



As the people of the GNJAC and other places, many of whom are now homeless, continue to recover from the devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy, let us remember another family that had no place to rest. They were offered the use of the innkeeper's stable, an act of hospitality that gave what was possible. In this Christmas Season, let us worship the Christ child by offering what we can to those thousands around us who are in need.

The staff of the United Methodist Relay
wish you good tidings of great joy in this Christmas Season.

Glenn, Robin, Jessica, Hector, and Heather

Bishop John R. Schol Installed as Resident Bishop of the GNJAC

The clergy and laity of the Greater New Jersey Conference as well as guests from around the denomination, filed into the Princeton University Chapel here to share in the installation service of newly appointed bishop, John R. Schol. Participating in the service were some very familiar faces: retired Bishop Alfred Johnson, retired Bishop Felton May, and Retired Bishop Ernest Lyght. Also participating were Bishop Roy Riley of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop Mark Beckwith of the Diocese of Newark of the Episcopal Church.

In his initial message to the gathered conference, Bishop Schol reminded the Church to watch for vital signs- signs that churches are alive, active, and following the leading of Christ. He remarked that vitality is not skin deep; that vitality goes to the core of who we are as the followers of Jesus. He said that too many churches fear death rather than embrace vitality; that is, they hang on, just surviving rather than doing what needs to be done to bring revitalization. The bishop challenged the conference by asking, "what if we baptize the world with hope?" That is a message that would assure others that God has a purpose for their lives. He encouraged the clergy and laity alike to engage with people of all kinds. "The Church's vitality will be known," he said, by the recklessness of our love."

During the celebration, the new bishop was presented with gifts representing the various tasks of the episcopal office. A choir comprised of people from across the annual conference and under the direction of Mark Miller, added to the lively atmosphere of the gathering.

Following the service, a reception was held at the Princeton Church, just across the street from the university campus.



Bishop John Schol uses a yard stick to demonstrate the difficulty in trying to balance ministry and personal life needs in equal parts at all times.

Districts Learn about Balancing Ministry and Personal Needs

Clergy and laity had the opportunity to visit with Bishop John Schol during the annual Bishop Days on the Districts this Fall. Bishop Schol gave people the opportunity to ask questions and get to know Greater New Jersey's new episcopal leader through open dialogue. During the clergy morning gatherings, Bishop Schol emphasized the importance of taking Sabbath time. Using a yard stick, he demonstrated how, when a person is constantly trying to balance life by holding onto the center, something is always off-kilter. There are times when ministry needs more attention than what's happening in one's family or with friends. However, there are also those times when family, friends, and personal needs require more attention. The bishop explained that is very important to go where we are needed or everything being juggled will suffer and there is a stronger likelihood that a person will burn out or be overwhelmed.

All of the District Days were well-attended and the host churches provided radical hospitality through the pastors and volunteers who made each day a success. Thank you!

A Message from the Bishop

I have come so that you will have life and have it abundantly.

– Jesus (John 10:10)

I know the plans I have for you...plans for a future with hope.

– Jeremiah (Jeremiah 29:11)



Dear Advent Disciples,

These two passages are our paradox as Greater New Jersey disciples of Jesus Christ. As we recover from Superstorm Sandy and ADVENTure toward Christmas, we have hope and we wonder about the future. After we experienced Superstorm Sandy, six inches of snow and an earthquake all in a matter of three weeks, someone asked me if I thought we were living in the end times. "Yes," I replied. "Next week we will have frogs and locusts."

Of course I believe these are the end times. Time has ended in which we can no longer believe that we can master our

environment. A few beach communities have ended as we knew them. Some of our ministries have ended as we knew them. And the church has ended as we knew it.

There is a lot that is changing in our world. This is not the first time we have had seismic changes. Wars, technology, weather, cultural and economic shifts have and will continue to end things as we know them. The church we once knew has changed. The church is experiencing first century times more than almost any time in the history of the church. Cultural changes and the church's difficulty with change have led to a greater population of non and nominally religious people. More and more, people have to make time to attend worship and activities of the church. This was the case in the first century also. Did you know that it was not until the fourth century when Constantine declared Sundays as a holy day that all people had off on Sunday? Before that, Christians had to make their own time to worship. Also, as in the first century, most people do not see church as important to their lives.

Yes, the world and the church have ended as we knew them. After Superstorm Sandy and after years of cultural change, our world and the church will be different. Different doesn't mean bad, just different. Jeremiah wrote to a group of believers whose world changed and encouraged them to experience God in their new circumstances. He told them that God had a future of hope for them if they would root themselves in the new environment and experiences. Jesus said that he came to give us life and not just any old life, but abundant living.

As we celebrate Advent and move toward Christmas, my prayer for you and our conference is that we not try to hold on to what has passed but learn and build on it and move with God's hope into the future. As a conference we will be focusing on three things as we move into the future:

1. **Building a future with hope following Superstorm Sandy.** New Spirit winds are already blowing through the faithful disciples of GNJ. We have a holistic strategy for the next three to five years following Superstorm Sandy that engages us in four R's:

a. Relief – emergency food, clothing and day and night shelter for thousands of people

b. Repair – fixing parsonages, church buildings and community homes, particularly focusing on the low income, elderly and disabled

c. Rebuild – assisting communities through the Communities of Shalom strategy and developing our congregations impacted by Superstorm Sandy

d. Renewal – providing case management, counseling and spiritual renewal to thousands of people impacted by Superstorm Sandy

I call upon all of our congregations to promote and receive a special appeal offering for our GNJ Sandy Relief Fund to enable the ministries I have just mentioned. While some of you have already taken an offering, I encourage everyone to promote a special appeal on the fourth Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve when many churches have visitors who need the opportunity to share extravagant generosity. We will have information to support the appeal in December at www.gnjumc.org.

2. **Grow Vital Congregations.** Today we want more highly vital congregations because they change lives and demonstrate kingdom life. Vital congregations make and mature disciples, grow over time, and engage disciples in community and world ministry that is transforming lives and addressing social issues. Vital congregations are practicing the Wesleyan means of grace and are becoming the grace of Jesus Christ in the world. The conference will work with all congregations that want to grow their vitality.

3. **Developing Spiritual Leaders.** Clergy and lay leadership are key to our future. They deepen the spirituality of disciples and lead congregations to make disciples and transform the world.

As you can see, we have important and challenging Gospel work for the next several years. While the ministry builds on our past, it also recognizes that many things have ended and God is ready to begin something new for us. I invite each of you to pray for those impacted by Superstorm Sandy, to give as generously as you are able and to develop your faith and leadership as we grow vital congregations.

Be ADVENTurous!
John Schol, Bishop

Sandy Relief Information

Donate to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund

The best way to help right now is by donating to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund. The GNJAC has established the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund to help with the relief, recovery, rebuilding, and renewal of those affected by Superstorm Sandy, with a focus on the elderly and low-income residents as well as parsonages and church buildings.

Donate online at www.gnjumc.org

Mail a check to:

GNJ Sandy Relief Fund
1001 Wickapecko Drive
Ocean, NJ 07712

Donate Stocks:

You can also consider donating a stock to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund. In addition to being a charitable income tax donation, you will also save on your taxes by avoiding paying the capital gains tax on the stock. It's a great way to secure a better future for those affected by Superstorm Sandy. Contact John Cardillo at (732) 359-1030 to donate a stock.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Are you coming off your Church's complementary subscription list?
Is there a United Methodist on your Christmas list that has you stumped?
Is your paid subscription coming up to renewal?

The United Methodist RELAY

at \$9.50 per year continues to be one of the best bargains around.

Send in your subscription order now.

UNITED METHODIST RELAY, 1001 Wickapedia Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

John R. Schol, Resident Bishop
The Greater New Jersey Conference ~ 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

New Subscriptions, renewals, address changes, and corrections should be addressed to the subscription manager, Beverly Karlovich, BKarlovich@gnjumc.org or by mail to Beverly Karlovich, Subscription manager, United Methodist Relay, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT

Glenn C. Ferguson
55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone (732) 350-6878 e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

ALL NEWS ARTICLES, photos, letters and viewpoints should be sent to the Editorial Staff member serving your district or agency, at the listed address.

Views and opinions expressed are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Methodist Church, the Greater New Jersey Conference or any official or organization thereof.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Glenn C. Ferguson
Editor
55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: (732) 350-6878
e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Capital & Cape Atlantic Districts
Hector Burgos-Nunez
205 Northfield Ave., Northfield, NJ 08225-1949
Phone: (609) 484-1141
e-mail: HectorABurgos@aol.com

Delaware Bay & Gateway South Districts
Position Vacant

Gateway North and Raritan Valley Districts
Glenn Ferguson
55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: (732) 350-6878
e-mail: gcf1953@gmail.com

Northern Shore District
Robin E. Van Cleef
1 Mayflower Court, Whiting, NJ 08759
(732) 350-6444
e-mail: revrev@verizon.net

Skylands & Palisades Districts
Jessica Stenstrom
PO Box 115, Denville, NJ 07834-0115
Phone: (973) 627-1041
e-mail: jstenstrom@drew.edu

Web Address: www.UMRelay.org - Send all NEWS and PHOTOS to the staff member serving YOUR district or agency.

The UNITED METHODIST RELAY is published monthly except January and August by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Office of Publication: Office of the Bishop, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733. Periodical Postage Paid at Ocean, NJ and additional entry offices. Mailed free to selected Charge Conference members and clergy of each church. Others may subscribe at the rate of \$9.50 per year. Back issues may be obtained as available at \$1.50 for first copy and 50 cents for each additional copy sent in the same wrapper. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to UNITED METHODIST RELAY, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733.

Locked Up, Locked Out, Locked Away

The New Jersey Council of Churches annual Issues and Action Day, Saturday, January 26, 2013, will address the issue of incarceration here in America. The issues are many in our country, which has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, over two million persons, some 25,000 inmates in New Jersey. Communities of color are disproportionately incarcerated due to unequal sentencing laws, racial profiling, and institutionalized racism. "This year's conference", said Joan Diefenbach, Esq., Executive Director of the council, "will address the many faceted issues in our criminal justice system. We know that the criminal justice system is overall retributive and not restorative." Conference presenters include four distinguished leaders who have been addressing these critical issues.

Professor Mark Taylor from Princeton Theological Seminary and author of the "Executed God" argues passionately against a penal system he regards as monstrously punitive, inherently unjust, and deeply racist. He has been a leader in supporting church communities in their efforts to organize on peace and justice issues.

Professor George Hunsinger of Princeton Theological Seminary is the founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture that was founded in 2006, now has over three hundred religious organizations, including our United Board of Church and Society. Hunsinger, who proclaims Torture a moral issue, reports that "never before in American history has cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment as proscribed by international and domestic law, been so openly justified."

Ocean Grove Faces the Wrath of Superstorm Sandy

Ocean Grove, New Jersey – Gracie, Lucille Silk's dog, loves playing in the sand. There's a lot more of it since Hurricane Sandy swept through this Victorian jewel, a sacred shrine for New Jersey Methodists. Along Ocean Avenue, workers with heavy equipment hurried to remove the sand from the streets and create dunes in advance of the nor'easter that followed on Sandy's heels. "On Sunday," Silk said, "the whole neighborhood came out. We were clearing sand with shovels. This place had two feet of sand on it."

Though the boardwalk and fishing pier were destroyed and the surge was several feet deep even two blocks from the ocean, properties in the town, including the iconic tents, appeared to be relatively intact. There was evidence of the flooding along streets near the beach, including electronics, personal items and other debris at the curb, as well as electrical and heating contractors making repairs to individual homes. Lucille, who has lived in Ocean Grove for about six years, was grateful it wasn't worse. "They call this God's square mile. That's what protected us."

At the other end of Ocean Pathway, at the Great Auditorium, Sandy's power was more evident. Though the landmark 1894 structure survived, the wind tore off about 20% of its roof area. A small army of carpenters and roofers worked to get the hole sealed before the rain began again, threatening the massive organ and other fixtures in the building.

Annual Rummage Sale Takes On New Meaning at West Grove Memorial

At West Grove Memorial UMC in Neptune Township, the Rev. Alec (Cheong) Park was outside talking with a tree service. About half a dozen trees fell during Sandy, including one that came to rest on the building itself and several that fell over a picnic area at the rear of the property. Inside the church, which had lights but no heat, members of the UMW were working hard to sort, organize, and price donations for the annual rummage sale. The annual event took on a new importance after the storm. While proceeds have always supported United Methodist missions – including UMCOR – this year all the receipts are going towards Sandy relief. In the days leading up to the sale, the event's organizers, Connie Perry, Sheila Jackson, Karen Goodwin, and Marilyn 'Sis' Major, also welcomed anyone in need to come and take whatever they could use.

**The February Issue Deadline
is January 5, 2013**

Hunsinger is the editor of the book "Torture Is a Moral Issue".

Ms. Bonnie Kerness, Esq. is a lifetime activist committed to prisoner rights, was the founder of the Prison Watch project, and is currently the coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee's Healing and Transformative Justice project. The American Friends Service committee, a Quaker organization, is a leading faith community in New Jersey addressing issues of immigrant rights and criminal justice policies.

The Reverend Samuel K. Atchison, President of the Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry, has been a leader in addressing the issue of re-entry for prisoners in our society as well as local congregational ministries to inmates and their families. Atchison, a retired Chaplain at New Jersey's maximum security prison, maintains that "locking up those who disturb our peace means nothing if we make no provisions for them upon their return and the reality is that they are returning by the hundreds of thousands each year."

The design of the conference will engage the audience in dialogue with these distinguished leaders who will address the forum. It too will provide a unique opportunity for participants to discern how their congregation may be engaged in prison ministries. The conference will be held at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Trenton from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

For more information and registration, contact the New Jersey Council of Churches at 609-396-9546 or email office@njcouncilofchurches.org

A Future with Hope the Theme of 2013 Convocation

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your shalom and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

"A future with hope" is the theme of the annual Bishop's Convocation to be held January 14-16, 2013 at Double Tree Resort in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for clergy and their spouses of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

While this is a continuing education event, it will at the same time bring clergy colleagues closer together as we seek to strengthen not only the individual but also the local church and the GNJ Conference. There will be stories to be told and friendships to rekindle as we learn and fellowship with one another. This time away will be important to many of the pastors as they seek renewal following the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Our guest speakers will be Priscilla Pope-Levison and her husband Jack

Levison. Both are highly sought after speakers in the areas of Women's studies and Biblical and Theological studies. There will also be an opportunity for clergy spouses to gather and to be in dialogue with Bishop Schol. Partial scholarships are available to clergy who register by the prescribed deadline. See the brochure for details.

As has been the case in recent years, there will be a Talent Showcase. You are invited to bring a sample of your art or craft with you so that it can be displayed in the Showcase on Tuesday evening.

You can find out more about the convocation schedule and speakers by downloading the convocation brochure available on the conference website; www.gnjumc.org. Registration is available online or by paper mail-in form.

EDITORIAL

A Reader's Response

A Response to UMNS Article

The front page article published in the November edition of the Relay was a source of sadness to me and to many. I do not recall another occasion in which complaints, allegations, or even charges against any United Methodist Bishop made the front page of your publication. Articles like this cloud the good name of Bishop Daniel and his cabinet, and hinder our efforts toward ministry to the East African people. The allegations cited in your article are only under investigation. Fair process, in the United Methodist Book of Discipline Paragraph 2701 and others, require that confidentiality be maintained while complaints are under investigation.

As a missionary to Uganda, and soon to be member of the East Africa Annual Conference, and as a Christian, I feel embarrassed that you present Bishop Daniel's picture in the front page with headlines that seem to support allegations made against him. As a personal friend of Bishop Daniel Wandabula, and his family, I have been blessed to witness, his honesty, holiness, and dedication to the Church. I want the Greater NJ Conference to know of the hardships an African Bishop faces each day. In spite of slander, blackmail, and death threats to his family, Bishop Daniel's faith and love for God's people is evident to all who know him.

While visiting EAAC last February, Bishop Daniel and the Cabinet shared with my husband and me their concern for the irregular way the GBGB audit of the EAAC took place. They reported that GBGB insisted on conducting the audits at a time when the EAAC treasurer would be away.

Your article fails to mention that Bishop has been the victim of blackmail and internet fraud, and that the Nation of Uganda presented charges against a GBGM missionary intern and against a former EAAC District Superintendent for these alleged crimes. The GBGM is paying the lawyer that defends these alleged criminals. My husband accompanied Bishop Daniel to the hearing while Betty Wandabula and I prayed at home. This case is still pending.

It may interest your readers to know that one of the alleged blackmailers, and his family are still living in the parsonage of his former church because of Bishop Daniel's compassion.

Those interested in what the United Methodist Church is doing around the world can go to umc.org to find articles from the United Methodist New Service. For the wonderful works being done in East Africa one can visit EAAC-umc.org. If any articles are to be selected for publication in the *Relay*, how much better it would be to offer good and uplifting news, rather than ones that damage the reputation of others, especially bishops. In times of need, war and hurricanes, let us support the positive, wonderful works of so many, lest the Relay become a tabloid.

Grace and Peace,
Georgina Pando-Connolly
East Brunswick, NJ

WESTWOOD UMC SEEKS YOUTH MINISTER

The Westwood UMC is seeking a Youth Minister for weekly meetings at the church on Sunday. A monthly special activity or event should be held each month.

The target age group is Confirmation age through grade 12. The starting time would be immediate.

Please contact Pastor Glenn Scheyhing:
gscheyhing@gmail.com or 201-664-0755



United Methodist ads provide hope for Sandy survivors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — In the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, United Methodist Communications is spreading a message of hope from The United Methodist Church to those living in affected areas with national and regional advertising. Additionally, the ad provides information about how others can donate to be a part of the rebuilding efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. A full-page color ad appeared Nov. 8 in USA Today nationwide and will appear Nov. 9 in the New York Times and New Jersey publications. To view the ad, get special relief-related bulletin inserts and find a shareable Facebook image, and for complete Sandy coverage, go to www.umc.org/Sandy

World Methodist Council responds to Sandy

NEW YORK (UMNS) — In the Nov. 2 “First Friday” newsletter of the World Methodist Council, the Rev. Ivan Abrahams, the council’s top executive, expressed his prayers and support for those in the United States affected by Hurricane Sandy

Interview with disaster response coordinator

DES MOINES, Iowa (UMNS) — The Rev. Arthur McClanahan, director of communications for the Iowa Annual Conference, has recorded an interview with Joseph Ewoodzie, the coordinator of disaster response in the New York Conference. Ewoodzie describes the support that is needed, talks about when volunteers from outside the area will be invited to come and help, and encourages support through UMCOR.

Cokesbury brick-and-mortar stores to close

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The board of United Methodist Publishing House has decided to close all 57 local Cokesbury stores — including its 19 seminary stores — by April 30, 2013, and redirect its focus and resources to enhancing Cokesbury.com and the Cokesbury Call Center. The closures will affect about 285 full-time and part-time employees, and the news already has dismayed a number of United Methodist customers.

Dreaming of a malaria-free Christmas

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UMNS) — What would you do to see your bishop in bright red flannel pajamas at annual conference? Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton is challenging Illinois Great Rivers Annual (regional) Conference congregations to raise the remaining \$141,000 needed to meet the \$2.3 million goal for Imagine No Malaria by Dec. 31. If they succeed, Keaton will wear red pajamas for a session of the 2013 annual conference.

Bishop Stokes, scholar and reconciler, dies

PERDIDO KEY, Fla. (UMNS) — Bishop Mack B. Stokes, who taught thousands of preachers and desegregated Mississippi United Methodists, died Nov. 21 in Perdido Key. He was 100, just a month shy of his 101st birthday. Before his election to the episcopacy, he taught for 31 years at *Emory’s Candler School of Theology* in Atlanta, holding its first named chair. From 1972 to 1980, he was bishop of the Jackson (Miss.) Episcopal Area, where he took on the task of merging African-American and white annual conferences into two integrated conferences.

United Methodists reach out in Congo crisis

NEW YORK (UMNS) — As rebel fighters have overtaken Goma and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Committee on Relief have expressed support and prayers to Bishop Gabriel Unda Yemba, who leads the denomination’s East Congo episcopal area.

Ministry helps change perceptions of AIDS

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (UMNS) — The Rev. Deborah Tanksley-Brown and H.U.B. (Helping Us Be) of Hope, a ministry of the United Methodist Eastern Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference, work with local churches dealing with AIDS, Interpreter Online reports. They help people who don’t have AIDS understand the facts of how the disease can be contracted and provide support to those who do and face stigmas that can isolate them from family, friends and faith communities

Don’t push poor off ‘fiscal cliff,’ religious leaders say

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — Religious officials from 16 states joined the heads of some of the nation’s most prominent Christian, Jewish and Muslim organizations, including Church World Service, Nov. 29 to tell the Obama Administration and Congress, “Don’t push the poor and most vulnerable off the ‘fiscal cliff.’”

Bishop condemns for-profit detention of immigrants

LOS ANGELES (UMNS) — Los Angeles Area Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño has issued a statement condemning the for-profit detention of immigrants in the United States as a “moral outrage.” The detention of immigrants is indiscriminate, she wrote. “There are immigrants who are being held in detention centers today who have their visas to be in this country, others who are asylum seekers or even U.S. legal residents,” she wrote. Both the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the United Methodist Church Foundation have decided to screen out investments in private prison companies.

NJ Church Sign Points Way To Storm Relief



Members stands before Drakestown (NJ) United Methodist Church for its 200th anniversary. The church and its new electric sign provided a beacon for storm-tossed New Jersey residents. Photo courtesy of Drakestown United Methodist Church.

A UMNS Report by Linda Bloom

The week before Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, a large electronic sign was erected on the property of Drakestown United Methodist Church near Hackettstown.

“We called it our ‘Ebenezer,’ telling the community we’re here for them,” explained the Rev. Bob Mayer, Drakestown’s pastor, referring to the biblical reminder in 1 Samuel 7:12 of God’s presence and divine assistance.

In this instance, Mayer pointed out, “God’s timing was perfect.”

Morris County, where the church is located, had suffered from devastating flooding last year from the rains brought by Tropical Storm Irene. This year, Sandy’s winds created hazardous conditions as trees, wires and utility poles fell, resulting in widespread power outages.

Like many other churches in the denomination’s Greater New Jersey Annual (regional) Conference that were lucky enough to sustain power after the storm, Drakestown opened its doors to the community. For nearly two weeks, 24 hours a day, anyone could stop by for food, coffee, internet access, shelter and prayer.

It was a big task for a congregation with 51 members listed in the roll book. But, as Mayer noted, “we’re trying to turn the tide here” and Hurricane Sandy provided a way to reach out.

The new computerized sign “got the word out to the community,” Mayer said. “They saw the sign, and they knew they could come here.”

Drakestown did lose power briefly, on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

“Then we were blessed to get it back Wednesday night,” he added. “We opened up our friendship hall, and we opened up our church.”

The hall, which has a large kitchen, can seat 100 people for a dinner. Mayer estimated there may have been up to 20 present at any one time. “A lot of folks were spending the entire day here working on the Internet,” he said. “We had a few individuals who actually stayed overnight. But there was a constant flow of people coming in to get warm or have a meal.”

An “amazing” community response to Drakestown’s ministry brought donations of money, food and volunteer time. Volunteers included church members who were without power themselves.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the last of the power was restored. The next day, a local Girl Scouts leader came to the church with four boxes of food. “Our food pantry has been restocked,” the pastor reported.

Local churches already are thinking ahead. On Nov. 13, Mayer attended a meeting of the Mount Olive Clergy Association to discuss how to be better prepared for the next big storm.

He is all too aware of the more lasting damage from Sandy elsewhere in the region. Mayer’s daughter is a member of Community United Methodist Church in Massapequa, NY, a community heavily damaged by the hurricane, and his cousin lost her home in Bellmar, along the Jersey Shore.

Donations to help the United Methodist Committee on Relief respond to Sandy can be made to Hurricanes 2012, *UMCOR Advance #3021787*, Individuals also can help provide much-needed **cleaning buckets**.

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/umcscribe>.

News media contact: Linda Bloom, New York, (646) 369-3759 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

Log on to:

www.UMRelay.org for Current Relay Online,
Relay Archives & Relay Reflections.

Volunteers: The Lifeblood Of Storm Response

by United Methodist Committee on Relief



The St. Paul United Methodist Church has been serving meals to hundreds of people every day since Hurricane Sandy hit. Photo by Chris Heckert

By Susan Kim*

November 7, 2012—After Hurricane Sandy ripped through the New Jersey coast, the Manasquan United Methodist Church was left without power, but the Rev. Reggie Albert was determined that her church wouldn't be powerless.

She started with the simple act of opening the doors. "I wasn't sure what I would do, but I knew I wanted to open the church."

The next day, she set up a generator, and four people gathered at the church before dawn to make a "simple breakfast" for a dozen or so people.

It grew into a feast for the masses. "We fed 300 people that morning," she said, "and food just kept coming in."

Was it a miracle? It's the miracle of volunteers who are in the right place at the right time. That's sometimes hard to come by, particularly in the emergency phase of a disaster, when it's too early for trained Early Response Teams to deploy, too early to organize and house out-of-state volunteers, and too early for hurricane survivors to even know exactly what they need.

During this chaotic phase, faith-based response depends on churches that open their doors because the volunteers behind those doors are reaching out, said Tom Hazelwood, UMCOR's assistant general secretary for US Disaster Response.

"There is never any reason for neighbors not to help neighbors," he said.

At the same time, it's often complicated in the emergency phase to even attempt to match up rapidly-changing needs of disaster survivors with volunteers who are aching to help and become frustrated when they can't, he added.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of the United Methodist response," he said. "It is key for long-term recovery that you are set up to be able to receive volunteers."

The Greater New Jersey Conference is doing just that, said Bishop John Schol, who consulted with Hazelwood as he mapped out a response plan.

The conference is in the process of setting up a website on which volunteers can register and sign up to travel to New Jersey, said Schol, who got power back in his own home only a day ago.

Sending the right message to volunteers is never easy. Sometimes, especially in the first few weeks after a disaster strikes, a spontaneous local response reaches disaster survivors at just the right time.

"This is the way it's going to be for a while," he said. "We're in a crisis. There are no easy answers and no quick fixes."

But the hurricane survivors will get there, he said. Meanwhile, out of the chaos, the miracles emerge.

At St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Bay Head, volunteers are serving meals for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Rev. Scott Bostwick had no idea his church would be asked by local emergency management officials to become the meal provider for the town.

As he watches trays of food being carried off of vans into the church, Bostwick said he has relied on volunteers to help his church become the town's relief center.

"Half my congregation can't even get into town," he said. "But these volunteers are helping the whole town of Bay Head. I have no idea who they are, but they're helping."

Your gift to UMCOR US Disaster Response, Hurricanes 2012, Advance #3021787, will help UMCOR to be with storm survivors over the long term of their recovery.

*Susan Kim is a journalist and a regular contributor for www.umcor.org.

Stewardship Stories



By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC

Don't be two-thirds Methodist!

Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can are the three basic points of John Wesley's famous sermon entitled, "The Use of Money." The most important aspect of Wesley's three part equation is the last point: *give all you can*.

Wesley made note in 1789 that the Methodists of his day were ignoring the third part of his sermon. In fact, Wesley argued that the primary reason for the ineffectiveness of the Methodist movement was due to their failure to give all they could. Wesley came to the profound conclusion that "If Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough." Wesley's admonition for Methodists to give all they could was no pious rhetoric designed to increase contributions to the church budget. It was a plea for generosity and a plea for compassion for the poor and needy.

John Wesley wasn't against people having money, nor did he think that money was evil. What mattered more was what people, specifically Methodists, did with their money that mattered most. For Wesley, "money is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked."

For Wesley, and hopefully for us as well, being a two-thirds Methodist is not being a Methodist at all. Only by earning all we can (but not at the expense of others), and saving all we can (but not to the point of hoarding), and giving all we can will we be truly Methodist and faithful stewards of God's grace.

Multi Ethnic Grants

The Multi Ethnic Coordinating Committee of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference offers a limited number of grants each year for churches which are broadening their ministry to explore, celebrate, or strengthen ministry across ethnic and cultural boundaries.

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA APPLY:

- Only United Methodist local congregations can apply for this grant. Groups of churches, caucuses or other organizations will not qualify.
- Grants are intended to help start **new ministries** at local churches and not to sustain established programs.
- Grants are provided for one year at a time and not awarded for more than three (3) years to the same project.
- Preference is always given to new ministries at local churches that have not received funds previously.
- Only one project per church should be submitted.
- Project goals need to be according to the Four Focus Areas: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Congregational Development; (3) Ministry with the Poor; and (4) Global Health.
- Grants cannot be used to fund staff positions, equipment or capital improvement.
- Churches and ministries receiving grants **must** submit a copy of the Safe Sanctuaries Certification.
- Preference is given to local churches which have paid their fair share in the previous year.
- Multi Ethnic programs must be endorsed by the Local Church Council.
- District Superintendent of the local church requesting funds needs to recommend the project.
- Follow the instructions on the application.

Applications for these grants should be requested from Rev. Sung H. Ahn, Director of Connectional Ministries, (732-359-1041 or 1-877-677-2594 x1040) or may be downloaded from the Conference Web Site:

www.gnjumc.org

Completed applications must be returned to the Conference Office no later than 4:00pm on March 2, 2013.

RELAY MISSION STATEMENT

The **mission** of the **United Methodist Relay** is to provide print communication to the leadership and membership, clergy and lay, of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. It shall be a **vehicle** to tell the church's story and a **forum** for the exchange of ideas regarding Christian Faith and Practice.

In fulfillment of this mission, its **purpose** is:

- to inform the readership of events and resources at local, district conference, area and denominational levels
- to promote the mission of the annual conference, the area, and the general church
- to invite discussion of and response to important and controversial key issues facing the church
- to encourage readers to grow in their commitment to diversity and inclusiveness in church and society
- to inspire readers to grow in their faith and commitment to Christ and the Church

In pursuit of this mission and purpose, we will endeavor to be: Accurate * Informative * Interesting * Stimulating * Motivating * And sometimes, Provocative.

Your AD could be right here!

Our family of faithful advertisers is living testimony to the value of telling your story in the United Methodist **Relay**.

*Come join the family.
Call (732) 350-6878 for information.*

Baptists and Methodists Work as One in Storm Aftermath

Last week a call came in to the pastor at Bound Brook from the Christ UMC in Piscataway.

"Are you up and running?" the administrative associate asked.

"Well I walk MILO my dog.....alright so I have gained a few pounds. Gee whiz this conference is really checking on the health of their clergy these days, aren't they?" He replied.

"No, no no...." she said, "I mean do you have electricity and heat?"

"Yes the church has power but the parsonage does not"! He told her.

"We are hosting 62 Baptists from North Carolina. Can you host 35 Baptists from Missouri?"

And that began a relationship between two United Methodist Churches and the North Carolina/Missouri Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission.

The Red Cross served 28,000 meals a day to people during the storm aftermath at the Rutgers' campus. They provided showers for the men and women on a mission helping people throughout the battered region. The Bound Brook and the Piscataway Christ churches provided housing for the workers.

When the storm hit so hard hardly anyone could have prepared for its onslaught. Trees fell like toothpicks and power was lost for days and weeks. Hurricane Sandy is reportedly the most severe storm in this region since they started recording storms.

The Bound Brook Church braced itself for massive floods which did not come. But the ravaged community was devastated. At the Bound Brook parsonage huge trees nearly missed the house but fell to the ground with such ferocious power anything they landed



The North Carolina Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission came with their chain saw work crew and cleared the trees behind the parsonage of the Bound Brook church. The Pastor, Rev. Jack Copas, expressed profound appreciation to them and they asked to pray together when they finished their work. As they were leaving to go to another site, they presented the pastor with a Bible signed by all of them.

on was destroyed. Everyone held their breath and started the massive clean-up. Utility lines were everywhere. The people were in darkness. The temperature was dropping. It was time to dig out.

Taxed already to the max, the Bound Brook church was facing a clean-up bill of almost \$3,000.00. How in the world could they chop up and clear those downed trees - not to mention the other debris? One family member came out

of her home to discover a huge tree had flattened her car like a pancake. The cost of the damage was estimated to be around \$25,000.00. The next Sunday at church she thanked God that nothing worse happened and she and her husband are just fine.

According to Romans 8:28, loosely translated, it is all good. This scripture verse is becoming the motto of the United Methodist Church of Bound Brook.

Prayers were answered. United Methodists met these wonderful Baptists and God made possible a mutual ministry relationship between the two United Methodist congregations and the Baptists on Mission. Using the churches as their home base, teams went out to chop and clear trees, mop up wet basements, and tend to whatever needs people might have free of charge.



Pictures always tell the story best. Driving by one downed-tree a homeowner put out a sign which read, "No pictures please. My roots are showing".....!!!! SMILE.

Editor's Note: While there are many examples of wonderful responses to the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, both by churches and individuals, there is simply not enough room in the Relay to report on them all. The stories that are included in this edition are meant to be representative of what has happened and is happening throughout the GNJAC.

12
APRIL 20, 2012

Save the Date!

What if the church was a house of prayer for all people?
(Isaiah 56:7)

Local Church Leadership Training for including persons with disAbilities into the life of your congregation



Workshops designed as multi-disciplinary approach for
Christian Education,
Building/Assistive Technology,
Family Support Ministries,
Outreach Ministries

**Asbury UMC
Cinnaminson, NJ**

More information will be forthcoming!

Multi-Cultural Celebration 2012



The Multi- Cultural Celebration included special Native American guests as a part of this year's program. Bishop John Schol, shown here with John Norwood and his daughter Trinity, thanked the representatives for sharing their culture.

RELAY Reflections
Thoughts on the Spiritual Life
Relayonline at www.umrelay.org

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

Bishop Schol and Disaster Relief Team hold District Meetings



The Disaster Relief Team was on site immediately, assessing damage and formulating a plan of restoration.

Neptune - In a scene repeated in several districts of the GNJAC, Bishop John Schol, members of the Disaster Relief Team and representatives from UMCOR gathered with the clergy of the Northern Shore District to update them on the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and to outline the plan for restoring peoples' lives. The Rev. Derrick Doherty, former head of the Disaster Relief Team, opened the meeting with some thoughts around the story of Jesus walking on the sea. He said, "God walks on water and calls us to come out of the boat. The Northern Shore district superintendent, Fran Noll offered prayers for those affected.

Bishop Schol remarked that he was "thankful for the faith and resiliency of the people of our churches." Various people shared stories about their experience in the storm. Reflecting on those stories, the bishop asked, "Where have you seen Jesus walking?"

He said that "this is an opportunity for witness." One example comes from St. Paul's Church in Bayhead. The pastor, Scott Bostwick told about the church serving meals for the town. He said that in the community, it was the only church standing.

Bishop Schol next asked, "Where have you seen individuals as well as churches where they have been more like Peter sinking?" There were many stories told of personal items destroyed, of looting, and livelihoods lost. It was noted that there is a good bit of confusion and frustration on the part of those looking to help. Further, it was said that gawkers were restricting the ability of those who were trying to help.

The bishop then outlined the relief and recovery plan that may be found elsewhere in this edition of the Relay, and closed by saying, "There are no easy answers and no quick fixes; and it's going to take time.

Neptune Township Sees Relief After Superstorm Sandy



Mountains of debris line the streets of Neptune, as in many other places along the New Jersey coast.

ready been here twice," she said as she spoke with a general contractor evaluating the damage. "My neighbor across the street just had a kitchen put in, just the molding needed to be done. Then this."

The United Methodist Church is at work in Neptune Township and throughout areas affected by Superstorm Sandy. Your gift to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund will support UMCOR's efforts to help storm-struck communities recover. Your donation can be sent to GNJ Sandy Relief Fund, 1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712 or donate online at www.gnjumc.org.

Neptune Township, New Jersey – Doug and Diane Brophy are no strangers to storms. "The year we moved in we got hit with the nor'easter of '92," she remembered. Their home in Neptune Township, New Jersey, sits just a few blocks from the Shark River. The storm surge from Sandy broke through her garage door and flooded their home. She estimates the water rose six or seven feet. She knows it was three feet deep on her first floor.

Out at the curb sits piles of furnishings, appliances, and mementos from her home and homes of her neighbors up and down the street. The couple's couch is one of the few things remaining in the living room. They wrapped it in plastic before evacuating. "We didn't do that with the bedroom," she explained, pointing down the hall to ruined furniture, still to be dragged to the curb. Still, she considers herself fortunate. She and Doug can rebuild. "FEMA's al-

Children, Pennies and a Mohawk!



Each year the Sicklerville church's VBS mission project is centered around a friendly competition between the boys and girls. They are encouraged to bring in ONLY pennies with a united goal of \$1200.00. The funds raised this year (2012 VBS) were given to support the United Methodist Aviation Ministry *Wings of the Morning*. Each team was given the opportunity to build a 5 foot model airplane that consisted of 12 parts. For every \$50.00 raised they were given one part of the airplane. The interaction of actually building an airplane, plus the competitive nature in us all, created much excitement throughout the week of VBS.

As an extra incentive to the challenge, the children's worship leader, Mr. Chad, volunteered to shave his long curly locks if the children raised an additional \$200.00. If they collected \$400.00 above the \$1200.00 goal, he would get a mohawk. The children brought in \$1654.64 in pennies!!! An anonymous donation increased the total to \$2654.64, so the evening VBS closing program included Mr. Chad getting a mohawk! He stuck to his promise and was a great sport which is why the kids love him. It is always a great reminder how mightily God uses small children AND pennies.



The Bayhead Church served hundreds of meals each day in the aftermath of Sandy.



Merry Christmas from the United Methodist Homes!

And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy, that will be for all people. LUKE 2:10

Each year associates and residents at Collingswood Manor plan and create themed Christmas trees. Inspired by the word joy, which appears 244 times in the Bible, this "Joy Tree" seeks to spread that emotion through a multitude of J-O-Y ornaments and the Christmas spirit. Share what brings you joy by emailing us at blog@umh-nj.org.



3311 State Route 33
Neptune, NJ 07753

To learn more about the Homes, contact us at 732-922-9800 or visit us online at www.umh-nj.org.

Bristol Glen
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
200 Bristol Glen Drive
Newton, NJ 07860
973-300-5788

Collingswood Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
460 Haddon Ave.
Collingswood, NJ 08108
856-854-4331

Francis Asbury Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
70 Stockton Ave.
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756
732-774-1316

Pitman Manor
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
535 North Oak Ave.
Pitman, NJ 08071
856-589-7800

The Shores
UNITED METHODIST HOMES
2201 Bay Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-399-8505

Gospel Brunch Raises Hunger Awareness in Paterson



The Chatham Church hosted a Gospel Brunch to benefit CUMAC, a feeding program and United Methodist mission in Paterson on Sunday, October 28th. The event featured a performance by the Paterson Gospel Choir and a delicious "deep south" meal, compliments of world renowned chef, John Hadamuscin. There were 150 people in attendance from Chatham UMC and Christ UMC in Paterson, many of whom described the choir performance as inspiring and uplifting. Organizer Steve Davis said CUMAC's executive director, Rev. Pat Bruger, gave an "exceptional" educational presentation concerning the poverty within the city of Paterson and the ways in which CUMAC strives to meet needs.

At the conclusion of the event a free will offering was taken. Small and large

contributions totaled over \$3,000. CUMAC feeds over 32,000 people each year, runs an afterschool program for at-risk middle schoolers, provides disaster relief and operates a workforce reentry program. The money collected will help keep in place the safety net that is composed by these vital programs.

Bruger thanked those who helped make this event possible and encourages other groups to collaborate in organizing creative initiatives like this to benefit charitable missions. "This event brought together people from two different cultures who learned a lot from one another," she said. "They came together to benefit a mission both care deeply about. This is something that can easily be duplicated by other groups."

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - \$9.95 plus tax "SEE HOW JESUS HANDLED REJECTION!"

With Group Study Discussion Questions

By Gerald H. Ihle

"Here is a kind of realism that remains optimistic in a world of people that does not always welcome the Gospel." – Retired Bishop Neil L. Irons, Ph.D.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The Rejected Cornerstone | 6. Leaders of Religion & Government |
| 2. His Own People | 7. Satan "The Devil" |
| 3. The Samaritans | 8. Judas Iscariot |
| 4. The Rich Man | 9. The Unrepentant Thief |
| 5. Hypocrites – Blind Guides | 10. The Military; Study Guide |

Published 2004 by WinePress Publishing (Out of Print at Publisher) – You can still order from author Rev. Gerald H. Ihle, 114 Elliott Road, N. Cape May, NJ 08204 – gihle@snip.net - (609) 886-6302. This book was also published in Indonesia.

Gerald Ihle is author of *See How Jesus used Power; Who Does God pray to?;* & *Awesome Wonders* and pastored 8 United Methodist Churches for 43 years in E. PA. Conference. He was also an Interim Sr. Pastor at Central UMC, Linwood, NJ. He is a graduate of Moravian College & The Theological School at Drew University.

(Paid Advertisement)

Don't Miss This Exciting Educational Experience!

The Protestant Heritage Tour April 29-May 8, 2013

We begin our tour in Wesley's England and end in Calvin's Switzerland. Stops along the way include: Bristol & Bath, London, Brussels, Worms & Heidelberg, Lucerne, Geneva and more!

We'll stay in four-star accommodations, travel in a private motor coach, and be accompanied by a professional tour director, + local tour guides.

Your hosts for the trip are the Rev. Drs. Gina and Rich Hendrickson. If you're interested or need more information come to St. Andrews UMC: Cherry Hill on Oct. 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM or contact Gina or Rich at 856-429-1508 or rich.h@comcast.net.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

"Reflecting at years end"

By Douglas Ruffle

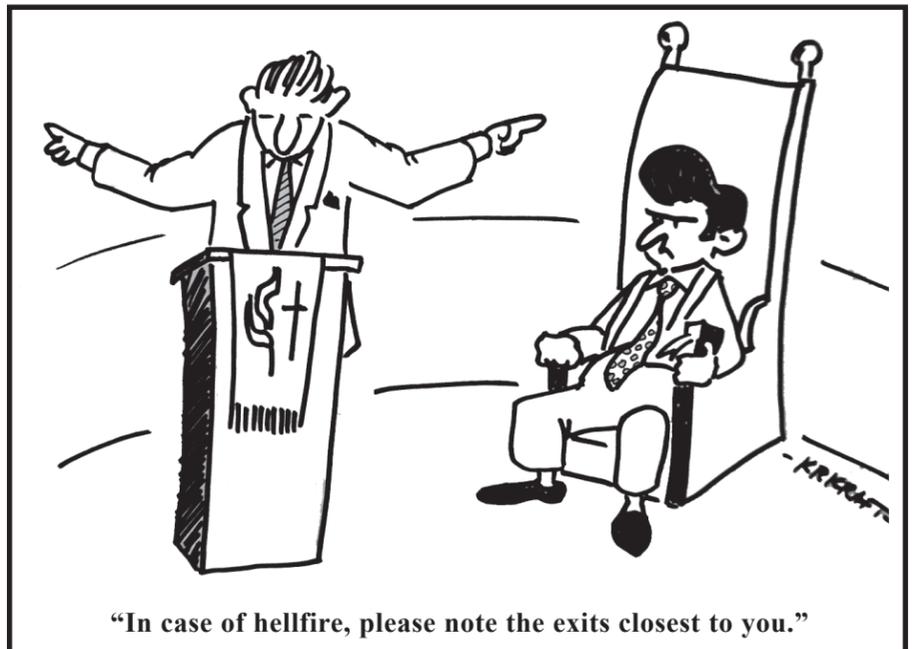
Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ child once again at Christmas, it is also a time to reflect on the year that is ending and any learnings we have gained.

As I reflect at year's end, my mind goes back to the summer . . .

The finest part of the closing ceremony of the 2012 Olympics was when the athletes came into Wembley Stadium in London—not as part of their individual nation teams—but together. Here was world unity, at least for one moment on one world stage at the culmination of 17 days of competition. Shortly thereafter a chorus of youth intoned the song "Imagine," as a video of John Lennon sang the lead. Imagine a world where all were united in one expression of humanity. Imagine a world where borders ceased to exist and we experienced oneness. The song even imagines a world without 'religion.' Can we imagine a world where there no longer exists the division between Sikh and Hindus, Buddhists and Jains, Christians and Jews and Muslims? Can we imagine a oneness of humankind that draws upon the best of us and overcomes our worst tendencies? If you can imagine that kind of world, I believe you are 'not far from the Kingdom,' the Kingdom that Jesus inaugurated with his presence and the one which he invited all of us to receive and to enter. The same Jesus whose birth we celebrate at this time of year.



DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE RELAY

If you are a member of a local church who is relinquishing membership on the Charge Conference and therefore no longer entitled to a complementary subscription to the *Relay*, you may soon miss the monthly visit of your conference newspaper.

Act Now to keep your subscription intact by sending your subscription request with a check for \$9.50 to:

Beverly Karlovich, Subscription Manager
United Methodist Relay
1001 Wickapecko Dr.
Ocean, NJ 07712 - 4733

Or maybe you are a faithful United Methodist who just likes to keep informed. You're invited to join the *Relay* family, too.

— Cut along this line and send to the address above —

Please enter my subscription to the United Methodist Relay. Enclosed is my check for \$9.50.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] New Subscriber

[] Renewal

45 United Methodists In Diverse Congress

A UMNS Report By Albert J. Menendez*

Forty-five United Methodists will serve in the 113th United States Congress, three fewer than in the 112th.

The new Congress, which will convene on Jan. 3, 2013, will be the most religiously diverse in the nation's history. According to an analysis by the Pew Forum on Religion and Politics, the assembly will include the first Hindu in either chamber, the first Buddhist in the Senate and the first member describing her religion as "none."

In the Senate, United Methodists decreased from 11 to nine, while their House numbers dropped from 37 to 36.

Five United Methodists will be among the congressional freshmen, including Democrat Elizabeth Warren, who won the Senate race in Massachusetts. One of the highest-profile new members, Warren told Democratic convention delegates in September that she had taught a Methodist Sunday school class. Warren grew up in

Oklahoma. She is a tenured professor at Harvard University.

New House members include Republicans Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Thomas Massie of Kentucky, as well as Democrats Mark Takano of California and Derek Kilmer of Washington.

Jim Winkler, chief executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, said, "We will continue to reach out to United Methodist members in Congress, as before."

Eight United Methodists — three senators and five House members — serving in the 112th Congress were defeated or did not seek re-election. One of the most prominent was Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar whose 36-year career ended in a bitter Republican primary loss to Richard Mourdock, who then lost in November to Democrat Joe Donnelly.

Republican United Methodists in Congress outnumber Democrats 32 to 13.

Texas has the largest United Methodist contingent, with nine members, all of whom were re-elected, followed by four each from Florida and Kansas and three from Ohio. Twenty-three states have at least one United Methodist in Congress. Kansas has the highest United Methodist percentage in its delegation, 67 percent.

The South and its border states are home to 26 United Methodists, while 12 represent states in the Midwest and six in the Far West. There is one United Methodist member from New England.

Fifty-six percent or 299 members of the new Congress identify themselves with Protestant denominations or non-denominational churches, down slightly from the 57 percent of those in the 112th. By denominational families, 30 percent are Roman Catholic, 14 percent are Baptist and 9 percent are Methodist. There are 15 Mormons, three Buddhists and two Muslims, the

same as the 112th Congress, and 32 Jews, a reduction of seven.

The Governors

Five United Methodists are among the nation's governors.

Democrat Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia won a special election in 2011 and was re-elected this year and Republican Phil Bryant of Mississippi was elected in November 2011.

Democrat Jay Nixon of Missouri was re-elected in 2012.

Two other United Methodist governors are Republicans Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Rick Scott of Florida. Haley and Scott were first elected in 2010.

**Menendez is research director for Americans for Religious Liberty and has been writing about religion and politics since 1972.*

News media contact: Tim Tanton, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

United Methodists in the 113th Congress*

House (36)

Tom Cotton (R) Arkansas
Doris Matsui (D) California
Mark Takano (D) California
Mike Coffman (R) Colorado
Jeff Miller (R) Florida
Richard Nugent (R) Florida
Bill Posey (R) Florida
Bill Young (R) Florida
Rob Woodall (R) Virginia
David Loebsack (D) Iowa
Lynn Jenkins (R) Kansas
Kevin Yoder (R) Kansas
Thomas Massie (R) Kentucky
Ed Whitfield (R) Kentucky
Dutch Ruppersberger (D) Maryland
Mike Rogers (R) Michigan
John Kline (R) Minnesota
Bennie Thompson (D) Mississippi
Emanuel Cleaver II (D) Missouri
Lee Terry (R) Nebraska
Bob Gibbs (R) Ohio
Steve Stivers (R) Ohio
Tom Cole (R) Oklahoma
Stephen Fincher (R) Tennessee
Phil Roe (R) Tennessee
Joe Barton (R) Texas
John Culberson (R) Texas
Lloyd Doggett (D) Texas
Kay Granger (R) Texas
Gene Green (D) Texas
Ralph Hall (R) Texas

Sam Johnson (R) Texas
Pete Olson (R) Texas
Pete Sessions (R) Texas
Derek Kilmer (D) Washington
Rick Larsen (D) Washington

Senate (9)

Jeff Sessions (R) Alabama
Johnny Isakson (R) Georgia
Daniel Inouye (D) Hawaii
Jerry Moran (R) Kansas
Pat Roberts (R) Kansas
Elizabeth Warren (D) Massachusetts
Debbie Stabenow (D) Michigan
Richard Burr (R) North Carolina
Rob Portman (R) Ohio

United Methodist Governors

Rick Scott (R) Florida
Phil Bryant (R) Mississippi
Jay Nixon (D) Missouri
Nikki Haley (R) South Carolina
Earl Ray Tomblin (D) West Virginia

**This tabulation is based on the religious affiliations reported by CQ/Roll Call's "Guide to the New Congress," the Almanac of American Politics, and VoteSmart.com.*



A UMNS photo by Kathleen Barry.

Racial/Ethnic Minority Summer Internship Deadlines

Persons, 18-22, from United Methodist racial/ethnic minority caucuses or Central Conferences can apply for 8-week social justice work placements in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Deadlines have been announced to apply for a 2013 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in social justice placements in the U.S. capital. The EYA program is for persons, ages 18-22 from United Methodist racial/ethnic minority caucuses and Central Conferences, who have an interest in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change.

Sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) and the Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group, the summer internship, May 29-Aug. 3, is for young adults representing the five ethnic minority caucuses of The United Methodist Church: Native Americans, Pacific-Islanders, Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans.

The program, administered by GBCS, also seeks to attract United Methodist young adults from the Central Conferences of Africa, Philippines

and Europe. Applicants must be full members in The United Methodist Church.

Deadlines to submit applications for internships are the following:

- Jan. 11 for applicants outside the United States.
- Feb. 1 for applicants in the United States.

Interns participate in weekly devotions and topical seminars to supplement their daily work experience. Interns also will visit the United Nations office of GBCS in New York City. They will participate in seminars that educate interns about the international advocacy work The United Methodist Church does at the United Nations.

Concern for social justice

Applicants must be in good academic standing at their college or university, demonstrate evidence of their concern for social justice through extracurricular activity, academic study and have some history of involvement in their church and/or community.

If employed full-time, applicants must show active leadership and participation in their local church and com-

munity, including involvement in social justice activities.

GBCS will provide round-trip transportation to and from Washington, D.C.; housing during the internship at George Washington University; commuter stipend for travel to work sites; and \$1,500 for each intern for the eight-week period.

Applications will be evaluated on an applicant's passion and potential to engage in broad-based social justice ministries. Priority will be given to an applicant's commitment to public policy, demonstrated leadership and potential for leadership within The United Methodist Church and society.

Initial criteria for selection will include a substantial written response, evidence of leadership within the denomination at the local church, conference or general church level. Academic achievements and a readiness to apply university study to the internship will also be considered.

The EYA Interns are expected to return to their schools, churches and communities with an increased commitment to working with and on behalf of marginalized groups in society. Interns

are also expected to share their experience with others.

Ethnic Local Church Grant

EYA is funded through GBCS's Ethnic Local Church Grant program.

More details about the internship and application forms, both online and downloadable, are available at 2013 Ethnic Young Adult Internship. The online form is available at EYA Application.

For more information, contact the Rev. Neal Christie (nchristie@umc-gbcs.org), assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, General Board of Church & Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 488-5611 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (202) 488-5611 end_of_the_skype_highlighting, or send email to eya@umc-gbcs.org.

The General Board of Church & Society is one of four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church. The board's primary areas of ministry are Advocacy, Education & Leadership Formation, United Nations & International Affairs, and resourcing these areas for the denomination. It has offices in Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and at the Church Center at the United Nations.

Bishop Stokes, Scholar and Reconciler, Dies

A UMNS Report By Heather Hahn*



United Methodist Bishop Mack B. Stokes.

A UMNS 1999 file photo by Mike DuBose.

Bishop Mack B. Stokes, who taught thousands of preachers and helped desegregate Mississippi United Methodists, died Nov. 21 in Perdido Key, Fla. He was 100, just a month shy of his 101st birthday.

Before his election to the episcopacy, he taught for 31 years at Emory's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, where he was the school's first Parker Professor of Systemic Theology, associate dean and later acting dean. As director of Emory's Graduate Division of Religion, he helped inaugurate the university's Ph.D. programs in theological studies in 1958.

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected Stokes a bishop in 1972 and assigned him to the Jackson (Miss.) Episcopal Area, where he served until his retirement as active bishop in 1980.

In Mississippi, he took on the task of merging African-American and white annual conferences into two integrated conferences. This was four years after the newly formed United Methodist Church had voted to abolish the all-black Central Jurisdiction, which served to compel the separation of African-American and white Methodists in much of the southern United States.

"He served in Mississippi at an important time," said retired Bishop Kenneth Lee Carder, who was the Jackson Area bishop from 2004 to 2008. "He brought to that task not only a pastoral sensitivity but also a deep theological grounding for reconciliation."

Bridging divisions

Stokes arrived in Mississippi less than 10 years after Ku Klux Klansmen had murdered three civil rights workers near the town of Philadelphia on June 21, 1964, and four years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Racial divisions in Mississippi, even within The United Methodist Church still ran deep, Carder said.

However, during his first year as bishop, Stokes led the four annual conferences — two black and two white — to merge into the new Mississippi Conference and the new North Mississippi Conference (the predecessors of today's Mississippi Conference). In all four annual conferences, the votes for merger passed with large majorities.

Stokes made a point of cultivating leaders without regard for race. He announced from the start that he would appoint an African-American district superintendent in each of the newly formed conferences.

By 1980, United Methodists in the state had changed, said retired Bishop C. P. Minnick Jr., who immediately followed Stokes as Jackson Area bishop.

"I was pleased and shocked when I got there at the racial openness that had developed, which being from Virginia, I had not anticipated," he said.

Minnick recounted meeting a group of men in Mississippi who tearfully confessed to standing with ax handles on

their church steps to bar black people from entering.

"They said, 'That's not who we are. We don't know why we did that,'" Minnick recalled. "And I am sure Bishop Stokes' influence had a lot to do with that change of mind and heart."

Minnick added that Stokes "was greatly loved by the clergy and laity of that area."

Carder said he believes Mississippi United Methodists have "made more progress" in integration than many other conferences. He attributes that in part to the spotlight Mississippi's violent history has drawn.

He also credits the leadership of African-American church members in the state.

"And of course, Bishop Stokes was there at the time the foundation for that was being laid," Carder said.

Bishop James E. Swanson, who began his tenure in the Jackson Area in September, is the first United Methodist African-American bishop assigned to Mississippi.

"In many ways the bishop led both conferences in the process of integration through a model of relational evangelism," Swanson said. "The model has served and continues to serve United Methodism in Mississippi in significant ways as the church seeks to live out an inclusive life in Christ. I am living proof that the church can live into God's preferred future of a Church in which people of all races can worship, serve and lead God's people."

Swanson added that he was personally grateful to Stokes for attending six straight sessions of the Holston Annual Conference while Swanson was the conference's bishop. "He would have attended the seventh if illness had not prevented him from doing so," Swanson said.



Bishop Stokes when he was associate dean of the Candler School of Theology.

A UMNS file photo.

Intellectual legacy

Stokes not only bridged gaps between races but also between the academy and the pews. The bishop was a prolific writer whose works included "The Bible in the Wesleyan Heritage" (1981), "The Holy Spirit in the Wesleyan Heritage" (1985), "Scriptural Holiness for the United Methodist Christian" (1987), "Talking with God: A Guide to Prayer" (1989), "Theology for Preaching" (1994), "Major United Methodist Beliefs: Revised" (1998) and "Question and Answers about Life and Faith" (2000).

Some of his books were translated into multiple languages.

Carder said his late colleague wrote primarily for lay audiences. "There is a sense in which he bridged scholarship with the practices of ministry," Carder said.

In retirement, Stokes continued to teach and preach. From 1980 to 1984, he served as director of doctoral studies at the School of Theology, Oral Roberts University, in Tulsa, Okla. He served as senior pastor of Peachtree

Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta in 1988.

Throughout his ministry, he maintained a commitment to United Methodist-related Emory University, serving on the university's board of trustees from 1972 until almost the last year of his life. He and his late wife, Ada Rose, endowed a scholarship to the Candler School of Theology for international students. In 2008, shortly before her death, the couple established the Bishop Mack B. and Rose Y. Stokes Chair in Theology at Candler.

"I always marveled at the continuing vigor of his mind and his engagement in writing theology to the end," said Gary S. Hauk, vice president and deputy to the president at Emory University.

Hauk, who is working on a history of Emory, said Candler dean and later Bishop William Cannon wrote with great admiration about Stokes' ability to engage in theological debate without even the semblance of rancor.

"He was absolutely committed to doing theology in a way that enlarged people's understanding of God, not of Mack Stokes," Hauk said. "He was perhaps best known on campus for his much-publicized and ballyhooed debate in Glenn Memorial Church with Thomas Altizer, an Emory College religion professor who gained notoriety in the mid-'60s for his theology of the 'death of God.'"

Retired Bishop Robert C. Morgan was a former student of Stokes' at Candler and later followed him as bishop in Mississippi from 1984 to 1992. In recent years, the two lived down the block from each other at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

"He was an excellent teacher," Morgan said. "I still have my notes from his course on theism."

Son of missionaries

Stokes was born Dec. 21, 1911, in Wonson, Korea, where his parents were missionaries. All three of his brothers also became Methodist clergy.

The late bishop graduated from the Seoul Foreign High School at age 16. He received his A.B. from Asbury College, his B.D. from Duke University, and his Ph.D. from Boston University.

In June 1941, Stokes married Ada Rose Yow of Henderson, N.C. Later when asked whether she was his first love, the bishop responded, "Oh, no, she was my only love."

Morgan said Stokes and his wife traveled everywhere together. "They had a beautiful love affair," Stokes' friend said.

He is survived by two sons, Arch Yow Stokes of Perdido Key, Fla., and his wife, Maggie; Marion Boyd Stokes III of Atlanta; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; his brother-in-law, Jensen Yow; and his sisters-in-law, Alda Stokes, 102, and Marilyn Stokes. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose; his daughter, Elsie Pauline; and, his three brothers Lem, Jim and Charlie Stokes.

Memorial services are planned in Pensacola, Fla.; in Atlanta, and at Lake Junaluska. Dates will be announced.

In Stokes' obituary, his family said the bishop is "best known as a humble servant of Christ, having preached around the world for more than 70 years."

*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service.

News media contact: Heather Hahn, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.



Taizé 2013 Young Adult Spiritual Pilgrimage



You Are Invited!

If you are between **16 and 29 years of age**, you are invited to join the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference on a weeklong spiritual development experience. Pilgrims must be approved by pastors and sponsored by churches of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. Every pilgrim will be required to complete an application, enter into the Taizé Pilgrimage Covenant, and attend orientation meetings before being accepted as a pilgrim.

Local Churches are urged to pay the cost of the pilgrimage experience. It is a unique investment in spiritual development. The funds expended will provide personal, church, and conference benefits for years to come.

Taizé Retreat Center:

Taizé is located in France, a train ride from Geneva. Accommodations there are rustic, with dormitory style life, sleeping in tents. Pilgrims sleep on their own bed-rolls. Food, showers, and other accommodations are very simple. Special diet requests can not be accommodated.

Pilgrims must carry their own clothing, supplies, air mattresses and sleeping bags. There will be no use of electrical appliances. We will sleeping in large tents.

Daily routines will include worship, Bible study, prayer, silence, reflection, faith sharing, camp chores, and fellowship with 5,000 pilgrims from around the world.

The Experience:

Coming to Taizé is an opportunity to seek communion with God through common prayer, singing, personal reflection and sharing. Everyone is here to discover or rediscover a meaning for their life and to find a new vitality. Being in Taizé is also a preparation for taking on responsibilities back at home with a view to being bearers of peace and trust.

As you arrive at Taizé, you are welcomed by a community of brothers who have made a lifelong commitment to follow Christ in common life and celibacy, in simplicity of life. The GNJAC goal of the pilgrimage is to discover new depths of faith that enable us to make disciples for Jesus Christ who are committed to a world-wide connective sharing of the gospel, in word and deed.

For more information contact Rev. Erica Munoz, Pilgrimage Director at 732-359-1042 or Emunoz@gnjumc.org.

Applications soon available at www.gnjumc.org or www.gnjmvp.org

2013 Taizé Pilgrimage

Dates: July 19—July 29, 2013

Travel between New Jersey and Geneva, Switzerland.

Cost: \$2350*

Includes Roundtrip airfare, Lodging in Geneva and Taizé, meals in Taizé, transportation in Europe and activities while in Geneva.

*Subject to change based on airline surcharges

Local Church History Award 2013

Present your Church History via Written, Audio or Visual Media

The History Needs the Following Elements:

- Historical Dates
- Memorable /Famous Events & People
- Images, Former & Present Ministers
(contact our archivist at waltretired@optonline.net Prior Histories must be revised within last five years)

Deadline April 1, 2013

All submissions should be sent to:

Mark Shenise
GCAH
36 Madison Avenue
PO Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940

ROBERT B. STEELMAN METHODIST HISTORY AWARD GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY

The Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award is given annually to the local church history which exemplifies an inclusive narrative on the life and ministry of the congregation from its beginnings to the present day. It is named for the Reverend Robert B. Steelman, author and conference historian, whose scholarly contributions in documenting church life within the bounds of Greater New Jersey United Methodism have added greatly to our ministry of memory. The purpose of the award is to promote and celebrate the research, writing and publication of local church histories by which to show how the past informs the present and future ministry of the parishes within the conference boundaries.

In this day of mass media it is imperative that we embrace all forms of contemporary mediums so that each submission may be in one of the following formats: print, electronic presentation and audio-visual. All entries must be submitted in proper archival formats to ensure their longevity for future research. Printed submissions should be on acid-free paper regardless of length. **Two copies are required for deposit in both the GNJCAH and GCAH holdings. Digital manuscripts will only be accepted in either RTF or PDF formats.** Submissions in Microsoft Word or other word processing formats will not be accepted. Electronic presentations in the form of digital recordings need to be submitted in both archival and web-based formats. **Audio recordings need to be in WAV and MP3 formats and audio-visual entries are to be submitted in both AVI and MP4 formats.** The exception to this rule is a PowerPoint submission. All other formats need to be discussed with the judging committee prior to submission.

All entries are to focus only on a local church history and not on institution, district, conference, personal memoirs or thematic histories. The history should not be limited to just buildings and pastors. It is to reflect the historical life of the congregation within and ministry to the community in which it serves. A good history will contain the following elements: historical dates documenting major events, images, former and present ministers, images of buildings both exterior and interior images if available, images of events and people, human interest stories related to church members and their contributions, various ministries both within and beyond the local church, highs and lows the church faced in its life span, current memberships list as well as boards and committees. If the submission is a previously written history, it will need updating if more than five years old. Otherwise, the submission will not be considered in the final judging.

We suggest that the submission not be rushed to make our yearly April 1 deadline. Any submission after April 1 will automatically be placed in next year's contest. It is better to wait to submit the history the following year in order to avoid compromising the final product. Remember, this is your gift to the endless line of splendor that is Greater New Jersey United Methodism for many years to come. But most important is to have fun recording your past and let it be a blessing to all who work on the history as well as to those who read it.

CAH will contact the winning church early in May. The award will be presented at annual conference. Remember, in the end there are no losers, all submissions are important in helping both the local church and the annual conference document its past as a way to promote the present and future. This is the real reason why we have this annual contest.

Your conference CAH is here to help you gather information that is necessary to your research. Our archivist can assist in developing a list of past ministers, images if available, etc. Do not hesitate to ask any of our members if you have questions. You can find our contact information in the annual conference journal or on our contacts web page located within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference web site at <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/455>. Also visit our resources web page on links which will tell you how to plan and write the history. Good luck and we look forward to reviewing your ministry of memory!

Make your advertising dollars

go

FURTHER

Every month the United Methodist Relay goes into the homes of United Methodist leaders, clergy and laity across the Greater New Jersey Area.

These are decision makers in the Church, the Home, the Community

In a day when more than ever, every dollar counts, you want to be a good steward

That's why you need to consider the UNITED METHODIST RELAY as your prime advertising vehicle

For further information call 732 359-1000 and ask for Beverly

OBITUARIES

ROBERT L. KING, retired local pastor of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference died on Saturday, December 1. A funeral service was held on December 5 at the Pitman United Methodist Church.

King served as minister to the Deerfield United Methodist Church, Auburn United Methodist Church, and Pitman United Methodist Church as the Visitation Minister.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Pitman UMC Mortgage Fund, 758 North Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071 or the United Methodist Homes, Inc. Fellowship Fund, 535 North Oak Avenue, Pitman, NJ 08071.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. King's son, Rodger Lee King, 1887 N. Delsea Drive, Unit #77, Vineland, NJ 08360-1964

JOHN D. WATT, retired Elder of the GNAC, died on December 1 in Cornwall, Pennsylvania. A Memorial Service was held on December 15 in Zerr Chapel, 1 Boyd Street, Cornwall, PA 17016.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Reverend Watt's widow, June, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the "Future Fund" at Cornwall Manor. This will go toward the building of a new Health Center at Cornwall Manor, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016, Attn: Ms. Cindy Hower.

SAMUEL E. HERDMAN, former lay member to the West Side United Methodist Church in Millville, NJ died on December 3. A funeral service was held on December 7.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Memorial Fund of West Side United Methodist Church, 216 Howard Street, Millville, NJ 08332. Messages of condolence may be sent to his daughter, Diane Herdman Pogue, 164 Cumberland Avenue, Estell Manor, NJ 08319.



SLATE ROOFS
New & Repairs

John Frazer
(856) 451-9403 Phone
(856) 451-4580 Fax

34 Burt Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

(Paid Advertisement)

W. Michael Campbell, AIA

ARCHITECT

CHURCH DESIGN AND RESTORATION

369 West Farms Rd. Phone: 732-919-2750
P.O. Box 86 Fax: 732-919-2751
Farmingdale, NJ 07727 WMCarch@optonline.net

www.ReligiousArchitecture.com

(Paid Advertisement)



Alpha Christian Travel Services, Inc.

Marjorie A. Costello
Executive Director

3 Dogwood Drive
Somers Point, NJ 08244
609-927-4600
AlphaACTS@aol.com

Inspiration, Education, Fellowship, Integrity, Reliability, Service

Go With People You Know
Join Area United Methodist Friends

Holy Land Pilgrimage
January 6 to 15, 2013

Israel and Jordan Included In One Price
Hope School Mission Visit
Clergy Assistance Available

For Information contact ACTS today!

(Paid Advertisement)

GNJ Sandy Relief Fund

“A Future With Hope”

~Jeremiah 29:11

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy our relief efforts focus on four areas:

- RELIEF** – We strive to meet immediate human needs by focusing on shelter, food, and clothing. Immediately following Storm Sandy we have been providing day and overnight shelters, including feeding programs and clothing for several thousand people.
- REPAIR** – We begin work with community residents, non-profit organizations, churches, and local, state and federal agencies to assess damage and work to repair homes, particularly for the elderly and poor whose insurance and other agency support does not cover all of the damages. We will utilize thousands of trained volunteers under the supervision of professionals to repair homes and people’s lives.
- REBUILD** – Bringing a sense of normalcy involves more than hammers and nails. It is community building. We will provide case management and community building strategies that develop community leaders and strengthen community organizations.
- RENEW** – One of the harshest results of Storm Sandy will be the emotional and spiritual toll it will have on people’s lives. We will provide counseling for several years to help children, parents and adults renew their hope and faith for the future.

**DISASTER
RESPONSE**

Here’s how you can help:

- **The Greater NJ Annual Conference has established a special GNJ Sandy Relief Fund in response to the hurricane.**
- **100% of the monies donated will go directly to relief work in the Greater NJ Annual Conference.**
- **You can make your check payable to GNJ Sandy Relief or to your church with “GNJ Sandy Relief” in the memo. (mark the remittance as “GNJ Sandy Relief” - no remittance code number is necessary).**

**Church Treasurers should send the funds to:
GNJ United Methodist Treasurer,
1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712**

