

## EMMANUEL

Emmanuel

The important word

The important description.

“God with us.”

God with us. Walking with us.

Accompanying us through the travails of life.

Through the joys

Through the sorrows

Through the incredibly rich opportunities

this gift of life brings

Each day.

Every day.

Emmanuel

God with us.

Always there, always wanting a relationship,

Always ready to infuse us with his Spirit.

Always ready to pick us up

when we have let Him down.

God with us. Walking with us.

Giving our lives meaning, purpose, direction.

Instilling in us the heart to give ourselves to others.

Emmanuel

God with us.

This Christmas,

on this special day

when we celebrate his birth,

we will remember

that his coming is a call

to each and every one of us

to Live as He lived,

Walk as He walked,

Accompany as He accompanies,

Serve as He served.

Forgive as He forgave,

as He forgives,

Love as He loves.

— Douglas Ruffle

## A Christmas Message from the Bishop

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

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord, one thing is certain. A big part of our celebration is the singing of Christmas hymns. We hear them in the malls, at our children's concerts, and at our worship services. Two of the more popular hymns are "Silent Night" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" As I was reflecting on these carols, several thoughts came to my mind. May I share a few of them with you?



Many of you may already know that "Silent Night" was composed and sung for the first time under challenging circumstances. In 1818, young Rev. Joseph Mohr realized that the words he had composed to be sung in the Christmas service could not be played on the church organ allegedly because of damage caused by mice. So, in a hurry, he went to his organist and the village school teacher, Franz Gruber, who helped him write music for his guitar.

"On Christmas Eve Mohr and Gruber sang the new song, accompanied by Gruber's guitar. The church choir, in four part harmony, joined in on the last phrase of each stanza" (Norman Vincent Peale, *My Favorite Hymns: And the Stories Behind Them*, San Francisco: Harper, 1994, p. 89). Who would have thought that this music, which was born out of a partnership of the God-given gifts of clergy and laity, would emerge from this small, Alpine village of Oberndorf, in Austria, to become so popular? It would be translated into many languages and more importantly, would transform the lives of many around the world.

And, during the spontaneous front-line Christmas Truce in 1914 during World War I, it was sung by British, French, and Germans on the Western Front.

Another favorite carol is "Do you Hear What I Hear?", by Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne.

"Noel Regney . . . met Gloria Shayne while she was working as a pianist in a hotel dining room and married her a month later. With Regney writing the music and Shayne the lyrics, the pair had a string of successful songs in late '50s and early '60s, including the lyrics of 'Dominique' in 1963, by Soeur, the Singing Nun. Regney and Shayne wrote 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Regney drew the image of Jesus as a newborn lamb from Matthew 2:9 and 2:11 and took his lyrics to his wife to set in the reverse of their usual practice. But while it is often taken for a Christmas carol,

for Regney and Shayne 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' is a hymn to peace." <http://www.christmaswithlove.com/doyou.html>

As we gather together as Christians in a community of faith to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we do not sing these carols as the world sings them. As Christians we not only sing these songs with our voices, but we also internalize them in our hearts. As a consequence, we show to the world, the power of these words and melodies. We show it through our actions.

Therefore, as we sing the Christmas hymns of this season, may we prayerfully ask the following questions?

- Do we have strong partnerships of clergy and laity, in our churches?
- Do we inspire one another and challenge one another to share our gifts so that we allow the power of God, the compassion of Jesus the Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit to move us on and forward to the community, nation, and world, to be sanctuaries of God wherever God places us?
- Do we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us, so that, leaving aside all our pride and egos, we allow ourselves to see, hear, and know what others see, hear, and know as people of God, so that we may change the world for the glory of God, as faithful disciples of Christ, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?

In this Christmas season — and always — may God bless us all with the pondering of Mary and Joseph, the wonder of the Shepherds, and the discovery of the Magi. May God continue to bless us with the Good News of the angels! May this be our prayer to our Creator God in and through the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, in these seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany!

Prema joins me in wishing you, your families, and your other loved ones, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"God loves you all and so do we!"

In Christ's love,  
*Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar*



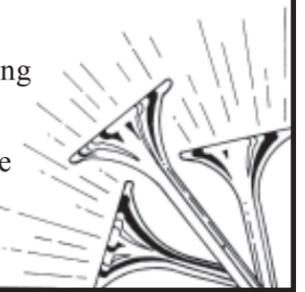
## INSTRUMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

by Ann Freeman Price

the trumpets sound for Christmas  
announcing manger birth  
proclaiming light not seen before  
arriving on the earth  
the songs of angels fill the hills  
and choir lofts of the lands  
the words proclaim that poor and rich  
can finally join hands



the drums resound with justice beat  
and rules turn upside down  
now first is last and kings make way  
for one with thorny crown  
the bells that ring join those who sing  
with message ever true  
the Christ still lives in acts of love  
the Christ still lives in you



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**UNITED METHODIST  
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Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

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## Students Disappointed as Giving Falls, Applications Rise

NASHVILLE (UMNS) - Nearly 1,000 United Methodists who qualified for a scholarship this year walked away empty-handed. A number of factors have contributed to the problem, said James Harding, interim executive director of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Office of Loans and Scholarships. Applications "skyrocketed after we began accepting applications online in 2009," he said. "At the same time, investment earnings were down due to the poor economy, even as giving to World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, and Native American Ministries Sunday continues to decline."

Student Day offerings have declined from \$602,309 in 2007 to \$484,188 last year. This year, 2,411 students received scholarships totaling \$3.3 million, but 954 qualified United Methodist students were turned down because of lack of funds.

"Support for United Methodist Student Day is crucial if we are to honor the church's commitment to educating a new generation of Christian leaders," Harding said. While Student Day is of-

ficially observed the last Sunday in November, local churches may choose any other day for the observance. Traditionally the Sunday between Christ-

### GNJ Conference Student Aid Opportunities

Local pastors will soon receive a scholarship packet mailing with annual conference, statewide and national opportunities for 2010 scholarships. The same information is available on the conference website: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). For more information, inquirers may contact the Rev. Erica Munoz or Ginny Kaiser at the Greater New Jersey Conference at 732 359-1040.

mas and New Years Day was observed for many years as Methodist Student Day, with students home for the holidays recognized in the service.

Information is available at [www.umc.org/giving.org/umstudentday](http://www.umc.org/giving.org/umstudentday).

## Conference Camps Seek Summer Site Directors

GNJAC - Two site directors for GNJ Conference camps - one for Aldersgate Center in Swartswood, the other for Pinelands Center in Mount Misery - will be on duty next summer if the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries succeeds in a recruitment effort now under way.

Program design and general administration will be the principle task of the new directors. Their employment will run from July 1, 2011 to August 31.

"The Site Director has the responsibility for leading, coordinating and managing the entire camp," explains a ministry notice in this issue of the Relay, "and should therefore possess good leadership skills, and the ability to coordinate programs with a good understanding of management and working

with children and youth."

The notice outlines the requisite qualifications for the new post, which includes "demonstrated competence" and experience in leading camping and retreat programs. Other requirements include first aid skills and CPR as well as a commercial driver's license.

The new post calls for a minimum age of 25 years, an active Christian faith, and a commitment to United Methodist beliefs and practices. Some training in theology and Christian education is also desirable, the notice states.

The complete notice may be found on page 7 of this issue. General job description will be available on January 15, 2011 on the conference website, [gnjumc.org](http://gnjumc.org).

## LETTERS

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Pastors and Church Family Members:

While summer is months away, it is never too soon to start thinking about sending the young people closest to you to camp.

This promises to be one of the best summer camp seasons ever at Aldersgate Center and Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery. You're not going to want the young people in your life to miss out.

In addition to fun and memories that will last a lifetime, a week at camp offers young people an escape from the busyness of summer, a chance to make new friends, and learn more about God, all while surrounded by God's beautiful creation.

A week at camp is a perfect Christmas or birthday gift - one that will never be forgotten. Sponsoring either a full or partial campership is also a great mission opportunity for churches to send their young ones to become closer to God.

Camp brochures will be available early next year!

On behalf of the entire Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, I would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Blessings,

Jessica Stenstrom  
Chair, Commission on Camps  
Conferences and Retreats

To the Editor of the Relay:

I am writing to you as I am the widow of Dr. John F. Garrahan, who died last December at the age of 89. He was a Methodist Minister and a psychology professor at Rowan College for many, many years.

I have been in the process of disposing of his clothing, and have a problem of knowing what to do with his robes (2). I don't want to throw them away, so I'm asking if you know of any young man in the ministry who needs one. Are there seminaries or churches that keep "Xra" robes on hand (in case of an emergency?)

Do you think an AD in the Relay would be of help to anyone? I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Thank you.

Mrs. Caroline W. Garrahan  
1012 S. Shore Road,  
Marmora, NJ 08223

*(Our thoughts? We think Mrs. Garrahan's thoughtful and generous offer is a wonderful way to honor the memory of her late husband, and a wonderful way to help some young man or woman at the threshold of ministry. We are pleased to offer this space to this end.*

— Ed.)

## CF&A Seeks IT-literate Candidates for Conference Study

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) is completing plans for a review of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference's entire IT function.

For the uninitiated, IT stands for *Information Technology*, which the Information Technology Association of America defines as "the study, design, development, application, implementation, support or management of computer-based information systems." If you are in the category of the uninformed, and are scratching your head in bewilderment, you need not read further.

CF&A is looking for volunteers who have experience in both IT systems and management, to be a part of its study committee. If you would like to volunteer or to suggest someone else, or if you desire more information please call John Cardillo at 732 359-1030. Please note that due to a limited number of positions not everyone who volunteers will be asked to serve.



## Global Relay

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

### Number of General Conference delegates stays same

PANAMA CITY, Panama — The Rev. L. Fitzgerald Reist, secretary General Conference, the supreme lawmaking body of the United Methodist Church, announced Nov. 5 that the number of delegates for the 2012 General Conference will be near the 1,000-delegate limit. "Although a variety of opinions have been expressed, I've heard strong pleas to retain similar numbers as before," he declared, "and I believe any significant reduction in the number of delegates should occur in concert with a more comprehensive look at the whole process. With so many substantive changes expected to be considered during the 2012 General Conference, it is important to avoid any perception that a reduction in the number of delegates might somehow be intended to influence outcomes," he said. Annual conference secretaries were due to be notified by Dec. 1 how many delegates their conference will have. General Conference will meet in Tampa, Fla., in spring 2012.

### Bishops urged to embrace change, reverse decline

PANAMA CITY, Panama — "United Methodist bishops need to transcend the status quo and abandon church structures and practices that are not working," Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster said Nov. 2 in his presidential address to the Council of Bishops. "By our decisions and actions this week in Panama, we will either lean into the future or content ourselves with more of the same," Goodpaster told more than 80 active and retired bishops from around the global church.

### Bishops support church reforms, accountability

PANAMA CITY, Panama — United Methodist bishops have unanimously endorsed recommendations for widespread church reforms, including greater accountability for denominational leaders in promoting church growth. The Council of Bishops' approval of the Call to Action Steering Team Report on Nov. 4 was heralded as a step forward for a church that has suffered decades of membership decline in the United States.

### Bishops face challenge on same-sex unions

PANAMA CITY, Panama — The legalization of same-sex marriage in some states and countries is complicating a long-simmering debate on how the church ministers to gays and lesbians. The challenge, say bishops from areas where same-sex marriage is legal, is encouraging dialogue and mutual respect among all parties in the debate and in the pews while at the same time upholding church law.

### Court upholds pastor's right to accept members

NEW ORLEANS — A United Methodist pastor has the right to determine local church membership, even if the decision is based on whether the potential member is gay or lesbian. Annual conferences cannot limit that right nor ask the church's top court to set policy, the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled during its Oct. 27-30 meeting.

### Cokesbury Christmas catalogs available

NASHVILLE — For those seeking religious-themed Christmas gift ideas, the November/December Cokesbury Christmas catalog is now available. Cokesbury is the retail division of the United Methodist Publishing House. It distributes its profits to annual conference pension boards. Catalogs are available at Cokesbury stores or can be requested by calling the Cokesbury Call Center at (800) 672-1789.

## Clergy Mull Bishop's Convocation Invitation

GNJAC — With the annual Bishop's Convocation on the calendar for January 24-26, 2011, conference clergy and their spouses are mulling over the mailing that went out in November to publicize the event.

Theme of this year's convocation is "Disciples Transforming the World through our Gifts." Guest speakers will be Jorge Acevedo, Florida pastor of a rapidly growing church, and the Rev. Kenda Creasy Dean, professor of youth, church and culture at Princeton Seminary and a United Methodist elder.

Leading the spouses program will be Cheryl Acevedo.

Offering spiritual growth and shared experience for the participants, the annual pre-lenten retreat is designed to strengthen the local church as well as individual clergy and spouses. Continuing education credits are available.

Local church councils and staff-parish relations committees are urged to support their pastors and where necessary to underwrite the cost of the event.

## 'Many People' Sound Praise of 'One God' at Multi Cultural Fete

HAZLET — People from all over the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference gathered for an evening of fun and fellowship at St. John's Church here, November 13, garbed in their native dress, celebrating and honoring our diversity, while proclaiming that we were all children of One God.

The second annual Multi Cultural Celebration brought hundreds from over 35 different nations together for worship and cuisine from all around the world. And of course, the festivities wouldn't be complete without dancing, singing and cultural presentations.

The night highlighted just how many gifts and talents the people of GNJ, both laity and clergy, have.

Bishop Sudarshana Devhadar said that each person has a different gift to offer.

"God wants all of us to bring these gifts to the table, so that together, we can glorify God," said Bishop Devadhar. "It doesn't matter where we come from or what our background is because it is God's background."

Bishop Devadhar said that he envisions a Church of the Pentecost, in which the Holy Spirit is igniting, gifting and empowering God's children of all ages, backgrounds and colors.

"Such a church does not merely serve the poor, the left out, the different, but welcomes them warmly into its heart, home and worship," he said.

Judy Colorado, event coordinator, said she hoped the celebratory evening would help people address an even



deeper question of how we can better work together while embracing our diversity.

"The real issue is how do we accept each other," said Ms. Colorado. "We are different, yet we are the same. It's no longer you're black, you're white, but we have the same voice. At the end

of the day, we have one mission — to make disciples."

Ms. Colorado said that if we are embracing our diversity as a gift, we will be able to do more for the Lord.

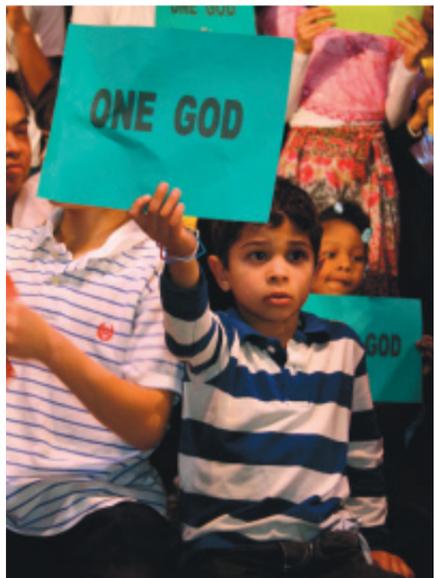
The children present already seemed to master the art of embracing each other's diversity; they all gathered on stage at one point during the worship service, first holding signs that identified their nationalities, before flipping them over to boldly reveal "One God" while singing "One God, Many People".

Following worship, the feast began, with tables lined with food from many different cultures. There was no excuse not to try something new.

The night didn't end there. The celebration continued with cultural presentations that elicited clapping, dancing, and singing from all who had gathered. No two presentations were the same: with Filipino and Russian folk dances; Brazilian and Japanese song and English hymns; and Spanish, Indian, Merengue and Peruvian dance.

— Story & Photos By Jessica Stenstrom

**WITH MANY FLAGS AND MANY VOICES, the theme of the GNJ Multi Cultural Celebration, "One God, Many People" is sounded by representatives of 35 nations, gathered for worship and fellowship, singing and dancing, food and fun at St. John's Church, Hazlet in Mid November.**



### Create the forest through the seed.



Seeds represent modest and understated potential. Only the passage of time reveals their tremendous power. Like fruit-bearing branches, endowments can blossom into tangible benefits for your church.

The United Methodist Foundation and the Conference's planning, consultation, education and training services are provided free of charge to GNJAC churches.



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

## Amid Winter's Chill — Plan for Summer at Conference Camp

Even though it's only starting to get cold, the GNJ Camps are gearing up and getting ready for what promises to be one of the best summer camp seasons ever!

In addition to the old camp favorites, there will be tons of new activities to keep even the most seasoned camper happy and excited at both Aldersgate Center, in Swartwood, and Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery.

While we will be keeping the "Best of the Best" themed weeks around; there will be new and exciting camp options allowing you to do something different each day, from fishing and boating to arts and crafts, plus many more surprises.

If you want to know more you will have to check out the Summer Camp 2011 brochure, coming to every local church early next year!

Never been to camp before and not sure what to expect?

That's no problem. Come experience "A Taste of Camp" at the District Day of Learning nearest you.

During "A Taste of Camp", children in kindergarten through sixth grade will have a chance to experience all of the fun a day at camp has to offer including games, crafts, music, a Bible lesson and so much more. We are even going to make S'mores!

Each district will have additional information on "A Taste of Camp".

As the camps continue to get ready for another fun-filled summer season, we will start looking for seasonal staff soon. We will be looking to hire seasonal camp site directors, medical staff, lifeguards, counselors and more. Or if you prefer, you can volunteer at either of the camps,



for a whole week or a combination of days spread over the summer camp season.

For more information about the GNJ Camps call Pinelands Center at (609) 893-3354 or contact Rev. Erica Munoz, coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries at (732) 359-1042 or by email at [emunoz@gnjumc.org](mailto:emunoz@gnjumc.org).

### UNITED METHODIST CAMPS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY TWO TEMPORARY POSITIONS SITE DIRECTOR

Aldersgate Center and Pinelands Center, New Jersey

Start Date of Employment: July 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011

The Site Director has primary administrative responsibility for the program design and general administration of the camping ministry. The Site Director has the responsibility for leading, coordinating and managing the entire camp, and should therefore possess good leadership skills, and the ability to coordinate programs with a good understanding of management and working with children and youth.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A bachelor's degree or appropriate professional certification, The Site Director must have demonstrated competence in camp and retreat program leadership and management through at least two prior seasons of administrative or supervisory experience in an organized camp. Theological training and an understanding of Christian education are also desired. New Jersey Commercial Driver's License and First Aid/CPR are required upon hire.

A mature adult who is at least 25 years old, with an active Christian faith, who understands and supports the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church and its outdoor Ministry. Good physical health and the ability to perform the essential functions of the position.

**Compensation:** Competitive salary, Onsite housing will be made available, relocation costs are not included.

General job description will be available on January 15, 2011 on [gnjumc.org](http://gnjumc.org) website.

## Jan. 10 is Application Deadline for 2011 Human Relations Day Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). The grants are to support ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy or leadership training and development.

Grant funds are raised through The United Methodist Church's Human Relations Day Special Sunday each year. This day of social action and awareness-raising supports the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday: Jan. 16 next year.

The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* describes Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

To qualify for a Human Relations Day grant, the applicant must be either:

- a United Methodist local church, district, annual conference or other affiliated group/organization;
- or

- an ecumenical group/organization working with and through at least one United Methodist agency or organization, whose program affects at least one United Methodist local church.

### Two funding cycles

Grants are awarded on two funding cycles. Jan. 10 is the deadline for March funding; Aug. 10 for October. Grant decisions are made by GBCS's Board of Directors at the spring and fall meetings.

To be considered for funding, a project must be initiated by or developed in partnership with a United Methodist church. The project must focus on needs of non-violent juvenile youth offenders as they address one or more chronic social problems or concerns, such as housing, employment, health care, human rights, education, the environment and racism.

Applicants must have a supervisory board consisting of a majority of members of The United Methodist Church that shall make all policy decisions.

All funding from GBCS must be used for programmatic components. For more information, contact the Rev. Neal Christie at [nchristie@umc-gbcs.org](mailto:nchristie@umc-gbcs.org), assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5611.

## Are You Being Digested?

Did you know that the conference publishes 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](mailto:communications@gnjumc.org).

## Morristown Church is 'Most Wanted' for Popular TV Series

Have you ever wondered what a Paris hotel lobby or a hospital in Lichtenstein would look like?

Well, much to the surprise of the Morristown Church family, they look similar to their church building and property. That is, at least through the lens of the production crew of the long running television series America's Most Wanted.

On Saturday October 16, some 35 or so actors, directors and set personnel lay siege to the church, transforming it into ten different sets representing locations throughout Europe. They were filming a reenactment of events surrounding the now famous "Pink Panther" jewelry heists.

"As a church we had to decide whether this was an appropriate use of the building," comments one Morristown member. "Drawing on Genesis and Isaiah, we decided that this type of exposure would be good for the community in general, and this situation provided an excellent oppor-



**PRODUCTION CREW** for "America's Most Wanted" TV show, prepares for a take during filming in which the Morristown Church was stand-in for a number of European locales.

tunity to offer Abrahamic hospitality to our visitors. We also considered that America's Most Wanted has assisted in capturing over 1100 criminals since the first episode aired."

So for one very busy Saturday the crew worked around other events in the church, including a training event for a Walk to Emmaus group, filming chase scenes on the roof, arrest

scenes in the garden, and hotel lobby scenes in the atrium.

"The crew was flexible and reverent of their surroundings," noted the Morristown observer. "Many of our members showed up to witness the proceedings and some even scored walk through roles."

Before the crew moved anything in the building they took careful pictures. After the scene was shot they meticulously put everything back.

"During the long day we learned quite a bit about perspective, imagination, and motivation," the commentator continued. "We are confident that the crew left our church with a better understanding of Christian hospitality and the United Methodist concept of 'open doors and open minds'. We would be happy to have them back."

The episode of America's Most Wanted was scheduled to be aired November 6.

## Asbury Joins Atlantic City Roman Catholic Neighbor For Benefit Turk Concert, Jan. 23, 2011

ATLANTIC CITY – A new chapter in harmonious ecumenical relationships will be launched January 23, 2011, with a benefit concert jointly sponsored by two Atlantic City churches, Asbury United Methodist, and St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church.

Performing will be Gordon Turk, best known as organist at the Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, along with Norman Garrett, baritone and Stanford Thompson on the trumpet.

This benefit concert evolved from a September 9/11 anniversary observance at Asbury when the Atlantic City Fire Department sent a fire truck loaded with 50 members of the department for moments of recognition and prayer. One of the officers in attendance suggested that the new pastor at Asbury, the Rev. Gil Caldwell, get to know Monsignor William Hodge, pastor of nearby St. Nicholas.

When they met, Monsignor Hodge mentioned in passing the newly renovated organ at St. Nicholas at a cost of over \$200,000.

Pastor Caldwell mentioned the fact that Gordon Turk, known throughout the nation and across the world for his God-given musical skills might be willing to give a concert on the organ. The Monsignor was excited by the possi-

bility. Mr. Turk was contacted and said yes, and the benefit became a reality.

Beyond the ecumenical value of the venture, the concert will benefit both churches. Asbury, celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year, is seeking funds that enable it to expand its ministry and programming on Pacific Avenue.

"Recently, some of the business and civic leaders in Atlantic City have expressed a desire to make the city more 'family friendly' and expand its non-gaming activities," explains Mr. Caldwell. "This new emphasis provides an opportunity for United Methodist ministry on Pacific Avenue in significant new ways." Proceeds from the Concert will be used for new programming and building repair at Asbury; for St. Nicholas, the concert will raise money for its food bank.

Asbury Church expects the 1000 seats at St. Nicholas to be filled with United Methodists from the Cape Atlantic District and from all of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference as well as by the many friends of Asbury from other denominations.

"A living and practicing 'connectionalism' between and among United Methodist Churches is needed more

than ever," notes Pastor Caldwell, who was appointed to Asbury by Bishop Devadhar in August. "This event gives us the opportunity to give witness to the rich and wonderful cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of United Methodism in New Jersey." Caldwell who describes himself as a former "foot soldier" in the Civil Rights Movement with Martin Luther King, Jr., believes, "Attendance at this Benefit Concert on January 23rd, is a wonderful way to remember the uniquely American Legacy that Dr. King has left for all of us."

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church is located at 1409 Pacific Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401. Special provisions have been made for the parking of cars and vans across from the Church.

Ticket information and reservations for ad in the program booklet are available by calling 732-361-7979 or 609-348-1941.

## OBITUARIES

**G. WILLARD SOUTHWICK**, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on November 11, 2010. A funeral service was held November 15 at the Pitman United Methodist Church. He was 92.

Mr. Southwick entered the ministry of the New Jersey Conference as a student pastor in 1942, serving the West Berlin Church. Two years later he became a member of the conference adding Lucaston to his charge. Subsequent appointments included First Church, Collingswood as an associate pastor, Mantua, Cranbury, Barnegat, Pitman Church: New Brunswick, West Belmar, Camden: Bethel, Kemble Church: Woodbury as associate, and Glendora. He retired in 1983.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his daughter, Evelyn White, 315 Simpson Avenue, National Park, NJ 08063. Memorial gifts may be made to the United Methodist Homes Fellowship Fund, 3311 Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753-3440.

### PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

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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](mailto:Editor@umrelay.org) or UMRelay, 1 Mayflower Ct., Whiting, NJ 08759.

### December 25 - Christmas Day

"LET EVERY HEART prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!"

### January 24 - 26 — Bishop's Convocation

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. — This annual convocation of clergy and spouses will feature Jorge Acevedo and the Kenda Creasy Dean. (see story, page 3)

### February 21 - March 3, 2011 — Clergy & Laity Educational Journey Korea

GNJAC — There may still be time to sign up for this cultural and spiritual journey to South Korea sponsored by the GNJAC Laity Council. Check details on the conference website, [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org).

### February 27 - March 2, 2011 — NEJ Clergywomen's Consultation 2011

LANCASTER, Pa. — "Bold & Bodacious: Bubbling up, Bursting Out, Building Up, Breaking Through." That's how they describe this four-day Northeastern Jurisdiction event at the Holiday Inn Convention Center featuring Drew's Traci West, Claremont's Marjorie Suchocki and a bevy of women bishops. FFI: Contact Tanya Linn Bennett, [tbennet@drew.edu](mailto:tbennet@drew.edu)

### July 13 - 17, 2011— Youth 2011

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Youth 2011, the four-day national youth gathering for the United Methodist Church at Purdue University, will bring together top United Methodist leaders, the best ecumenical speakers, bands and talent and thousands of youth from all around the nation for what is sure to be a life-changing event. For information about the event and bus transportation from the GNJ conference office, log on to [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org).

### July 22 - August 1, 2011 — Taizé Pilgrimage

GNJAC — If you are between 16 and 29 years of age, you are invited to join Bishop Devadhar and chaperones on a weeklong spiritual development experience. Additional adults may request to attend as space provides opportunity. For details, see conference website, [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org) and click on Taizé Pilgrimage link.

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## Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson  
Coordinator of Stewardship Education  
and Development, GNJAC



## My Goal for 2011 is to be Below Average

Considering the following, the goal I've set for me and my family for 2011 is to be as far below average as fiscally possible:

- Average credit card debt per U.S. household is \$9,300.
- Young-adults ages 25-34 carry an average of \$5,200 in credit card debt.
- College seniors have an average of four credit cards and \$3,000 in credit card debt.
- Young people 18 and under will spend and influence the spending of more than \$1 trillion dollars in 2011.
- Children today spend five times more money than their parents did at the same age (and that's adjusted for inflation).

(The above statistics are taken from *Financial Sanity: Share, Save, Spend*)

If it's your goal to also be below average in 2011 here are some healthy financial habits that will help you reach your goal:

- **Give to God first** - "God knows all your needs, and God will give you all you need from day to day if you live for God and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." Matthew 6:32b-33
- **Save second** - "In the house of the wise are stores of food and oil, but the fool devours all they have." Proverbs 21:20
- **Live on what is left** - "Be on your guard against all kind of greed, for life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

*Let's all strive to be below average in 2011!*

## The February Issue Deadline is January 5, 2011

## Songs of Christmas Cheer from our Homes to Yours!



Sunday, January 23, 2011 - 3pm

## MUSICAL BENEFIT CONCERT

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church

1409 Pacific Avenue

Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

**GORDON TURK**; A critically acclaimed organist who has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Winner of the John Cerevalo Prize for "Excellence in the performance of the music of J.S. Bach".

**NORMAN GARRETT**, Baritone; A first year resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. He has performed Joe from Showboat and Escamillo from Carmen.

**STANFORD THOMPSON**, Trumpet; has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Ocean City Pops Orchestra and the Rittenhouse Jazz Quintet.

Proceeds from the Concert will benefit **Asbury United Methodist Church**, 1213 Pacific Avenue, for building repair and renovation and for the Food Bank of **St. Nicholas of Tolentine Roman Catholic Church**.

Rev. Msgr. William A. Hodge, Pastor, St Nicholas of Tolentine, R.C. Church

Rev. Gilbert H Caldwell, Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church

Donation is \$25.00

For further Information call 732-361-7979, 732-770-5516 or 732-348-1941

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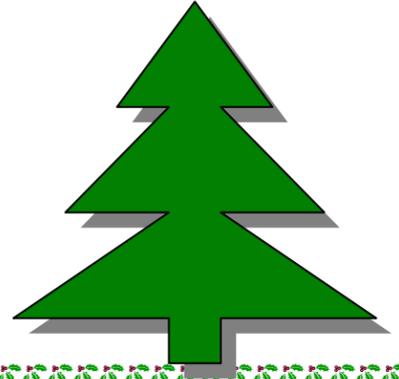
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# Making a List & Checking it Twice



## Christmas Shopping List

- √ Sweater for Mom
- √ Tie for Dad
- √ Video Game for Daughter
- √ MP3 Player for Son
- √ Canned Goods for Food Bank
- √ New Toy for DYFS
- √ Chickens for Heifer Project
- √ Winter Coats and Gloves for Homeless Family

*This Christmas give a gift that will truly make a difference in someone's life. Check with your local church Mission or Outreach Committees for all the ways your giving might do God's work in your local community or around the world. Or make a donation through your local church to:*



*Have a Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Joy-Filled New Year*