishop

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



"Since the most ancient prehistoric times, the peoples of the earth have used acoustic signals for various cultural purposes, especially to give expression to great joy or sorrow. The oldest bells come from China, where so-called Gongs were hammered out of copper already in 3000 B.C. Completely independent of the Chinese, bells were also developed in the early cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Romans also used bells for signal purposes in the baths, temples, and for military uses. Because bells were so much in use in pagan cultures, Christendom initially disapproved of them. Not until the second century was the bell adopted as the symbol of gospel preaching and used as a call to assemble." (Taken from "The Bell Museum" information handout, Grassmayr Glockengiesserei GmbH, A-6020 Innsbruck, Leopoldstraße 53. Austria p.1. See www.grassmayr.at).

Church bells hold a lot of memories for me. As a child, I would hear them ringing to gather faithful Christians for divine worship services. Bells were also used to announce moments of special joy and sadness in the community in which I lived. As youth we were always eager to ring the church bells calling people to Sunday afternoon catechism classes.

Every day the bells of Taize beckon thousands of people to join the Brothers of Taize for worship and prayer. Morning, noon, and evening, the bells of Taize call youth and young adults to gather as a community without any barriers of denominations, nationalities, or cultures. The interval between the first bell and the second, particularly on Sunday morning, inspires all to be in prayer and meditation as the community waits for the worship to begin.

There were 44 youth, young adults, and adults from our Annual Conference present in the Taize community from July 11-18, 2010. As I journeyed with our pilgrims and spent time with them in Taize I saw the glow of joy in their eyes. I asked them the question, "Friends, what is it that is so meaningful here at Taize that perhaps isn't present back home in your local church?" Their quick response was, "People here are not judgmental, nor do we find any divisions here as Protestants, Catholics, or Orthodox. People just want to hear the word of God." They explained, "Back home, when we go to church, people watch how we dress and classify us as youth as if we are different. Here, we belong to one joyful and worshipping community." What a powerful response, though it was difficult to hear. May we prayerfully reflect on their answers.

May the bells of our churches call us to gather together as communities of faith where all are welcome. May the bells remind us that we are called together to worship God as a community without any barriers of race, class, ethnicity, age, or culture.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

We urge your patience and your cooperation as we adjust to the new communications arrangement in the conference. Please continue to send your news to the editor serving your district. For news of conference agencies, please send to the appropriate program staff person in the conference office. In districts not covered by an associate editor, send your copy directly to the editor-in-chief until further notice. Watch for additional instructions in future issues or on the GNJ Digest.

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Sudarshana Devadhar, Resident Bishop
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CUMAC/ECHO and Pat Bruger: Still Perfect Together



What was intended as a tribute to the hard work of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Council on Finance and Administration, and a word of thanks to CUMAC/ECHO Director Pat Bruger turned into a bit of confusion that had some readers fearful that the Paterson agency was folding. No such thing!

CUMAC/ECHO, the Paterson based outreach ministry is IN BUSINESS and WILL CONTINUE TO BE. That's the news going forth in the face of a rumored disruption in the service, following an erroneous report that CUMAC director, the Rev. Pat Bruger, was retiring.

The fact of the matter is that Ms. Bruger is very much in charge and will continue to be.

The error occurred as the result of a caption appearing under a picture of Ms. Bruger and Bishop Devadhar in the July/August *Relay*. Here's how it happened.

- At the conference in June, it was announced that "Due to the hard work and collaboration between the Conference Board of Pensions and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the heartfelt support of those who participated" Ms. Bruger will receive healthcare benefits under the conference program "in her retirement."
- The photo caption provided also contained the information that "The Bishop thanked Rev. Bruger on behalf of the entire conference for all her years of dedicated service."
- In his capacity as *Relay* editor, the Rev. Robin Van Cleef rewrote the caption, incorrectly assuming that reference to Ms. Bruger's retirement was a present reality. Mr. Van Cleef has issued an apology for the error and is pleased to correct it in this issue.

Meanwhile, CUMAC/ECHO and Pat Bruger are moving full speed ahead in their ongoing work of feeding the hungry and providing for the poor in the Paterson area.

"Continue to direct your prayers and your pocketbook in the direction of Paterson," one observer urged.

Golf Outings for Good Causes Spring up on GNJ Fairways

Golf is "busting out all over" the Greater New Jersey area this fall benefiting several good causes, with outings planned for a number of churches and the United Methodist Homes' Bristol Glen in Newton.

CALDWELL – Most ambitious will be an October 12 outing sponsored by the Caldwell Church.

With five previous ventures to their credit, Caldwell is offering to "Make a difference this year in partnership with Habitat for Humanity"

Mixed with the benevolent cause is the promise of "fellowship, food and fun."

The comprehensive golfing fee of \$160 will cover golf and golf cart, lunch, give aways, social hour, dinner, and awards. All are welcome, singles, pairs or foursomes. And for the more sedentary, dinner will be served at a quarter of the cost of full participation.

Registration deadline will be September 15. Forms may be downloaded from the church website, www.caldwellchurch.org.

NEWTON – Rivalling the Caldwell event is the Bristol Glen-Galaxy outing under the stars, September 21.

Fluorescent golfballs will sail over the fairway of the Farmwood Country Club for the benefit of the Fellowship Fund that supports residents who have exhausted their resources.

Beginning with dinner at 5 p.m., the evening will continue with the golf match and conclude with the awarding of prizes.

Additional information is available by contacting Beth Malkin at Bristol Glen, 973-300-5788, or bmalkin@bristolglen.org

ISLAND HEIGHTS – Island Heights UMC will hold its first annual golf outing at Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood, September 23.

Proceeds of the event will go to benefit relief through worldwide and hunger Ministries.

For more information, interested golfers may contact Mark Likes - 732-349-4246.

Emmaus Walk Schedules Fall Events

SOUTH SEAVILLE — The Garden State Walk to Emmaus will hold its 37th weekend event here October 7-10 for men and October 21-24 for women.

The Walk is a reference to the incident recorded in Luke 24 where two disciples encounter the risen Christ on the road to the village of Emmaus, north of Jerusalem.

The three day weekend is a person's introduction into the "Emmaus Commu-

nity," offering life, study, and action tools shared on the weekend as a guide to one's "Fourth Day," or life after the weekend, equipping Emmaus members to be strong Christian leaders in their church, home, and workplace. The application deadline for the Fall Walks is September 1.

Additional information is available at info@gardenstateemmaus.org

'New Places, New People' at Newton for UMW Fall Meeting, October 23

GNJAC — "New Places for New People" will be the theme of the United Methodist Women's Fall Meeting October 23, at First Church, Newton.

Designed especially for young women and those who would like to see the UMW take on a more youthful air, the program will feature the Women's Division's Marisa Villareal and members of the UMW Young Women's Leadership Committee, a group within the General Board of Global Ministries.

The afternoon worship service theme will be "Piecing Earth Together,"

an exploration of environmental concerns and actions.

The Fall Meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. For additional information, interested parties may contact Mary Bode at 732-244-6538.

"Bring a young woman with you and she'll be glad you did," promises the UMW invitation.

One lingering question? Newton, New People, New Places? If the meeting were scheduled for Old Wick or Old Bridge, we wonder what would be the theme?

Concert and Dinner to Showcase Refurbished Organ in Passaic October 16

PASSAIC — The First United Methodist Church of Passaic has set the date of October 16 to showcase its newly refurbished Austin organ. An organ concert will be held in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. followed by a full dinner at 6:30pm. The church is located at 145 Paulison Avenue in Passaic, NJ.

Guest organist for the evening will be John J. Miller, director of music ministries at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Regularly featured as a soloist with the New Jersey Symphony,

he has also performed abroad. His European performances have taken him to Rome, Venice, Leipzig, Prague, Salzburg and Vienna.

A graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, Mr. Miller holds a double master of music degree. He lives in West Orange.

Ticket information is available by calling the church office at 973-779-7521 or visiting the church website, www.fumcpassaic.org

2011 Community Outreach Grants

The Parish & Community Development Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will be receiving and reviewing applications from churches for grants to fund *new programs* in the local church designed to reach out beyond our walls and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world with emphasis on the Four Areas of Focus: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Congregational Development; (3) Ministry with the Poor; and (4) Global Health.

Local churches must submit their application before the **October 15, 2010** deadline. Application forms will be mailed as requested by local churches (call Ginny Kaiser at 732-359-1043) or may be downloaded from the conference website www.gnjumc.org.

Criteria:

- Grants are intended to help start *new ministries* at local churches and not to sustain established programs.
- Grants are provided for one year at a time and not awarded for more than three (3) years to the same project.
- Preference is always given to new ministries at local churches that have not received funds previously.
- Only one project per church should be submitted.
- Project goals need to be according to the Four Focus Areas: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Congregational Development; (3) Ministry with the Poor; and (4) Global Health.
- Grants cannot be used to fund staff positions, equipment or capital improvement.
- Churches and ministries receiving grants *must* submit a copy of the Safe Sanctuaries Certification.
- Preference is given to local churches which have paid their fair share in the previous year.
- District Superintendent of the local church requesting funds needs to recommend the project.
- Must be willing to attend grant writing workshop if you have not taken one in last three years.

Please follow the general instructions listed in the application as the Funding Committee will not consider *incomplete* applications.

Completed applications must be returned to the Conference Office no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, OCTOBER 15, 2010. All applications are to be sent to: Rev. Varlyna D. Wright, Greater New Jersey Conference, 1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712, or faxed to 732-359-1049. If you fax your application, you must also mail the original. No emails will be accepted.

RELAY Reflections

Thoughts on the Spiritual Life
Relay online at www.umrelay.org

Read, Reflect, then Write your own and e-mail your contribution or comments to editor@umrelay.org.



Global Relay

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

U.S. Court decision intensifies debate on homosexuality

SAN FRANCISCO — The federal court's rejection of California's same-sex marriage ban is receiving both condemnation and praise from United Methodists. One thing both sides agree on: The ruling only adds to the longtime debate on how the church ministers to gays and lesbians. "It certainly won't mitigate the tension," said the Rev. Norman Carter, a retired Arkansas pastor and member of the Confessing Movement, an unofficial United Methodist group that views homosexual acts as contrary to Scripture and Christian tradition. "I think it will just perpetuate the battle." The Rev. Karen Oliveto, who serves on the board of directors of the Reconciling Ministries Network, an unofficial United Methodist group that advocates for full inclusion of gays and lesbians in church life agrees. "As a church, I think we're going to continue to struggle with this issue," said Oliveto. "The reason why the issue keeps coming up is that gays and lesbians are in our pews."

United Methodist church anchors Dulac, La.

DULAC, La. — Modest wooden houses and mobile homes on pilings tower over bright green lawns on both sides of Highway 57. Pickup trucks sit in the shade under the houses and shrimp boats gently rock on the bayou that snakes along one side of the two-lane blacktop. In this small fishing town, Clanton Chapel United Methodist Church, the only Native American United Methodist congregation in Louisiana, has been an anchor through many storms. Oddly enough, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 didn't really hit Dulac as much as other parts of the state. But a month later, her twisted sister Rita left behind a lot of the damage that people are still recovering from. Gustav and Ike in 2008 added to the destruction. But the latest disaster — the Deep Horizon oil rig explosion — may be the greatest threat to the faithful people who have lived in and loved this coastal region for hundreds of years. Today the community is hurting. Most folks are shrimpers and fishers, work in a seafood-related business or work for the oil industry. "We do not have millionaires who are members here; we have good loving, hospitable people that are faithful to the church," says Pastor. "And out of that, good things keep coming."

Call to Action offers signs of crisis and hope

NASHVILLE — First, the bad news: The United Methodist Church needs to change its operations denomination-wide to address financial challenges and be more relevant in its ministry around the globe. Then, the good news: Despite these challenges, many churches of varied sizes and settings have found ways to grow and thrive. Those are the findings of two studies by independent researchers released recently by the denomination's Call to Action Steering Team. The reports included an "Operational Assessment of the Connectional Church" and a "Congregational Vitality" overview. The 16-member Call to Action Steering Team, which includes clergy and laity, will present recommendations based on the studies to the denomination's Council of Bishops and Connectional Table in November.

'Simple churches' put mission on fast track

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Missouri United Methodists are planning to start several small churches without the typical three-year, \$300,000 commitment it usually allocates for such efforts. What they need, however, are a bunch of missionaries like Mike Price. A pastor at Campbell United Methodist Church in Springfield asked during a Wednesday night service for volunteers for a new kind of outreach in southwest Missouri - one that could begin in an apartment or a restaurant meeting room. "I said yes," said Price, 56, of Springfield. "I've been searching hard spiritually to serve the Lord in ways that go deeper than being an usher."

Partnership creates Sierra Leone clinic

MANONKOH VILLAGE, Sierra Leone — People needing health care in the remote communities of Manonkoh, Rokon, Maserry and Masethie in northern Sierra Leone used to be in dire straits. Pregnant women in labor and people with other health emergencies were rushed from these communities on motorbikes - the main means of transportation in rural Sierra Leone - through a 30-kilometer stretch of bad road to Makeni, the provincial capital, for treatment, sometimes during odd hours of the night. Stories abound of patients who had lost their lives to treatable ailments because their families could not convey them in time to receive immediate medical attention. All that changed in June when the United Methodist Sierra Leone Annual Conference, in partnership with United Methodists in Minnesota, dedicated a \$60,000 health facility in Manonkoh Village.

Korean Bishop Kwang Young Chang dies

SEOUL — Bishop Kwang Young Chang, well known to GNJ United Methodists following several visits to annual conferences here, died recently. Funeral services were held on July 29. Bishop Chang's son, the Rev. Hark Bum Chang is a clergy member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference serving Grace Korean Church in Westwood.

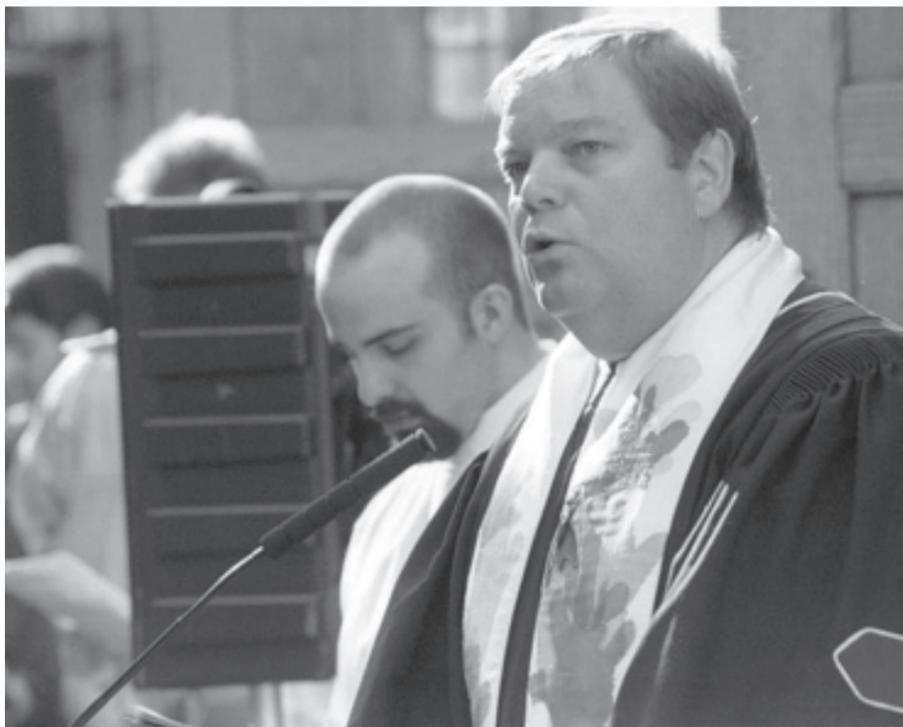
Uganda blast victims receive support, treatment

NASHVILLE — Five of six members of a visiting mission team from Christ Community Church in Selinsgrove, Pa., who were injured in the July 11 terrorist bombings in Uganda have received medical treatment in South Africa and Kenya. Those most seriously injured were transported to a trauma center in Johannesburg. Others were hospitalized in Nairobi. The injured missionaries found support from staff members of the Board of Global Ministries and Upper Room Ministries stationed in Johannesburg. Four other young adults, from Birmingham, Ala., were at the restaurant that was bombed in Kampala, Uganda, but escaped unharmed.

Oil spill teaches us scientists are not gods

AUSTIN, Texas — "I am often appalled at the power that we Americans give to scientists and engineers," writes the Rev. Tina Carter, an ordained United Methodist elder who holds a doctorate in environmental chemistry. "With our increased demand and consumption of oil, with our increased demand for money and the greed that pervades our culture, and with the expectation of instant results born of the very technology that scientists and engineers have given us come no room for error and no offer of grace. The people who were on the drill rig when the oil spill happened in the Gulf of Mexico and those who have sought a solution to this incredible error in judgment are nothing more and nothing less than children of God. Lacking godlike qualities, they are thinking and testing everything that they know to do."

OFFICIANT AT CLINTON WEDDING



The Rev. William Shillady (right), a clergy member of the New York Annual Conference and pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church in New York, shared the task of officiating at the wedding of Chelsea Clinton to Marc Mezvinsky with Rabbi James Ponet, Yale University Jewish Chaplain, at the July 31 nuptials of the daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "It was a wonderful honor to be part of this special day in Chelsea and Marc's life," Shillady told United Methodist News Service. The bride and her parents have attended Park Avenue Church occasionally. The picture above was from a 2002 service.

(United Methodist News Service file photo by John C. Goodwin.)

United Methodist calendars available

NASHVILLE — The official United Methodist Program Calendar for 2011 is now available in 10 designs, ranging from electronic to a pocket size that shows a week-at-a-glance. The calendars include information on liturgical colors, lectionary readings and Special Sunday offerings. The 2011 calendar is themed around the denomination's four areas of focus: combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally; engaging in ministry with the poor; creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations; and developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Calendars can be purchased at umcom.org/calendars.

UM higher education guidebook available

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A new guidebook to the 121 United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities and theological institutions is available. The guide is aimed at helping high school students and others easily compare tuition, degrees offered and possible financial aid. Each institution's website, contact information for the admission office as well as information about religious life on campus, dorms and sports are included. "The Guidebook of United Methodist-Related Schools, Colleges, Universities and Theological Schools," which costs \$5, can be ordered at cokesbury.com.

General Conference size to be set in November

NASHVILLE — The number of delegates at the 2012 General Conference will be determined in November. The church's Constitution states that General Conference "shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 delegates" but the current formula for the distribution of delegates allocates more than 1,000 delegates. Last October, the Judicial Council ruled that: "The Secretary of the General Conference has the authority to determine the number of delegates that each annual and missionary conference will elect to the General Conference within the provisions of the Constitution and the legislative enactments of the General Conference." That person, the Rev. L. Fitzgerald Reist, said he is awaiting analysis of the 2009 membership statistics to see how the size of the General Conference may affect representation. The 2012 meeting will take place April 24-May 4 at the Tampa Convention Center in Florida.

Methodists live longer than the average Brit

PORTSMOUTH, England — When Stanley Lucas of Cornwall died at the age of 110 in June, he was thought to be the oldest male member of the British Methodist Church and one of the oldest men in the world. Is this sort of longevity characteristic of Methodists? Yes, according to an analysis conducted by British Religion in Numbers of family announcements printed in the Methodist Recorder. The analysis showed that in 1973 the mean age of death for Methodist laity was 77.9 years for men and 83 for women. By 2008, these figures had risen to 83.9 and 91.1 respectively — well above the life expectancy of 77 for men and 82 for women for the United Kingdom population as a whole. "I'm sure there are many different factors at work for Methodists to attain these numbers," said Richard Vautrey, vice president of the British Methodist Conference. "But I would guess that our emphasis on caring for our spiritual as well as physical health, avoiding excess, engaging with people in our communities and being good neighbors all help." No data was available on the longevity of American Methodists.

Red Bird Mission School to reopen

BEVERLY, KY — The Red Bird Mission School, reportedly on the verge of closure a month ago, will open for the 2010-2011 school year. The school, located in the remote mountains of Southeastern Kentucky, will be open for grades Kindergarten through 12. In May, the Red Bird Mission Board had voted to suspend classes during the 2010-2011 academic year in order to build up the school's cash reserves after years of dwindling donations. The first day of class will be Aug. 5. Donations to the Red Bird Mission can be sent through local church treasurers, designated as *Advance* #773728 for the school, or *Advance* #773726 for the mission.

GNJ Pilgrims Live Out Reformers' Vision at Taize Retreat

First of a two-part report
By the Rev. Jeff Markay

The first leg of the pilgrimage to Taize included taking 44 pilgrims from the Greater NJ Conference through the city of Geneva, Switzerland. We visited the Wall of Reformers, which depicted some of the great visionaries of the Protestant reformation including Calvin, Luther, Zwingli and others. We visited St. Peter's church, which is where John Calvin preached the Gospel with the hopes of reforming the church to a greater faithfulness back in the 16th Century. Our ancestors in the faith sought a mature Christianity through studying the scripture together, forming small groups to encourage depth and accountability, celebrating the sacraments and growing in their relationship with Christ. We then headed for Taize, where we would do some of the same practices, only this time, with over 3,000 Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Lutheran, Orthodox, seekers and other members of the Body of Christ from over 60 nations. Our shared desire was to grow closer to God. God continues to use Taize to reform, to heal, and to bring together the church for a new day of living out the Good News of Jesus Christ.



GNJ Young adults and Drew seminarians gather for group picture at Taize.

One of the ways at Taize that God brings about such healing, and reform in our ecumenism is through the shared prayer which features singing chants, scripture, and silence. The silence at Taize, which we experienced at least three times each day at the prayers, gave us an opportunity to go beneath the distractions of our lives and dip into what the Brothers refer to as "the Source," and others refer to as "the true self." In the wisdom of the Psalmist who reminds us to "Be still, and know that I am God," (Psalm 46:10) part of our souls were awakened to a new and time-tested practice that Jesus himself used to commune with God.

"There must be space to listen to God and space to talk with God. Silence has no particular virtue in itself: it is a means to an end. It is to enable God to break the silence in us..."

Inner silence requires us first to forget our own selves and so quiet conflicting voices and master obsessive anxiety, constantly beginning again, never discouraged because always forgiven. It makes possible our conversation with Jesus Christ...Your dialogue with Christ demands this silence...(Parable of Community by Brother Roger pp.22-23)

From this place of silence and community, conversation and listening, giving and receiving, we reflected on some of the following questions. The pilgrims who responded have given their permission to share their names and wisdom.

What moved you during this Pilgrimage to Taize?

"Everything about Taize moved me but mainly the people and community. I clearly saw Jesus through almost everyone. Everyone was so positive." Jamila Bruce, Asbury UMC

"On one of the nights the church stayed open through the early morning, I felt the energy in the place was nothing but positive. The small groups of people singing along with the peacefulness in the air was just so powerful. I loved every second." Jonathan Fornoff, Milford UMC.

"The silence. The kindness. The trust. The smiles. And the sweet little Dutch girl who gave me mini-clogs for my fingers." Eric Hobaichan, Tenafly UMC.

"The love between members of our group. Ten days ago we were all strangers and now we're leaving as family. I was also impressed by the faithfulness and struggles of Christians who live in other parts of the world." Trinity Norwood, Ujima Village Christian Church

"I loved hearing everyone sing during the prayers. No matter what nationality each of us was, we were able to come together as one Body of Christ and worship our Lord in song." Becky Krall, Chews UMC

"In my small group we had an exercise called 'What do I really want?' This really touched me because I didn't know. Yet now I know what I want and have clearer ideas about what I want to do with my life." Patricia Henriquez, Union City UMC.

What impressed you about the worship life at Taize?

"The devotion of praying three times a day. The simplicity with no technology was helpful in breaking away from the daily grind." Trinity Norwood, Ujima Village Christian Church

"The combination of personal reflection and immense group prayer. I loved the silence and then singing the Kyrie Eleison. I felt I was talking to God personally, then uniting and calling out to him from the bottom of my heart." Leah Raczynski, Grace UMC

"No one directed worship from the altar. It was a very deep and focused worship with songs that had deep theological meaning." Jose Mora, Drew Theological School seminarian.

"The regular prayer – everyday - three times a day - gave a rhythm to the place. I loved how comfortable I got with it." Shannon Dean, Kingston UMC

"That the Brothers of Taize remained calm and grace-filled despite some people's lack of respect for their rules, community life and worship time." Amanda Rohrs, Drew Theological School seminarian.

"Seamlessness...songs were introduced to the pilgrims in unobtrusive ways, scriptures were read, silence was held, and we all knew what was happening next." Misty Howick, Drew Theological School seminarian.

How have your views changed in the past week, about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

"I have become way more trusting in people, not just being open-minded, but actually trusting people." Shannon Dean, Kingston UMC.

(Continued on page 10)

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Gateway Urban Project Does an Old Thing in A New Way

GATEWAY NORTH DISTRICT — The Gateway Urban Project has been on a grand summer vacation, or more precisely, a summer of "Vacation Bible Schools."

Under the leadership of visiting Bishop Felton May and the Rev. Robert Costello, district superintendent, churches across Gateway North have come together to form Bible school action teams. In Gateway Urban Project planning sessions, each team has been responsible for some phase of organizing a vacation Bible school. Taking the lead in this was the Rev. Brenda Ehlers, recently ordained deacon at Morrow Memorial Church, Maplewood.

The next event of the Gateway Urban Project will take place at the Orange Church at 5:00 p.m., September 12. At that time Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and Bishop May will help lead a celebration of the summer efforts. Each Bible School will share what its students learned. Scenery and crafts will be displayed. Songs and lessons will be shared. Families will be included. The mission project report will be shared. It will be a festive time of worship, music, prayer, pictures, and planning. Summer participants will be honored.

"This has been an unbelievable success story," declares one Gateway North layman. "I was a skeptic, but now I am a believer... There has been amazing sharing and cooperation." The initial hope was to reach at least 1,000 people this summer. "It appears that goal might be exceeded," he said.

Pastors and laity have organized to develop curriculum, teacher training, craft work, scenery, transportation, recreation, mission projects and creative refreshments.

At least 20 churches have engaged in the vacation Bible school collaboration, working together, sharing resources, moving scenery around, and taking a creative approach to urban ministry.

"This summer has been a great time of 'vacation' in the district," the lay observer said. The diversity of race, ages, nationalities, cultures, languages, church sizes, worship styles, foods, music, art, and levels of resources have all contributed to making this effort a unique cooperative success.

Participants in this project have been challenged by their leaders to become an energizing force in the community.

Superintendent Costello earlier had challenged the churches in words reminiscent of Star Trek's Captain Kirk. "Let's dare to 'go where we haven't yet been' as we strive to do ministry in new ways, new places, and with new people," he said. "We are only limited by the extent of our commitment and extremes of our imagination."

"We can let the community know that we are a force," chimed in Bishop May. "We can surprise ourselves with what we can do if we work together."



REACHING FOR HEAVEN. Arms outstretched, children and adult leader find ways to express their praise at Vacation Bible School at Wesley Church, Belleville, one of 20 churches participating in the 2010 Gateway North Urban Project this summer.

Adding his blessing was Bishop Devadhar. "I give my full support to this project," the bishop said. "I know that we will accomplish great things to make disciples for Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world." Pastors and laity have come together with a new enthusiasm for ministry and this vacation Bible school ministry is just the start.

Hilton Church, Maplewood, held its first children's program in many years in recently renovated facilities. In Kearny, small membership Calvary Church hosted several dozen children in its community outreach. In Elizabeth, El Redentor and Epworth churches worked together, with Rev. Ricardo Ramos reaching out to involve students at Kean College.

For the first time in years, Belleville held a large community VBS, while in Jersey City the churches created a cooperative project, offering Bible school in the Mary M. Bethune Community Center.

The summer camp in Calvary-Roseville was a great success with Bible schools conducted in English, Spanish, Korean, and Portuguese.

Throughout the Bible Schools, each group adopted a mission project, including community outreach across the Gateway urban area.

Among the churches that included in the project so far are Franklin-St. John's, St. Matthews, Trinity-Newark, St. Paul's-Centenary, Covenant,

Bethany-Browne, Clair Memorial, Hilton, Morrow Memorial, Calvary, Davis Memorial, Wesley-Belleville, Union City, El Redentor, Epworth, Calvary-Roseville, Park-Bloomfield, Livingston, Vailsburg, Christ-Jersey City, First Filipino American, Trinity-

Jersey City, Lafayette, Park-St. John's, and Orange.

With the Gateway Urban Project's solid summer success, United Methodist Christians on Gateway North are already looking forward to the fall.

TEST THE WATERS *BEFORE...*



JUMPING INTO THE POOL

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For additional information contact K. Edward Jacobi, Acting President at 732-747-4891 or ejacobi07739@yahoo.com or Jay Kim at the GNJAC Office 732-359-1032



COMMUNITY OUTREACH was an integral element in the Gateway summer project. Here children at Wesley Church, Belleville, bring food contributions to supply a food pantry that will offer nourishment to the urban population.



"The NOW" - 1 Timothy 4:12

September 10-12, 2010 in Ocean City

Registration available online only at www.gnjumc.org
 Guests include: Tony Cruz, Group 1 Crew, and more.
 T-shirts, lunch, concert admission and workshops included in the registration fee of only \$35 a person. (housing and meals must be made on your own)
 Register today!!
 We can't wait to see you at the biggest and greatest UMC youth weekend of the year!!

YOUTH 2011 July 13-17, 2011

You Think YOU are Ordinary...Think Again!!

The Greater NJ Conference will be arranging bus transportation to Purdue University in West Lafayette Indiana for Youth 2011. (You must register your youth group to attend the event at www.youth2011.org....this is only for transportation)
 Information available at www.fatihgarden.org and www.gnjumc.org
 Cost is \$75 a person for Round trip transportation. **Space is limited so sign up your youth group soon!!**

YOUTH WORKER TRAINING FOR FALL 2010

Free Trainings for you - the Youth Worker!!

This year youth worker trainings will be held around the conference in all 9 districts. It is our hope that you will be able to attend each of the three trainings at a location near you.

All trainings will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the designated church. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Ginny Kaiser at 732-359-1043 - 1 week prior to the training.

September 16th 7-9pm **Discipleship for Youth** how to get them involved and keep them involved
 Skylands-Sparta UMC

October 21st 7-9pm **Youth Workers- Get a Lifel** - Balancing your ministry and personal life.
 Gateway South Chews UMC

November 18th 7-9pm **Recruiting Volunteers** get the right people excited about helping with young people
 Northern Shore West Grove UMC - Neptune

January 20th 7-9pm **Discipleship for Youth** how to get them involved and keep them involved
 Gateway North Morrow Memorial UMC

February 24th 7-9pm **Youth Workers- Get a Lifel** - Balancing your ministry and personal life.
 Palisades Ridgewood UMC

March 24th 7-9pm **Recruiting Volunteers** - get the right people excited about helping with young people
 Cape Atlantic Somers Point UMC

April 14th 7-9 pm **Discipleship for Youth** how to get them involved and keep them involved
 Delaware Bay Pitman UMC

May 19th 7-9pm **Youth Workers- Get a Lifel** - Balancing your ministry and personal life. Raritan Valley Bridgewater UMC

June 16th 7-9pm **Recruiting Volunteers** get the right people excited about helping with young people
 Capital St. Marks Hamilton Sq.



Christian Educators Event
 Louisville, KY
October 22-25, 2010
 For more information visit www.cefumc.org



Safe Sanctuaries Sunday is Sunday September 26, 2010. Celebrate being a Safe Sanctuary church with resources, music and children's activities. Be sure to visit www.gnjumc.org/safe_sanctuary for worship ideas.

NYWC National Youth Workers Convention
 San Diego October 1-4, 2010
 Nashville November 19-22, 2010
 More information is available at www.nyc.org

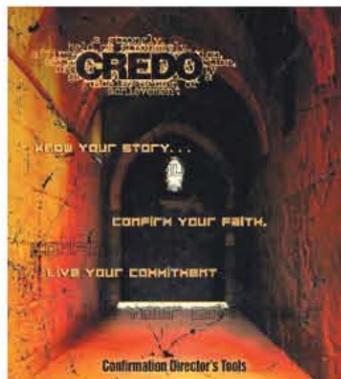
Worship Resources for Children's Sabbath

This year, the United Methodist Church will observe Children's Sabbath October 8-10, 2010.

Children's Sabbath is an ecumenically celebrated weekend committed to educating the congregation about the state of today's children and families in America. Children provide leadership through music, sharing of gifts, and reading of scripture. Downloadable resources for this event are available through the Children's Defense Fund

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/2010-childrens-sabbaths-manual.html>

Use an interactive map to find ideas that worked in congregations and communities in 2009 <http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/faith-based-action/childrens-sabbaths/interactive-map-2009.html>



New Confirmation Curriculum Now available through Cokesbury

Confirmation in the UM tradition is a rite through which young Christians affirm the faith of the church, renew the vows of baptism, and commit to lives of discipleship as professing members of the United Methodist Church.

CREDO helps prepare young people for the rite of confirmation by teaching them about the Christian story and essential Christian beliefs, explaining distinctive UM emphases, giving them a deeper understanding of the confirmation vows they may chose to take, and helping them live into those vows even before they are confirmed. For more information on CREDO visit www.cokesbury.com Be sure to check out the UM Relay, www.fatihgarden.org and www.gnjumc.org for upcoming GNJ Confirmation events, including a retreat series, and the Bishop's Confirmation Celebration.

OUR CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - 2010

Once again, the *Relay* joins United Methodists across the Greater New Jersey Area in offering our congratulations to the winners of Conference scholarships awarded at the annual Scholarship Dinner held June 26 at Francis Asbury Manor, Ocean Grove.

At the dinner the 21 award recipients were honored for their achievements and commitment to self-development.

Also honored was the 2010 recipient of the Francis Asbury Award, the Rev. Derrick L. Doherty, pastor of the Waretown Church. (See page one.) The Francis Asbury Award is a nonmonetary prize given to recognize and encourage support of higher education ministries within the denomination.

The 21 scholarship recipients are listed and pictured below, with capsule testimonies to their United Methodist faith. Relay readers will be inspired by these words of witness.

Local pastors are encouraged to explore the annual conference, statewide and national opportunities for 2011 scholarships. Information is available at the conference website, www.umc.org, or by contacting Ginny Kaiser at the Greater New Jersey Conference at 732-359-1040 for more information.

We offer our best wishes and pledge our prayers to these scholars-in-the-making.



Rev. Derrick L. Doherty
Recipient of the
Francis Asbury Award 2010



Daniel Addy
Conference Trust Scholarship
Daniel is a graduate of Hamilton High School West and will attend Rutgers University in the fall. He is an active member of African United Methodist Church in Trenton, NJ.

"One guiding principle that has shaped my Christian life is to do under others as you would have done unto you. As a young member of the African United Methodist Church, I learned tolerance, understanding, not judging others, being kind to others and to give respect."



Ashley Baldanza
Conference Trust Scholarship
Ashley is a graduate of Ocean Township High School and will attend the University of Delaware in the fall. She is an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Oakhurst, NJ.

"For as long as I can remember, my church has been a second home to me. Not only is the building familiar, but everything about the church has become a part of me. Sunday night youth group meetings have prepared me for long weeks of high school, and the friends I have made in choir will be my friends for life."



Emily Blew
Conference Trust Scholarship
Emily is a graduate of North Burlington School and will attend Mount Saint Mary College in the fall. She is an active member of Hedding United Methodist Church in Bordentown.

"My wonderful church family has touched me personally, but so has the Methodist Church as a whole. I remember reading the mission statement 'Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors' for the first time and thinking what a beautiful message it sent out."



Wesley Buckley
Frances Nelson Scholarship
Wesley is presently attending Gordon College where he is a Christian Ministries and Biblical Studies major. He is an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Brick, NJ.

"One of the biggest ways that the United Methodist Church has influenced me is that it challenged me spiritually and intellectually. I have heard many great sermons from the pulpit that have encouraged my faith and put me into a place to grow."



Iris Cesar
Conference Trust Scholarship
Iris is presently attending Kean University where she is pursuing a career in medicine. She is an active member of El Redentor United Methodist Church in Linden, NJ.

"When I moved from Cuba to the United States of America I was a little worried about whether I would be able to adapt to a new cultural system which I would be exposed to. However, with the United Methodist Church, I have been successful."



Yoo Chan (John) Chang
Conference Trust Scholarship
John is a graduate of Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, NJ and will attend Fu Foundation School of Engineering (Columbia University) in the fall. He is an active member of Grace Korean United Methodist Church.

"When I was in seventh grade, I took a confirmation class at church and it was there that my beliefs and values began to solidify. When I completed the course and was confirmed, I was happy that I officially became a member of the church."



Sheritta Coleburn
Conference Trust Scholarship
Sheritta is presently attending Penn State Berks University. She is an active member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Lawnside, NJ.

"During my early teenage years I went through a transformation that truly directed my future to success. This transformation began when I joined a local United Methodist Church by the name of Mt. Zion."



Michael Conner
Frances Nelson Scholarship
Michael is presently attending Indiana Wesleyan University. Upon graduation he intends to attend seminary to become a full-time pastor in the United Methodist Church. He is an active member of Sharpstown United Methodist Church in Pilesgrove, NJ.

"During the seventh grade I was invited by a friend to attend the youth group of a local United Methodist Church. After a weekend conference in Ocean City, and a powerful encounter with the grace of God, my life was transformed and Jesus Christ entered into my life as my Savior."



Evan Fleming Buck
Conference Merit Scholarship
Evan is a graduate of Hammonton High School and will attend Lebanon Valley College in the fall. He is an active member of Haddonfield United Methodist Church in Trenton, NJ.

"As a Boy Scout, I have learned many ideals that all men should live by, but what truly formed my character was the United Methodist Church and its congregation."



Krysti Hartman
Conference Trust Scholarship
Krysti is presently attending Marymount University. She is an active member of Buttzville United Methodist Church in Belvidere, NJ.

"Through the United Methodist Church, I have found myself a community in every place I look, and see a commonality in others for a love of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. In my own small church of which I am a member, I have found a close-knit group of amazing people I consider to be family in many respects."



James Hix
Frances Nelson Scholarship
James is presently attending Eastern University where he is majoring in Youth Ministry. He is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown, NJ.

"Through the nurture and encouragement of the fellowship of believers that is the United Methodist Church, I have grown in every aspect of my existence by learning one key element: what it means to choose life."



Rebecca Knott
Frances Nelson Scholarship
Rebecca is presently attending Cedarville University where she is pursuing a degree in psychology to become a Christian counselor and psychologist. She is an active member of South Vineland United Methodist Church.

"The United Methodist Church has played a huge part in my life, and it is as impossible to separate the church from my life, as it is to separate Christ from my life."



Kolby Kyff
Conference Trust Scholarship
Kolby is a graduate of Point Pleasant Beach High School and will attend Marist College in the fall. She is an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Bay Head, NJ.

"My commitment to the Lord has helped me a lot through my life. I have had some struggles that I may have not ever gotten through if I did not trust in the Lord."



Shin Yung Lee
Emily Garrison Nursing Scholarship
Shin Yung is currently attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is an active member of Appenzeller Memorial Nairi Korean United Methodist Church in West Peterson, NJ.

"I came to the United States of America . . . When I was going through adolescence I didn't speak English, didn't have friends and had lots of chances to do wrong. I believe God protected me through the disciplines of the United Methodist Church."



Gabrielle Martone
Frances Nelson Scholarship
Gabrielle is a graduate of Pequannock Township High School in Pompton Plains, NJ and will attend Smith College in the fall. She is an active member of Montville United Methodist Church in Towaco, NJ.

"My congregation has given me hope, direction, encouragement and the reins to try new things. Because of the United Methodist Church, my calling to be an Elder in the Church can be achieved. My whole life has been changed because of my faith and my church."



Monisha Rey
Conference Trust Scholarship
Monisha is a graduate of Central Jersey College Prep Charter School in Somerset, NJ and will attend Rutgers University in the fall. She is an active member of the United Methodist Church of New Brunswick.

"Without the United Methodist Church I wouldn't be where I am today. Today I am a strong young woman with a spiritual background."



Jesse Roach
Conference Trust Scholarship
Jesse is a graduate of Middlesex High School and will attend Raritan Valley Community College in the fall. He is an active member of Bound Brook United Methodist Church in Bound Brook, NJ.

"The United Methodist Church helped me be responsible by leading me to the light of different paths, but having me take myself there . . . My church helped make me mature by placing me within situations and places where I cannot act like a child or in an immature way."



Christina Watts
Rev. Ralph A. Kappler Memorial Scholarship
Christina is a graduate of Eldred Central High School and will attend Alfred University in the fall. She is an active member of Barryville United Methodist Church in Barryville, NJ.

"The very first memory of church that I have is of me squirming about in my mom's lap, bored from sitting there for what felt like hours. Since then, I have come a long way in my relationship with Jesus Christ thanks to the United Methodist Church. I still have a lot to figure out in my life, but I know that no matter where I go or what I choose to do, my church family will always be there for me."



Jennifer Zaplitny
Conference Trust Scholarship
Jennifer is a graduate of Mainland Regional High School in Linwood, NJ and will attend Albright College in the fall. She is an active member of Central United Methodist Church in Linwood, NJ.

"'Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.' This has been such an inspiration to me . . . The United Methodist Church accepts everyone who is willing to believe that Christ had died for our sins and I believe that this method of worship has really made me a better person."



Laurie Zimmerman
Conference Trust Scholarship
Laurie is currently attending Rutgers University where she is pursuing a degree in Hospitality Management. She is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Millville, NJ.

"The support that the United Methodist Church provides has helped to develop me from a young and curious child, to an involved teenager, and now in to a devoted, hard-working and caring young woman."

Stewardship Stories

Don't Fear Commitment

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education and Development, GNJAC



On June 2, 1984 in St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Ocean Grove, with Rev. Walter Quigg officiating and in front of numerous family and friends Gina and I exchanged wedding vows. We've been together ever since and this past June we celebrated our twenty-sixth wedding anniversary.

I'd like to think that we would still be together regardless but I can't help but wonder if our marriage would have lasted if instead of vows we had stood before God that day and said, "Well, we're not really sure what the future will hold. There might be some really difficult days ahead, including the need to sacrifice once in a while, so we're not really comfortable making a commitment."

We live today in an environment of economic fear and anxiety. My comments above are in no way meant to make light of that fact. I do want to make the point, however, that when it comes to our relationship with Christ as expressed in the giving of our time, talent, and treasure to God's work in the world we ought not be afraid of making a commitment.

None of us knows what the future holds. The economy continues to limp along with too many people still unemployed, underemployed, or fearful of both.

Perhaps God has a word for us to calm our fears. "If God gives such attention to the wildflowers — most of which are never seen — don't you think God will attend to you, take pride in you, do what's best for you? What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, to be not so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know God and how God works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met." {Matthew 6:30-33, The Message}

Latinos: Oppressed in the Land of Milk and Honey

With the fate of undocumented aliens in the United States still a prominent issue and a subject of ongoing debate, we offer here, the second installment of a two-part article by a Latina pastor in the GNJ Conference.

By Eunice Vega-Perez

Adapted from an article in the United Methodist Reporter and used by permission.

Part Two

One of the many experiences Latinos encounter in their community is racial profiling. Because many people do not own cars, they walk and use bicycles to move around town. Many of the Latino children, youth and adults have had beer bottles filled with water and others things thrown at them from passing cars as a racist sign of protest that they were not welcome in that community.

In my first appointment, an incident happened one night following a meeting I had with the Latino youth group. We were in one part of the building away from the adults who were in their own Bible Study. The youth were walking on the sidewalk in front of the church. Suddenly people in a passing car threw eggs at them. This time the eggs happened to hit my twin daughters. My daughters were perplexed and surprised, not knowing what to say, as this kind of experience was foreign to them. One of the other Latino youth said to them: "Oh they threw eggs at both of you because they think you are Mexican".

This experience was painful for me as a mother and spiritual leader, but it has stayed with me. This is exactly what racial profiling does to people, to communities and to our country. It alienates people who may look different because of their country of origin and those from different ethnic backgrounds. In this particular situation, it separates the Latinos from the rest of society, making them automatic suspects and a target for discrimination.

Recently the Arizona Legislature passed legislation, SB 1070. This law, when implemented, will give full permission to government officials to question all Latinos in the state of Arizona, requiring that they prove their legal identity at any given time and situation just because of the way they look, speak, dress, or the name they have. This could have a fatal consequence to all people of Latino background, leading to even stronger discrimination and escalation of hate crimes, something that racial ethnic minorities have experienced in the past. With these kinds of laws, the systemic evil of racism and prejudice will increase in the United States.

Understanding this issue with theological lenses:

When I reflect on the present situation in which Latinos are living in the United States, the Bible passage from Deuteronomy 10: 17-19 comes to my mind: "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (NRSV).

The stories of the sojourners in our midst remind me of the words Moses told the Israelites in the Old Testament. He constantly reminded them of their history, their own story of being a stranger. Their ancestors had been sojourners; this had been their life experience. The Lord expected from them understanding for those who were in the same situation as their ancestors.

I believe these words are speaking to us, the church of Jesus Christ, here, in the United States. Immigration is a serious social, economic, political, domestic and global issue. We Christians who happen to be United Methodists need to see and understand immigration with the eyes of Christ. This will allow us to bring change and justice in our communities and our country. But many times, as people of faith have experienced, transformation does not come without struggle.

Stir to Action

As a woman of faith, as a spiritual leader and Latina woman, I urge you to oppose the implementation of these kinds of misguided and flawed laws in Arizona and any other place that is considering similar legislation. I urge every person of faith to call on the U.S. Congress to adopt comprehensive Immigration Reform that is based on humane principles, emphasizes family reunification, protects children, and provides a path towards citizenship. I urge each one of the local faith communities, to embrace the strangers and foreigners in your midst.

One of the most powerful ways to do so is to get to know your neighbors on a personal level. As we engage in personal relationships and friendship we become better able to hear another persons' stories and dreams, their struggles as well as their sorrows. We must not remain silent in our local communities when injustice or racism is experienced locally.

As the body of Christ, we are called to face issues like this with the eyes and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who through the Word of God, challenges us to be different and to make a stand. We are called to take risks; we are called to do justice. God, through Jesus Christ, has given us authority to preach the good news with passion and without fear. God has empowered each one of us to cast out demons (Matthew 13:15): the demons of injustice, the demons of silence, the demons of fear, the demons of superiority, demons of indifference, demons of prejudice, demons of criminalization of others.

When we do justice, we challenge the status quo. When we do justice, we bring social, economic, and political change. When we do justice, we shake out structures that oppress and we bring big structural changes that will last forever.

Justo Gonzalez, a leading United Methodist elder, scholar and author, sums up our aspirations in powerful words in his *Hispanic Creed*, found in our Hispanic United Methodist Hymnal "Mil Voces para Celebrar":

"And because we believe, we commit ourselves:

- to believe for those who do not believe,
 - to love for those who do not love,
 - to dream for those who do not dream,
- until the day when hope becomes reality." Amen.

(The Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez is a clergy member of the GNJAC and associate pastor of Trinity Church, Hackettstown. Beyond the local church she serves on the MARCHA Education for Advocacy Task Force.)

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**The October Issue Deadline
is September 5, 2010**

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 #3	RESOURCE #4	BISHOP DAY
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	November 15 Clergy: 8:30am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: UMC at Absecon
CAPITAL	October 13 Rev. Joe Daniels: "Begging for Real Church" Clergy: 9:30am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:30pm At: Capital District Office: Trenton	Fall 2010 Stephanie Moore Hand: Rethink Ministry with Youth & Young Adults Time: TBA At: TBA	September 16 Time: TBA At: Trinity UMC, Ewing
DELAWARE BAY	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	September 30 Time: TBA At: Richwood UMC
GATEWAY NORTH	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	October 18 Time: TBA At: Roselle UMC
GATEWAY SOUTH	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	November 9 TBA Time: TBA At: TBA	October 25 Time: TBA At: UMC of Mantua
NORTHERN SHORE	Oct. 2 Rev. Dr. Brian Bauknight "Exploring Emerging Church Leadership" Clergy: 8:30am-2:00pm Laity: 8:30am-2:00pm At: St. John's UMC, Hazlet	November 4 & 5 Rev. Stephanie Hixon: JUSTPEACE Mediation & Conflict Resolution Clergy: 9:00am-2:00pm Laity: 9:00am-2:00pm At: Hamilton UMC, Neptune	September 20 Clergy: 8:30am-2:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: First UMC, Farmingdale
PALISADES	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	October 21 Time: TBA At: Yobel Demarest UMC
RARITAN VALLEY	September 25 Dan Smith: "Renewal - Practical Steps" Time: 9:00am-12:00 noon Place: Bridgewater UMC	October 23 Kathleen Billman: "Developing Multicultural Awareness - Re-learning the World" Time: TBA At: TBA	November 22 Time: TBA At: Bridgewater UMC
SKYLANDS	September 16 Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane: "ReThink Church" Clergy: 9:00am-3:30pm Laity: 7:00pm-9:00pm At: Butler UMC	October 28 Rev. Tyrone Gordon: "Church Growth" Clergy: 9:00am-3:00pm Laity: 7:00-9:00pm At: Sparta UMC	September 23 Time: TBA At: UMC of Rockaways

Taize Report

(Continued from page 5)

"Jesus said, 'love one another...' United among Christians is one of the ways to show that love." Jose Mora, Drew Theological School seminarian.

"I have realized that faith means choosing to believe without necessarily seeing." Olivia Cunningham, Milford UMC.

"My view changed completely. I learned so much about Jesus and the true meaning of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus." Rebecca Sella, Belvidere UMC

"I have learned the real and true meaning and importance of forgiveness." Leslie Brett, Red Bank UMC.

"Taize has truly strengthened my faith and beliefs." Jamila Bruce, Asbury UMC

"Be confident, take risks, and spread the wealth." Sean Kennedy, Bradley Beach UMC

"Sometimes it is not this huge loud voice of the Lord that speaks to you. Often it is a whisper in the wind as you sit in silence." Trinity Norwood, Ujima Village Christian Church

"For most of my life and in my church, I have been very closed minded. This week, my mind has been open to so many things, and I am glad about it." Nadiera Young, Parkside UMC

"My views have changed since I am now more open and not judgmental." Jazmin Taylor, Mt. Zion UMC

"My views have been strengthened at Taize: to reach out to the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized people of this world." The Rev. Kim Holmes, Drew Theological School seminarian.

(The Rev. Jeff Markay is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church in Caldwell.)

TO BE CONTINUED in the October issue

OBITUARIES

HAROLD F. TURK, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died July 19, 2010. A funeral service was held July 23 at the Evangelical United Methodist Church, Clarksboro, where his son, the Rev. Gary Turk, is pastor. Responding to the divine call, Mr. Turk began his ministry as a student pastor in 1950, serving the Maucetown and Haleyville circuit. Four years later he moved to the Hancock's Bridge Church, and a year later became a member of the Southern New Jersey Conference.

Subsequent appointments included Broad Street Church, Millville; Lambertville and Amwell; Browns Mills and New Lisbon; Elmer; First Church, Bridgeton; and First Church, Salem. He retired in 1987.

Mr. Turk is survived by two sons, Gary and Gordon, organist at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, and two daughters, Gayla and Gloria, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His wife Claire died April 20. Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Gary Turk, 311 Barbara Drive, Clarksboro, NJ 08020. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Memorial Fund of the Evangelical United Methodist Church, 14 W. Cohawkin Rd., Clarksboro, NJ 08020 or to ProMusic Conservatory, PO Box 7342, Wilson, NC 27895.

CHARLES F. POST, JR. retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died July 12, 2010, in Orleans, Massachusetts. A memorial service was planned for a later date.

Mr. Post served as pastor of the Asbury and West Portal Churches (1946-1947); DeGroot Church, Newark (1947-1950); Park Church, Elizabeth (1950-1954); the Midland Park Church (1954-1959); the Leonia Church (1959-1965); and the Butler Church (1965-1971). After a one-year sabbatical leave, he retired in 1972.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Ellen Post, 39 Long View

Drive, Orleans, MA 02653-3901. Memorial gifts may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

WILLIAM H. BLACK, retired local pastor of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on July 17, 2010. Funeral services followed at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Delair, on July 24.

Pastor Black came to this conference from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference where he had served from 1962 to 1980. His GNJAC appointments included St. Mary's Street Church, Burlington; Mt. Hope, Salem and Haven Church, Quinton; Hamilton Memorial Church, Atlantic City; and St. Paul's, Mt. Holly. He was retired in 2001.

He is survived by his wife Clara, four children: Kenny, Donna, Cheryl and Karen, one stepson Kevin and a number of grandchildren.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Clara Black, 105 Miller Avenue, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002. Memorial donations may be made to Samaritan Hospice at 5 Eves Drive, Suite 300, Marlton, NJ 08053.

EMERSON R. RUBIO, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on July 6, 2010 in Melbourne, Florida. A memorial service was held at July 21, 2010 in the Chapel of Peace, Rockledge, Fla.

A product of the Cuba Conference, Mr. Rubio came to this country in 1960, a year after the ascension of Fidel Castro to power. He became a member of the Southern New Jersey Conference in 1967 and was appointed associate pastor of Christ Church, Lakewood. In 1986 he became pastor of El Mesias Church, Keyport. He was retired in 1993.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Rita Rubio, 631 Sheridan Wood Drive, West Melbourne, Florida 32904.

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.

Experience: 3-5 years of experience in fundraising analysis, materials and activities, stewardship experience preferably in a church setting. Experience with solicitation of pastors, ministers, church lay leaders and members. Membership and active participation in the life of the church both at the local church and judicatory level in a lay or clergy capacity for at least 5 years.

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.

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.

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 www.gnjumc.org. FFI: Check edGe page.

September 13 — Clergy Mentor Training

MULLICAHILL — All new “mentees” (newly commissioned and local pastors in course of study), new mentors and existing mentors in need of refresher training (those who have not attended training in the last three years) are required to attend. Running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., it begins with continental breakfast; lunch will be provided. Mentors and mentees who wish to meet on that day are welcome to remain following the 1 p.m. close. RSVP to Veronika Varga, vvarga@gnjumc.org. FFI: Direct questions to Tanya Linn Bennett, tbennett@drew.edu.

September 27 - 28 — Order of St. Luke Retreat

OCEAN CITY — The order within United Methodism dedicated to liturgical renewal will meet at the Oceanaire beginning with a Monday potluck. FFI: mail Jeanette Block at revblock@aol.com.

October 7 - 10 — Garden State Walk to Emmaus for Men

SOUTH SEAVILLE — This three-day weekend event offers study and action tools designed to equip participants to be strong Christian leaders in church, home or workplace. FFI: Log on to info@gardenstateemmaus.org

October 14 - 16 — International Conference on AIDS

DALLAS — “*Lighten the Burden III*,” a United Methodist international conference on AIDS, will draw persons from around the world to discuss “Working towards an AIDS-free World!” Numerous workshops on AIDS-related themes. FFI: Check the GNJ Digest, or contact Linda Bales Todd, at the General Board of Church & Society, lbales@umc-gbcs.org or call 202-488-5641.

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.

October 21 - 24 — Garden State Walk to Emmaus for Women

SOUTH SEAVILLE — This three-day weekend event offers study and action tools designed to equip participants to be strong Christian leaders in church, home or workplace. FFI: Log on to info@gardenstateemmaus.org

October 16 — Church Development Event

MOORESTOWN — A Conference-wide event on the Principles of Church Health and Growth at the Moorestown Church will feature Dave Wetzler, publisher of Natural Church Development resources.

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PASSAIC CELEBRATES!!

Our Austin organ, designed by Claire Coci, has been recently renovated. An event is planned to celebrate the beauty of this organ, and you are invited.

- * DATE: **Saturday, October 16, 2010**
- * EVENT: **Organ concert at 5:00p.m.**
Dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:30p.m.
- * WHERE: **145 Paulison Avenue, Passaic, NJ**
- * GUEST ORGANIST: **Mr. John J. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, will present a program of music he has selected to show off the beauty of this instrument. Mr. Miller is a frequent soloist with the New Jersey Symphony. He has been awarded the highest honor from the American Guild of Organists with the conferring of the Fellowship Certificate. His European performances have taken him to Rome, Venice, Leipzig, Prague, Salzburg and Vienna.
- * TICKETS: \$25.00 for adults, and \$10.00 for children under 12 for both the concert and the dinner.

Please call the church office at 973-779-7521 for more information and to order tickets visit us at www.fumcpassaic.org

BERLIN YOUNG PEOPLE’S ASSEMBLY



THE FUTURE IS NOW. That’s the view of the 350 youth and young adults present at the 2010 Global Young People’s Convocation and Legislative Assembly in Berlin, Germany, July 21-26. The thought was articulated by GNJ’s Bethany Amey (L.), who tires of the oft-heard opinion that youth are the “future of the church.” “Young adults and youth are the ‘now’ of the church,” she said. “If we don’t start changing our mindsets to youth being the now, there won’t be a future. They’re here ready to step up into positions of leadership if we make the space for them.” Pictured here with Ms. Amey are other members of the GNJ delegation, Sara Williamson, Rev. Jessica Campbell, Bishop Devadhar, Weagba Nelson, Melodie Jilson, Rev. Juel Nelson and Jessica Stenstrom. A first-hand report of the convocation by Jessica Stenstrom will appear in the October issue of the Relay.

Relay Online Back in Service

The electronic version of the Relay has been somewhat interrupted this summer. With the coming of fall, however, we hope to have things back on schedule while we make adjustments in accordance with the Conference Communications reorganization.

Already the archived issues of the Relay are on line through the June issue. Soon the July-August and September issues will also be uploaded.

The Gospel Lessons feature, offering informal comments on the lectionary Gospel lessons each week, suspended for much of the summer, will be resumed effective September 1.

We appreciate your patience and encourage you to continue to log on to UMRelay.org.



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Tuesday October 12, 2010

Knoll West Country Club

Parsippany, New Jersey

Tee Off for a good cause and enjoy the fellowship, food, and fun.

Golfing Fee \$160 includes golf and golf cart, lunch, give aways, social hour, dinner, and awards. Single golfers, foursomes; all are welcome. Dinner only fee \$40.

Please fill out the registration form and submit payment by September 15, 2010. Registration forms can be downloaded off Caldwell Church web site at www.caldwellchurch.org or contact church office at 973-226-4410 for more information.

Checks should be made out to CUMCGolf, c/oKen Ingra and mailed to, Caldwell United Methodist Church 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006.

Outing – rain or shine – all are welcome!

We invite your church to “Come on Board!” as the GNJAC joins other Annual Conferences in collecting:

Coins for Katanga



Save Your **Spare Change** for a **New Plane** for **North Katanga**

Our pilot, Gaston, dreams of having a larger plane that runs on low-cost and easy-to-obtain gas. While it may seem counter-intuitive, a larger plane would be much cheaper to operate. It would allow for fewer trips when transporting people and supplies (the current plane fits 5 passengers without luggage), and would not require AV-gas, making each trip less expensive.

Here's how each church can participate:

1. Save your change from now until next Annual Conference.
2. Cash your change in at your local bank.
3. Present your check for the amount collected at Annual Conference 2011

Special Appeal

For more information visit: www.northkatangaumc.org

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