

Clergy and Laity Join in Celebration of Bishop's 60th Birthday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR BISHOP. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar blows out the candles on his cake presented by Nicola Mulligan at the 60th birthday celebration, April 6. The Rev. Charles Bender and several hundred others look on.

"You are chosen and you have nothing to do with it," was the message that Bishop Violet Fisher had for Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar as he celebrated his 60th birthday April 6.

Hundreds of clergy and laity from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, as well as, clergy and laity from New York, where the Bishop served prior to his election to the episcopal office, gathered at St. John's Church, Hazlet to celebrate the milestone birthday.

Prior to the celebratory worship service, the evening began with a Korean dinner and a social hour climaxed by the presentation of a birthday cake with the traditional blowing out of the candles by Bishop Devadhar.

In her sermon, Bishop Fisher said that she could understand why the 60th birthday was such an important milestone in Indian culture where for many years the average life span of the person living in India was 32 years.

In Indian culture, the 60th birthday is especially important, explain the Rev. Doug Ruffle, Conference Coordinator of Congregational Development. He said that at this life stage, someone has passed through the student and household phases of life and will now "renounce all material pleasures and go off into the wilderness as a nomadic mystic."

"While the Bishop is not going into the wilderness, he will continue his life of servant leadership on behalf of Jesus Christ," said Mr. Ruffle.

Bishop Fisher, who was the guest preacher, reminded all that each was chosen by God.

"I want us all to understand who we are in Christ Jesus," she said. "It is God who has chosen us. We have not chosen our self."

Bishop Fisher said that election by God is the first step in the process of sanctification.

"Bishop, I just stopped by to remind you, you are the chosen one. You are the Spirit-filled Jeremiah for this season," said Bishop Fisher. "You were chosen even before your parents knew there was a baby there. God had his

(Continued on Page 6)

A Message of Thanks from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am deeply, deeply touched and moved by your love at my sixtieth birthday celebration. Thanks to everyone who blessed me with a dynamic worship and Holy Communion Service, a delicious dinner and cakes and desserts of love, the celebratory book with scholarly and touching articles, words of love and prayers through phone calls, emails, cards, Facebook. Thank you for the prayers, blessings, and the gifts to the two mission causes.

God is Great! I praise and thank God for each and every one of you.

"God loves you all and so do I!"

In Christ's love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

For the Bishops monthly message, turn to page 2.

Delegate Elections, Health Screenings to Mark Annual Conference June 1-4

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. — In addition to the usual routines of its annual session, the Greater New Jersey Conference, meeting here June 1-3 will be marked by election of delegates to next year's General Conference, and will include health screenings that are a part of the conference's health insurance program, Health-Flex.

Those who participate in the insurance program will be asked to show their insurance identity card during the screening registration process. In addition those who are a part of the Virgin Health Miles program will be able to receive an incentive in the form of \$100 'health cash.'

There will be a station that does the basic biometrics: height, weight, and blood pressure. There will also be a station for drawing blood that will then be sent to Quest Diagnostics for lab work. All of the procedures will be done in a manner that ensures strict confidentiality. Those having blood drawn

will need to be mindful of observing a fast the night before. When the screenings are completed, members will be able to refresh themselves with some healthy snacks and beverages.

The featured speaker for the conference sessions this year at the Valley Forge Convention Center here is the Rev. Mike Slaughter, pastor and "Chief Dreamer" of the Ginghamburg (Pa.) Church and internationally known teacher and "catalyst for change" in the worldwide church. Dr. Slaughter was named the "Distinguished Evangelist" in 2003 by the Foundation for Evangelism and has twice received the Denman Evangelism Award.

Dr. John Holbert, professor of homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in Dallas, will be making his second appearance with the GNJAC as the breakfast Bible study leader.

To make getting to and from the conference site as easy as it can be, the Sessions Team has arranged for not

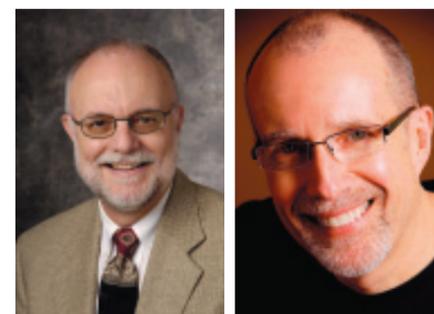
one, but two shuttles to run between the convention center and outlying hotels. Directions will be available from the hospitality committee at registration.

The Order of Elders is providing the clergy with the opportunity to have picture identification badges made while in attendance at Annual Conference. These badges will be useful in doing hospital visitations and other settings where clergy may need to identify themselves. There will be a designated space for the work of creating these badges and clergy are encouraged to make sure they get theirs done while in Valley Forge.

As always, the conference, while getting the necessary business done, will also include inspiring worship and warm fellowship.

Business session will include action on legislation and resolutions, and adoption of the budget for next year.

The Annual Conference will begin



HOLBERT

SLAUGHTER

with onsite Registration June 1, at 8:00 a.m. The sessions convene at 10:00 a.m. with the Service of Tribute and Holy Communion. Early Registration is Tuesday, May 31 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

United Methodists not in attendance will be able to follow conference happenings on the GNJAC website where live streaming will be available.

EDITORIAL

Birthdays and Other Celebrations

Each birthday is a milestone along life's journey. When one is young, birthdays come so slowly, and are awaited with great eagerness and impatience. As the years pass, they come more quickly, and are anticipated with less enthusiasm and increasing dread.

Whatever our age or station, birthdays have a way of taking on a local coloration, reflecting the cultural setting from which they rise. In American culture the first birthday or the sweet 16th are glorious celebrations with mylar balloons and crepe paper streamers: the 40th or 50th are less desirable, to be observed with false bravado or not to be celebrated at all.

In Indian culture, we have learned recently, it is the 60th birthday that is worthy of special note. It is that age which marks the division between the foibles and follies of youth and the gravity of advancing years. The 60th year is considered the "fourth stage of man's life" when interest and energy turns from preoccupation with the material to and integration of all of life into the spiritual.

Perhaps the difference in attitude between the American and Indian observance is a significant symbolic reflection of the two cultures. So when a presiding bishop of a United Methodist annual conference in the eastern United States, born in India and living most of his adult life in the United States, comes to that pivotal 60th birthday, it presents a teaching moment for all concerned, a cross-cultural opportunity for new insight and growth.

Such was the case on April 6, when several hundred United Methodists from across the conference and around the nation gathered at St. John's Church in Hazlet to celebrate the birthday of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar – not so much with balloons and crepe paper, but with a genuine outpouring of love.

Oh Yes, there was the birthday cake, the candles, the "Happy Birthday to You" song. But along with these typically American trappings, there were elements that spoke to the uniqueness of this occasion, and to the diversity of the People called United Methodist in the place called the Greater New Jersey Conference.

There was worship and music and dance in praise of God; there were words of wisdom imparted by one who had already crossed the threshold of the seventh decade; there were messages of profound affection and respect. And there was food! A sumptuous Korean feast, reminding all present that we do not live by spirit alone. Spirit and flesh — real flesh, real spirit — mingled together, at the banquet table at the beginning of the evening and at the altar at the end. A token of Incarnation.

Which brings us beyond the Bishop's birthday to another significant day in the month of April. Ten days following the celebration in Hazlet, another observance: The Resurrection of our incarnate Lord, who knew fully the meaning of our humanity, tasted fully of its pain and sorrow; drank deeply and to the dregs of human suffering. And died.

Then Easter dawned, a tomb was opened and emptied, and Christ, the Incarnate One, came forth to offer life, real life, to persons of every nation and culture, on either side of 60. Thank you, Lord.

And thank you, Bishop Devadhar, for sharing your birthday with us. Many happy returns!

Yes, You Are Being Digested!

By now, you have probably discovered the thrice-weekly GNJ Digest, your conference's electronic newsletter 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 become a part of our "digested community" to communications@gnjumc.org.

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A Message from the Bishop

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

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



One of the Sundays that we observe in the month of May is Heritage Sunday. According to the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, "Heritage Sunday shall be observed on Aldersgate Day (May 24), or the Sunday preceding that date... The day provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how it understands it as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing. Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God" (*Book of Discipline*, 2008, #264.1).

Though we could reflect on various elements of Heritage Sunday, for the sake of space, I would like to reflect on "committing itself to the continuing call of God." One may look at this call from different angles, however, the call of God on lives is demonstrated through our Christian living as baptized Christians.

God has called individuals, in Biblical history as well as in Church and secular history, through different means and circumstances. Mother Teresa referred to it beautifully as a "call within a call." What she meant by this is that though she was already a nun, when God challenged her to leave the comfort of the convent and go and minister among the poorest of the poor, it was "a call within a call."

While I was serving as a pastor, whenever people joined the church I used to ask them what made them want to do so. More than once people said to me, "My physician happens to be a member of this congregation and he shared with me about the church... so I am here." In a unique way this particular physician was sharing his story of faith. It was his calling. I am sure you may know of people who have influenced you and touched you through the demonstration of their Christian calling.

Many wonder why fewer people are being called to Christian ministry today. Let me hasten to say I am not just referring to ordained ministry. I am referring to the ministry of any Christian. Many times we are reluctant to share with others our own stories of calling and how God has called us. We need to share that story with others.

I am sure that each and every one of us has a unique story to share. Some of our calls might have come from someone's preaching or from letters we might have received. Some have come from hymns we have sung, comments on Facebook, the witness of a teacher or coach, and the list goes on... My own call came through the witness of an evangelist from Australia as he was preaching at a spiritual convention in India regarding John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

May this Heritage Sunday be a day when we take time to commit ourselves to reflect, celebrate, share, and demonstrate the continuing call of God upon our lives. Christian journeying challenges us to celebrate, pause, and reflect. May we take time to reflect on our own faith communities in the context of our villages, cities, nation, and world and ask the question boldly, courageously, and prayerfully: What is God calling us or calling me to be and/or do today in our lives as individuals and as a faith community?

On this Heritage Sunday and the days thereafter, let us reflect on our personal past and our collective history, as well as on the future. Specifically, let us act upon "... the continuing call of God". God is not finished with any of us.

"God loves you all and so do I!"

In Christ's love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



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'All Things New' is 2011 Mission School Theme at 2 Locations

GNJAC — "See, I am making all things new." That promise from Revelation 21, pronounced from the heavenly throne will undergird the GNJ School of Christian Mission (SOCM) when it convenes this summer at two locations, Lakewood and Caldwell. Its message of hope and renewal will infuse the classes and plenary sessions of the three-day events.

The dates and locations of the 2011 school will be Georgian Court University, Lakewood, July 8-10, and Caldwell College, Caldwell, July 22-24.

This annual education opportunity, jointly sponsored by the Greater New Jersey Conference and the conference United Methodist Women, is "the ticket to effective mission ministry for local churches across the conference," the SOCM brochure declares. "The Cooperative School of Christian Missions is for all. Invited are **women, men, children, pastors, and friends! Make it a family retreat!**"

To encourage new people to attend the School, first-time, full-time attendees will not pay the \$40 registration fee. They will pay only the housing and food fees. That's a \$40 discount!

Those who sign on may expect a generous mix of worship, fellowship and learning opportunities. And there will be shopping at the **Ten Thousand Villages** retail store which provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans

who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

Pre-registration for SOCM is preferred, although efforts will be made to accommodate walk-in students, for a \$60 registration fee. Meals will be available at ala cart costs but no housing will be available. Registration may be paid by check or credit card.

Adult School Studies & Topics will include:

- ◆ **Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

- ◆ **Haiti**, an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people.

- ◆ **Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity**, exploring the theology of mission and evangelism in the twenty first century.

- ◆ **Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus**, the Conference Study in which pastor and author Mike Slaughter challenges church leaders to look at the future of

their congregations and make tough but necessary choices.

Watch for additional course descriptions in later issues of the *Relay*.

An Adult Fast Track Event will be offered at both Lakewood and Caldwell for those who cannot commit a full weekend of time. This will offer a five-hour mini-study, of either **Coming Out on the Side of Grace** or **Haiti**. Dependent care will be available, if requested no later than 10 days prior to school start.

A Youth School will be offered at Lakewood providing visits to area mission sites as well as the spiritual growth study, **Grace; Forgiveness and Reconciliation**. There will be opportunities for fellowship, singing, worship and fun! (See the *edGe*, page 7.) The School will be held at Georgian Court University, in conjunction with the adult School. This is a coed program; 7th grade graduates to 12th grade graduates are invited. A new **Young Adult** program will be available for those in their "20's". Space is limited, so register soon. Enrollment fee covers rooming, all meals, transportation during the weekend and study book.

Children's School will convene at both sites with the theme "**Hugging the World: Faith, Hope, Love in Action**" This is a one-day school for children who have completed grades K through 3, and a class for grades 4 through 6. A guardian must be on the premises attending the adult SOCM.

Archives Offers Heritage Sunday Resources

MADISON — The United Methodist Commission on Archives has a PowerPoint program and other historical content for churches to use on Heritage Sunday, which is on May 22 this year. United Methodist congregations are asked to celebrate their Wesleyan heritage each year on the Sunday closest to May 24. That is the anniversary of John Wesley's heartwarming spiritual revival in 1738 at a religious-society meeting on Aldersgate Street in London.

This year's theme is "Engaging in Ministry with the Poor: Our Heritage." The PowerPoint on that theme is already online, along with other resources including hymns, prayers and suggested Scripture texts.

Petitions to General Conference Now Being Received

NASHVILLE (UMNS) — From now to Sept. 27, United Methodists can submit petitions for consideration by the 2012 General Conference, United Methodism's top legislative body.

According to church law, "Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference..."

Detailed instructions for submitting a petition are available on the General Conference website at gc2012.umc.org.

Petitions must be typed and may be submitted via e-mail to petitions@umpublishing.org, through the website, by

mail or by fax. The deadline for petitions submitted only by regular mail or fax is July 1, to allow time for transcription and translation. Petitions should indicate whether they have general church budget considerations.

The mailing addresses for petitions (hard copy accompanied, if possible, by digital version on diskette, CD or USB drive) are: Gary Graves, Petitions Secretary, United Methodist General Conference, P.O. Box 140, Rockfield, KY 42274, or, for delivery purposes, to 2511 Richpond - Rockfield Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

GBCS and Asbury Seminary, Announce Religious Freedom Internship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) and Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., have launched a joint effort to create an internship focused on religious freedom and to build awareness about persecution of faith groups. The intern will write articles and create resource materials to help local churches understand and combat religious intolerance.

Manohar James, a second-generation Christian from Andhra Pradesh, South India, has been selected as the first Religious Freedom Intern. He is studying in the Ph.D. program at Asbury, where he resides on campus with his wife, Jasmine.

Bill Mefford, director of Civil & Human Rights at GBCS, said the social justice agency is working with Asbury Seminary because the two share concerns on this issue, as well as many others facing the world.

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church "assert the right of all religions and their adherents to freedom from legal, economic, and social discrimination (§162B)." Mefford said that GBCS has spoken out recently against persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India, China, the Sudan and other areas of the world. "Paul reminds us that when one member of the Body of Christ suffers we all suffer," he said.



Drew Music Institute to Explore 'Amazing Abundance' of Praise

MADISON — In an age when "pipe organs and laptops coexist with electronic bands and taize chant" in a "holy confluence "of sacred sound, Drew Theological School's Sixth Annual Music Institute is offering an "Amazing Abundance: Praying and Singing the World Around."

The 2011 institute's abundant offering, running July 28-30, will combine songs from the Global South with 19th century camp meeting songs and 20th century contemporary music. "Worship infused with this musical abundance energizes our spiritual life and quickens the universal pulse of the body of Christ," explain the institute promoters, inviting all to "join us as we experience music, liturgical styles, prayer and preaching that encourages our souls, hearts and minds to re-engage the 21st

century church."

Keynote for the three-day event will be Michael Hawn, church music professor at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. Co-directors of the three-day institute are Mark Miller, Director of Music and Composer-in-Residence at Drew, and the Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett, Director of the Chapel and Associate Chaplain at the university. Plenary Sessions will be led by Dr. Hawn.

Themes to be explored under the general rubric "*Singing a 21st Century Faith*" include "*The Shape of Congregational Song in Our Generation*" and "*Global Song for Local Congregations*."

For more information and schedule of events visit: www.drew.edu/theological/continuing-education/smi

Alzheimer Researcher at Haddonfield, May 7

HADDONFIELD — Dr. Joel Ross, leading Alzheimer's Disease researcher, will lead a discussion at Haddonfield Church on Saturday, May 7, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Called "Memory Enhancement in the 21st Century," the discussion will answer questions and provide the latest information about how Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are being treated and what we can expect in years to come. Dr. Ross will also address issues that affect those caring for someone with the disease. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Lunch will be provided free of charge and local organizations that help families facing Alzheimer's and dementia will be present. Reservations are required in order to provide lunch.

To reserve a seat, please send your name, address, phone number and the number of people attending to office@HaddonfieldUMC.com or call 856-873-6071.

This program is part of Haddonfield United Methodist Church's Community Program Series which supports and educates members of the local community about topical issues that affect families.

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via United Methodist News
Service and Newscope

Annual conferences gear up to reach out

NASHVILLE — Annual conference time is approaching, and United Methodist representatives are getting ready to debate issues — and to reconnect with friends and colleagues. But in most conferences, the action goes far beyond the meeting room. In addition to electing General Conference delegates, ordaining new clergy and remembering deceased colleagues, United Methodists plan to reach out in ministry with the poor, strive for healthier lifestyles and tackle other social issues.

UMCOR grant helps Japan institute reopen

STAMFORD, Conn. — After the ground stopped shaking on March 11, staff at the Asian Rural Institute in northern Japan began assessing the damage. What they found was serious. Now, some weeks later, repairs are under way and, with the support of a \$150,000 grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the staff are able to welcome its new students in May.

UMW seeks to become separate church agency

STAMFORD, Conn. — The Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries has decided to seek denominational approval for status as a separate agency of the church. Directors of Women's Division unanimously voted during their April 7-11 meeting to "structurally separate" but remain "missionally connected" with the GBGM rather than continue as a division of the mission agency.

Agency gives investment-management program a new name

GLENVIEW, Ill. — The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits has launched Wespath Investment Management, a new brand name for its institutional investment services. The investment program, named for John Wesley, enables annual conferences, United Methodist foundations and other United Methodist-affiliated institutions to make investments aligned with the denomination's Social Principles.

Leadership Summit survey results now online

NASHVILLE — Results to the Leadership Summit survey are now online. The survey deals with the findings of the *Call to Action Steering Team*, and asks respondents the denomination's priorities. More than 920 people responded to the survey following the April 6 Leadership Summit webcast on how the church can foster vital congregations.

Global Ministries' directors approve changes

STAMFORD, Conn. — Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries took steps during their April 11-13 meeting toward becoming more flexible, effective and cost efficient in response to contemporary mission opportunities. Among the actions was to reduce the number of directors by two-thirds, from 92 to 32, while retaining a strong balance among members from the United States and the denomination's central conferences in Africa, the Philippines and Europe.

Church offers relief in Japan's new reality

TOKYO — March's violent earthquake has shaken Japan into a new reality, says the Rev. Paul Tsuchido Shew, a United Methodist serving as a chaplain and professor at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. Christians are providing healing after changes wrought by March disasters.

Ivorian UM group barricaded near battle

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire — United Methodist Bishop Benjamin Boni and others locked inside the church's radio station building in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, hoped for early settlement of conflict as fighting continued around the presidential palace nearby. Hope for a quick resolution came April 11 when forces supporting the president-elect, backed by U.N. and French troops captured recalcitrant President Laurent Gbagbo, who refused to yield his office following an unsuccessful reelection bid. UMCOR is ready to provide humanitarian relief when the conflict is over, said UMCOR head Cynthia Fierro Harvey. "Our real work is going to start when this conflict ends," she said, calling also for prayer for the beleaguered nation. Donations to support UMCOR's work in Côte d'Ivoire can be made to International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450, and earmarked for "Côte d'Ivoire Crisis".

Ecumenical commission considers its future

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Church's ecumenical commission has approved proposals for its future that would either maintain its current status but drastically reduce the board of directors, or fold the group and its work into the denomination's Council of Bishops. The commission "was and is willing to lose its life if we can find a new and better way to organize the ecumenical ministries of the church," says its top executive.

Leadership Summit tackles church future

NASHVILLE — Thousands of church members hoping to make more disciples gathered at sites around the world to participate in the Leadership Summit webcast. Altogether, there were more than 4,000 web connections to the three-hour event. It was the first chance for many to hear how denominational leaders plan to carry out the recommendations in the Call to Action Steering Team's final report to increase vital congregations. An archive of the April 6 webcast is available for viewing at the United Methodist Leadership Summit website. A summary of the survey's findings WAS posted April 12 on the Leadership Summit website.

ELCA, AME Zion agree to mission statement

CHICAGO — The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church said it is time for the two churches to "come together as communities of faith and to know each other in order that we might be more effective as people of God." The bishops made the declaration in a "Statement of Mission" affirmed by the ELCA Conference of Bishops when it met in March in Itasca, Ill. AME Zion, like The United Methodist Church, is a member of the World Methodist Council.

Church agencies battle human trafficking

NEW YORK — To date, a United Methodist Committee on Relief anti-trafficking project in Armenia has helped 93 women move on to new lives after becoming entangled in what is considered the second-largest and fastest-growing global criminal enterprise. Kathryn Paik, UMCOR's Armenia program officer, and two staff executives with United Methodist Women, Carol Van Gorp and Susie Johnson, spoke about how United Methodists are addressing the human-trafficking problem during a March 28 panel discussion.

Church Surrounds Man Slated for Deportation

A UMNS Report By Kathy L. Gilbert

Cristian Ramirez, like many 21-year-olds, works full time while attending college and volunteers most of his spare time to the youth ministry at his local United Methodist church.

However, unlike most young people his age, he is living with the fear that at any moment he could be deported to a violent country his parents fled when he was 12.

Cristian, born in El Salvador, is one of more than 60,000 college students living in fear of deportation. They are young people taken from their home countries as children by parents seeking safety and a better future for them in the United States.



WAITING for DREAM to come true is Cristian Ramirez in snapshot taken with his little brother Julian, age 8.

(UMNS photo courtesy of Cristian Ramirez.)

Young people across the nation are stepping out of the shadows and putting their freedom on the line to persuade the U.S. government to pass the DREAM Act (Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors).

The DREAM Act would create a path to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, completed two years of college or military service and met other requirements, including passing a criminal background check.

A filibuster prevented the bill from coming to the U.S. Senate floor for a vote Dec. 18, effectively killing the legislation in 2010. The House of Representatives had already approved the bill in a 216-198 vote.

Familiar story

Cristian's story is echoed across the United States. His family fled to the United States after his father was kidnapped twice. "My life was threatened, and I lost the job I had, and I could not find a similar one," Jose Ramirez said. Cristian's father, stepmother and younger sister got Temporary Protection Status that was available to Central Americans after two back-to-back earthquakes in 2001.

At first, Cristian stayed with his mother in El Salvador. He started hanging out with some older youth who turned out to be members of a gang. While on a visit to see his father, "tattooed youth" came looking for him, and his mother feared for his life. She urged his father to keep 12-year-old Cristian with him.

He arrived in the states two months too late to be under the same provision as the rest of his family.

Future dreams

Cristian dreams of becoming a Texas state trooper. He is a high school graduate enrolled in Brookhaven College, a Dallas County community college.

His deportation would leave a big hole in his family, his church and the nation, said the Rev. Owen Ross, pastor of Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission, Dallas, where the Ramirez family is part of the congregation.

"Cristian has poured himself into the youth program at the church to help youth stay off drugs, away from gangs and in school," he said. "He works night in a restaurant. He asked for two nights off each week, Sundays and Wednesdays. Sundays he goes to church, and Wednesdays he volunteers with our youth."

Because he has personal experience with the dangers of gangs, he has a passion for keeping young people out of gangs and into God, Ross said.

"I do all of that to try and give them a hand ... to show them that life is really hard at times, but, God willing, there is always a way," Cristian said.

Cristian's troubles began when, on the way to renew an expired registration sticker, the police stopped him. He had missed a court date for a previous traffic violation. He was arrested and turned over to immigration officials. Now there is a deportation order against him.

"Cristian's youngest brother, who is 8, had to be taken from the courtroom because he could not control his crying at the thought of his big brother being taken away from him," said Ross.

The situation in El Salvador is worse now than when the family first left the country, said Susana Alejandra Ramirez, Cristian's stepmother.

"All of us together make a family, and we would not be complete without him. It would be a traumatic experience for my younger kids because he is like a role model to them, and they love spending time with him. He would not be able to accomplish the dreams he has back in El Salvador," she said.

Cristian has support from members of his church as well as the *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* and Bill Mefford, director of civil and human rights, United Methodist Board of Church and Society. They are urging United Methodists to write letters to President Obama and Janet Napolitano, Department of Homeland Security secretary, asking them to defer Cristian's deportation order.

United Methodists in Texas are also asked to send letters to Texas senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison as well as their representatives.

"I'm not asking for the government or immigration board to make me a citizen, although that would be great," Cristian said. "The only thing I'm asking is a chance to prove myself, to prove if they let me stay, I can do much as a police officer."

Bold leadership

"The church has a scriptural mandate in both the Old Testament and the New Testament to stand up for young people like Cristian," said Ross. "Like Cristian's namesake, Christ himself was taken by his family at a young age to a foreign land." Everyone agrees the U.S. immigration system is broken, Ross said.

"So many preachers avoid preaching on the numerous scriptures and doctrinal teachings that relate to immigration like a third-grader trying to walk down an old sidewalk without stepping on a crack," he said.

"It is time for the church to be bold in leading her people, her congregations and the United States of America to bring about a just and humane comprehensive immigration reform."

(Kathy Gilbert is a multimedia reporter for the young adult content team at United Methodist Communications in Nashville.)

**The June Issue Deadline is
May 5, 2011**

Drew Seminary Installs First Asian American as New Dean

MADISON (UMNS) — In a ceremony filled with spirit and symbolism, Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan was officially installed April 8 as dean of Drew's Theological School. The Craig Chapel service followed an afternoon of events celebrating the first Asian American to lead a United Methodist seminary.

"I stand before you today keenly aware of the enormous honor and task that the communities of faith and higher education have conferred upon me," said Dr. Kuan, who described his path from Malaysia to California to Drew as "a journey to the East." And just as he has crossed continents to answer his calling, he said his hope for the Theological School is that it will "increasingly become more global in its orientation."

"[By] expanding transnational teaching and learning relationships, I hope we can explore together what progressive Christianity and progressive religion can look like in a global context," he said. "I am very confident that Drew Theological School's pioneering legacy will help move us in our journey of theological education."

The service included a performance by Drew's Korean Men's Choir; a special hymn, "We Abide," composed for the occasion by lyricist Laurie Zelman and the school's music director, Mark Miller; and the presentation of gifts from the United Methodist church and the Drew faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Eventually Kuan sees his journey eastward coming full circle and leading him to where he grew up, though he realizes both he and the place of his birth will have changed significantly in the intervening years.

"Likewise," said Kuan, "Drew Theological School is hardly the same school that began 144 years ago. In



NEWLY INSTALLED DEAN Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan acknowledges the approving applause of the assembled gathering at his April 8 installation in Craig Chapel on the campus of Drew Theological School in Madison. Among those participating in the ceremony are (l. to r.) Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Drew Provost Pamela Gunter-Smith, and New York Bishop Jeremiah Park. (Photo by Shelley Kusnetz)

our respective and intertwining journeys, I hope that we've been changed for the better and that we've been changed for good."

Dr. Kuan comes to Drew from the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) and the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) both in Berkeley, California, where he served on the faculty of both institutions.

He is an active member of The

United Methodist Church (UMC), and has served on the board of directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry since 2004.

The new dean began his career serving a church as an associate pastor from 1980 to 1983 in Malaysia. In 2002, he became an ordained elder and full member of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the UMC.

Since 2008, he has served as the

vice president of the board of directors of the UMC's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He holds a PhD in Old Testament from Emory University, a master of theological studies degree from Southern Methodist University and a bachelor of theology degree from Trinity Theological College in Singapore.

—Dave Muha

Church and Community Connect in Dynamic Discipleship in Oaklyn

The mission-oriented church rediscovers the needs of its surrounding community and world and engages in ministry to address those needs." These words from *Roadmap to Renewal* by GNJ's coordinator of Congregational Development, Douglas Ruffle, caught the imagination of Emmanuel Church here this year.

Following this *Roadmap* the Emmanuel congregation has prayerfully committed to an intentional effort to reach out to the surrounding communities of Haddon Township and Oaklyn.

First step to accomplish this goal was to establish a relationship with two local public schools and their principals. In conversations with Pastor Gary Bartlett and church members, both principals expressed the need to address the plight of "stressed out" parents.

Emmanuel launched a "Parent's Night Out" ministry, coordinated by Carol Doron. Parents in the community can drop off children at the church for fun-filled activities in a safe environment, supervised by Emmanuel's church school staff. Parents can then

go to a movie, dinner, shopping, or whatever.

Both public schools have allowed Emmanuel to advertise this ministry and other church events via flyers.

"Two truly wonderful blessings from this new relationship between church and community have occurred," reports Pastor Bartlett. First, after a recent food drive, Dr. Charles Warfield, of Clyde Jennings Elementary School principal contacted Pastor Bartlett and the church to find out who could use the food. Mr. Bartlett made arrangements for the groceries to go to the Oaklyn Community Food Pantry housed at the Oaklyn Baptist Church; a ministry involving several area churches including Emmanuel.

Second, Dr. Jennifer Boulden of Oaklyn School invited the pastor to join the Oaklyn Community Task Force, which consists of township leaders committed to resolving community issues and promoting a healthy sense of community. Bartlett and Emmanuel church see these new community relationships as added ways to share Christ's love and hope to people beyond the walls of the church building.



FOOD DRIVE. Cooperative effort by Emmanuel Church and local schools like this food drive bring "wonderful blessings" according to Pastor Gary Bartlett (r), shown here with members of a food drive team.

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Great Auditorium Pavilion, Ocean Grove

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UNITED METHODIST HOMES

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'All Are Chosen,' Bishop Fisher Tells Congregation at Bishop's Birthday Fete

(Continued from Page 1)

hand on you and God knew the plan that God had for you."

The Bishop's daughter, Dr. Trina Hemmelgarn, presented Bishop Devadhar with "In The Precious Name", a book of celebratory writing in honor of the bishop. It is compiled of stories and tributes from family members, friends and colleagues and was edited by Mr. Ruffle and Nicola Mulligan, administrative assistant to the bishop. The book can be purchased at Amazon.com or will be on sale at Annual Conference. All profits will benefit *Nothing But Nets*, the mission project that purchases mosquito nets in countries with high incidence of Malaria.

"Tonight God's grace came in powerful waves of love," said Bishop Devadhar. "Each and every one of you contributed to this evening through your love and support."

The Bishop presented Bishop Fisher with a garland, which he explained was a symbol of love.

"Thank you for your support in our journey," Bishop Devadhar said as he presented the garland. "She has been both a spiritual mother in Christ and our family pastor since 2004."

Completing the birthday celebration were special music and liturgical dance. The Bishop also received many traditional Indian gifts on his milestone birthday including a turban, silk scarves, garlands, a fruit basket and a fountain pen. Worshipers also partook in Holy Communion with Bishop Felton May joining bishops Devadhar and Fisher in administering the sacrament.

— Jessica Stenstrom, with additional staff contributions.



LEADING IN WORSHIP in celebration of Bishop Devadhar's 60th birthday are Bishop Violet Fisher (above), liturgical dancer Dhajia Ingram (below, left), and cellist Mira Kang (below). Also participating were Drew Dean Jeffrey Kuan, Dr. Isabel Quezada, Gage Hemmelgarn, Nicola Mulligan, Julian Wamble, soloist, Dr. Frank Fowler, Bishop Felton May, Dr. Hae Jong Kim, Douglas Ruffle, the bishop's daughter, Dr. Trina Hemmelgarn, and organist Mark Miller.

Photos by John C. Goodwin, Leo Park and Sushil Bhujbal)



CELEBRANTS OF THE SACRAMENT are Bishop Fisher, center, and Bishop Felton May. Both are longtime friends of Bishop Devadhar.

GRIPPED BY THE EMOTION of the evening, Bishop Devadhar (left) expresses his appreciation for the outpouring of love from the assembled throng.

The family photo (below, lower left) shows (left to right) son in law Gage Hemmelgarn, Prema Devadhar, episcopal grandchild Myla Hemmelgarn, Bishop Devadhar and his daughter, Dr. Trina Hemmelgarn.



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Less than Perfect



By Krista Hendrickson

Did you know that back in the early 1920's people actually used tapeworms as a dieting technique? Tapeworms! Real live parasites that attach to your stomach or intestines and consume all the food going into your body so you could lose weight. One of the more disturbing aspects of this idea was not that such a thing existed, but rather, that people actually used it.

"But wait," you say, "that was years ago, we don't do that anymore. We don't do silly, gross things to make sure our bodies look good."

Well to be blunt, I'd have to tell you that if you believe that, then denial is not just a river in Egypt! There are diets today ranging from eating nothing but cookies to pouring chemicals on your food so your brain feels full. Ads for diet pill after diet pill fills our

televisions, magazines, billboards and more. Plus, although tapeworms as a form of dieting have been banned for years, they still can be purchased illegally.

So, why the rant on ridiculous diet techniques? Because we continue to be a society that tells our young women and young men that the perfect body image is the most important thing in life if you want to be accepted and happy. That message continues to have a devastating impact among my peers. So many young girls and even boys battle every day with trying to be thin, in shape; in a word, "perfect." It seems that there is a new kind of diet fad or eating disorder that comes along everyday destroying young people in their attempt to have the "perfect" body image.

But, there is an alternate message that parents and other adults need to hear and share with young people. The music artist Pink says it best, "If you ever feel like you are anything less than perfect, just remember you are perfect."

We are all perfect! We are created in God's image and God's image is perfect in every respect. We need to find ways to tell our young people that they are perfect just the way they are. Tell them they don't have to be something other than who God created them to be. We all need to remember and really believe that God has created us and loves us just the way we are. God believes it. We need to believe it as well.



Taize 2011 REMINDER

All Pilgrims traveling to Taize this year: Mandatory Orientation meeting will be held Saturday May 14th from 10-3pm at St. John's UMC in Hazlet.



YOUTH 2011

You think you are Ordinary?.....Think Again!

Greater NJ Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team is going to Youth 2011 at Purdue University July 13-17th. Wanna come with us??

All groups attending the event must make their own hotel and registration arrangements. Visit www.youth2011.org for more information.

The GNJ Ministries with Young People will supply bus transportation for the conference office in Ocean, NJ to Purdue University. Seats are limited so please register by the deadline. We cannot accommodate late registrations. So be sure to sign your whole youth group up at once. **Registration due Now!!**

- Cost: \$100.00 (R/T) per person
- Deposit Due with registration Due now!! \$75.00
- Balance: \$ 25.00 per person due by July 1, 2011

****Registration will not be complete without form and fees**
Visit www.gnjumc.org/697/ for more information.**

2011 Summer Camp

The Greater NJ United Methodist Camps are hiring. We are looking for the following 2011 summer positions: Summer Counselors, Waterfront Director, Waterfront Staff/lifeguards, and Kitchen Staff. Attached are job descriptions for each of these positions plus the application for employment. These positions begin July 1, 2011. All job descriptions and Applications can be found at www.gnjumc.org

We are also looking for volunteers to serve as Chaplains, Summer Directors, and to share special activities with the campers. If you are interested in volunteering or think you have a gift that you would like to share/teach the campers please contact Rev. Erica Munoz at Emunoz@gnjumc.org

Don't forget to register your children and youth for Summer Camp. The 2011 Summer brochure is available on the Camp website: www.gnjumcm.org Campships available on a first come, first serve basis.

NEW LOOK FOR YOUTH TEAM

The Greater NJ Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team has a new look. The team has changed their name and work they do in and around the conference to the "Ministries with Young People". The Conference team is made up of two youth and two young adults from each of the nine districts in the Annual Conference. Several districts have openings for the 2011-2012 school year if you know of a youth or young adult interested in participating.

If you would like information about the Ministries with Young People in the GNJAC visit their FaceBook page or check out their new website that will launch at Annual Conference in June ~ www.gnjmyp.org

Cooperative School of Christian Mission Youth/Young Adult Retreat

R U Looking 2 Fit N

Well come hang out with Tesha Goodson, Dawn Jackson and Jeffrey Clark, Sr. At Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10, 2011
Theme: Grace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation
Cost \$125: All Inclusive Weekend
(2) \$50 Scholarships available per church
Requirements: An Open Mind and a Willingness to have Fun
2 Age Groups: 7-12 grade graduates and Young Adults in their 20s
We provide A Strong Team, A Safe Ministry, A Hands on Mission Project and a Lasting Friendship
Follow me on facebook: Tesha Goodson or contact me @ 609-638-7514

Bishop's Confirmation Celebration May 15, 2011

Come Celebrate with hundreds of Confirmands from around the Greater NJ Annual Conference. Bishop Devadhar will share the message as we embark on this new journey in our confirmands' lives. All 2010 and 2011 Confirmands, leaders, parents, and mentors are invited to attend. Special music, Communion and an anointing by Bishop Devadhar will just be part of the celebration of confirmation. This event is a great culmination of the Confirmation season.

We hope to see you there.

Bridgewater UMC

Country Club Rd. Bridgewater, NJ • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

(Although there is no charge to attend the celebration, a headcount is necessary to ensure that we have adequate supplies and gifts for the Confirmands. Please email Emunoz@gnjumc.org with your group registration. Thank you.)

SAVE THE DATE:

Youth Weekend 2011

September 9-11, 2011, Ocean City, NJ

New workshops for youth and youth leaders this year!!!

Guest Performers include: Agape ~ Hip Hop Artist and Jared Hall ~ Illusionist

Music will be provided by youth groups from around the GNJ. Stay tuned for our first ever...

"So U think U can Praise???" competition. Youth groups/individuals will be invited to submit their Praise video to the MYP team. The selected groups/individuals will be invited to perform at OCYW 2011.

Be sure to visit the MYP website after June 1 to learn how to submit your praise!!

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NCIS Actress Joins Support of Imagine No Malaria

NASHVILLE: **Imagine No Malaria**, a ministry of The United Methodist Church, proudly introduces actress Pauley Perrette to its growing community of supporters working together to reduce deaths caused by malaria.

Perrette, 42, is well-known for playing Abby Sciuto, her character on the hit CBS TV show, NCIS. A passionate advocate for more than 30 charity causes, Perrette has generously agreed to share her talent and celebrity to help generate support for **Imagine No Malaria**, while raising awareness and money to fight the disease.

"Every 45 seconds, malaria kills a child in Africa," Perrette said. "Please pray about it, and join me in this global fight against a terrible — but preventable disease."



Pauley Perrette

Perrette's support for Imagine No Malaria includes starring in several public service announcements, calling for action and generosity in the fight against malaria.

The NBC actress is a member of Hollywood United Methodist Church.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

'So That' Churches

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



In the book I wrote, *Roadmap to Renewal*, I emphasize the importance of two key words when articulating a Mission Statement for the church. The words are "so that." Lovett Weems and Tom Berlin agree. In their book, *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results* (Abingdon, 2011), they dedicate an entire chapter to the same two words: so that.

Weems and Berlin point to scripture where the two words give power and importance. Think of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so *that* (italics added) everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Weems and

Berlin call these two words "the two most powerful words for leadership." The Bible is replete with verses where these two powerful words are invoked.

As I mentioned in *Roadmap to Renewal*, the "so that" answers the important question, "Why are we called to do this mission?" Weems and Berlin believe the two words lead the church to focus on the *fruitfulness* of their mission and ministry.

"So that" gives clarity as to the purpose for what we do as a church. "Having a clear so that statement helps to keep everyone focused on the end and not just the means," write Weems and Berlin. They remind us of another famous biblical passage that includes the two words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so *that* (italics added) you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

Here are some samples of Mission Statements referred to in *Roadmap to Renewal* that are empowered by the two words, "so that."

"Jesus calls us to reach out with God's Love, Hospitality, Hope and Healing so that all may experience and share the joy of Belonging to Him!" — Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, Pensacola, Florida.

"As persons growing in Christian Discipleship, we encourage all people to grow in their relationship with God and one another so that all may experience the fullness of Christian Life." — Bishop Janes United Methodist Church, Basking Ridge, NJ.

In these examples, the Gulf Breeze UMC wants us to know that the purpose of their mission is "so that" all may experience and share this joy. Likewise, Bishop Janes UMC engages in mission "so that" all may experience the fullness of Christian life.

Your mission statement should be a reflection of what your church does. For the purpose of greater clarity, I would encourage a church to include the "so that" clause. Both church insiders and those outside will understand more clearly the purpose of the mission. (See *Roadmap to Renewal*, p. 86.)

Does your church have a "so that" statement? Do you have clarity as to the purpose of your mission and ministry?

Shore Awaits Will Graham Celebration at Ocean Grove Auditorium May 20-22

OCEAN GROVE — Will Graham, grandson of evangelical icon Billy Graham, will hold forth at the Great Auditorium here in a three-day Jersey Shore Celebration, May 20-22.

Graham, an evangelist in his own right, has addressed audiences around the world, will be backed up by singer-songwriter Matthew West, and contemporary Christian groups, God Rocks, Flame, Newsboys, and Chasen.

A special Saturday morning program for children, called KidzFest, will feature the group God Rocks!

Local churches have been preparing for the Celebration for several months, working towards a successful event. The Celebration will offer some-

thing for all ages, with opportunities for group worship, individual prayer/counseling and conversations with Graham and other religious leaders.

Celebration organizers recently concluded a series of classes designed to help local Christians share their beliefs with others. Those classes were attended by more than 3,000, with participants coming not only from the local two-county area, but also from as far away as New York and Pennsylvania. Additionally, an average of 945 teenagers per session have attended a three-week student version of the classes.

Admission to the event is free of charge.

Imagine No Malaria Efforts Prove Contagious

A UMNS Report By Barbara Dunlap-Berg

Kim Granzow learned she could help to save 100 lives by giving just \$28 a month for three years and decided she had no excuse not to do so.

Granzow of First United Methodist Church in Los Alamos, N.M., attended an Imagine No Malaria presentation after the denomination launched the initiative last April 25 on **World Malaria Day**.

NBC to Spotlight Efforts

An NBC TV special, "A Killer in the Dark," will show efforts of United Methodists and others to eliminate suffering from malaria. Presented by the National Council of Churches and produced by United Methodist Communications, the program will be available for local NBC affiliates scheduled to air May 1 through mid-November. Church members can contact their local stations and ask them to schedule "A Killer in the Dark."

"What really grabbed me," she said, "was the fact that The United Methodist Church is stepping out in faith to eradicate deaths from malaria."

In 2008, the *World Health Organization* reports, there were 247 million cases of malaria and nearly a million deaths. In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 45 seconds; the disease accounts for 20 percent of all childhood deaths.

Malaria is not contagious, but enthusiasm for The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria initiative definitely is.

Just ask the Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce, pastor of Prospect United Methodist Church, Dunlap, Ill. She joined the fight against malaria five years ago after reading a "Sports Illustrated" article about Nothing But Nets.

Pearce shared her newfound knowledge with her congregation that includes many from the corporate headquarters for Caterpillar Inc. in nearby Peoria, "folks who have the global perspective in their day-to-day world," she said.

Linking her congregation with the denomination, she annually sets up a ma-

laria-related display featuring \$1,000 of her own money and challenges members to match it. Total giving is always at least \$3,500. The church recently vowed to give \$50,000 to Imagine No Malaria, which will raise its total contribution to more than \$60,000.

"When you immerse people into needs — local, regional and global — and find avenues in which they can be immersed, lives are changed" inside and out, she said.

"Doable and Attainable"

Prospect Church is part of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, which has a goal of raising between \$2.3 million and \$3.5 million for Imagine No Malaria. Individual donations, special offerings and other efforts will help the conference meet the fund-raising challenge Bishop Gregory V. Palmer issued in 2010.

Graphic designer Natalie Rowe created a graphic for "SWAT Team" T-shirts that are being sold to raise funds and is being used on labels on coin-collection cans.

"What has captured the imagination of many," said Paul E. Black, conference director of communications, "is that this challenge, while daunting, is doable and attainable."

The Rev. Larry Hollon, general secretary of United Methodist Communications, is excited about the response to Imagine No Malaria. Conferences, he said, "are making the campaign a priority and enthusiastically raising funds to put an end to malaria deaths."

To date, individuals and churches in 56 of 59 annual conferences in the U.S. have contributed to Imagine No Malaria. Other conferences continue to support Nothing But Nets specifically. The Sierra Leone conference designated one-half of its annual conference offering for the cause.

The Imagine No Malaria goal is to raise \$75 million to eliminate deaths and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education and Development, GNJAC

The "Unemployment Rate" Impacts the Local Church



The latest numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, released on March 25, 2011, show that the states with the highest unemployment rate are Nevada (13.6 percent), California (12.2 percent) and Florida (11.5 percent). The unemployment rate in New Jersey is 9.2 percent, with New York and Pennsylvania slightly better at 8.2 and 8.0 percent respectively.

What the Bureau of Labor Statistics fails to report is an area of the country where the unemployment rate hovers probably around 80 or 90 percent. Where in the world is the unemployment that high, you might ask? Unfortunately the answer is inside most of our churches!

If the standard rule of thumb is true: that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work in any given church, then we're looking at an extremely high "unemployment rate" in most of our congregations. What would it mean to the ministry you would be able to accomplish in your local setting if you were able to bring that rate down significantly? Here are some helpful hints on how to address the unemployment rate in your church:

++Provide short-term, hands-on ministry experiences — A one-day or weekend opportunity may help those who are new to the church get involved and will be a great way to introduce the idea of community missions to the congregation. In our current culture, short-term opportunities work best also because of the time constraints most people live under.

++Avoid generic announcements and invite people individually - Too often we stand up in church and announce that we need help with this or that and then we're surprised when no one responds. Identify those who may have gifts to bring to the particular ministry for which you're recruiting. Also, look to get those involved who may be too shy or lack the self-confidence to believe they have anything to bring to the work.

++Preach and teach the importance of service - Describe, motivate, and offer opportunities for service inside the walls of the church and beyond. Be specific in what you're asking, what's expected, and the time commitment involved. Help connect those interested with those already involved. Do everything you can to make it easy for people to say "yes."



Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association

1869 - 2011

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCEAN GROVE 2011 SUMMER SEASON

www.oceangrove.org 732 775-0035

SUNDAY SERVICES

- June 12-10:30am- Scott Rasmussen, President, Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, Ocean Grove, NJ
 June 19-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, NJ
 June 26-10:30am & 7:30pm- Bishop William Willimon, Birmingham Area, Northern Alabama Conference of the UMC, Birmingham, AL
 July 03-10:30am- Anne Graham Lotz, Founder, AnGel Ministries, Raleigh, NC
 July 03-7:30pm- Shane Claiborne, Founding partner "The Simple Way" Philadelphia, PA
 July 10-10:30am- Rev. Dan Betzer, Senior Pastor, First Assembly of God, Writer, Television & Radio Host, Fort Meyers, FL

7:30pm 57th ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Directed by Dr. Jason Tramm

- July 17-10:30am & 7:30am- Dr. Haddon Robinson, past President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is the Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching
 July 24-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

142nd ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

- Special Service-** Fri. July 29- 8:00pm - Dr. David Jeremiah, Senior Pastor, Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, CA
 July 31-10:30am- Rev. James MacDonald, Founding and Senior Pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel. Bible Teacher for "Walk in the Word" national radio broadcast, Chicago, IL
 Aug. 07-10:30am- Rev. Dr. Zan Holmes, Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke Community UMC, Dallas, TX
 Aug. 07-7:30pm- Rev. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Senior Professor of Homiletics, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
 Aug. 14-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. Thomas Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
 Aug. 21-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. Alistair Begg, Senior Minister, Parkside Church, "Truth For Life" Radio Ministry
 Aug. 28-10:30am- Rev. Duffy Robbins, Professor of Youth Ministry, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

7:30pm SACRED MASTERWORK CONCERT

- Sept. 04-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Dr. Michael Youssef, Founding Rector at The Church of The Apostles "Leading the Way" Radio Broadcast, Atlanta, GA
 Sept. 11- Commissioner R. Steven Hedgren, Territorial Leader, USA Eastern Territory, The Salvation Army

BIBLE HOUR

9:00-10:00am Monday through Saturday
Bishop Janes Tabernacle

- June 20-23- Rev. Paul Moore, Founder, CitiHope International, Andros, NY
 June 24-25- Pastor Rodney Finch, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel Cary, Apex, NC
 June 27- July 2- Pastor Gayle Erwin, Founder of Servant Quarters, Cathedral City, CA
 July 04-09- Rev. Rob Cruver, Senior Pastor, Zarephath Christian Church, Zarephath, NJ

- July 11-16- Rev. Roger Casey, Senior Pastor, Rock Church, New York City, NY
 July 18-23- Rev. John Groth, Director, Priority One Foundation, New Jersey - Delaware Conference, Newark, Delaware
 July 25-30- Pastor Lloyd Pulley, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel, Old Bridge, NJ

142nd ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

- Aug. 1-6- Rev. Paul Lawler, Senior Pastor, Christ Church, Birmingham, AL
 Aug. 1- 3- Evening Sessions: Revival Meeting- Pastor Tommy Miles, Macedonia Baptist Church, Neptune City, NJ
 Aug. 04-10:30am Walk Thru the Bible -Old Testament-Tabernacle
 Aug. 05-10:30am Walk Thru the Bible- New Testament - Tab.
 Aug. 8-13- Rev. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Senior Professor of Homiletics Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
 Aug. 15-20- Rev. Dr. David Joynt, Senior Pastor, Presbyterian Church of Toms River, Toms River, NJ
 Aug. 22-27- Dr. James Fleming, Director, Biblical Resource Center, LaGrange, GA
 Aug. 29-Sept. 3- Rev. Cedric Miller, Founder, Living Word Christian Fellowship, Neptune, NJ

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



August 11th & 12th- Join 100,000 leaders for this annual injection of vision, skill development and inspiration. Experience this world-class event at the OGCMA.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Shalom Week: Theology and Practice of Shalom

The seven day intensive course, also offered for Continuing Education Credit, an introduction & certification to Shalom Training- Contact Dr. Michael Christensen at shalom@drew.edu or 973 408-3848 Cost: \$200. 3 credits

Biblical Resources Seminar: "The Life of the Farmer"

Mon. Aug. 22 to Fri. Aug. 26-10:30 am -12:30pm Community Room. Led by Dr. James Fleming. Seminar fee \$125. Continental Breakfast

Christian Shows in The Great Auditorium

- June 18- Ocean Grove Hymn Sing -7:30pm Tabernacle
 June 24- Bridgefest Concert Event- www.bridgefest.org
 July 30- David Crowder Band with special guest Bob Smiley
 Sept. 18- The Bishop's Annual Songfest -4pm

BEACH FESTIVAL

- June 25- Bridgefest w/ Bridge FM- www.bridgefest.org
 July 30- Big Splash!

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

Tuesday Evenings in July, 7-8pm: Bible Study on the South End Beach with Rev. David Cotton, Chaplain, Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, NJ

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS
CALL OGCMA At 732 775-0035
Purchase tickets online on our website:
www.oceangrove.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.

May 12 - 15 — Chrysalis Weekend for Girls

SOUTH SEAVILLE — Inspired by the Emmaus Weekend movement, this weekend retreat experience aims to inspire and support the spiritual formation of Christian young people, offering them a 3-day experience of living in community and learning Christ's way of love and grace. For more information contact: www.GardenStateChrysalis.com

May 14 — Taize Orientation

HAZLET — St. John's Church will be meeting place for all pilgrims traveling to Taize this year. This is a mandatory orientation session. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 15 — Bishop's Confirmation Celebration

BRIDGEWATER — Come celebrate with hundreds of confirmands from the 2010-2011 classes this milestone in their spiritual journey, plus their leaders, parents, pastors and mentors. Bishop Devadhar will share the message. Special music, Holy Communion and anointing by Bishop Devadhar. 3-5 p.m. at the Bridgewater Church, on Country Club Road. No charge, but a headcount is necessary to ensure adequate supplies and gifts for the confirmands. Email Emunoz@gnjumc.org with your group/individual registration.

May 19 - 22 — Chrysalis Weekend for Boys

SOUTH SEAVILLE — Inspired by the Emmaus Weekend movement, this weekend retreat experience aims to inspire and support the spiritual formation of Christian young people, offering them a 3-day experience of living in community and learning Christ's way of love and grace. For more information contact: www.GardenStateChrysalis.com

June 1 - 4 — Annual Conference

KING of PRUSSIA, Pa. — "Disciples Transforming the World: Through our Gifts" will be the theme as clergy and laity meet together at the Valley Forge Convention Center to transact the Lord's business, elect delegates to General Conference and find inspiration for the year ahead.

June 2 — ARMS Luncheon

KING of PRUSSIA, Pa. — The Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses will hold its annual luncheon during the session of the Annual Conference. Noon at the Scanticon Hotel. Newly retired clergy and Golden Circle members (50 year members will be recognized. Call Garey Hope for reservations at 609 291-5003.

June 12 — Walk for All Ages

NEPTUNE—United Methodist Homes 17th annual *Walk for All Ages*. Registration at Great Auditorium Pavilion 12:30 p.m.; Walk begins from Ocean Pathway at 1:30 p.m. For more information visit www.umhfoundation.org or call 732-922-9800 x121.

July 8 - 10 — School of Christian Mission

LAKEWOOD — Georgian Court University will again be the site of the first session of this year's cooperative School of Christian Mission jointly sponsored by the GNJAC and the Conference UMW. See story, page 3

July 8 - 10 — Youth School of Christian Mission

LAKEWOOD — "Grace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation" a hands on mission project and lasting friendships, and lots of fun are among the promised good times at Georgian Court University for those who attend this year's Youth School of Christian Mission. See story in the edGe, page 7

July 13 - 17 — 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.

July 22 - 24 — School of Christian Mission.

CALDWELL — Caldwell College will be the site of the second session of this year's cooperative School of Christian Mission jointly sponsored by the GNJAC and the Conference UMW. See story, page 3

July 22 - August 1 — Taize 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 spacr provides opportunity. For details, see conference website, www.gnjumc.org and click on Taize Pilgrimage link.

September 17 — Historical Tour

PHILADELPHIA — The historical Black Connection comes alive in visits to a number of churches that contributed to the spiritual development of the City of Brotherly Love. Visits to Old St. George, Mother Bethel, Tindley Temple and others. Registration deadline, August 27.

October 3 — India 2011 with the Bishop

GNJAC — Eleven days of discover on the Asian sub-continent where the passion of Jesus Christ is moving and stirring the people. See conference website, www.gnjumc.org for details.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT B. GOODWIN, retired elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on March 30, 2011, in Newton. A Memorial Service was held on April 30, at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield.

Mr. Goodwin came from the Maine Conference (1942-1944) and served as pastor of the Westtown Circuit (1944-1946); Grace Church, East Orange (1946-1948); the Rockaway Church (1948-1953); and Trinity Church, Clifton (1953-1959). In 1959 he was appointed District Superintendent of the Southern District of what was then the NNJ Conference. Mr. Goodwin then served as pastor of the Madison Church (1961-1974) and First Church, Westfield (1974-1985) before retiring in 1985.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the Goodwin family in care of his son, the Rev. Galen L. Goodwin, 520 Westmoreland Ave., Lansing, MI 48915-1930. Memorial gifts may be made to The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society, c/o The Greater NJ Conference, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712.

IDELL V. WILSON, widow of Richard A. Wilson, full-time local pastor, died on March 8, 2011 in Woodlawn, Maryland. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 26.

Messages of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Richelle Wilson, 6811 Real Princess Lane, Woodlawn, Maryland 21207

DORIS MAE (HURD) AMELUNG, wife of retired local pastor, Dean R. Amelung, died on March 20, 2011, in Stevensville, Mich. The funeral service was held at the Stevensville United Methodist Church on March 25.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Mr. Amelung at 2846 Oak St., Stevensville, MI 49127-1049. Gifts in remembrance may be made to the Stevensville United Methodist Church, 5506 Ridge Rd., Stevensville, MI 49127.

ELAINE M. HUNT, wife of the Rev. Clark Hunt, retired elder and former district superintendent of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died April 4, 2011, in North Carolina. A memorial service was held at Arbor Acres Retirement Community in Winston Salem, N.C. on April 16.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Dr. Hunt at 1244 Arbor Rd., # 227, Winston Salem, NC 27104.

KAY D. ANDERSON, widow of the late retired local pastor Henry C. Anderson, died on April 1, 2011. Funeral services were held on April 6 at the Heisler Memorial United Methodist Church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Bishop McCarthy Residence, 1045 East Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360-5898. Messages of condolence may be sent to Cindy Williams, 6974 Harding Highway, May Landing, NJ 08330

Flemington United Methodist Church invites you to 5 nights of

REVIVAL!

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Monday Bishop Violet Fisher
- Tuesday Rev. Jerry Ruff, Pastor
Sharptown North Church
- Wednesday Rev. Paul Jaw, Pastor
Flemington United Methodist Church
- Thursday Pastor Jason Guynes
Six-Eight Community Church
- Friday Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

May 16 - 20, 2011

7:00 PM

116 Main Street
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Please call (908) 782-1070
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