

Delegate Elections Trump Usual Business as GNJAC Meets at Valley Forge

Members to choose 10 to represent GNJ at 2012 General Conference

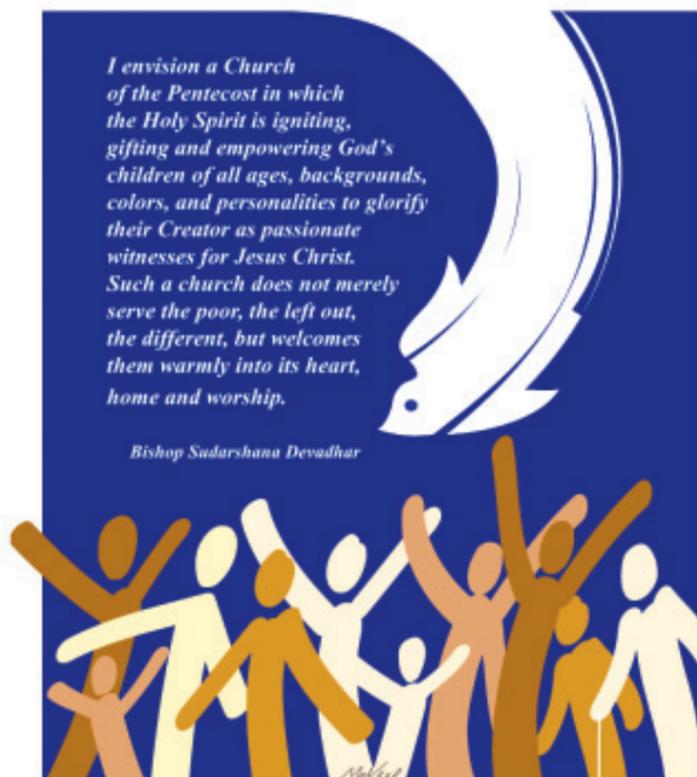
KING-OF-PRUSSIA, Pa. — Members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, gathered here June 1-4, have more than the usual run of conference business on their minds. They're thinking about Tampa, Fla. where the 2012 General Conference will convene next spring. And so, high on the agenda here is the election of delegates to the quadrennial law-making body of the United Methodist Church.

During this year's annual conference, running like a silver thread through the four-day proceedings is the election of 10 delegates to the Tampa assembly — five lay persons and five clergy. Also to be elected are an additional 10 delegates, added to the General Conference roster to make up the delegation to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and six reserves. The Jurisdictional Conference will meet in Rochester, N.Y., June 7-11, 2012.

The delegate elections begin shortly after the convening and organizing plenary session of the conference, and continue in successive ballots until the full slate is complete. Historically, in the GNJAC the laity complete their selection with efficiency and dispatch, while the clergy linger languorously through ballot after ballot until Spirit-led discernment or plain old fatigue brings the process to conclusion.

According to the constitution of the Church, the clergy delegates must be elected from the clergy members in full connection. Lay delegates must be elected from the laity without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of the United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election. The lay delegates must have been active participants in the church for at

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference 2011



Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World: Discovering Our Gifts for Ministry With the Poor And Others

least four years next preceding their election.

The number of delegates per annual conference is calculated based on the requirement of one lay and one clergy delegate for each annual conference, with additional delegates assigned proportionately according to the conferences' clergy and lay membership.

(Continued on page 5)

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. — As the lay and clergy delegates of the Greater New Jersey Conference assemble at the Valley Forge Convention Center for their annual meeting here, a full agenda of reports, legislation, worship, and voting awaits them.

After the opening Tribute Service and luncheon, the clergy and laity will be meeting in separate sessions followed by the first general plenary. Balloting for the election of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates will begin early in the process and will carry on throughout the sessions until all of the places have been filled.

The usual schedule of corporate session matters, awards and scholarships, and worship featuring the conference speaker, the Rev. Mike Slaughter, will round out the first day. Subsequently, the members of the conference will be deliberating over a lengthy list of reports and resolutions. In no particular order they include but are not limited to the following:

- Establishing a Disabilities Awareness Sunday with an offering.
- Adopting a Disaster Response Plan.
- Setting the equitable salary compensation.
- Calling for a task force to study district organizational structures.
- Accepting the report and recommendations of the Board of Pensions.
- Creating an ad hoc committee with regard to conference office facilities.
- Developing a plan to provide conference agencies and boards with websites.

(Continued on page 5)

Extra Food to Benefit Pantries

The members of the GNJAC will have the opportunity to share with those in need throughout their stay at Valley Forge. After lunches, members of the conference youth will be collecting leftover non-perishable food items at designated stations and at the conclusion of the conference, will take them to food pantries where they will benefit those for whom the concept of "extra" food is a dream.

Lakewood, Caldwell Mission Schools Round Out This Year's Program



GNJAC — With plans nearing completion for this year's Cooperative School of Christian Mission, school organizers have announced a number of attractive features as well as the full complement of courses that include three denominational study themes and one conference course.

Designed to offer women and men, clergy and laity of the conference opportunities to study current issues impacting society, the schools will present classes providing spiritual growth and insights on geographic and social issues relating to the mission of the Church. Annual conferences across the nation are offering mission schools.

The GNJ schools, jointly sponsored by the annual conference and United Methodist Women, will be held at Geor-

gian Court University, Lakewood, July 8-10, and Caldwell College, Caldwell, July 22-24.

In addition to the adult schools, sessions for youth and children will be provided.

Adult school studies are: Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

This spiritual growth study deals with the theme of how individuals, families, and communities are called to a lifelong journey of practicing forgiveness, justice, and reconciliation in their relational lives.

- Books - *The journey forgiveness, restorative justice and reconciliation*, M3110-2011-01 Spanish, M311-2011-01; Korean, M3112-2011-01

- Leaders - Stephanie Hixon & William Wilson, Lakewood; Stephanie Hixon, Caldwell Spanish, Hector Burgos, Lakewood; Korean, BJ Kim & Kyewoon Choi, Caldwell

Haiti

This geographic study offers 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.

- Book - Haiti; *Challenges and*

Hope, M3107-2011-01

- Leaders - Carol Brozosky & Franck Aguilh, Lakewood; Tim Roebuck, Caldwell

Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity

This general issue study explores the theology of mission and evangelism in the 21st century context of Christianity as a world-wide religion.

The study invites participants to look at motivation and methods in mission and proclaiming the Good News in Jesus Christ. What are the biblical mandates for mission? Does Christ call each of us to be his evangelist?

- Book - *Joy to the World*, M3074-2010-01

- Leaders - Jay Brown, Lakewood; Lisa Swett, Caldwell

Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus

In this conference study, pastor and author Mike Slaughter challenges church leaders to look at the future of their congregations and make tough but necessary choices. Will you send the church out into the world, or attract the world into the church? Will you focus on building disciples or tallying decisions? Will you multiply your impact or expand your facilities? Will you step out in courage or comply with the

status quo? Answers to these questions determine how a church will focus its time, its energy, and its budget as it works for real change in a hurting world.

- Book - *Change the World*, available through Cokesbury or at school

- Leader - Richard Hendrickson, Lakewood & Caldwell

(Continued on Page 3)

WALKING FOR ALL AGES



With walking stick in hand, Jacquie Haaf of Whiting prepares to join the annual Walk for All Ages through Ocean Grove benefiting the UM Homes Fellowship Fund. This year's stroll around the historic resort will be held June 12.

(Photo by Eugene Haaf)

EDITORIAL

The Stewardship of Time and Discerning God's Will at Annual Conference

There is ongoing dialogue among United Methodists everywhere, including the GNJAC, about the nature and purpose of annual conference sessions. The *Book of Discipline* describes in some detail the business that needs to be accomplished by the Annual Conference, but it does not always give specific guidance as to how it is to be done. Neither does the *Discipline* say anything about what proportions of the Annual Conference sessions should be devoted to worship, fellowship, and conducting business.

Over the years, and especially as financial stress has caused members to think carefully about how time is spent at sessions, the debate has fallen along two general lines. "We spend too much time on business and not enough on worship and teaching" or "we spend too much time in worship and teaching and so wind up having to do the business in less time than is sufficient for proper discussion and deliberation."

Those who adhere to the former position see the primary purpose of Annual Conference sessions as that of building the body and nurturing enjoyment of collegial relationships. There is historical precedent for this view. In the days when circuit riders spent long, lonely months traveling from community to community in the far flung regions of the country, the gathering of clergy (just clergy in those days) was a welcome renewal of friendships and a time for thanking God for the work of the previous year.

As our culture has developed and the Church has become more complex, the necessity of adding to the business part of the agenda has increased exponentially. It is an inherent part of growth that complexity adds to the layers of organizational structure and therefore makes the administration of said organization more time consuming. What to do? On the one hand, we love having worship and we would never want to say that there is "too much worship." How can Christians spend too much time communing with God? On the other hand, we wouldn't want to make the mistake of saying that the administration of the conference's responsibilities is something other than Christian ministry.

Perhaps one of the problems we have is a matter of linguistics. A positive change was made some years ago when we started using the term "Ministry Shares" instead of apportionments. That moved us toward a more missional understanding of our connective responsibilities. Those items that make up the conference agenda — passing a budget, voting on resolutions, electing delegates and the like — we have historically called "the business" of the conference. This is a term that has not served us well.

One of the struggles many pastors endure in local churches is in getting the laity to understand the nature of the Church's work as missional rather than as commercial. Treating the local church as a business takes its focus away from seeking God's will and discerning how to best respond to the call of God to make disciples and transform the world.

A similar dynamic has been at work at the Annual Conference level. When we have the "business" of the Annual Conference in our minds, we tend to forget it is the way we accomplish the ministry to which God has called us. The general way we run through the agenda reflects a business and civic model. We raise issues; we debate; we vote; with the majority carrying the day. Is this the best way to do things? It is often an *expedient* way of doing things, but is it the *best* way to listen to the guidance of the Spirit and discern God's will? Does a majority vote really tell us what God might want us to do in a given circumstance or about a particular issue? It usually only tells us how well a group has lobbied or how loudly or frequently some voices were raised.

This way of doing things tends to a bottom-line mentality that works from resource-based prioritizing; we see how much we have, and then decide how to allocate it. A faith-based way of doing things looks first to God; to see what God would have us do. The assumption is that if we have correctly discerned the will of God, the resources for accomplishing what God has called us to do will be forthcoming.

The question then becomes a matter of how best to discern the will of God. If we are serious about this, we'll need to scrap a portion of what we currently do at Annual Conference sessions and involve ourselves in a discernment process. Such a process might inform our worship and become an extension of it as we attempt to come to consensus on the matters that are before us.

Those who are concerned with how long Annual Conference sessions are and how much they cost are likely groaning at the suggestion of engaging in a discernment process that by its nature may take more time. A concern for the careful stewardship of the resources at our disposal is laudable, but focusing solely on downsizing the operation of Annual Conference sessions to save money may be shortsighted.

— GCF

A Message from the Bishop

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

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



Professor Joerg Rieger writes, "...Wesley's notion of 'Christian Conferencing' reminds us that we need to develop new forms of listening in community settings. The community is not a straitjacket where everybody is expected to think alike — demanding conformity is a pervasive problem of community formation" (Joerg Rieger, *Grace Under Pressure: Negotiating the Heart of the Methodist Traditions*, Nashville, Tennessee: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2011, pp. 83-84).

As we gather together for our Holy Conferencing at Valley Forge, may we be mindful of these words, so that, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, we may be open to hear the differing voices, though they may be diametrically opposed to ours. May we listen to them in a Christian spirit as we make our decisions as a part of community discernment for the glory of God as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lately we have been hearing words such as "adaptive challenge," "adaptive change," "adaptive leadership" in our discussions and dialogues as a part of the Call to Action Report of our denomination. One of the ingredients needed for us to move forward in this direction is our ability to ask hard questions and to make tough decisions in Christian love in our mission -- making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As I write this letter I have just returned from the Council of Bishops meeting at Epworth-By-the-Sea in Georgia. Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, in his presidential address to the Council, reflecting on John Wigger's biography on American saints, said that four characteristics of Francis Asbury's leadership is needed for today's Church. Elaborating on this and connecting this to the twenty-first century Bishop Goodpaster indicated:

"First, Wigger notes what even Asbury's detractors affirmed, 'his legendary piety and perseverance' (p. 5). In the twenty-first century language, think, 'spiritual leadership'...

The second characteristic of Asbury according to Wigger was 'his ability to connect with ordinary people' (p. 6). In twenty-first century language, think 'servant leadership'...

Third, Asbury 'understood and used popular culture' (p. 7). In the twenty-first century language think 'emergent leadership'...

Finally, Asbury was, according to Wigger, a 'brilliant administrator' who 'organized the Methodist Church in America' (p. 8). In the twenty-first century language, think 'missional leadership.'

Continuing on this, Bishop Goodpaster said, 'Leading into the future will demand that we begin to imagine how some of this might look, with no easy answers, and no quick fixes. Leading into the future will demand that we become spiritual, servant, emergent and missional leaders.'" (<http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnNlLh/b.6763321/>)

We also gather at Valley Forge as Christians living in the midst of a world where there are signs of restlessness within and among nations, hatred among religions, terrorism at its zenith, as well as poverty and unemployment on the rise in both developed and economically developing nations. In such a situation, **God is challenging us to be beacons of hope and bearers of light!** Therefore, it is crucial for us to discern what it means to be a voice of God in our world at such a time as this!

May our fellowship at our Holy Conferencing be so powerful in depth and breadth that we hear one another and understand one another in Christian love.

I hope to greet you in person at Valley Forge. May I request each and every one of you to hold the sessions of the Annual Conference in your prayers.

In Christ's love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



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A Rolling Flood of Need

This spring's outbreak of powerful tornadoes left a whirlwind of need in its wake — a twister that was quickly wrapped in a flood and threatened with hurricanes.

"In the 13 years I've worked in US Disaster Response, there never has been a series of emergencies as widespread as what we're seeing this year," said Rev. Tom Hazelwood, head of this office for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), commenting on the storms on May 12.

"There have been tornado outbreaks before, but the outbreaks of 2011 have affected communities in so many annual conferences, most severely in Alabama. And then there's this ongoing flooding," Hazelwood said, referring to current Mississippi River, Red River, and Lake Champlain flooding.

"There also are wildfires across the Southwest," he added. "It's pretty unprecedented in terms of the scope and variety of events — and the hurricane season hasn't even started yet."

Then on May 22 — Joplin!

Whenever and wherever disaster strikes, UMCOR is on the spot. In the six weeks leading to mid-May, UMCOR disbursed nearly \$200,000 in emergency grants. The agency will continue its life giving assistance as long as the need persists; as long as the generosity of United Methodists continues.

A Way Forward

Sifting through the needs of those impacted by the storms and identifying resources to piece together a future for them and their communities is an arduous and delicate task, like sifting through rubble and memories.

"Lots of things are still swirling around, and we're trying to help the conferences grapple with them," said Hazelwood.

Of the stricken states, some are now between relief and recovery, preparing to set a course for the long term. When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) finishes its assessments, they will have a better sense of what that course will look like.

UMCOR personnel are providing necessary training. "Spiritual and emotional issues are also surfacing, and we're helping with that," said Hazelwood.

There is still a great need for cleaning buckets, a need that will only increase with the rising floodwaters and the hurricanes that make themselves felt as an aftermath. Cleaning buckets can be sent to any of the depots in the UMCOR Relief-Supply Network.

After years of relatively mild spring storm seasons and heightened priorities provoked by "super disasters" elsewhere in the world, funds destined for UMCOR's US Disaster Response ministry are perilously low.

Hazelwood reiterated UMCOR's "absolute commitment" to walk alongside those communities and churches that have been devastated by spring storms, flooding, wildfires, and tornadoes.

You can help. Your gift to **US Spring Storms 2011, UMCOR Emergency Advance #3021316**, sent through your local church treasury will make it possible for UMCOR to be there.

ALABAMA CHURCH SHARES HEARTBREAK, HOPE



UNDER SUNNY SKIES, members of Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church in Harvest, Ala. greeted one another with hugs, tears and comforting words following the April 27 tornado that devastated much of the surrounding countryside and removed the church's steeple to the church parking lot. Here Anna Aycock and Elam Wallace, both students at nearby University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, view the damage.

(UMNS photo by Kathleen Barry)

Summer Is Right Around The Corner.



Are the young people in your life registered for camp?

The 2011 summer season promises to be the best yet at both Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery and Aldersgate Center. You're not going to want to miss this one!

There are five weeks packed full of fun, which will be offered at both camps. These weeks include Wesley Woods Camps, Xtreme Xperience Camp, Asbury Adventure Camp, Faith Explosion Camp and Treasure Seekers Camp.

Each week will offer a different twist as campers experience God in all they are doing. Our curriculum, Got Spirit?, reminds us that God is everywhere and all around us and also introduces campers to multiple spiritual disciplines.

In addition to all the fun activities that are planned each of these weeks, there will be lots of time for tradition camp favorites: swimming, boating, stream hikes, arts & crafts, archery, campfires, bible study, music, games and cookouts. There will also be many surprises each week!

In addition to our camp counselors, many volunteers will help us make each camp week possible. This year we will even have a volunteer Camp Chaplain each week!

In addition to these weeks, campers can also choose from our other exciting themed camp options offered the weeks of July 10th and August 7th at both camps. These weeks include our popular Niños Para Cristos, Water Works, Mad Science, Icky Sticky Mess and Fishin' Around, to name just a few.

Does the young person in your life love music? Like to sing? Play an instrument? Then perhaps Music Camp, the week of July 17th would be the perfect option. Campers will harmonize with singing, dancing and instruments at the fun filled musical camp. While this camp is hosted at Libenzell Retreat Center in Hackettstown, campers also have a chance to visit Aldersgate Center for swimming, hiking, s'mores and more!

This summer, the GNJ camps will welcome two new site directors! Each will be responsible for camp oversight and making sure campers are having the most fun possible each week. Andrew Sperry will be the site director at Aldersgate Center and Bethany Amey will be the site director at Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery. Both will be introduced during the camps report at Annual Conference!

If you would like more information about the 2011 summer camp season, please visit us on the web at www.gnjumcm.org or call the camp office at (609) 893-3354.

Cash Change for Wings of the Morning Plane

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, along with eight other Annual Conferences, is helping to raise money to buy a new airplane for "Wings of the Morning" a flight ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Wings of the Morning" saves lives by transporting critically injured and ill persons, delivering medicine and supplies (including bed nets for Imagine No Malaria) to isolated areas. It also transports doctors, pastors and work teams.

At the 2010 Annual Conference Bishop Devadhar challenged all the churches in the GNJAC to save up their coins for an entire year and

then bring the money to the 2011 Annual Conference session. The "Change for a Plane" monies were scheduled to be received on Thursday of Annual Conference following the lay leader's report.

Participants are invited to please cash in change prior to annual conference "and bring a check when you make your donation!"

Checks should be made out to: Greater New Jersey Annual Conference with Wings of the Morning written on the memo line.

Churches or individuals who forgot their checks at conference time may send them to the conference treasurer.

Mission Schools

(Continued from Page One)

Adult Fast Track Event - Lakewood or Caldwell

Both sites will offer an abbreviated, Fast Track Event on Saturday, July 10th in Lakewood; July 24th in Caldwell, for those who cannot commit a full weekend of time. The five hour mini-study, will offer either *Coming Out on the Side of Grace* or *Haiti*. The program begins at 9:30am and follows the Saturday schedule. Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Participants are welcome for dinner at an additional cost. Dependent care available, if requested no later than 10 days prior to school start.

■ Leaders - Grace: Robert Scott, both schools

■ Haiti: Yvonne Bouknight, both schools

Youth school- Lakewood

This is a weekend to visit area mission sites, meet conference youth and young adults, and learn about the Spiritual Growth study, **Grace; Forgiveness and Reconciliation**. There will



be opportunities for fellowship, singing, worship and FUN! This coed program for 7th grade graduates through 12th grade graduates will be held at Georgian Court in conjunction with the adult school. A NEW Young Adult program will be available for those in their "20's". Space is limited and early registration is suggested. Enrollment fees cover rooming, meals, transportation during the weekend and the *Forgiveness and Reconciliation* study book.

■ Leaders - Dawn Jackson, Jeffrey

Clark, Tessa Goodson

Children's School - Both Sites

This one-day school for children who have completed grades K through 3, and a class for grades 4 through 6, is designed to help children learn what it means to be participants in God's mission to the world through faith, hope, love and action.

A guardian must be on the premises attending the adult School of Christian Mission. This School endorses and abides by all Safe Sanctuary Guidelines.

■ Leader - Noemi Anderson, Lakewood & Caldwell

Featured at this years schools will be a fair trades shop, **Ten Thousand Villages**, a retail store featuring goods from Third World people, marketed to provide vital, fair income for their handicrafts. Ten Thousand Villages and other suppliers work with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

Also available will be study books

for the four classes to be presented. These may be purchased in advance from Cokesbury, retail arm of the United Methodist Publishing House, on line from the Resource Center. They will also be on sale at both schools.

New this year is the opportunity to pay for registration and purchases by credit card. Early registration is strongly advised.

First Time Attendees at the residential weekend will not pay the registration fee. They need pay only the housing and food fee.

Clergy and Lay Speakers who attend full-time, may arrange to qualify for continuing education credits: one Clergy CEU credit or Lay Speaker Recertification.

Schools of Christian Mission began in the mid-1930s by the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Every year more than 20,000 people participate in the Schools of Christian Mission nationwide.



Global Relay

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

Prayers, volunteers sustain storm survivors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Less than 48 hours after dozens of tornadoes tore through the U.S. South, United Methodists geared up for long-term, as well as immediate, recovery. As of 8 a.m. March 29, the death toll in Alabama alone stood at 210. The Rev. Matt Lacey, director of mission and advocacy for the North Alabama Annual Conference, was “overwhelmed” by hundreds of phone calls and emails offering help during the recovery process.

Christian leaders add voices to U.S. budget debate

WASHINGTON — As Congress reconvened after a two-week recess, the U.S. national debt and 2012 budget topped the agenda. More than 50 Christian leaders released a joint statement on behalf of those who could suffer the most under budget cuts. “As Christian leaders, we are committed to fiscal responsibility and shared sacrifice,” the statement read. “We are also committed to resist budget cuts that undermine the lives, dignity and rights of poor and vulnerable people. ... Therefore, we join with others to form a Circle of Protection around programs that meet the essential needs of hungry and poor people at home and abroad.”

Bin Laden’s death prompts call for peace witness

NEW YORK — Three United Methodist church leaders have signed an ecumenical statement expressing hope that Osama Bin Laden’s death will prompt churches to commit being witnesses for peace. The al-Qaida leader’s death is significant, but it will not end terrorism, the National Council of Churches said May 3. “Now the member communions of the National Council of Churches pray for God’s help as we commit ourselves to moving forward together as witnesses for God’s love and peace.” Among the 18 petitioners were Bishop Larry Goodpaster, president of the Council of Bishops; Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, ecumenical officer; and the Rev. Stephen J. Sidorak Jr., top staff executive of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Ohio church’s billboard supports gays

TOLEDO, Ohio — With a billboard message declaring that “Being Gay is a Gift from God,” a small Ohio congregation has made a giant statement sure to stir debate. “What we’re saying is that (sexual orientation) is part of who God made us to be... and we need to celebrate that,” said Dan Rutt, a member of the lead team at Central United Methodist Church. Still, church members acknowledge that the message is a controversial one within the denomination, which officially holds that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

Court voids new policy on clergy marriage

DETROIT — A policy adopted but not yet implemented by the New York Conference that essentially would have allowed clergy to marry someone of the same sex has been declared “null, void and of no effect” by the denomination’s top court. The action came during the Judicial Council’s April 27-29 meeting. The Council ruled that the New York Conference resolution and policy allowing clergy “to marry at their own discretion” is “neither valid nor constitutional,” upholding the church’s current prohibition against same-sex marriage and pastors who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals,” found in Paragraph 2702 of the *Book of Discipline*.

King James Bible sparked many translations

NEW YORK — The 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible is a dramatic reminder of a central theme in the Protestant mission movement: the drive to translate Scripture into the everyday languages people use. In 2011, the Bible or parts of Scripture are available in 2,527 of the world’s estimated 6,500 languages, including entire Bibles in 469 languages and the New Testament in 1,231, according to the United Bible Societies, a federation of 145 national groups that do much of the translation today and are part of mission history.

Imagine No Malaria? There’s an app for that

NASHVILLE — The church’s Imagine No Malaria campaign now offers a new mobile application that repels mosquitoes using sound instead of spray. When used, the app emits three different high-pitched frequencies that serve as a deterrent for mosquitoes. It’s now available for download on the Android platform at a cost of \$9.99, and 70 percent of the proceeds benefit the fight against malaria in Africa. In addition, the app provides information about the disease, and a link to ImagineNoMalaria.org for those who wish to donate to the cause. The Imagine No Malaria app was developed by Pico Brothers in conjunction with Ad Hope.

Anti-malaria video debuts in Times Square

NEW YORK — A video message from The United Methodist Church’s Imagine No Malaria campaign is being shown in Times Square every hour through July 5. The 15-second message underscores the urgency of fighting the disease, which kills nearly a million people annually. “The video links malaria’s tragic toll with our ability to make an impact by using a mobile device to make a donation,” said the Rev. Larry Hollon, top executive of United Methodist Communications. “It’s truly an amazing opportunity to save a life with something as simple as a text message.” A \$10 donation can be given by sending a text message with the word “MALARIA” to 27722. Messaging and data rates may apply.

Young people’s images sought for General Conference

NASHVILLE — The Young People’s Ministries division of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship is soliciting videos and images reflecting the diverse ministries of the church’s youth and young adults. The material will be featured in a presentation at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Fla. The division also is seeking two young people to host the presentation. One-minute videos or pictures with narration about youth/young people’s ministries are due by Oct. 31; applications for on-stage presenters are due by Aug. 1.

Church plans health campaign for Mozambique

NEW YORK — Planning is under way for distributing 100,000 mosquito nets and training 550 community health workers in Mozambique in July through the Imagine No Malaria campaign. An estimated 36,000 children under age 5 die from malaria each year in Mozambique, according to the National Malaria Control Program. The Imagine No Malaria team from the United Methodist Committee on Relief will work in partnership with The Global Fund, Nothing But Nets, the Missouri Annual Conference and community organizations. An Imagine No Malaria documentary, “A Killer in the Dark,” is being shown in markets around the United States via NBC affiliates. Details are available at www.imagenomalaria.org.

Leaders Give Church Change Proposals a Yellow Light

A UMNS Report by Rich Peck

Members of the Connectional Table, the coordinating team formed in 2004 to serve as both the visioning body of the church and the steward of resources to carry out the vision of the denomination worldwide, meeting May 9-11, suggested that drivers of the Interim Operations Team should proceed cautiously through intersections within The United Methodist Church.

The team is considering seven structural changes team members hope will increase the number of vital congregations as the result of findings by the former Call to Action team. Team members asked the Connectional Table to respond to seven proposals with a green, yellow or red traffic light.

Forty-one members of the 60-member Connectional Table responded.

Proposal 1 — Change apportionment system

At present, the General Council on Finance and Administration determines the amount to be apportioned to each annual conference based on a formula that includes expenditures of conference churches and per-capita income weighted by the average attendance in each county within the conference.

Both the Interim Operations Team and an apportionment study group recommend changing that system for an “income-based proportional giving system,” which in its simplest form simply asks churches to pay a percentage of their total giving.

This was clearly the most popular proposal. Fifty-four percent of the respondents gave a “green light” to the simplified formula and only 24 percent asked the group to stop efforts to implement the plan.

Proposal 2 — Fee-for-service plan

At present, churchwide general agencies are supported by World Service, the largest of the seven general church apportionments. Most goods and services are provided to local churches and annual conference at no additional cost.

The team is considering a plan that would replace apportioned funds from some reconfigured general agencies with a fee-for-services plan. Neil Alexander, president of the United Methodist Publishing House and a team member, says some agencies already provide resources for money. When members asked what happens to churches that cannot afford the service, they were assured most requests would come from and be paid by annual conferences.

Despite such assurances, only 23 percent of respondents gave a green light to the proposal. Thirty-six percent gave the idea a yellow light and 41 percent said their light was red.

Proposal 3 — Set-aside bishop

At present, every bishop presides over a geographic area and serves part time as officers and members of churchwide agencies. A retired bishop serves as the ecumenical officer working with the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

The commission and the council are proposing that one of the active bishops serve as the ecumenical officer of the council *without presiding over a geographic area*. This bishop also would help implement *Call to Action recommendations* and focus on growing vital congregations.

Some members wondered if the plan would provide more power to the bishops than to the annual conferences. Others suggested that if the bishop were to represent the denomination at U.S. ecumenical meetings, only a U.S. bishop would qualify for the post.

Thirty-nine percent of the respondents gave a green light to the proposal. Only 13 percent asked the team to proceed with caution.

Proposal 4 — Connectional Ministries Board

At present, the 60-member Connectional Ministries team coordinates the work of the churchwide agencies. Members include officers and staff of general agencies and representatives of caucuses, jurisdictions, youth and young adults.

The team is proposing the creation of a 13-member Connectional Ministries Team to coordinate the work of churchwide units. Twelve members would be elected by General Conference, the denomination’s top lawmaking body, to serve on the board along with the set-aside bishop.

Some members question whether General Conference will elect people with the expertise needed. Others questioned how young people and people from outside the United States would be guaranteed places at the table.

Forty-three percent of the Connectional Table members said the Interim Operation Team should be cautious in proceeding. Equal numbers of 28.5 percent had red and green lights.

Proposal 5 — Advisory panels

At present, there are 13 general church agencies governed by boards composed of people from around the world. Meeting cost for these face-to-face annual or semi-annual gatherings can be expensive.

The team is suggesting the number of agencies be reduced and, in some cases, be replaced by advisory panels that might meet only by electronic means.

Some Connectional Table members suggested that serving as advisors is not truly representational.

The group was somewhat cautious about the proposal with only 32.4 percent giving the plan a green light and 43.2 percent saying their light was yellow.

Proposal 6 — Two-year transition

A proposal to allow the 12-member Connectional Ministries Board to oversee a two-year transition to a new configuration of general agencies received an equal 36.5 percentage of green and caution lights.

Proposal 7 — Fewer fund categories

Finally, 44 percent of respondents agreed the 2013-16 budget should stay the same to ease transition under the control of the Connectional Ministries Board and with fewer fund categories, all explicitly directed to the four areas of focus of the denomination.

(Rich Peck is a retired clergy member of New York Annual Conference.)

**The July/August Issue Deadline is
June 5, 2011**

General Conference Nominees

(Continued from Page One)

The *Book of Discipline* leaves to each annual conference the procedure for establishing a slate of delegates. In some conferences, members are simply given blank ballots and they are asked to write the names of people for whom they wish to vote. Other conferences have a nomination process that includes opportunities to submit personal information that is distributed to all voting members.

The Greater New Jersey conference follows the latter method. In separate listings there were 32 clergy nominees

and 21 lay nominees. (See listing below)

The 1,000-member General Conference is the top policy-making body of the denomination which meets every four years to consider revisions to church law, alterations in liturgical practice, and resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the quadrennium. The 2012 meeting will take place April 24 to May 4 next year in Tampa.

NOMINEES FOR THE 2012 GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES

Lay Nominees

Bethany L. Amey
 John W. Bishop
 Janet W. Blohm
 Mary C. Bode
 Jay Wilford Brown
 Lynn CATERSON
 Kyle Cuperwich
 Millie A. Grey
 Elizabeth (Liz) Hoffman
 Cynthia Ann Kent
 Ajit Kumar
 June D. McCullough
 Mark A. Miller
 Carolyn D. Pendleton
 Creed S. Pogue
 Jonathan Michael Burgess-Shockley
 Samuel E. Sim
 Heidi A. Tierney
 Kaleigh Hussey-Tomich
 Naomi E. Walker
 Rosa M. Williams

Clergy Nominees

Sung H. Ahn
 Heidi M. Bak
 Charles A. Bender, Jr.

Tanya Linn Bennett
 Vicki Miller Brendler
 Jacqueline M. Burgess
 Jessica M. Campbell
 Robert E. Costello
 John DiGiamberardino
 Drew A. Dyson
 Glenn Ferguson
 Michael Harriott
 Chris Heckert
 Richard H. Hendrickson
 Lewis J. Hiserote
 Bo-Joong (BJ) Kim
 Heasun Kim
 Paul M. Malie
 Edmund E. Martin
 Douglas Stephen Miller
 E. Robin Mitchell
 Kyu Tae Pak
 Sung-Hee Park
 Lysette N. Perez
 Federico A. Quezada
 Vivian L. Rodeffer
 Douglas W. Ruffle
 Kenneth J. Sloane
 Robert J. Williams
 William B. Wilson, Sr.
 Varlyna D. Wright
 Christina C. Zito

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SIMPLIFIED AGENDA

Subject to change

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

8-10:00am Registration
 10:00am Tribute Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion
 11:30am Opening Session and Organization.
 Review of Balloting Procedures
 1:30pm Clergy and Laity Sessions
 3:30pm Plenary/ Corporate Session
 4:30pm Ballot #1
 5:15pm Announcements and Dismissal for Hotel Check-in
 6:00pm Dinner
 7:15pm Gathering Music
 7:25pm Ballot #2
 7:30pm Awards and Scholarships Christian Unity, Denman, Archives and History
 Harry Seese Scholarship Presentation
 Conference Preacher Rev. Mike Slaughter
 8:00pm Late Night Taize Worship Service

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

6:30am Communion Service
 7:30am Bible Study by Rev. Dr. John Holbert
 8:45am Gathering Music and Prayer
 9:00am Conference Preacher Rev. Mike Slaughter
 10:15am Plenary
 12:30pm Lunch
 2:00pm Plenary
 2:45pm Celebration of Ministry. Historic Questions, Recognition of Retirees, Passing of the Mantle; Golden Circle Recognition: Recognition of Chaplains & Those in Extension Ministries; Recognition of Deaconesses, Commissioning of Provisional Members
Offering for UMCOR: Designated for the Global Aids Fund
 4:00pm Plenary - Report by District Superintendents; Report of Lay Leader; Cokesbury Report
 6:00pm Dinner
 7:15pm Gathering Music
 7:30pm Episcopal Evening and Celebration of Appointments
Offering for Northeastern Jurisdiction Mission of Peace
 10:00pm Late Night Taize Worship Service

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

6:30am Communion
 7:30am Bible Study by Rev. Dr. John Holbert
 8:45am Gathering Music
 9:15am Conference Preacher Rev. Mike Slaughter
 10:30am Plenary
 12:30pm Lunch
 1:30 pm Gathering Music and Prayer
 1:45pm Plenary - CFA/Budget
 5:30pm Dinner
 7:00pm Processional Forms In Convention Center Lobby
 7:30pm Service of Ordination
Offering for Central Conferences Pension Initiative

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

6:30am Communion
 7:30am Bible Study by Rev. Dr. John Holbert
 9:00am Gathering Music and Prayer
 9:15am Plenary - Adoption of Items on the Consent Calendar; Report of the Nominating Committee
 12:15pm Lunch
 1:30pm Plenary - Unfinished Business, Sessions Team Report, Prayer for the Delegation
 4:30pm Service of Sending Forth/Adjournment

HIGH MOMENTS



THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION, always a high moment of any annual conference, will be held Friday night at the session at Valley Forge. Here, Bishops Devadhar and Felton May are joined by other clergy and laity in the act of laying on of hands during last year's service.

(Photo by John C. Goodwin)

2011 Conference

(Continued from Page One)

• Setting a Shared Ministry budget for 2012 that totals \$3,229,840.

As the conference moves along, the members will be able to start the day with inspirational Bible teaching under the guidance of the Rev. John Holbert who is making his second appearance as the conference Bible teacher. Early morning communion will be available under the auspices of the Order of St. Luke and late night Taize services will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. A prayer room is available to the members throughout the conference.

As always, a highlight of the conference is the Celebration of Ministry during which the bishop will ask the ordinands the historic disciplinary questions, retirees will be recognized,

the Passing of the Mantle Service will take place, and chaplains and all those involved in Extension Ministries will be recognized.

The Episcopal Address will be shared by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar on Thursday evening and pastoral appointments will be celebrated. The next night will feature the Service of Ordination. Several special offerings will be received during the conference including one for the District Superintendents' Sustentation Fund, an offering for UMCOR: Global Aids Fund, an offering for the North-eastern Jurisdiction Mission of Peace, and an offering for the Central Jurisdiction Pension Initiative.

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As Waters Rise, Volunteers Serve Neighbors

By Betty Backstrom

BATON ROUGE, La. (UMNS) — Despite the threat of flooding from a swollen Mississippi River, more than 210 United Methodist churches in Louisiana helped “Change the World” on May 14.

United Methodist churches across the Louisiana Annual Conference built houses and wheelchair ramps, hosted health fairs and held food drives as they reached out to people living in poverty.

Churches also assembled a total of 1,500 cleaning buckets at strategic locations where flooding is anticipated in the next two to four weeks.

The timing seemed providential, said the Rev. Bob Burgess, superintendent of the Monroe District in northeastern Louisiana.

“God orchestrated this bucket assembly,” he said. “He had already set aside a day of service before we even knew of the potential of flooding in the state of Louisiana.”

The bucket assembly and the other service activities took place on the Louisiana Conference’s “Day of Caring,” part of the denominationwide “Change the World” initiative. Louisiana had the highest number of participating congregations of any United Methodist conference.

On the same day, the Army Corps of Engineers began opening the Morganza Spillway, inundating pastures and farmland in hopes of preventing potentially catastrophic flooding downstream.

The Associated Press reported that 25,000 people and 11,000 structures



Volunteers assemble cleaning buckets during a “Change the World” event at Memorial United Methodist Church in Monroe, La.

(A UMNS photo by Michelle Tripp)

could be in harm’s way as the gates on the Morganza Spillway are gradually unlocked. It’s the first time the spillway gates have been opened in 38 years.

“Protecting lives is the No. 1 priority,” Army Corps of Engineers Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh told AP.

Flooding is expected in towns in and along the Atchafalaya Basin, ultimately reaching southward to Morgan City.

St. Landry Parish, a Louisiana county, is under mandatory evacuation, and another nine parishes are under voluntary evacuation orders, according to the Louisiana Governor’s Office of

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Connection evident in volunteerism

An estimated 50 United Methodist churches in the Louisiana Conference are at risk of flooding, said the Rev. Darryl Tate, the conference’s director of disaster recovery ministry. The conference staff is in constant contact with those churches and also is sending flood-preparedness information to local churches in at-risk areas, he added.

Sager Brown, a United Methodist Committee on Relief depot in Baldwin, so far does not appear at risk of flooding.

The Rev. Don Cottrill, provost to Bishop William W. Hutchinson, said the conference’s experiences with similar disasters “has helped us to prepare for such times as these.”

“We are grateful to the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the United Methodist connection for its past assistance in so many ways, including well-designed disaster preparedness training and consultation,” Cottrill said.

Meanwhile, Louisiana United Methodists have *prepared buckets* they might use someday soon for their own relief.

The Louisiana Conference cleaning-bucket assembly and storage sites included the following United Methodist churches: First in Vidalia, Asbury in Lafayette and Memorial in Monroe.

Close to 100 volunteers from 20 churches throughout the Monroe District assembled 500 buckets at Memorial United Methodist Church, said Burgess, the Monroe District superintendent.

“The spirit and generosity within the group was amazing to watch,” he said. “We had a diverse group of volunteers,

DISASTER!

That fearful word has sounded too frequently in recent months. We are frustrated when we can’t keep up with the news, and pained when we can’t make the bad news go away.

From a journalistic perspective the prospects of death and destruction enhance readership. But the news of flood, earthquake, tornado bring us no satisfaction.

Our interest is in the Good News beyond the bad.

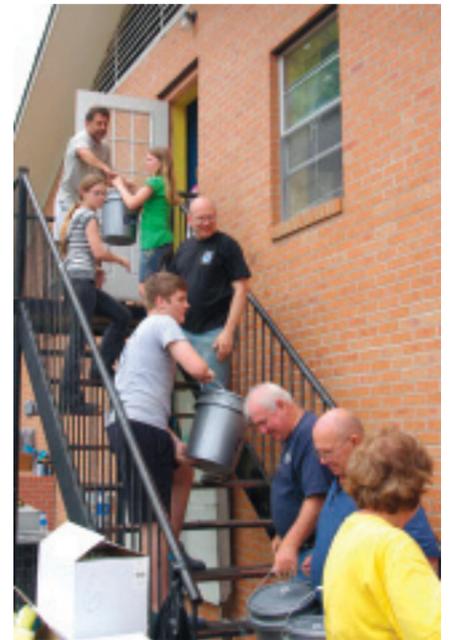
So the United Methodist Relay, while faithfully reporting on the disasters, will find our reward in sharing with you what God’s people are doing to alleviate the pain and suffering, whether in Louisiana or Haiti, Japan or the Passaic River Valley.

Watch for the news, then be prepared to become part of the solution.

ranging in age from 91-year-old Marcella Tatum to an active little 2-year-old.”

UMCOR is working with annual conferences to respond to communities that have been devastated by spring storms and flooding, but funds are being disbursed faster than they are replenished. Your gift is urgently needed. Donations can be made to US Spring Storms 2011, UMCOR Emergency Advance #3021326.

Betty Backstrom is director of communications for the Louisiana Annual Conference.



WILLING WORKERS stockpile cleaning buckets at First United Methodist Church in Vidalia, La.

(A UMNS photo courtesy of the Rev. Wade Arnold)

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Bishop Devadhar Calls Confirmands to Be Ambassadors for Christ

The sanctuary and balcony of the Bridgewater Church were filled to overflowing with confirmands, parents, teachers, sponsors, and clergy from around the GNJAC as this year's Confirmation Celebration was held recently. The day began and was punctuated throughout by the music of Spirit Train, the youth praise band from Bridgewater.

The celebration featured the preaching of Bishop Devadhar, in which he declared that the number one priority for ambassadors of Christ is to "act as Jesus acted." The bishop said that Jesus' first priority was sharing the message of the kingdom and that we, as ambassadors must represent Christ to the world. The question Bishop Devadhar wants the confirmands to keep asking themselves is "Am I representing Christ in everything I do?"

An offering was received for the Youth Service Fund. During the offering, liturgical dancers from the Parkside Church, Camden, called "Devoted" performed for the second time.

The confirmands —both recently confirmed and those about to be — were then asked the questions that make up the Affirmation of Confirmation. Bishop Devadhar was joined by the Conference Lay Leader, Rosa Williams and Lauren Godwin, from the Division on Ministries with Young People of the General Board of Discipleship.

Once the questions were asked and answered and the all of those gathered re-affirmed their faith, the bishop



SACRAMENTAL MOMENTS at the Confirmation Celebration come as Bishop Devadhar and Erica Munoz, GNJ children, youth and young adult coordinator, administer Holy Communion to the young confirmands and their guests.

Bishop's Q & A

In lighter moments during the Confirmation Celebration at Bridgewater, a question-and-answer session elicited these bits of information: the bishop's favorite animal is the elephant, his favorite color is red (for Pentecost), his favorite movie is Gandhi, his favorite food is kimchi, the Korean pickled fermented cabbage, and his favorite sport is cricket.

passed among the congregation sprinkling water from a branch as a Remembrance of Baptism. The service concluded with Holy Communion and anointing for service as ambassadors of Christ.

The formal service was followed by a time of questions for Bishop Devadhar. In response to the first question, the bishop stated that among the most serious challenges facing the Church today is standing against the

forces of the world and finding a way to listen for the voice of God amidst the noise of all of the other voices competing for our attention. Rain had been coming down at intervals throughout the afternoon and just then a huge clap

of thunder shook the church which some took to be a divine "Amen."

The episcopal leader also said that one of the worst things that can happen in the Church is when Christians criticize and judge each other.



FULL THROTTLE. The Bridgewater praise band, Spirit Train, punctuates the proceedings at the Confirmation Celebration that brought together confirmands, families and friends.

Pastor shocks by giving away prize money

OTTERFING, Germany (UMNS) — The Rev. Alfred Mignon sits relaxed on his wooden bench, enjoying the sun. "This is happiness," the United Methodist pastor says and laughs.

It is also a break from the storm of media attention that followed his winning 125,000 euros (U.S. \$180,000) on a televised quiz show and immediately giving away 110,000 (\$160,000).

"I applied to go on the show because I had a clear task," Mignon explains. "A good friend has financial problems, and we couldn't see any other way to raise such a large amount of money."

When he announced at the end of the program how he would use his winnings, the host of the German version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" said, "This is a reason to be really happy."

German newspapers and television stations are crazy about Mignon. Photographers and reporters have beaten a path to his door. A popular newspaper put the story on its front page the Saturday morning after the May 6 telecast. That same evening, producers of a talk show invited him to be a guest. On May 8, a journalist even attended services at Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche Otterfing to interview him.

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SHARED MINISTRY FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Once again, as directed by a vote of the GNJ Annual Conference in 2006, the *RELAY* publishes periodic reports on the payment status of our churches. In cooperation with the GNJ Council on Finance and Administration and the Office of the Treasurer, the United Methodist *RELAY* presents the Shared Ministry Report for the first quarter of 2011.

The first column of the report refers to the local church's 2011 Shared Ministry participation percentage. The second column represents the percentage paid by the local church toward 2011 billings. Billings are a combination of expenses including the Clergy Retirement Security

Program (CRSP) that provides clergy with a pension for their years in ministry with the United Methodist Church; the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) which provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits to eligible clergy of the United Methodist Church and their families; The Local Church Property and Liability insurance; the Annual Conference Health Insurance plan and the Annual Conference Worker's Compensation Insurance. At this point the goal of each local church should be to have paid 25 percent.

As of March 31, 178 churches across the nine districts of the Annual Confer-

ence have reached the first quarter goal of 25% in both categories. A number have substantially surpassed that goal. The *Relay* extends its congratulations to these churches. Most notable are the two districts in the southernmost part of the conference, Cape Atlantic with 33 churches in the two categories and Delaware Bay with 30. Good work, good discipleship!

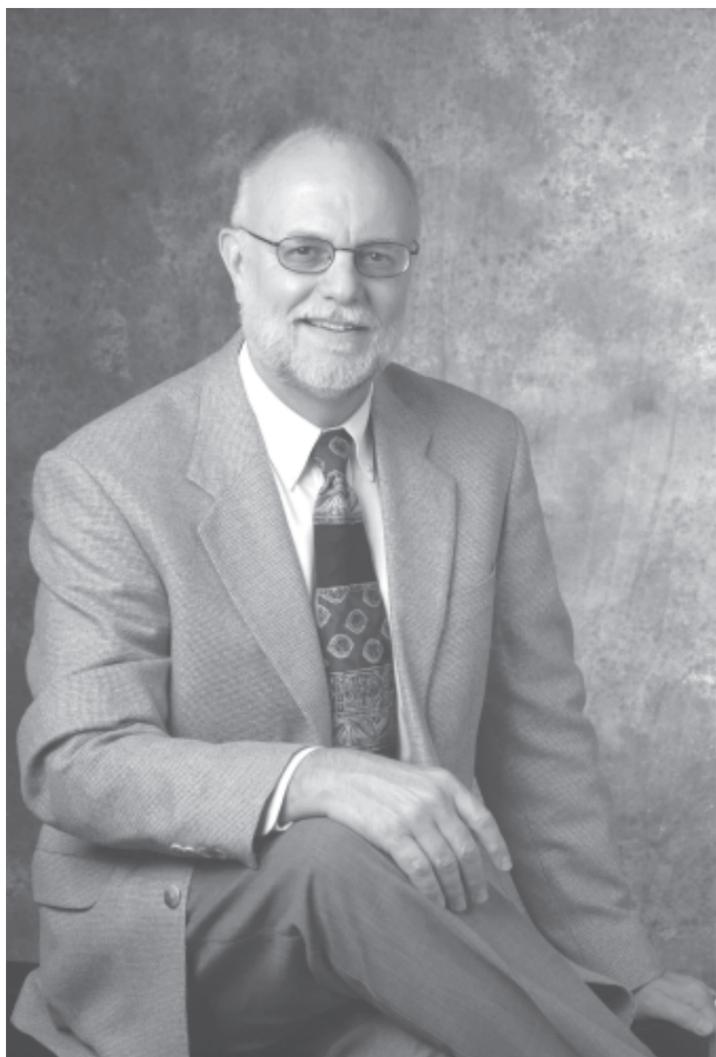
The tithes and offerings of the United Methodists in each local church in Greater New Jersey link us to United Methodists in our conference, our jurisdiction, our nation and throughout the world. Together we are making a positive impact on people that live next to us

and live far away from us in the name of Jesus Christ.

The *Relay* joins with the treasurer's office and CF&A in encouraging all of our churches to continue their good work so that this year we as a conference will continue to grow in this aspect of our faithful discipleship. If you are not already doing so, we invite you to use the resources available to help your church meet the responsibilities and expectations of every church. Please contact the Conference Office at 1001 Wickapecko Dr. in Ocean, NJ 07712. Call toll free to 877-677-2594, or 732 359-1000.

CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD
GATEWAY SOUTH			PALISADES			ASBURY PARK: FIRST	7.58%	0.00%	RARITAN VALLEY		
AUDUBON	8.33%	7.67%	ALLENDALE: ARCHER	0.00%	25.00%	ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	25.00%	25.00%	ANNANDALE: ALLERTON	25.00%	25.00%
BARRINGTON: FIRST	8.56%	0.00%	ALPINE:ALPINE COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	AVON	25.00%	25.00%	ASBURY: ASBURY	25.00%	25.00%
BERLIN: CENTENARY	14.48%	14.36%	BERGENFIELD: GOOD SHEPHERD	0.00%	13.85%	BARNEGAT	#N/A	25.00%	BASKING RIDGE: BISHOP JANES	9.23%	25.00%
BLACKWOOD	25.00%	25.00%	BLOOMINGDALE	22.58%	25.00%	BAY HEAD: ST PAUL'S	25.00%	25.00%	BELLE MEAD: MONTGOMERY	16.67%	25.00%
BROOKLAWN	17.54%	25.00%	CLIFTON: BELLE VISTA-SIMPSON	0.00%	0.00%	BAYVILLE: FAITH COMMUNITY	2.40%	4.45%	BELVIDERE: SUMMERFIELD	0.00%	8.09%
CAMDEN: ASBURY	0.00%	0.00%	CONGERS	25.00%	25.00%	BEACH HAVEN TERRACE: FIRST	25.00%	22.74%	BERKELEY HGTS: BOUNTIFUL KOREAN	0.00%	3.63%
CAMDEN: BETHEL	0.00%	16.63%	CROSS KOREAN	0.00%	0.00%	BEACH HAVEN: KYNETT	25.00%	25.00%	BERKELEY HGTS: DIAMOND HILL	0.00%	16.24%
CAMDEN: BETHVIEW VILLAGE	26.95%	16.47%	DEMAREST	0.00%	14.89%	BELFORD	25.00%	25.00%	BERNARDSVILLE	7.75%	8.64%
CAMDEN: FERRY AVENUE	16.67%	15.77%	DEMAREST:YOBEL KOREAN	16.67%	25.00%	BELMAR: FIRST	25.32%	25.00%	BLOOMSBURY	25.00%	25.00%
CAMDEN: NEW BEGINNINGS	2.94%	0.00%	DISCIPLINE CHURCH: DUMONT	0.00%	25.00%	BRADLEY BEACH: FIRST	25.53%	25.00%	BOUND BROOK	0.00%	0.00%
CAMDEN: PARKSIDE	16.67%	11.67%	DUMONT: CALVARY	13.17%	25.00%	BRICK: ST PAUL'S	8.33%	0.00%	BRIDGEWATER	25.00%	25.00%
CHERRY HILL: FIRST KOREAN	16.67%	15.51%	EAST RUTHERFORD: CHRIST	27.49%	25.00%	BROOKVILLE UMC	0.00%	0.00%	BROADWAY	0.00%	0.00%
CHERRY HILL: ST ANDREW'S	10.37%	9.88%	ENGLEWOOD: FIRST	16.67%	0.00%	EATONTOWN: MONMOUTH GRACE	16.67%	24.99%	CALIFON	0.00%	0.00%
CLARKSBORO: EVANGELICAL	25.00%	25.00%	ENGLEWOOD: GALILEE	8.33%	11.45%	FAIR HAVEN: CHRIST	15.91%	16.07%	CALIFON: FAIRMOUNT	0.00%	25.00%
CLARKSBORO: ZION	25.00%	25.00%	ENGLEWOOD: KOREAN COMMUNITY	25.00%	25.00%	FARMINGDALE: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	CHANGEWATER	23.81%	25.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: EMBURY	8.33%	0.00%	FRANKLIN LAKES	6.44%	25.00%	FORKED RIVER: LACEY	25.00%	25.00%	CLINTON	25.00%	25.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: FIRST	16.74%	25.00%	GARNERVILLE	0.00%	0.00%	FREEHOLD: FIRST	16.67%	25.00%	CRANFORD	11.13%	25.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: FRANCES CHILDS	16.67%	0.00%	HACKENSACK	25.00%	25.00%	FREEHOLD: JERSEYVILLE	25.47%	25.00%	DUNELLEN	1.92%	7.86%
DELAIR: ST MATTHEW'S	1.45%	0.00%	HALEDON: CEDAR CLIFF	3.65%	1.80%	HAZLET: ST JOHN'S	12.47%	12.47%	EAST BRUNSWICK: ALDERSGATE	25.00%	25.00%
DEPTFORD: ALMONESSON	25.00%	6.13%	HASBROUCK HEIGHTS:FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	HOWELL: CHURCH OF THE MASTER	0.83%	25.00%	EAST BRUNSWICK: CALVARY	0.00%	25.00%
DEPTFORD: MT ZION-WESLEY	2.99%	25.00%	HAVERSTRAW: LA RESURRECCION	0.00%	0.00%	HOWELL: SQUAKUM	16.67%	25.00%	EAST MILLSTONE	25.00%	25.00%
DEPTFORD:NEW SHARON	25.00%	25.00%	HAWTHORNE	16.67%	15.59%	ISLAND HEIGHTS: FIRST	0.00%	25.00%	EDISON: WESLEY	0.00%	0.00%
GIBBSBORO	7.50%	15.97%	HILLSDALE UMC	16.67%	25.00%	JACKSON	2.01%	16.97%	EDISON: NEW DOVER UMC	0.00%	25.00%
GIBBSTOWN: CLONMELL	0.00%	7.98%	LEONIA	0.00%	21.41%	JACKSON: PLEASANT GROVE	25.00%	25.00%	EVERITTSTOWN	19.69%	16.74%
GLENDORA: CHEWS	12.36%	0.00%	LEONIA: BETHEL UMC OF N.J.	0.00%	0.00%	KEANSBURG: FIRST	3.76%	1.69%	FINESVILLE	13.59%	25.00%
GLOUCESTER: HIGHLAND PARK	25.00%	25.00%	MIDLAND PARK	8.33%	25.00%	KEYPORT: CALVARY	8.33%	2.46%	FLEMINGTON	0.00%	3.44%
GLOUCESTER: TRINITY	25.00%	25.00%	NEW CITY	2.22%	25.00%	KEYPORT: EL MESIAS	8.33%	0.00%	FRENCHTOWN	25.00%	25.00%
HADDON HEIGHTS: FIRST	16.67%	21.82%	OMEGA KOREAN MISSION UMC	0.00%	0.00%	LAKEHURST	25.00%	25.00%	GLADSTONE	25.00%	25.00%
HADDONFIELD	0.00%	25.00%	PAMONA:LADENTOWN	0.00%	7.53%	LAKEWOOD: CHRIST	0.00%	0.00%	HAMPTON-NORTH HUNTERDON	9.47%	46.54%
HADDONFIELD:RHOADS TEMPLE	16.67%	15.88%	PARAMUS: ARCOLA KOREAN	0.00%	0.00%	LITTLE SILVER: EMBURY	25.00%	25.00%	HARMONY TWP: MONTANA	0.00%	0.00%
LAWNDSIDE: MT ZION	25.00%	25.00%	PARAMUS:ARCOLA	31.20%	25.00%	LONG BRANCH: ASBURY	16.00%	16.22%	HIGH BRIDGE	11.29%	25.00%
LINDENWOLD: LUCASTON	25.00%	25.00%	PARK RIDGE	16.76%	25.00%	LONG BRANCH: ST LUKE'S	0.00%	25.00%	HIGHLAND PARK: TRINITY	25.54%	17.11%
MAGNOLIA	25.00%	25.00%	PASSAIC:FIRST	2.10%	5.21%	MANAHAWKIN	0.00%	25.00%	HILLSBOROUGH: MOUNT ZION	16.67%	16.44%
MANTUA	0.00%	24.66%	PATERSON TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	MANASQUAN	8.33%	25.00%	KINGWOOD	25.00%	25.00%
MANTUA: BARNSBORO	25.00%	25.00%	PATERSON: CHRIST	0.88%	0.00%	MIDDLETOWN	0.00%	6.89%	LEBANON: ROUND VALLEY UMC	25.00%	25.00%
MANTUA: MOUNT ZION	26.00%	25.00%	PATERSON: MADISON PARK-EPWORTH	25.00%	25.00%	MORGANVILLE	25.00%	25.00%	LEBANON:COKEBURY	0.00%	25.00%
MERCHANTVILLE: TRINITY	25.00%	25.00%	PATERSON: PATERSON AVENUE	0.00%	3.71%	NAVESINK	30.29%	25.00%	MANSFIELD TWP: ANDERSON	0.00%	25.00%
MONROE TWP: NEW BROOKLYN	25.00%	25.00%	PEARL RIVER	25.00%	25.00%	NEPTUNE CITY: MEMORIAL	0.00%	0.00%	MARTINSVILLE	0.00%	0.00%
MT EPHRAIM: FIRST	16.67%	15.57%	RIDGEFIELD PARK: FIRST	16.67%	16.19%	NEPTUNE: HAMILTON	25.00%	25.00%	METUCHEN: CENTENARY	16.67%	15.00%
NATIONAL PARK: FIRST	18.76%	25.00%	RIDGEWOOD	0.00%	0.00%	NEPTUNE: WEST GROVE	0.00%	0.00%	MILLTOWN	16.67%	14.98%
OAKLYN: EMMANUEL	27.92%	25.00%	RUTHERFORD	0.00%	0.00%	OAKHURST: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	NESHANIC STATION: NESHANIC	0.00%	8.27%
PAULSBORO: BILLINGSPOET	30.00%	25.00%	SPRING VALLEY	4.85%	0.00%	OCEAN GROVE: ST PAUL'S	22.73%	25.00%	NEW BRUNSWICK	25.00%	15.61%
PAULSBORO: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	25.00%	STONY POINT: FIRST	16.67%	15.89%	OCEANPORT	16.67%	15.85%	NEW PROVIDENCE	25.00%	25.00%
PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	15.62%	STONY POINT: TRINITY	8.33%	16.51%	PT PLEASANT: CENTRAL	0.00%	13.93%	OLD BRIDGE: SIMPSON	25.00%	25.00%
PENNSAUKEN: EAST PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	25.00%	SUFFERN	25.00%	12.29%	PT PLEASANT: HARVEY MEMORIAL	6.82%	25.00%	OXFORD: COLONIAL	0.00%	8.13%
PINE HILL: MEMORIAL	16.67%	15.89%	SUFFERN:VIOLA	4.21%	25.00%	RED BANK	25.00%	25.00%	PATTENBURG	0.00%	0.00%
SICKLERVILLE	15.77%	25.00%	TEANECK	0.00%	0.00%	SEA BRIGHT: FIRST	10.00%	25.00%	PHILLIPSBURG: WESLEY	0.00%	23.75%
STRATFORD	16.67%	25.00%	TENAFLY	8.33%	6.10%	SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: WALL	16.67%	12.39%	PISCATAWAY: CHRIST	25.00%	25.00%
SWEDESBORO: REPAUO	25.00%	25.00%	THIELS	0.00%	0.00%	SPRING LAKE: ST ANDREW'S	0.00%	15.47%	PLAINFIELD:COVENANT	0.00%	0.00%
TURNERSVILLE: ST JOHN'S	13.59%	25.00%	TOTOWA	0.00%	8.07%	TOMS RIVER: CEDAR GROVE	25.01%	25.00%	PORT MURRAY: MC CREA MEMORIAL	25.00%	21.95%
VERGA WELFARE	30.00%	25.00%	UPPER SADDLE RVR: BERGEN HIGHLANDS	4.97%	7.71%	TOMS RIVER: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	QUAKERTOWN	0.00%	0.00%
VOORHEES: GLENDALE	0.00%	0.00%	W. PATERSON: APPENZELER NAIRI	0.00%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST ANDREW'S	16.67%	14.72%	SAYREVILLE	16.67%	16.02%
VOORHEES: HOPE	12.15%	25.00%	WALDWICK	9.11%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST MATTHEW'S	0.00%	25.00%	SCOTCH PLAINS: FIRST	11.29%	25.00%
WENONAH	25.00%	25.00%	WANAQUE: MIDVALE	0.00%	15.74%	UNION BEACH: GRACE	8.33%	25.00%	SERGEANTSVILLE	25.00%	25.00%
WEST BERLIN: ST JOHN'S	16.67%	15.13%	WAYNE	0.00%	3.10%	WARETOWN	0.00%	25.00%	SOMERSET: FIRST	16.67%	25.00%
WEST BERLIN: WESLEY	25.00%	25.00%	WAYNE: BETHANY	25.00%	25.00%	WARREN GROVE	100.00%	15.23%	SOUTH AMBOY: TRINITY	8.33%	14.37%
WEST DEPTFORD: ST PAUL'S	16.67%	25.00%	WESTWOOD	17.92%	25.00%	WAYSIDE	16.67%	0.00%	SOUTH PLAINFIELD: WESLEY	0.00%	25.00%
WESTMONT	25.00%	25.00%	WESTWOOD: GRACE KOREAN	0.00%	7.95%	WEST BELMAR	8.33%	15.42%	SOUTH RIVER: CONKLIN	25.00%	25.00%
WESTVILLE	6.59%	9.04%	WYCKOFF: GRACE	25.00%	25.00%	WEST CREEK	25.00%	25.00%	SPOTSWOOD: TRINITY	0.00%	25.00%
WILLIAMSTOWN	25.00%	25.00%	GATEWAY NORTH			WEST FARMS	23.43%	25.00%	WARREN TWP: MOUNT HOREB	8.33%	23.62%
WILLIAMSTOWN: CROSS KEYS	18.60%	12.72%	BAYONNE: BERGEN POINT	15.77%	#N/A	WEST LONG BRANCH: OLD FIRST	7.72%	15.39%	WARREN TWP: SPRINGDALE	0.00%	25.00%
WOODBURY: COLONIAL MANOR	25.00%	25.00%	BAYONNE: WESLEY	16.67%	24.26%	WHITING	25.00%	25.00%	WARREN TWP: UNION VILLAGE	0.00%	5.51%
WOODBURY: KEMBLE MEMORIAL	16.67%	25.00%	BELLEVILLE: WESLEY	8.33%	8.06%	CAPITAL DISTRICT			WASHINGTON	25.00%	25.00%
WOODYLYNNE: ASBURY	25.00%	25.00%	BLOOMFIELD: PARK	8.33%	20.07%	ALLEN TOWN	30.00%	25.00%	WASHINGTON: PORT COLDEN	16.67%	10.09%
SKYLANDS			CALDWELL	16.67%	15.21%	ATCO	25.00%	25.00%	WEST PORTAL	41.50%	25.00%
ANDOVER	26.31%	12.89%	CHATHAM	16.67%	25.00%	BEVERLY	4.98%	11.28%	WESTFIELD: FIRST	0.00%	25.00%
AUGUSTA: FRANKFORD PLAINS	25.00%	25.00%	E. ORANGE: CALVARY-ROSEVILLE	8.33%	7.16%	BORDENTOWN: TRINITY	0.00%	15.61%	WHITEHOUSE	16.67%	25.00%
BARRYVILLE	0.00%	25.00%	E. ORANGE: PARK AVE -ST JOHN'S	25.00%	23.88%	BROWNS MILLS	17.50%	18.81%	CAPE ATLANTIC		
BELVIDERE	0.00%	0.00%	ELIZABETH: EPWORTH	25.00%	25.00%	BUDDTOWN	25.00%	25.00%	ABSECON	8.33%	7.47%
BLAIRS TOWN: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	FAIRFIELD	50.00%	25.00%	BURLINGTON: BROAD ST	25.00%	25.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: ASBURY	14.83%	25.00%
BLAIRS TOWN:WALNUT VALLEY	0.00%	15.97%	GREEN VILLAGE	0.00%	25.00%	BURLINGTON: ST MARY STREET	8.33%	25.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: HAMILTON MEMRL	13.11%	0.00%
BOONTON	0.00%	25.00%	HARRISON:DAVIS MEMORIAL	0.00%	0.00%	CHATSWORTH	25.00%	25.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: VENICE PARK	25.00%	25.00%
BOONTON TWP: ROCKAWAY VALLEY	0.00%	14.72%	HOBOKEN: COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	CINNAMINSON: ASBURY	16.67%	17.91%	AVALON: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
BRANCHVILLE	16.67%	25.00%	IRVINGTON	0.00%	0.00%	COLUMBUS: WESLEY	25.00%	25.00%	BELLEPLAIN	17.02%	15.71%
BUTLER	0.00%	5.56%	IRVINGTON: HAITIAN	14.14%	0.56%	COOKSTOWN	25.00%	25.00%	BLUE ANCHOR: GRACE UNION	0.00%	15.52%
BUTTZVILLE	8.33%	13.36%	JERSEY CITY: BETHANY-BROWNE MEMORIAL	8.33%	0.00%	CRANBURY	25.00%	25.00%	CAPE MAY	25.00%	15.30%
DENVILLE COMMUNITY	25.00%	20.66%	JERSEY CITY: CHRIST	25.00%	18.71%	CROSSWICKS	0.00%	0.00%	CAPE MAY CT HOUSE: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
DINGMANS FERRY	2.32%	14.76%	JERSEY CITY: CHURCH OF COVENANT	8.33%	24.38%	DELANCO: DOBBINS MEMORIAL	0.00%	15.90%	CONOVER TOWN	7.46%	25.00%
DOVER: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	JERSEY CITY: CLAIR MEMORIAL	0.00%	0.00%	DELRAN: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%	DELMONT	25.00%	25.

Meet Our Conference Speakers



Dr. John Holbert is Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology. An ordained elder of the United Methodist Church, he blends a palate of skills that include preaching, teaching and story telling, with special affinity to the Hebrew Bible. He is an author of numerous books on themes related to the Old Testament. Greater New Jersey Conference members can attest to his winsome blend of humor and profound insight.

The guest speakers at this year's Annual Conference are no strangers to Greater New Jersey.

John Holbert was the popular Bible study leader at the 2010 conference, while Mike Slaughter is well remembered for his addresses at the 2010 Bishop's Convocation at Willow Valley.

Their return this year is a testimony to their effectiveness and appeal.

The *Relay* is pleased to join the conference leadership and the clergy and laity who make up the GNJAC in welcoming them back.



The Rev. Mike Slaughter is known by many sobriquets: "three-decade dreamer" "chief entrepreneur", etc. But he is best known as lead pastor of the Ginghamburg Church, the innovative Ohio congregation that under his leadership went from a membership of 118 to an average weekly attendance of more than 4,000. Its New Path ministry serves more than 40,000 people annually in surrounding communities through its food pantry and other ministries. Mike now is focusing his energies on the children, women and men of Darfur, Sudan.

OBITUARIES

JOAN WARNECKA BENNETT, a former Methodist missionary and wife of retired GNJ elder, the Rev. Gilbert F. Bennett, died April 8, 2011 in Marshalls Creek, Pa. A memorial service was held at the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, Stroudsburg, Pa. on May 21.

A graduate of Boston University with a degree in physical education, Mrs. Bennett became a Methodist mission-

ary in the Belgian Congo (Katanga), serving with her husband, the Rev. Gil Bennett. Returning to the United States in 1963, she taught physical education in South Amboy and Florence where Mr. Bennett served as pastor.

She is survived by her husband, four children, and 10 grandchildren. Messages of condolence may be sent to the Rev. Gilbert Bennett, P.O. Box 891, Marshalls Creek, Pa. 18335-0891

SHARED MINISTRY

(Continued from Page 8)

CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD
TABERNACLE UMC	25.00%	25.00%
TUCKAHOE	16.67%	25.00%
TUCKERTON	0.00%	25.00%
VENTNOR: TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%
WEYMOUTH	25.00%	25.00%
WILDWOOD CREST: FIRST	16.67%	15.91%
WILDWOOD: NORTH WILDWOOD	25.00%	21.70%
WINSLOW	25.00%	25.00%
DELAWARE BAY		
ALDINE	23.24%	25.00%
ALLOWAY	24.24%	25.00%
AUBURN: EBENEZER	25.00%	25.00%
BRIDGEPORT: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	0.00%
BRIDGETON: CENTRAL	25.00%	25.00%
BRIDGETON: FIRST	16.67%	16.16%
BRIDGETON: FORDVILLE ST JOHN	16.67%	25.00%
BRIDGETON: FRIENDSHIP-FINLEY	25.00%	25.00%
BRIDGETON: JOHN WESLEY	0.00%	0.15%
BRIDGETON: TRINITY	25.00%	25.00%
BRIDGETON: WEST PARK	16.96%	25.00%
BRIDGETON: WOODRUFF	25.00%	25.00%
CANTON	25.00%	25.00%
CARNEY'S POINT: FIRST	0.00%	15.60%
CEDARVILLE	0.00%	25.00%
CLAYTON: TRINITY	12.10%	6.58%
DEEPWATER: FIRST	25.00%	16.29%
DEERFIELD	16.60%	16.14%
DIVIDING CREEK: ZION	25.00%	25.00%
ELMER	31.78%	25.00%
EWAN	25.00%	19.69%
FAIRTON	25.00%	25.00%
FRANKLINVILLE	9.97%	6.80%
FRANKLINVILLE: PLAINVILLE	25.65%	25.00%
GLASSBORO: FIRST	4.98%	15.44%
HAINES NECK	16.67%	13.99%
HANCOCK'S BRIDGE	8.33%	25.00%
HARRISONVILLE: ST JOHN'S	25.00%	25.00%
MALAGA	25.00%	25.00%
MILLVILLE: CENTRE GROVE	0.00%	0.00%
MILLVILLE: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
MILLVILLE: FOURTH	25.00%	25.00%

CHURCH NAME	MAR. 2011 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAR. 2011 YTD BILLINGS % PD
MILLVILLE: MT PLEASANT	25.00%	25.00%
MILLVILLE: NEWCOMBTOWN	25.00%	24.31%
MILLVILLE: SECOND	25.00%	25.00%
MILLVILLE: TRINITY	0.35%	11.99%
MILLVILLE: WEST SIDE	0.00%	0.00%
MINOTOLA	5.67%	25.00%
MONROEVILLE	0.00%	0.00%
MONROEVILLE: AURA	6.93%	25.00%
MONROEVILLE: FERRELL	25.00%	25.00%
MONROEVILLE: FRIENDSHIP	30.00%	25.00%
MULLICA HILL: TRINITY	8.33%	22.77%
NEWFIELD	27.06%	25.00%
NEWFIELD: PINEY HOLLOW	25.00%	25.00%
NEWPORT	25.00%	25.00%
PEDRICKTOWN: HUDSON	7.33%	18.74%
PENNS GROVE: EMMANUEL	25.00%	25.00%
PENNS GROVE: ST PAUL'S	25.00%	25.00%
PENNSVILLE: TRINITY	16.67%	15.72%
PILESBORO: SHARPTOWN	26.18%	25.00%
PITMAN	25.00%	25.00%
PITTSBORO: OLIVET	16.67%	17.18%
PITTSBORO: UNION GROVE	8.33%	25.00%
PITTSBORO: WILLOW GROVE	16.67%	15.63%
PORCHTOWN ZION	16.67%	25.00%
QUINTON	0.00%	15.98%
QUINTON: HAVEN	25.00%	25.00%
RICHWOOD	16.67%	25.00%
ROSENHAYN	25.00%	25.00%
SALEM: BROADWAY	25.00%	25.00%
SALEM: FIRST	11.56%	25.00%
SALEM: MT HOPE	16.67%	15.99%
SEWELL: HURFFVILLE BETHEL	16.67%	16.18%
SWEDESBORO: BETHESDA	25.00%	25.00%
SWEDESBORO: CENTRE SQUARE UNION	25.00%	25.00%
VINELAND: FIRST	25.00%	25.00%
VINELAND: SOUTH VINELAND	0.00%	17.16%
WILLIAMSTOWN: DOWNER	25.00%	25.00%
WOODSTOWN: ASBURY	16.67%	7.30%
CORRECTION FOR 2010		
LINDEN	100.00%	100.00%

POSITION OPEN

Position: GNJAC Conference Media Specialist

Reports to: Director of Connectional Ministries

Purpose: Provide educational informational and media support to local churches, districts and annual conference.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide media support for congregations interested in adding media to their worship.
- Attend Relay and Communications Team meetings.
- Design brochures as needed.
- Receive direction from and assist the Episcopal Office in communicating the celebration of ministry and the needs of the area.
- Collect and provide content for thrice-weekly Conference-wide GNJ Digest e-newsletter.
- Attend District Days of learning or Clergy Meetings when invited to raise awareness of Media Center resources.
- Maintain communications with Ministries Teams, Boards, and local churches through website, UM Relay, GNJ Digest email newsletters and special mailings.
- Work with Program Staff to develop new print and electronic resources to equip local churches for the work of making disciples.
- Promote and maintain holdings of Media Center (DVDs, books, studies, etc.) for distribution to local churches; assist local churches in developing educational programming using Center resources; provide a welcoming and stimulating atmosphere for all who use the Center.

Skills Required:

- BA/BS in journalism, humanities, communications or similar field of study
- Prior employment related to media
- Demonstrated experience in new media such as electronic newsletters, websites, and social networking
- Ability to use database product such as MS Access or Excel; MS Word; MS Power Point
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision as well as with Program Staff
- Cheerful and accommodating attitude

Skills beneficial but not required: Second language: Spanish or Korean

Please send resume to Rev. Mark Ale at: mwa55@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission is June 15, 2011

Salary Range \$55,000-57,000 plus benefits.

Change the World Puts Churches 'In the Garden' in Wayne and Elsewhere

A UMNS Report By Joey Butler

Change the World 2011 had a decidedly "green" feel — in many cases, a "green thumb" feel.

Change the World, part of the Re-think Church initiative, incorporates outreach to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. During last year's inaugural event, more than 100,000 people from over 1,000 churches hosted events and undertook projects to help others.

During the second annual event on May 14-15, more than 2,000 individual churches in 15 countries participated. United Methodist churches around the globe got outside their buildings and performed acts of service in their communities — and many did so with the environment in mind.

In the bulb, there is a flower

In the New Jersey Conference, the United Methodist Church in Wayne was back for a second year of Change the World, planting a community garden in nearby Paterson.

Church members distributed the produce from last year's project to the local food pantry and to area families, and this year the church added more vegetable beds and perennial flowers.

Wayne staff member Don Matthews said last year's event got a lot of positive feedback from participants and area neighbors.

"Neighbors saw the work being done, the excitement of the children and adults, and asked why there was no press coverage for such a positive event."

Matthews expressed hope that the event would "enable the participants to experience and understand the impact that serving others has on those in service, as well as the served, and that this once-a-year event becomes our plan for daily living."

Magic garden

Joseph United Methodist Church in Oregon partnered with a rural, local school district to start an effort called The Magic Garden. Striving to fight

childhood obesity, they introduced students to fresh produce and taught them healthier eating habits.

A dilapidated greenhouse at the school was repaired, and art students created giant decorative creatures out of the recycled greenhouse roofing. Volunteers and students planted vegetable and flower "starts." They also installed fencing to keep out deer.

"Many students don't have access to fresh produce because of financial issues or lack of knowledge," said the Rev. Kaye Garver, Joseph's pastor.

According to Garver, this is a three-year project. She hopes that when the garden is harvested in the fall, there will be a community dinner where high-school students can teach younger children how to prepare the produce.

Celebrating through worship

The Green Ministry at Almaden Hills' United Methodist Church in San Jose, Calif., celebrates creation through worship and education. This year, the ministry dedicated the week of May 15-21 to the significance of water in God's world.

The church's May 15 worship service focused on many facets of water: as a foundation of life, an unfairly shared resource, a symbol of spirit, an object of environmental degradation and a source of healing. On May 20, the church will screen "A Sea Change," which explores the relationship between clean oceans and future generations. The next day, church members joined others in the National River Cleanup Day at Hellyer Park in San Jose.

"We have seen how many smaller groups, when connected with others, can grow into a force," said Sue Bowling, Almaden Hills' chair of Green Ministry. "Being connected with others means being a part of something greater than ourselves."

Joey Butler is editor of young adult content for United Methodist Communications, Nashville)



CHANGE THE WORLD volunteers of all ages from The United Methodist Church in Wayne, plant raised garden beds in nearby Paterson. Children at a tutoring and literacy center use the vegetable gardens as part of their educational program.

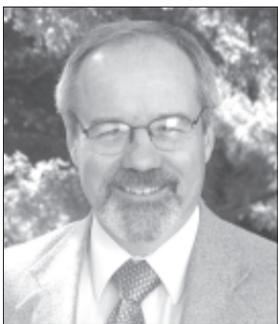
(A UMNS photo courtesy of the Rev. Jeff Campbell)

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

New Insights on using NCD

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



The Rev. Dr. Jack Stephenson, Pastor of Anona United Methodist Church in Anona, Florida, undertook a four year analysis of Natural Church Development. His findings have helped churches discover new ways to utilize this tool for church health.

One new discovery is that churches that score well on the survey, thus showing they are indeed healthy, are encouraged to then engage in a process to discern how they can leverage their health for the sake of Mission. They take on a Mission Project so that they can bear fruit. What, after all, is the purpose of

becoming a healthy congregation if not to engage the community or wider area of the parish in a significant way to help "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?"

We are talking here of a Mission Project that can mobilize the congregation. For some churches, that might mean regular volunteering at the Interfaith Hospitality Network. For others, they find ways to eliminate hunger in their area. Some of our healthiest churches decide to come alongside a church that is struggling and inject new life and vitality by sending out "missionaries." Still others may want to start a second campus of their church in an area underserved by The United Methodist Church.

So far, some 120 churches in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have engaged the Natural Church Development process. Of those, 30 churches have made a score of 55 or over, which in the scale used indicates effectiveness and health. These churches — rather than focusing on getting even healthier — should now focus on how they can be in Mission in intentional ways to impact their community, general area or world.

If you would like more information about how Natural Church Development can help your church, please contact the Office of Congregational Development. Call 732-359-1046 or email me at druffle@gnjumc.org.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



A Father's Legacy

"Goodbye, Dad. See ya Friday!" Saying goodbye to my Dad on Sunday night and looking forward to seeing him again on Friday evening was a weekly occurrence in my home while I was growing up. My dad was an auditor for Wilson Meat, Co. and, as such, traveled to meat packing plants from Chicago to Maine, and south to New Jersey. Almost every week he would leave home before dawn on Monday morning and not return home until sometime after supper on Friday. The first time I heard Rev. Tony Campolo preach his famous, "It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming" sermon I remember thinking to myself, for me and my Dad "It's Monday, but Friday's Coming."

As the calendar moves us ever closer to Father's Day this year I can't help but think about my Dad and all the lessons I learned from him in my lifetime. He loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength, he had a deep faith in Christ, he loved and provided for his family and, in spite of not being around much during the week, he served St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Grove with a passion and commitment second to none. Perhaps most importantly, he taught me what it truly means to give yourself to God without reservation and to allow all the other ways you give to simply flow out of God's purpose in your life. I am forever grateful for his love and his witness and thank God every day that he was my father.

I said goodbye to my Dad for the last time twelve years ago but I know that someday "Friday's coming."

Happy Father's Day!

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.

OPPORTUNITY FILE

A roundup of coming events in the Greater New Jersey Conference and beyond. Send items of conference-wide interest to the Opportunity File at Editor@umrelay.org or UMRelay, 1 Mayflower Ct., Whiting, NJ 08759.

June 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, pages 1 & 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, pages 1 & 3.

July 13-17 — Youth 2111

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, pages 1 & 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 space provides opportunity. For details, see conference website, www.gnjumc.org and click on Taize Pilgrimage link.

July 28-30 — Music Institute

MADISON — Music, liturgical styles, prayer and preaching designed to encourage souls, hearts and minds will be served up at this Sixth Annual Music Institute at Drew Theological School. Themes include “Singing a 21st Century Faith,” “The shape of congregational song in our generation,” and “Global song for local congregations.” FFI: Visit www.drew.edu/theological/continuing_education.

September 9-11 — Youth Weekend

OCEAN CITY — Hiphop artist Agape and illusionist Jared Hall will be on stage at this annual September gathering at the shore for GNJ youth. New workshops and for the first time ever, “So U think U can Praise” praise video competition. FFI: Visit the MYP website.

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.

Choirs Sought for General Conference

Nashville — United Methodist choirs and ensemble groups from around the world may now audition online for an invitation to perform at the 2012 General Conference, The United Methodist Church’s top legislative assembly which meets in Tampa, Fla. beginning April 24, 2012.

To apply for an invitation to General Conference, choirs and ensembles are asked to submit a letter of application to gc2012worship@gmail.com, including a brief bio and a YouTube video link of the group performing. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2011.

“As always, we look forward to having musicians and artists from across the connection involved in leading the people of God in worship at General Conference,” said Dr. Marcia McFee, worship director for 2012 General Conference. “This ministry of worship and inspiration is vital for those delegates and leaders who spend many days in discernment and work on behalf of our denomination. To come to General Conference takes a lot of dedication and work for the groups who are selected and invited. We honor this gift they give to the church.”

Invited choirs will perform at lunch and during evening worship at General Conference. Choirs are responsible for their own expenses.

Meeting in Footsteps of Founders, Bishops Ponder the Church’s Future



John Wesley, founder of Methodism, depicted here in a statue at the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum and Library, greets visitors to Epworth-by-the-Sea at St. Simon Island, Georgia, site of the recent Council of Bishops’ meeting. Among those in attendance was GNJ Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar.

In 1736, under the live oaks on St. Simons Island on the Georgia coast, John and Charles Wesley formed a fellowship of believers which in time became Christ Church, a congregation of the Anglican faith.

This spring, May 1-6, more than 100 bishops of the United Methodist Church gathered in the shade of the same live oak grove that sheltered the denomination’s founders, for the semi-annual meeting of the Council of Bishops. There they reflected on their discipleship and stewardship and considered the future course of United Methodism. The meeting included reports from the Call to Action interim operations team, and consideration of proposals for reform within the church, and the proposed restructuring of the denomination’s ecumenical agency. Here is a summary of some of their work.

Bishops hear call to lead church’s future

United Methodist bishops must lead, rather than lean, into the church’s future, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster told the Council of Bishops May 2. Goodpaster delivered his presidential address to 113 of the denomination’s 230 active and retired bishops.

Bishops to change ecumenical agency

United Methodist bishops voted overwhelmingly May 2 to support folding the denomination’s ecumenical agency, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and its work into the Council of Bishops.

Bishops seek change in presidency

United Methodist bishops approved a proposal May 4 that would significantly redefine the role of president for the Council of Bishops. The amendment to the church’s constitution would allow the council to elect one of its own to a full-time, four-year position without the usual responsibilities of overseeing a geographic area. The president also would serve as the denomination’s chief ecumenical officer.

Bishop’s prayer notes news about bin Laden

Many of the United Methodist bishops gathered for the Council of Bishops meeting first learned of Osama bin Laden’s death on the morning of May 2. At the beginning of the morning session, Harrisburg (Pa.) Area Bishop Jane Allen Middleton prayed that the reports of the al-Qaida leader’s death bring a sense of closure. “Oh, Lord, may it not be retribution on retribution on retribution,” she said before more than 100 bowed heads. And she prayed for God’s peace.

Bishops go green, save green

The United Methodist Council of Bishops meeting, which concluded May 6, was the first such gathering to be paperless. Bishops viewed reports and proposals either on their own tablets or laptops or on one of 74 Nooks purchased for this and future bishop meetings. The estimated cost savings is \$4,000 per meeting.

(From United Methodist News Service dispatches)



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John 1:5 (RSV)*

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