

Annual Conference Wrap-Up Issue

The thirteenth session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference convened at Valley Forge Convention Center from May 31st until June 2nd. More than 1300 leaders from the conference, both laity and clergy, were present for worship, fellowship and the business of the Annual Conference.

Worship

Annual Conference opened with a tribute service that recognized brothers and sisters who have passed away since the last meeting of the Annual Conference. Preacher Rev. Glenn Conaway encouraged leaders to run their own race with perseverance, as we were surrounded by a great cloud of witness that had been encouragers to each of us. He also reminded leaders to remember to encourage others who God places in our path.

Friday afternoon, during the Celebration of Ministries service, the people serving in various extension ministries were recognized, along with clergy who were retiring. During the service, Susan A. Iliff was commissioned to the Order of Deacon and Sanghoon Choi, Regine Jean-Baptiste, Seokman Park, Iraida Ruiz de Porras, Rolando Santiago-Fuentes, and Michael Patrick Smith were commissioned to the Order of Elder.

Friday evening, during the Ordination service, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar encouraged the soon-to-be ordinands saying that this was not their graduation, but just start of an exciting journey in ministry that would have ups and downs. He encouraged them to fully rely on prayer the way Jesus did during moments of joy, sadness, and frustration. Ordained in the Order of Deacon were Gary Henry Frieze and



Bishop J. Michael Lowrey makes a forceful case for faithful witness.

Susan Victor. Ordained in the Order of Elder were Jessica Lynn Brendler Naulty, Hector A. Burgos-Nunez, Amanda Rose Hemenetz, Erica Leigh Milone Munoz, and Lorraine Priestley-Smith. There was also recognition of orders for Myungsun Han and Hoo Sug Lee.

Conference Preacher/Teacher

Bishop J. Michael Lowry challenged GNJ leaders to make a difference in the world through their ministries during his teaching. At one point he referenced "Lawrence of Arabia" saying they were willing to risk everything to share the message that the war situation had changed. He said we must also brave the storm and offer the drink that will quench life at its deepest. "Great living happens in serving," said Bishop Lowry. He said that the understanding of inward holiness equals our

abiding love of God. He challenged leaders to be sacrificial and risk-taking in their ministry and to also be explicitly connected to Christ in their ministry. "There are people starving and who desperately need us to share something deeper and wider," said Bishop Lowry. "Do we care enough to share what we think is going to be the source of life? We need to be unashamed to speak in Jesus name to the hungry and the hurting."

Episcopal Address

The Bishop encouraged the GNJ leadership, saying that we will continue to be a denomination that will make a difference in world. "While we may never again be the dominant denomination we once were, we will be a Church of service and witness," he said. "We will be a creative minority, who with humble hearts seek to live out what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus today." The Bishop said attendance has increased at the Bishop's convocation and many leadership gatherings. He said he is also hopeful that we are a church that is becoming younger and younger as he sees all the young people who have gone to Taize and come to Ocean City Youth Weekend.

175th Anniversary

Rev. Dr. Robert Williams, General Secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History shared a celebratory moment of recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Annual Conference as the business of the GNJAC began. "It was Wednesday morning, April 26, 1837, when the New Jersey Conference commenced its first session at Newark, New Jersey with Bishop Beverly Waugh in the chair,"

shared Williams. He said there are still handwritten minutes from it that are housed in the archives at Drew University. "Any anniversary or review of the past must also be forward looking," said Williams, but he also commented that he hopes the conference will not develop amnesia and forget its history.

Conference Trustees Report

During the Conference Trustees Report several items were highlighted from the 2012 Conference Year.

Monroeville UMC and Chickory Chapel Cemetery were sold to Harvest Bible Fellowship, Inc. for the amount of \$145,000. The purchase of a house in River Vale, NJ, to serve as the new Palisades District Parsonage, was completed in the amount of \$741,129.41. The previous Palisades District Parsonage is scheduled to be sold in January 2013. Major repairs were also undertaken at St. Philip's Ministry in Paterson as a result of the devastating damage which occurred from Hurricane Irene. Approximately \$64,000 was appropriated to address the specific needs of this building in the hope that future weather events would not disrupt this very important ministry, which addresses the needs of so many in its community. A complete report can be found in the pre-conference packet.

Shared Ministries Budget

The 2013 Shared Ministries Budget totaling \$12,501,344 was approved by GNJ leadership with no discussion. This is a 1.2 percent increase from last year, which is below the national inflation rate which was 2.3 percent in April. This year there is also a decrease in

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That's Us Together! ~ Episcopal Address 2012

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I truly feel humbled to stand before you. My spirit is full of joy, praising and thanking God, using the words of the Psalmist, "For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 117:2).

What a blessing to stand before you, the great people of God, and to say we did it together! Disciples for Jesus Christ are increasing in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference! For the first time in 45 years we have a net gain of membership! I have no words to say except thank you, thank you, thank you! Shall we together shout "Praise the Lord!" Mark, help us to sing with gusto, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ..."

As we continue to praise our Creator God in and through the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we recognize that we live in a world of great and rapid change. The pace at which change occurs challenges our nation and our Church. In my episcopal address this evening, I will address some of the issues, challenges, and promises of our Church's place in the world today. While the challenges are great, I believe that in the final analysis there is much good news and hope.

Let us remember the words of Moses as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy: "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father [ask your mother] and [they] will tell you, your elders, and they



Bishop Devadhar shares his vision for the future of the GNJAC.

will explain to you" (Deut 32:7 NIV).

God was. God continues to be. God will be. In the 'Song of Moses' recorded in the book of Deuteronomy, we hear of the sustaining presence of our creator God. God's design is flawless. It is the people who forget the ways of God and thus abuse the intended design of God's world. And so it is important to remember whose we are and who we are in light of God. God has provided. God provides. God will continue to provide. We are invited to remember God's providential care and embrace the values of living within God's eternal Reign, learning to love and obey God's precepts.

I want to draw upon this theme that is highlighted in a book THAT USED

TO BE US that Thomas Friedman wrote along with Michael Mandelbaum. This unifying theme will serve as a guide for our thoughts tonight. Let's take a look, first of all, at "That Used to Be Us." Then, let us look at "That Continues to Be Us." Finally, I want to lift up some direction for the future as we affirm, "That Will Be Us."

That Used To Be Us

It is good to remember whose we are and who we are, for we live in an ever-changing world that brings constant surprises. Thomas Friedman would have us be aware of the changes that are happening in our world and how they affect the life we live in the United States. When we see the energy, creativity, and drive exhibited by people

in China, India, Brazil, Singapore, and elsewhere, it reminds us of what America used to be: a place on the go; a place on the rise with drive, optimism, and enthusiasm.

Friedman, in another book entitled, *The World Is Flat*, recounts some advice he gave to his teenage daughters as he reflected on the new world we live in: "Girls, when I was growing up, my parents used to say to me, 'Tom, finish your dinner — people in China and India are starving.' My advice to you is: Girls, finish your homework — people in China and India are starving for your jobs."¹ We live in a world where the competition no longer comes only from across the street or across town. Competition comes from across the globe as we live into an increasingly smaller world.

Friedman and Mandelbaum's recently published book, *THAT USED TO BE US* picked up on something our president said for its title. In November of 2010, President Obama said, "It makes no sense for China to have better rail systems than us, and Singapore having better airports than us. And we just learned that China now has the fastest supercomputer on earth—that used to be us."²

The book, *That Used to Be Us*, is a clarion call for renewal in America. It urges us to remember what made this gave leadership study grants to 206 students from 44 different countries.

Our United Methodist Church, through the work of local church teams, and through a broader denomination-wide strategy, continues to work with

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Episcopal Address 2012

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our partner church in Haiti in the wake of the devastating earthquake of 2010. United Methodists have contributed over \$43 million toward Haiti earthquake relief and rehabilitation.⁶ UMCOR partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build 3,000 shelters. UMCOR has approved funding of more than \$600,000 to work with partner organizations in Haiti to develop community-driven health programs.⁷

At home we are picking up the pace of starting new churches for new people groups. We started 60% more new churches across the United States during this quadrennium than we did in the past quadrennium, getting closer to the goal of once again starting one new church a day. 48% of those new church starts happened among ethnic minority groups. Here in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, we celebrate "Sharptown North," a second campus of the Sharptown UMC. We celebrate the younger people that the Barnegat Anew/Waretown UMC is reaching. We celebrate the chartering of Cornerstone UMC that grew out of the Korean Community Church in Englewood.

Through the work of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Church has helped start over 400 churches outside of the United States in places like Vietnam, Cameroon, Lithuania, and Mongolia, among others.⁸

That continues to be us! Say it with me: *That continues to be us.*

But, there is another side to our remembering. While our Church may have been large and powerful and growing in 1910, there are aspects that I would not want to revisit. We were an expression of God's Church still tragically divided. We were a Church where racism was systemic. We as a Church did not do enough to grant voting rights to women in the United States though women were the driving force of Christian mission. We were a Church zealously concerned about the social evils of alcohol, joining the bandwagon that led to Prohibition and the many social ills to which this led.

We were not humble in 1910. We were far too triumphant. We may never again be the dominant denomination in our country. We should not worry about that if we remain true to our calling as people of God. The challenge for us, as individuals and together as an expression of the Body of Christ, is to embrace humility.

Here I would like to make reference to another book that has made an impact on me. Stephen Cherry wrote *Barefoot Disciple*, a book that explains what it means to embrace humility today. If we seek humility, we can avoid the errors of triumphalism, which tears away at Christian witness. Cherry talks about humility as the behaviors, attitudes, values, and practices we incorporate into our being that lead us to live more like Jesus. Humble followers of Jesus make God real to others. This embrace of humility, writes Cherry, "is not about being pious; it is about being grounded. It is not concerned with being esoteric but ordinary. It is also honest and, in subtle ways, self-

aware."⁹

Of course the irony of 'humility' is that once you claim to have it, you don't have it. It is a most difficult subject to write about or talk about. Cherry writes that while "we cannot make ourselves humble . . . we should *aspire* to humility."¹⁰

Cherry invites us to aspire to humility "not as a form of self-improvement, but as a virtue that befits those who seek the Reign of God."¹¹ Cherry suggests "that humility is most Christlike when it combines a certain down-to-earth acceptance of reality with a passionate longing for God's Reign of justice, truth, mercy, and peace."¹²

At the end of 2011 I had the privilege of taking a Renewal Leave. I visited the Coorg Region of India close to where I started my ministry nearly thirty-five years ago. I engaged in conversation with poor coffee harvesters from this region. While poor, these people showed a great joy for life. I was touched by their stories where they shared their resources with others in the midst of their poverty. I was also deeply touched by the humility of a Hindu restaurant owner who opened up his restaurant solely for two visiting bishops and a lay person from the Methodist Church in India so that we could enjoy and cherish some of the Coorg delicacy dishes. Though not of my religious faith, this Hindu restaurateur demonstrated the attributes of humility that Stephen Cherry writes about in *Barefoot Disciple*. He went out of his way to provide space for me and my group so that we could engage in conversation.

If anything, the history of our denomination that has taken us from a height of being the dominant Protestant Church in America to one that struggles to find a new identity that can still make disciples and transform the world should make us humble.

Humility is a far better trait to aspire to as we seek to give witness to our faith in these days. Humility teaches us to rely on God. God provided in days of old. God provides today. God will provide. When we aspire to live our lives in humility, we give witness to our faith. Living our faith in this way is better than we used to be no matter how big or how powerful we once were.

That *Will Be Us!*

As we look to the future we can be confident that God will continue to provide and guide us into the mission and ministry needed for our world today. While we may never again be the dominant denomination we once were, we will be a Church of service and witness. We will be a creative minority, who with humble hearts seek to live out what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus today.

You and I have walked difficult roads over these past few years. Despite an economic downturn occurring all around us, we in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have improved our overall giving and paid our General Church shared ministry apportionments in full. We have the highest average worship attendance ratio in the Northeast. We continue to improve in the quantity and quality of faith formation

groups in our congregations. And it bears repeating: This year we recorded the first increase in membership in 45 years.

There is a great spirit in many of our congregations! Attendance at the Bishop's Convocation is up; attendance at leadership training events is up! If approved at this annual conference, we will have raised our minimum equitable salary for clergy from next to last in the Jurisdiction a few years ago, to the highest. All of this is because of the grace of God and the wonderful spirit of partnership at all levels of the Conference.

And we have participated in God's transformation of the world. In the midst of all that we have done together, we celebrate our conference's proactive efforts and leadership that helped abolish the death penalty in the state of New Jersey.

I give thanks to God for the spirit of cooperation in the Board of Ordained Ministry, Laity Council, the Cabinet, the Extended Cabinet and Program Staff, the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, Conference Trustees and so many other manifestations of cooperation, good Christian spirit, and a wholesome working together.

Friedman and Mandelbaum, in their book, *That Used to Be Us*, highlight an important choice that we need to make in this country. If we are to move forward in a positive way as a people, we need to choose sustainable long-term solutions over unsustainable short-term fixes. To do so, we need to draw upon the character of what it means to live in this country—something we have done well in the past. We need to choose self-sacrifice for the benefit of the whole over self-gain for the benefit of our individual selves. That's what the "Greatest Generation" did when everyone sacrificed on both the front line and on the home front so that we could prevail in World War II. And that is one clear way to embrace humility in our walk with Christ.

The same lesson and same choice confront our Church. How can we make choices that will benefit the long-term service and witness of our Church so that we *can* partner with God in making disciples for the transformation of the world?

Friedman and Mandelbaum point to the greatest asset our country has: unlike so many other places in the world, in the U.S. people of diverse backgrounds in ethnicity, in religion, in economic status, can and do work together for the common good. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in our military, where black, white, Latino, and Middle Eastern Americans work together as a team for the greater good. In our denomination, nowhere is this better illustrated than in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. We are positioned to be the forerunners of a denomination that embraces diversity in all of its fullness. We celebrate the vibrant churches in our Conference where we not only hear English, but also Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Creole, Tagalo, and Chinese.

As I mentioned when I first knew that

I was coming here to serve as your Bishop nearly eight years ago, "I envision a Church of the Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit is igniting, gifting, and empowering God's children of all ages, backgrounds, colors, and personalities to glorify their Creator as passionate witnesses for Jesus Christ. Such a Church does not merely serve the poor, the left out, the different, but welcomes them warmly into its hearts, homes, and worship."

We are the Church of the Pentecost and my prayer is that more and more that will be us. Please say it with me: *That will be us.*

Just as our country is challenged to make choices that are sustainable for the long term, I envision a Greater New Jersey Annual Conference that makes decisions that are sustainable and that will carry us forward into the future in service and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I envision a Conference that reflects the glorious diversity of God bringing us together in community as witnesses to the world that people of diverse background can live and minister together and thrive.

That will be us.

When I look at the many youth who have made pilgrimages to Taize, gatherings at Ocean City, and Bishop's Confirmation events, I am filled with excitement for the future of our Church—a Church where young people play a significant role in service and witness of United Methodists in this area of God's world. These young people are the Church of the present and the Church of the future.

I see this Conference getting younger and younger and younger.

That will be us.

Friends, I don't know if this is the last time I will address you in this way. Only God knows. Let me make this clear: no matter what, we all belong to God and no matter who leads this Conference, with me or without me or in spite of me, you have a great future to embrace that is positive. You will be a shining light of service and witness for Greater New Jersey.

Kindly watch with me a video clip, of the moments after the Jurisdictional Conference of 2004 . . .

Bishop Neil L. Irons:

The number of valid ballots 274. The number of ballots required to elect 165. There is an election. With 169 votes you have elected to be consecrated Bishop on Friday, Sudarshana Devadhar. Well we must be listening to the Spirit. I don't ever recall when on the first two ballots we've had two elections. I think now we would like to invite the Bishop elect to come and bring a word to this jurisdictional conference.

Bishop Devadhar:

Dear Bishops, sisters and brothers in Christ I can only say praise be to God in the name of Jesus Christ. I stand here before you today because people along the journey lifted me up. My Bishops, my District Superintendents, colleague pastors and laity in the conference, my brothers and sisters in the North Central New York Conference, Western New York Conference,

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Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Sudarshana Devadhar, Resident Bishop
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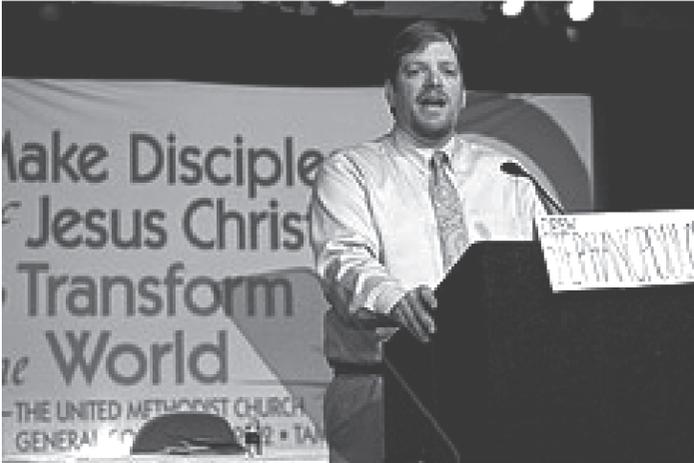
Conference Wrap Up

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the amount of reserve funds that are being used to balance the budget with only \$170,000 being used in the 2013 budget compared to \$320,000 last year. The budget for program requested by the ministries team stayed constant in the budget.

GNJ Makes Request for Bishop to Stay

GNJ leadership, following the lead of the Episcopacy committee passed a resolution requesting that Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar be reappointed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for a third quadrenium.



Drew Dyson was one of several General Conference delegates to report on the events in Tampa.

General Conference Delegates Report

Led by Drew Dyson and Lynn Caterson, the General Conference delegates shared two weeks of events and happenings during a report. They said they shared deeply in sadness and frustration, but also look forward into a future of hope and that General Conference had opened the door to deep conversations.

Each day started with prayer and ended with passionate worship. Some highlights of General Conference that were discussed was that Plan UMC was deemed unconstitutional and unsalvageable, there were revisions of clergy pension program, and guaranteed appointments were eliminated by consent agenda. Issues of human rights were discussed in detail with difficult conversations about diverse and divisive theological issues. Despite this there was a place sanctuary at



Mark Miller shared some of his experience as a delegate.

Communion Table where all were welcomed with God's love. A film clip was shown where Mark Miller, lay delegate addressed the conference saying that gay people are demeaned when we are told we have a problem or we can be fixed. "When we are harmed the church is harmed," he said in the clip. In closing, the delegates said they cried, they prayed, they worship, they laughed and ate, and laughed and ate some more.

Equitable Salary Compensation

GNJ leadership approved the Commission on Equitable Compensation's recommendation for equitable compensation. Effective January 1, 2013 Clergy in Full Connection will be paid a minimum of \$40,715, Provisional & Associate Members will receive \$36,644, and a full time Local Pastor will be compensated a

minimum of \$34,608. There will be a \$300 minimum increment in the base salary for each year of full-time service up to 18 years. This applies to a clergy (elder, provisional elder, associate members, and local pastor) serving in full-time appointment. The years of service record for each clergy is based on the Service Record 20 by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and it does not include part time appointments or a time of leave of absence.

Episcopal Nominations Endorsement

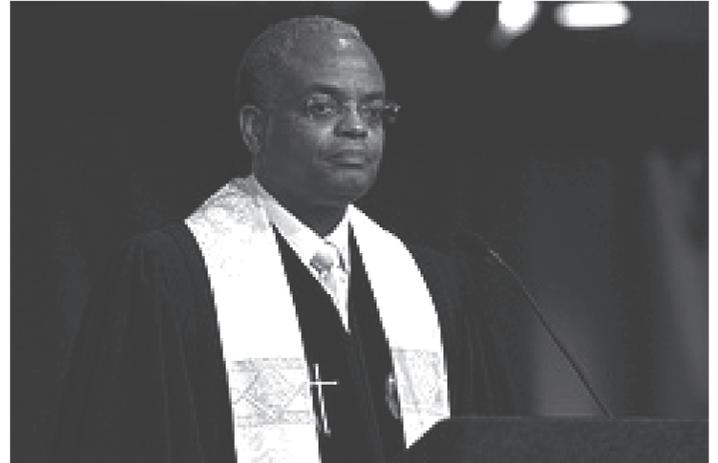
GNJ leadership voted to endorse Rev. Vickie Miller-Brendler and Rev. Sung Hoon Ahn as nominees for the office of Bishop to be voted on at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference schedule for July.

MYP (Ministries with Young People)

The MYP report highlighted various youth and young adult ministries throughout the conference. Ocean City Youth Weekend 2011 took a different feel with young people trading in Saturday morning workshops for mission events. Other events highlighted including the Soul Tending Youth Worker event, two buses traveling to Youth 2011 in Perdue, conference sponsored confirmation retreats, and many youth leadership training opportunities. For additional information on MYP and upcoming ministry opportunities visit them online at <http://www.gnjmyp.org/myteam>.

Lay Leader Report

GNJ Lay Leader Rosa Williams highlighted some of the ministry opportunities she had shared in this year including traveling to South Africa for the World Methodist Conference. She also highlighted various opportunities that laity had over



After twelve years of outstanding ministry as Conference Secretary, Michael Harriot reaches the end of his term of service.

the past year to be in ministry with one another. She encouraged laity to partner with their pastoral leaders and congregations. "As partners we are to be called to promote the good news of Jesus to all we meet," said Williams. "As partners we gain energy from each other." She also reminded GNJ leadership that Oct 21 was Laity Sunday, a Sunday when laity typically lead all aspects of the worship service. This year's theme is "Disciples Transforming the World through Service".

It was also announced that \$38,490 was given in an offering for the Wings of the Morning Glory mission project. GNJ leadership also made additional pledges to the mission.

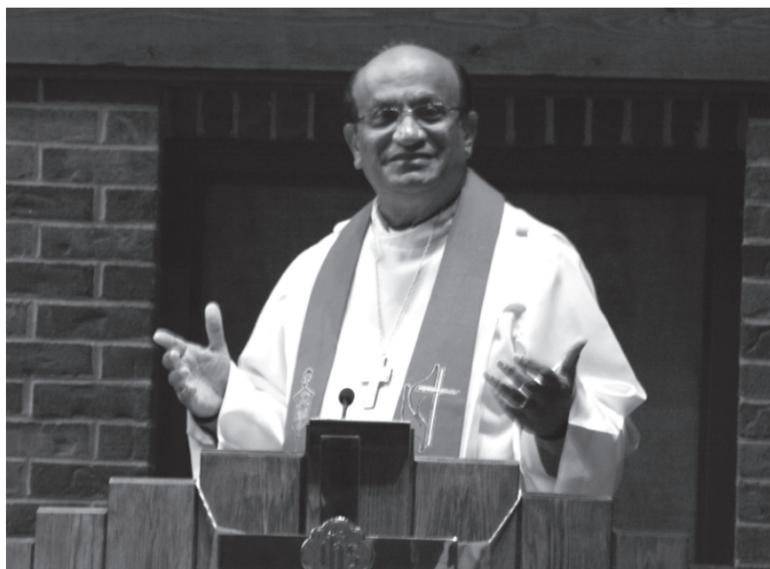
A Day of Prayer and Healing

GNJ leaders approved a resolution calling for September 30, 2012 to be a conference-wide "Day of Prayer & Healing" for those who have been hurt through divisive conversations around human sexuality, particularly the issue over the status of LGBT persons in our denomination. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar will write a prayer of healing and discernment for use by local churches.

Sessions Report

During her report Rev. Reggie Albert announced that when we meet next year, from May 30th to June 1st, that space we meet in will be renovated with a new ceiling, new floor, new bathroom, new walls and new air conditioning. She announced that Valley Forge is about \$100,000 cheaper than any place in New Jersey that we could meet. The cheapest location in New Jersey was in Wildwood, NJ. GNJ leadership affirmed the option of returning to Valley Forge in 2014 and 2015 if it was the best option. Leadership also approved the Primary Task Team making the final decision about the location of Annual Conference in 2014 and 2015.

GNJAC Celebrates the 2012 Graduating Class of Lay Speaking Ministries and Certified Lay Ministers



Bishop Devadhar addresses the 2012 Graduating Class of the Lay Speaking Ministries and Certified Lay Ministers.

Certified Lay Ministers affirm their call during the 2012 Lay Speaking Ministries and Certified Lay Ministers graduation celebration.



The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference celebrated the graduation of Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers from across the conference on Sunday, June 10, 2012. The sanctuary of St. Mark Church in Hamilton, NJ was packed full of supporters as Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Conference Lay Leader, Rosa Williams, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Mark Halverson, District Superintendents and District Lay Speaking Ministries leaders welcomed the

class of 2012 into what is soon to be called "Lay Servant Ministry" (as per the decision made at 2012 General Conference). Bishop Devadhar encouraged the new leaders as they start their new ministries and thanked them for taking a step out in faith to begin a new journey. Adding to the celebration was a special interpretive dance performed by Michael Gary and special music by Andrew Gallagher and Eugene Steficek.

Journeying



On Sunday, May 20th, 2013, a group of twenty volunteers consisting of ten college students/graduates and ten young at heart, but more chronologically mature adults left the United States for Belize, Central America. We all felt a calling to go on this mission trip supported by Bridgewater United Methodist Church to help others in need with fewer resources in the hope of being able to make a difference. The

many challenges and barriers for students to obtain an education in Belize. For starters, only 2 out of 5 children attend high school for many reasons, one of which is the family financial constraint. Hence, working on the family farm is sometimes more important than attending school. A Primary School education is only mandatory through age 14 and free but parents must pay for high school. Another problem is that



Team member assisting in teaching.

focus of the service project for this trip was two-fold. Part of the group would be involved in working in construction, helping to build a Methodist High School, and the rest of the group would assist in teaching the children at the St. Jude Catholic Primary School.

We were greeted in Belize City Monday afternoon by Ray Jordan, owner of Camalote Camp, where we stayed while conducting our work. Ray and his employees serve Religious, Humanitarian and Medical Groups from all over the world. They were kind, hospitable and very accommodating to our needs. Reverend Nials of the Belmopan Methodist Church was our liaison at the high school work site.

In Belize, there is a church-state partnership structure that supports the establishment of schools which is based on the British education system. The high school being built is planned to be completed in phases over 4 years with the initial freshman class starting in September. It will accommodate 360 students. A computer lab is a critical project for this first phase. There are

the high school can only accommodate 1/2 of the children eligible and 1/2 of the overall population. This issue is expected to worsen because of the lack of high school space that is available. The overall unemployment rate in Belize is 23% but it is 12% for those who complete high school. Unfortunately, many of the kids that do not attend high school become involved with gangs, violence and drugs.

At the high school work site, there are only 2-4 experienced construction workers carrying out the work of building the wood support for the concrete columns and ceiling that will be poured in the coming months. Part of our group went everyday to aid in nailing and hammering the support beams at the site. Progress was slow due to the lack of tools and the issue of theft. The only generator and electrical saw at the work site was stolen during the week we were there. Ray Jordan let us use his tools until Reverend Nials was able to replace them. Despite these difficulties, everyone remained cheerful, positive and all work continued to move forward.

Bridgewater Team Builds Schools, Raises Hope

The group of volunteers at St. Jude Primary School was very busy assisting teachers and in some cases leading the instruction in the classrooms. Frances Avella, the principal of the school, prior to our departure had shared with Cathi Reckenbeil, Director of Youth Ministry at BUMC, some of their needs and had requested microscopes and the opportunity to conduct science experiments with the students. Pat Hamilton, a biologist with New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife Agency, answered that call by taking the lead to obtain a generous donation of two microscopes, one dissecting scope and lab supplies from a friend who is a biology professor. Pat came up with suitable experiments and the children were thrilled to participate. The look of amazement and wonder in their eyes was a sight to behold. Other volunteers were hard at work building 3 white boards in the classroom to replace old

There was also some time for arts and crafts and playtime during recess. In addition to bringing the science equipment, we brought stationery supplies, pencils, books etc. The school and teachers have very little if any of these items. There is a big need for school supplies and support for education for teachers to continue with their certifications. The teachers deal with the lack of resources on a daily basis, and some travel 1-2 hours to get to work by bus. There are no fans in the classrooms and it is very hot during the day.

We held an appreciation dinner for the teachers and Principal to acknowledge them for their work with the children. Even in the face of these challenges, several of them spoke quite freely about their faith and how important God and Christ are in their lives. Our hope is that the Principal and the teachers were inspired and encouraged to continue to do their great work,



Whether in the classroom or in the field, the new Bridgewater Team ministers to the children of Belize.

blackboards. Two of our male volunteers were industrious in the plumbing field, installing new pipes for the outdoor hand sink and mounting a new urinal where there was none before! Some of the children were absorbed in solving mathematical word problems with our college graduate and college students. The rest of the volunteers were actively engaged in reading and helping the children sound out words to improve their reading skills as well as helping them with writing skills.

and that the children learned some more and are motivated to continue to learn. For our part, this trip to Belize to work at the high school build site and with the children at St. Jude was a remarkable, rewarding, eye opening, memorable experience and a true blessing to be able to serve others. We would like to return next year and continue to lend a hand at both schools and be able to support them as they make progress to enhance their educational environment for their children.

Celebration of Saints

On Sunday, June 3rd, the United Methodist Church of Little Falls celebrated 32 parishioners who have been a member of the church for 50 years or more. Dorothy Steller has been a member the longest - 82 years. Pictured are 21 of the 32, who were able to attend the service. They received certificates of appreciation and "cross and flame" pins, the symbol of Methodism. A reception was held after the service. Some of the recipients are still quite active in the congregation.



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women Gather in Hershey, PA



Members of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women pose for a picture at their annual meeting in Hershey Pennsylvania.

Triple Awards for the Homes



(left to right) Michele Kent, president of LeadingAge New Jersey; Tuesday Shoppers' awardees Carol Davis and Henrietta Sauter; and Sharon Capella of Borden Perlman Insurance, award sponsors Photo by Pam Mezis

NEPTUNE, N.J. — At their annual meeting and exposition, LeadingAge New Jersey awarded Pitman Manor's Tuesday Shoppers' program the *Innovation of the Year*. This recognizes an innovative best practice program or service that promotes and enhances quality of life for senior residents, staff and/or the surrounding community. Additionally, Lawrence Carlson, President and CEO of United Methodist Homes of New Jersey, was elected for a three-year term of service to the LeadingAge New Jersey board of trustees.

Two years ago, United Methodist Homes of New Jersey committed to a 10-year term of sponsoring the *Front Line Professional of the Year Award* for LeadingAge New Jersey. This recognizes an outstanding nominee from a LeadingAge New Jersey member community in a direct staff position who has enhanced the lives of residents or staff by the exceptional quality and passion of his/her work and through acts of kindness, giving, and selfless care and support. This year, Mr. Carlson presented the award to Evelyn Rembellas from The Martin & Edith Stein Assisted Living Residence.

The Tuesday Shoppers' program, incubated almost 38 years ago by Eleanor and Jack Weatherby of Woodbury, remains bolstered and supported by members of Kemble United Methodist Church and other area churches. When Pitman Manor opened in August 1974, they hung curtains, unpacked boxes and settled residents in their apartments. The couple learned that many residents did not drive or have families in the immediate area, yet needed to make purchases — Tuesday Shoppers came to fruition. About 25 volunteers take turns shopping for several hours each Tuesday for Pitman Manor residents.

"The process has not changed much since Eleanor and Jack started the program nearly 40 years ago. Residents still complete shopping request forms indicating

their needs and delivery preferences. It is very rewarding and the residents are so appreciative and grateful," said long-time volunteer Henrietta E. Sauter, who along with Carol Davis has assumed many of the administrative responsibilities.

Shoppers typically go to three different stores mostly purchasing personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, paper products, envelopes, batteries, snacks, beverages, and fresh fruit and vegetables. The expert Tuesday Shoppers rarely get stumped and endeavor to accommodate all requests.

Program volunteers need no experience as on-the-job training is provided. People who enjoy social interaction, feel comfortable handling others' money, have good basic math skills and patience, and ability to lift packages and work in a busy environment ideally fit the qualifications. In the meantime, thousands of hours have been lovingly donated.

"We are fortunate to have the Tuesday Shoppers. I would be lost without them," remarks Kathryn Wenderoth. Another resident, Rita DeStefano adds, "They are simply the best and never tell me they can't find something."

The LeadingAge community includes 5,400 not-for-profit organizations in the United States, 38 state partners, hundreds of businesses, research partners, consumer organizations, foundations, and a broad global network of aging services organizations that reach over 30 countries.

Pitman Manor is one of ten senior communities owned and operated by United Methodist Homes of New Jersey. The not-for-profit organization has a mission to provide quality and caring services to senior men and women in a Christian community. For more information or to volunteer for the Tuesday Shoppers please contact Kemble United Methodist Church at 856-845-1627.

Sparta UMC Signs Statement of Inclusion

Members of the Sparta United Methodist Church met Friday, May 18 to officially sign their statement of inclusion and become the Reconciling Community of Sparta United Methodist Church. The statement reads: The Reconciling Community of the Sparta UMC welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, of all races and cultures, of all income levels, of all social classes, of all physical and mental abilities. Come as you are....you are welcome! This group will be planning events that reinforce their welcome concept.

They will be added to the national list of Reconciling communities and churches at Reconciling Ministries Network website. (www.rmnetwork.org)



The group at this point numbers about 30 persons and continues to add more; those in the picture are: 1st row left to right: Gail Swain, Susan Pironti, Linda Ingala, Ann Freeman Price, Sandy Svenningsen and Litsa Binder. 2nd row left to right: Tom Ingala, Matt Cinotti, Bob Schutz, and David Hess. Taking the picture is Pat Schutz.

The UMC at Mt. Tabor Celebrating 70th Anniversary

The United Methodist Church at Mt. Tabor in the Skylands District recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. This church and its surrounding Mt. Tabor community share the same vibrant Methodist heritage and history. Mt. Tabor used to be one of the two Methodist Camp Sites (along with Ocean Grove) where thousands of believers came together for spiritual revivals and Christian education.

On May 5th, the Mt. Tabor congregation and community came together for a community-wide celebration where many civic organizations and service projects shared their "stories" and re-connected with each other. This family friendly event brought many children, youth, and adults for a good fellowship and plain fun fellowship.

For many, it was especially moving to see a replica of the family tent which people used to live in during the time of the Methodist Camp Meetings in the 1800's and early 1900's. The tent was

recreated in celebration of the church's special anniversary by the Mt. Tabor Historical Society.

"We praise God for the grace that has guided this congregation for the last 70 years and that is leading our United Methodist mission and ministry into God's new future with hope," said Rev. Jennifer Cho.

In the evening, the church held a special "revival meeting" for the Mt. Tabor community at the historic Tabernacle, where the ole' camp meetings used take place. Dr. Leonard Sweet, professor and renown speaker from Drew, was the guest preacher. Rev. Dr. Steve Bechtold, the Skylands District Superintendent, brought a word of encouragement. Several pastors and laity from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference attended and joined in the celebration. A joint praise band and choirs of the First UMC of Blairstown and the UMC at Mt. Tabor presented uplifting music for the occasion.

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To register for the outing, visit www.bristolglen.org

Dominican Republic Mission continues to bear Fruits

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15



Entire team gathers to celebrate the mission.

Since the year 2008, St. Peter's Church in Ocean City has been spreading the Good News in Los Cocos de Jacagua, in the Caribbean country of the Dominican Republic. They have done this by building homes for needy families, building *Lorena Stoves*, planting trees to assist with reforestation, sponsoring children to go to school, providing school supplies and hygiene products to children, conducting evangelism campaigns, and helping to finish building La Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana, a Methodist church in Santiago, the second largest city in the island.

Anne Dice, a member of St. Peter's and coordinator for this initiative, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the rural village of Los Cocos de Jacagua from 1990-92. Since then, she has maintained strong ties with the community. In 2007 God called Anne to propose starting a Mission in Los Cocos. St. Peter's wholeheartedly agreed and the first Team of only 6 people built a home for a needy family. The Team returned to New Jersey reporting of the love and hospitality that was extended to them from the people of Los Cocos and how God increased their faith through the experience.

Several years ago, God gave the vision to invite a new church each year to participate with St. Peter's to introduce them to the Mission and empower them to return on their own. Currently, New Dover Church, St. Andrew's Church, Wiley Church, Haddonfield Church, Oasis Church, and Atlantic Christian School are involved in the Mission. So far, twenty homes have been built, including 4 this year, and over one hundred volunteers have traveled to the DR to be used by God.

With Spanish being the language spoken in the Dominican Republic, God is bigger than any language barrier! Volunteers share the Gospel and plan of salvation using 5 colors: amarillo, negro, rojo, blanco, and verde. Interactive and fun teaching aids that are relevant to the Dominican people such as the game of baseball, the rainbow, salvation bracelets, and the Dominican flag have all been used to increase understanding of the deep spiritual truths presented while sharing the Gospel. If your church or you are looking for a mission opportunity, or if you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Anne Dice at annedice@gmail.com.

Episcopal Address 2012

Continued from page 2

colleagues in the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, all of you have lifted me up. As I have said it before, like Mother Theresa, I don't want to promise you that I will be successful but I will be faithful and I will try my level best to do that and please pray for me and for my wife and daughter.

My words are the same today as they were at those moments of shell shock, quoting Mother Teresa, "God does not call us to be successful, but God calls us to be faithful!" No matter what happens at the Jurisdictional Conference, whether I am sent to the New Jersey area or elsewhere, we know that we all belong to God, and our calling is to serve the present age as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us not forget that in serving the present age, we need to think constantly outside the box . . . Tonight may I appeal to you to become a strong presence of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, everywhere in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

In that challenge of continuously thinking outside the box, or perhaps even stronger, beyond the box, tonight will you kindly celebrate with me as we appoint Rev. Dr. Douglas Ruffle and Rev. Erica Munoz as pastors of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist **Cyber** Church, along with Heather Fullerton as their pastoral assistant? They will be exploring the birth of a Conference-wide Cyber Church. In that appointment, in consultation with our Cabinet, we also authorize them to enlarge this team as the need emerges. They will do this ministry in addition to their present portfolio . . . Clergy and laity, help us, kindly. Do not get concerned if someone says that Erica and Doug were at a shopping mall next to one of our churches celebrating Holy Communion or counseling people . . . Don't ask who gave them authority to be there . . . but say "Praise the Lord" because someone has attempted to reach out to the thirty-five percent of the religiously nominal population in the United States.

Tonight will you envision with me every church in this Conference having some kind of ministry, not *for* the poor, but *with* the poor? What if every time we have a church supper we have one extra table so that the poor in our communities may come and eat at no cost with us at our church suppers? Will you envision with me the B-1 program being introduced and celebrated in everyone of our local churches and by the end of the next quadrennium having raised at least \$250,000 for the ministry with the poor through the B-1 program?

Tonight will you envision with me the word "evangelism" becoming our favorite word? Will you envision us becoming intentional in budgeting at least one third of the amount that we spend on building maintenance being budgeted for children and youth ministries? May we all make a passionate commitment to service and witness in our communities, and to talk boldly about what God is doing in our lives? May we stand courageously with any to whom our Church is still not opening its doors so that by the end of the next quadrennium we would have a net gain of 20,000 members? Friends, these are not numbers crafted by me but these are the numbers you anticipated as you worked on preparing your report for the General Conference on Vital Congregations.

Tonight will you envision us clergy truly committing ourselves to empowering our laity, so that they will be a ministry of service and witness everywhere? Will you envision that we become passionate using our gifts and graces? When disciples of Jesus become passionate and truly *barefoot disciples*, the physicians among us in our pews may offer to set up a free clinic once a week or a month in one of our cities. Teachers may say they want to start English as a Second Language classes, or a grandma or grandpa may say to his or her clergy, "Pastor, this Christmas I spent this much on gifts for my grandchildren. May I do the same or part of it for a child who does not get any Christmas gifts?"

Many a time we never know what a simple challenge can do. In my pastoral ministry one time when a person joined the Church he said to me, "Pastor, I am not good at committees but I am a good roast pork cook." I said, "Fine. Will you kindly prepare a dinner for our youth so that we can raise money for a scholarship?" Guess what? He did . . . and some youths were able to go on a mission journey they would not have gone on otherwise.

A couple of weeks ago I was at a church where a Lay person shared with me enthusiastically about their monthly feeding program to the community. As an outgrowth of their roadmap to renewal, this church with the encouragement of their pastor offers a free spaghetti dinner for all people. It has grown into so much more than a monthly meal for the needy. They enjoy Christian fellowship with people inside and outside of the church. The church offers love and friendship. Now people who had come on previous months to enjoy the meal are participating with their food donations—cookies, grated cheese or brownies. The organizer of this ministry would be happy to share what he has learned and help any other church start a similar ministry. You may contact the Bishop's office to find out more.

We never know the hidden talent in our pews . . . the only thing we need to do is empower the laity to carry out the ministry of service and witness.

That will be us.

We have done so much together and it has been good. Again it is teamwork. I am thankful to God for blessing me with a wonderful Cabinet, Extended Cabinet and program staff, faithful office staff, and truly, truly loyal and extravagantly selfless Episcopal staff whose professional and vocational companionship has been a Divine blessing! I am grateful to my family for understanding the ministry of episcopacy and for making sacrificial adjustments in their schedules to allow me to fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability. I am convinced that this will be a Conference of dedicated brothers and sisters who love and serve God and love and serve others in God's name. The best and brightest days are ahead of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and I give thanks to God for what God has done, continues to do and will do here.

We started this evening remembering the words of Moses:

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father [ask your mother] and [they] will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you" (Deut 32:7 NIV).

God provided in days past; God continues to provide today; and God will provide in the days to come.

May God bless you!

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education and Development, GNJAC



New Stewardship Program Now Available

Dr. Bob Crossman's new stewardship resource, *Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life*, is now available from Cokesbury. *Committed to Christ* is a six-week program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship. It was developed by Dr. Crossman in response to the real needs of a new and growing congregation. The program is designed to help the congregants begin a journey of faith and embrace a stewardship program that in essence is actually a comprehensive discipleship program.

The Program Guide lays out the basic plans for the campaign, including schedules, team roles, sermon illustrations, worship helps, letters, and commitment cards. Art, files, schedules, and task lists are found on the accompanying CD-ROM. The six steps to a generous life are prayer, bible reading, worship, witness, service, and financial giving. With each step, congregants are asked to prayerfully consider their own level of commitment to each of the topics and to consider increasing that commitment by one step.

Abingdon Press, publisher of the program, writes: "We believe that *Committed to Christ* will offer a road map toward holy living and mature discipleship. The program offers a clear vision of six of the expectations the Lord has of those who would seek to call themselves Disciples." Again, *Committed to Christ* is available from Cokesbury.

(Footnotes)

¹Thomas L. Friedman, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), p. 277.

²Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, *That Used To Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World it Invented and How We Can Come Back* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2011), p. viii.

³Ibid, p. [need hard copy of book to determine exact page]

⁴Ibid, p. 12.

⁵Edmund Morris, *Colonel Roosevelt* (New York: Random House, 2010), p. 35.

⁶"Hope and Tears Mark Haiti Tragedy Memorials," January 12, 2011, <http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2011/January/Hope-and-Tears-Mark-Haiti-Tragedy-Memorials>.

⁷"Global Ministries Strengthens Strategy in Haiti," April 20, 2011, <http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2011/April/Global-Ministries-Strengthens-Strategy-in-Haiti>.

⁸"New Church Starts Worldwide Featured in Live, Interactive Webcast," March 29, 2011, <http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2011/March/New-Church-Starts-Worldwide-Featured-in-Live-Interactive-Webcast>.

⁹Stephen Cherry, *Barefoot Disciple: Walking the Way of Passionate Humility* (London: Continuum, 2011), p. 39.

¹⁰Ibid, p. 42.

¹¹Ibid, p. 41.

¹²Ibid, p. 43.

GARDEN MINISTRIES & FRESH PRODUCE ARE CHANGING LIVES

United Methodists enjoy fellowship around food. The church year simply isn't complete without at least one roast beef, fish fry, spaghetti, chicken or ham dinner; bake sale or fruit festival.

As awareness of urban food deserts and obesity across America continues, the place of fellowship is no longer just in the kitchen or at the dinner table. United Methodists are having fun together in the dirt – turning the soil and planting seedlings – while praying that a bountiful harvest will be delivered to persons who simply cannot afford fresh, nutritious food.

According to statistics released by First Lady Michelle Obama at the February 2010 launch of her anti childhood obesity campaign "Let's Move," more than 23 million Americans, including 6.5 million children live in low income urban and rural neighborhoods where access to affordable, quality, and nutritious food is limited. Advocates for Children of New Jersey report that the child poverty rate of 39 percent in Paterson, NJ, is nearly three times higher than the statewide average of 14 percent. Coupled a calling as Christians to care for our neighbor, these statistics underscore the importance of sharing the bounty of our gardens and gleaning from the fields of NJ farmers to provide fresh produce to the 2,600+ people who receive food monthly from CUMAC (Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community) in Paterson, NJ.

Thirteen years ago, the Rev. "J.D." Overcash heard CUMAC's Executive Director the Rev. Pat Bruger say at GNJ's Annual Conference that they needed food and the word "potatoes" immediately came to his mind. Ever since, the owners of Coombs Farms have given the people of The Friendship UMC in Monroeville (Delaware Bay District) approximately 10,000 pounds of "Jersey Fresh Spuds" every fall which they arranged to have loaded into one of CUMAC's trucks for the trip to Paterson.

The Francis Asbury Cooperative Parish of ten UMCs in the northern part of the Raritan Valley District of the GNJAC has been donating their "First Fruits for CUMAC" for more than a decade. The people of the Parish Churches, (Anderson, Asbury, Broadway, Changewater, McCrea Memorial, Montana, Oxford Colonial, Port Colden, Summerfield and the UMC in Washington) are encouraged to plant extra seedlings for CUMAC as they prepare



On May 19th, as part of the United Methodist's Church's Change the World Weekend, youth and adults from Franklin Lakes UMC and Wayne UMC spent the afternoon in service to the community of Paterson through CUMAC, the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community. Franklin Lakes served in the food distribution center packaging grocery bags for CUMAC's clients and Wayne UMC assembled items for the CUMAC thrift store. Wayne UMC also served at TLC, CUMAC's after school program, at Paterson Avenue UMC. There volunteers planted this year's vegetable garden that the youth of TLC will tend and harvest.

their home or commercial gardens. The donations of fruit and vegetables from home gardens, farm stands, or stores are dedicated in the individual church worship services on a designated Sunday and then brought to a central church then transported nearly 60 miles to CUMAC.

One of the heralds of spring at Calvary Dumont UMC in the Palisades District is the sound of Carl Bruger and Charlie Fletcher tilling the soil in the church's "Feed the Hungry Garden." Both men are master gardeners in their own right and they joyfully share their knowledge with other church members who occasionally assist them in harvesting more than 200 pounds of vegetables (collard greens, tomatoes,

beans, peppers, eggplant and squash) for CUMAC each year. Calvary's garden has been a cornucopia of fresh produce for CUMAC for more than five years.

"God planted the vision of a garden ministry for Franklin Lakes UMC," said Debbie Engel, lay member and recreational gardener. Engel and Rev. Juel Nelson spoke with Carl Bruger and visited other community gardens as part of their response to the RETHINK CHURCH campaign. They successfully applied for a Community Outreach Grant from the GNJAC and broke ground this spring with the help of the youth who built five raised planting beds. Their Garden Committee solicited help from local businesses and Boy Scout Troop # 34 will be led by an Eagle Scout candidate to build the garden fence, remaining beds and trellises. Franklin Lakes' garden includes vegetables for CUMAC and flowers for their altar and homebound folk. While their plants are not yet bearing fruit, the "Garden Ministry" is already producing a bumper crop of enthusiastic church members and friends of all ages in the Palisades District.

Wayne UMC, another Palisades District Church, has been nurturing their

green thumb since 2009 as part of the United Methodist "Change the World Day" where people help people in the name of Jesus Christ. Members and friends of the Wayne church travel to the Paterson Ave UMC where they work side by side with students of CUMAC's Tutoring and Literacy Center (TLC) housed at the Paterson church, and volunteers from City Green, a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating the establishment of urban farms and gardens in northern New Jersey's cities.

"City Green's 'Dirt to Table' Curriculum has given students an education in science and nutrition but more importantly, a sense of pride and ownership as they do something to give back to their own community. The students bring fresh produce to their home and to CUMAC which provides other food insecure families with fruits and vegetables," explained Darlene Serrano, Director of CUMAC's TLC Program. On May 19, 2012, there were 19 kids between 10 and 15 years of age, eight volunteers from Wayne UMC and two from City Green changing their corner of the world in Paterson, NJ.

While United Methodist Churches are striving to "change the world," employees of Deloitte, an international corporation, sought to have an impact on obesity and nutritional intake by targeting June 8, 2012, as "Fresh Veggie Day at CUMAC." Deloitte volunteers were kept busy the entire day by sorting and delivering 18 pallets worth of fresh produce to CUMAC clients plus four low income senior citizen housing centers within Paterson.

Brett Sherman, a Deloitte Partner and Member of CUMAC's Board of Trustees, first brought CUMAC to Deloitte's attention four years ago for their annual "Impact Day" when tens of thousands of Deloitte employees volunteer at 800+ community service projects nationwide.

"We've painted, laid flooring and done concrete work at CUMAC, but this year I envisioned a project that fully engaged all of the volunteers and had a positive impact on peoples' health," said Sherman. He pointed to studies that paint a grim picture similar to data released by "Let's Move:" One third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives; many others will face chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and asthma. A recent study put the health care costs of obesity-related diseases at \$147 billion per year.

Churches and organizations that would like to donate fresh produce to the families served by CUMAC are encouraged to bring fruit and vegetables to the facility on Mondays between 11 AM and 3 PM and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please visit the CUMAC website, www.cumacecho.org or call 973-742-5518 for information, to volunteer, or for a Saturday appointment.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



Reggie McNeal describes a fundamental shift in the way we understand and do church in his book, *Missional Renaissance (Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church)* (Jossey-Bass, 2009). This has deep implications for churches in the 21st century. McNeal says that we need to shift from an internal to an external ministry focus; from program development to people development; and from being church-based to being Kingdom based. McNeal describes these shifts as being more "compass settings" than goals or destinations.

Taking just one of these shifts underscores the radical redirection of ministry as we have known it. When a church focuses on *people* development rather than program development it tells us that *making disciples* takes priority over what the church does. Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that a church's food pantry, soup kitchen and other programs are not relevant. I am picking up on what McNeal is saying in that the people who are giving out the food, ladling the soup or housing the homeless are the ones who need to be developed. Do they understand why they do what they do? Do they see their roles as making bridges of understanding and love between Christ and the people they serve?

There are many churches still trying to impact their community via program. McNeal says: focus on people. Help the people become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world and then the programs will take care of themselves. What the world needs is not another program, but more people who understand what it means to follow Jesus—people who offer the life-giving hope and love that the world thirsts for. Moreover, these people, through their *being* will be positioned to help others become transformed in Christ.

I think we are arriving at a deeper understanding of what it means to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." When we focus on *people development*, these disciples make an impact in their communities and the world gets changed for the better in the process. I commend to your reading McNeal's book as we all seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world in which we have been placed.

GNJAC Presents Annual Awards

Several awards were presented Thursday afternoon of Conference celebrating the ministries of clergy, laity and churches.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award was presented to Rev. Jerry D. Ruff, Shirley Stewart, and Ben Meyer. Ruff, was the pastor of Sicklerville UMC for 27 years where attendance grew from 175 people to 500 under his tenure. He is currently serving a new church start at Sharptown North. Stewart, a member of Parkside UMC in Camden was presented the award for starting an 8 a.m. worship service, which provides spiritual food and breakfast for the homeless in her community each week. Meyer, a young person of the Jackson United Methodist Church was recognized for his evangelism through technology.

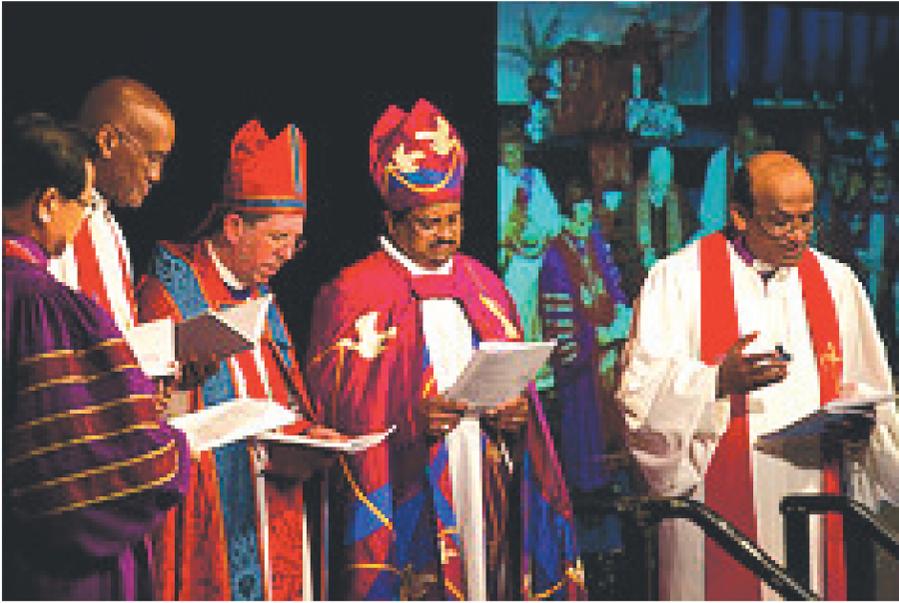
The Rev. Robert Steelman Award, which commends a church for their ministry of affirming and celebrating their own local history, was presented to Delaware Valley UMC, a congregation that just celebrated their 100th anniversary.

The Harry Seese Memorial Scholarship was presented to Rev. Michael Smith, who plans on participating in some exciting continuing education opportunities.

The Christian Unity Award was presented to Rev. Thomas J. Korkuch, Debi Hall-Dean and Emley's Hill UMC. Korkuch was recognized for his work with Community Hospice of Bergen County which is housed within his congregation, Westwood Church. Hall-Dean was celebrated for organizing a community mart that allowed community children to start the school year with sneakers, book bags, paper, pencils and more. Emley's Hill UMC was affirmed for their community food pantry.

Finally the Francis Asbury Award was presented to Dave Dellett, a lay member of the GNJ Board of Higher Education.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP DELIVERS AN UPLIFTING THEME OF CHALLENGE AND HOPE



A bevy of bishops were on hand to ordain the new elders and deacons.

The work of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is always centered around worship and this year was no different with three distinct worship services: a tribute service, a celebration of ministries and commissioning service, and an ordination service.

Tribute Service

Tribute Service preacher Rev. Glenn Conaway opened with a story of his own. He said that on the first Sunday of May in 2011 he was preparing to cross one thing off his bucket list by running the Broad Street 10-mile run. While he had a love for distance running, his schedule and sore knees had not allowed him to train properly. "I was feeling scared," he said. "What if I can't do this? What if I can't finish?" He took off running, the theme of Rocky blaring, but around the seventh mile, he hit the wall and felt as though he didn't have the energy to continue. He said a little lady who was banging on pots and pans, cheering the runners on, called out his number saying "620, you can do it! Don't you ever give up."

Conaway said that like the old woman banging on her pots and pans and the many other race supporters, we also have a cloud of witnesses who have been encouragers to our faith. "We are running with a cloud, witnesses all around who are encouraging us to never give up," he said. Conaway said gave biblical examples of Noah who built an ark without a cloud in sight, Joseph who was sold into slavery and Naomi who had buried her husband and sons. He said that these were people who at times had hit the wall. "Their stories of faith, their commitment to God inspired us to go on."

He said that during the Tribute Service, we remember laity, clergy and clergy spouses who had served as encouragers to us. He recalled the teacher who showed up each week with her flannel board, one who had given up a week of their own time to spend time at a camp called Misery, choir directors who had taught us to sing, and one who fed the word to youth each week, even if it was something they didn't like. "Today we celebrate and praise God for the men and women who have finished their faith, living and telling the story of faith. Theirs is a story with eyes fixed on Jesus," said Conaway. "What about us? Are we going to run with the clouds and encourage someone, throw off our entanglements and pray that the Holy Spirit will boldly call us? Are you in it for the finish or not? And if so, look around you, you are running with the clouds"

Following Conaway's sermon, there was a time of remembrance as the names of all laity, clergy spouses and clergy who had passed since the last Annual Conference were read. The service concluded with Holy Communion.

Celebration of Ministries & Commissioning

The Celebration of Ministries Service recognized deaconesses, those receiving professional certifications, those serving in extension ministries and GNJ pastors who were retiring.

Bishop Jong Hoon Kim greeted those being commissioned saying he wanted to lovingly remind them of the Holy code of conduct for spiritual leaders for the transformation of the world. He said the Talmud gives three ways of knowing someone - how you deal with money, your ethics, and how you relate with others. He said there was a need for two spiritual dimensions, both inward and outward, and that inward was often the most difficult and involved battling with one's self to be disciplined in your spirituality. Bishop Kim closed by encouraging the soon-to-be commissioned saying, "I hope you believe you are chosen for special ministry for this time and place."

Susan A. Iliff was commissioned to the Order of Deacon and Sanghoon Choi, Regine Jean-Baptiste, Seokman Park, Iraida Ruiz de Porras, Rolando Santiago-Fuentes, and Michael Patrick Smith were commissioned to the Order of Elder.

Retiring this year were Royu Amore, Edward S. Carty, Donald DeGroat, Jere Hopkins Doer, Marjorie Eriksen, Karen Gazillo, Judith Gehrig, Carol Freeman Hann, Edewin F. Hann III, David Harwood, Marion Jackson, Frank Kowar, Karl R. Kraft, John Mitchell, George Morris, Vena Murphy, Joan Palmer, Jeanne Pearson, Rebecca Radillo, Jose Rivera-Bocanegra, Gary Turk, Thomas Wadas, David Wiley, Emerson Woodward, and Christina Zito.

Ordination Service

"You are not on the finish line," was the message Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar shared with the 2013 class of Ordinands, as well as GNJ leaders and conference visitors during the Ordination service. He said that Ordination is not a graduation, but instead is just the start of a lifelong race that would be before the Ordinands. The Bishop said that each would face moments in their ministry where they would say, "God get me out of this." He said these moments may have already come as guaranteed appointments were eliminated and the pension structure was changed at the 2012 General Conference. The Bishop said the moment might come when presenting a ministry plan to a church council and it not being approved by one vote after hours of discussion. The Bishop said that even Jesus had moments where he said "God get me out of this" referencing the last moments in the Garden of Gethsemane.

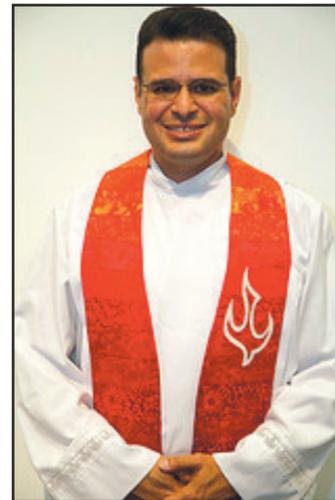
The Bishop said that in those moments Jesus turned to God in prayer. He gave the ordinands advice to do the same, quoting a commencement speech Maria Shriver had recently given. "She said to the graduates, before you go out and press that fast forward button, I'm hoping, I'm praying that you will first have the courage to press the pause button," said the Bishop. "I would add to that, before you send an email, say a prayer as Jesus did. When you experience self-doubt, say a prayer as Jesus did. Keep your immediate thoughts in cold storage for a few minutes. Yes, before you pour out your frustrations and your comments on Facebook, or before you text and hit the send button, say a prayer as Jesus did."

The Bishop challenged Ordinands. He said this is just the beginning, not the finale. "Yes, you have signed your name to become a part of the covenant of the United Methodist Church, which sometimes makes decisions even at General Conference that chase some young people or others out of the Church by its decisions contrary to its ads, 'The church with an 'Open hearts, open minds, and open doors'." He encouraged the ordinands to be the ones who challenge churches who recite the Apostle's Creed, but don't really live it or believe it. He challenged

Ordained to the Order of Elders



Jessica Brendler Naulty



Hector Burgos-Nunez



Myung Sun Han



Amanda Hemenetz



Hoo-Sug Lee



Erica Leigh Milone Munoz



Loraine Priestly-Smith

ordinands and conference leaders to surrender all to Jesus: our sorrows, our grief, all that hurts us even as it continues to inflict pain, our disappointments, our moments of hope, our passion, our joy, and our love now and forever. "My dear, precious ordinands and my colleagues already ordained, and to all the laity who are here today who as baptized Christians are also called to be in ministry: this is not the finish line," declared the Bishop. "You are at the beginning of the race that is before you. May God grant all of us the grace, may Christ pour out his love, and may the Holy Spirit be our guide this day and all the days ahead."

Ordained in the Order of Deacon were Gary Henry Frieze and Susan Victor. Ordained in the Order of Elder were Jessica Lynn Brendler Naulty, Hector A. Burgos-Nunez, Amanda Rose Hemenetz, Erica Leigh Milone Munoz, and Lorraine Priestly-Smith. There was also recognition of orders for Myungsun Han and Hoo Sug Lee.

Commissioned Probationary Elders



Regine Jean-Baptiste



Seokman Park



Iraida Ruiz de Porras



Rolando Santiago Fuentes



Michael Smith

Ordained As Deacons



Gary Frieze



Susan Victor

Ordained Probationary Deacon



Susan Liff

ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:

The Greater NJ Annual Conference met at King of Prussia, Pa. from May 31 through June 2nd. The session opened with the necessary "establishing of the bar" of the conference and adoption of Rules of Order. The only question in the proposed Rules of Order was a clarification regarding the two-quadrennium limitation on terms of service, including the Conference Secretary.

The corporate session handled the election of corporate officers and affiliated groups had their reports received and officers elected. Among those groups were United Methodist Homes, Pennington School, the Educational Society, and the Greater NJ United Methodist Camps and Conferences. Bishop Devadhar was designated the Chief officer of the corporation and John Cardillo was designated as the Treasurer. In the conference business Rev. David Wiley was elected as the Secretary.

Rev. Frank Fowler gave the Episcopacy Committee report which expressed appreciation for Bishop Devadhar's leadership and declared a desire that Bishop Devadhar return to the Greater NJ Area as Resident Bishop for the upcoming quadrennium. The report was enthusiastically received. In a related matter, later in the conference, Bishop Devadhar excused himself from the session while Bishop Felton May presided. Creed Pogue of West Side, Millville offered a resolution calling for the Episcopacy Committee of the Northeast Jurisdiction be made aware of our conference's desire to have Bishop Devadhar assigned to the Greater NJ Area for another four years. When Bishop May called for a vote, the resolution was adopted with great enthusiasm.

The Conference Trustees reported that Monroeville UMC and Chickory Chapel Cemetery had been sold to

Harvest Bible Fellowship. A district parsonage was purchased and dedicated for the Palisades District. The former Palisades parsonage is scheduled to be sold in January 2013. Major repairs were undertaken at St. Phillips Ministry in Paterson to repair damage caused by Hurricane Irene. The conference adopted the enabling resolutions authorizing the conference trustees to act throughout the coming conference year.

The Council on Finance and Administration presented the proposed 2013 budget of \$12,501,344., which was approved with no discussion. It represents a 1.2% increase. CF&A led in a celebration that for the fifth consecutive year the Greater NJ Annual Conference contributed 100% of its fair share to the General Church programs. It was reported that this year the amount of reserve funds used to balance the budget is only \$170,000 compared with last year's \$320,000. Reserve levels remain within the conference designated guidelines. John Bishop, CF&A Chair, presented the audit for last year's conference accounts. It was "clean" and was received by the body.

The Cabinet and CF&A proposed a strategic Transformation Project. It allows the Cabinet to designate up to ten churches to be treated as conference mission churches. They will be required to develop a plan of action and meet benchmarks in the plan. The churches designated for the Strategic Transformation Project will be exempt from conference apportioned contributions and bills for a limited period of time, subject to annual review. It was reported that a previous pilot project had produced good results.

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits report was received and adopted. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (Pension) rate was set



The 2012 class of retirees included:
Back row, left to right - Edwin Hann III, Carol Freeman Hann, Vena Murphy, Rebeca Radillo, Jose Rivera-Bocanegra, Jere Hopkins-Doer
Front row, left to right - Marion Jackson, Christina Zito, Marjorie Eriksen, Frank Kower, Gary Turk
Not pictured - Donald DeGroat, David Wiley, Karen Gazillo, Roy C. Amore, Edward S. Carty, David Harwood, Karl R. Kraft, George Morris, Jeanne Pearson, Joan Palmer, Thomas Wadas

Conference Photos by Chris Heckert, Heather Fullerton and John Goodwin

at 15.5% of plan compensation for clergy, with a 3% contribution for the Comprehensive Protection Plan. Comprehensive Protection Plan rates are somewhat different for optional coverage for 1/4 time clergy and those on leave. The annual resolution was passed designating 100% of payments received by clergy from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as rental/housing allowance with the notation that such items are subject to IRS regulations.

The conference established the 2013 Past Service Rate for Pre-1982 years of service at \$607. (which is 1% for the Conference Average Compensation). It was reported that we are striving towards a 4% increase per year.

The Equitable Salary Commission proposed a 2013 minimum salary of

\$40,715. for clergy in full connection. The amount set for Provisional and Associate Members was \$36,644. The amount set for full-time local pastors is \$34,608. The full-time salary in each category calls for a \$300 increment of the base salary for each year of full-time service up to 18 years. The housing, pensions and health insurance requirements were included in the report. In recent years the Greater NJ Annual Conference has gone from next to the lowest minimum salary rate to the highest in the Northeast Jurisdiction.

The assembly adopted resolutions closing the Frances Childs UMC, Collingswood and the Hilton UMC, Maplewood. It was agreed that all outstanding bills be paid and net proceeds be contributed to the Harvest Mission Fund. A time of prayer and celebration

Conference Day of Learning Offers Training to New Leaders



(from Left to Right): Erin Hawkins - General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Dr. Bill Mefford - Director of Civil and Human Rights on the General Board of Church and Society, Rev. Patricia Youngquist - Deputy General Secretary - Operations with the General Council on Finance and Administration, Thomas Kemper - General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, and Rev. DJ del Rosario - Director of Young Adult Ministries Discernment and Enlistment & Executive Director of Spark12.org with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

On Saturday, June 9, 2012, over 150 leaders of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference gathered at Calvary Korean in East Brunswick for a Conference Day of Learning in order to learn from several agencies of the United Methodist Church. Panelists included Erin Hawkins - General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Dr. Bill Mefford - Director of Civil and Human Rights on the General Board of Church and Society, Rev. Patricia Youngquist - Deputy General Secretary of Opera-

tions with the General Council on Finance and Administration, Thomas Kemper - General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, and Rev. DJ del Rosario - Director of Young Adult Ministries Discernment and Enlistment and Executive Director of Spark12.org with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

The day started with worship and an installation service for incoming leaders of the Conference. Erin Hawkins gave the meditation for the morning, where she encouraged the leaders to be per-

sistent in the face of struggles and a changing church. She continued, "God is calling all of us to reconsider what it takes for fruitful ministry at this time." Hawkins used the illustration of a vineyard, explaining that it is a metaphor for the work ahead and the mission fields. "The vineyard is changing, becoming more diverse, more technologically dependent... We struggle to be relevant in our vineyard." She concluded by discussing her experiences with participating in a race recently and how it relates to

the leaders, "We have to be prepared to go out and run the race no matter how prepared we feel we are."

Following worship, attendees could choose to attend one of the five workshops being offered by the agencies. They included information about Spark12, the shifting cultural context shaping the ministry of the local church, how to be a missionary for the 21st Century, responding to immigration, and connectional giving.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:

Continued from page 9

for the ministry of each church was shared.

The Northeast Jurisdiction will elect three new bishops at its July session. Following a time of discernment Rev. Sung Hoon Ahn and Rev. Vicki Miller Brendler received endorsement from the conference.

The conference approved updating of the wording of the Harvest Mission Fund and the Strategic Disciple Making Fund to reflect current conference structure.

The list of approved Conference Advance Specials was also updated. They include Amistad, Camp YDP, CACHE, Centenary Fund/Preacher's Aid Society, CUMAC/ECHO, Camden Urban Ministry Initiative, Echelon Mall Ministry, Eirene, Camden Neighborhood Center, Pennington School, Protestant Community Center of Greater Newark, Ranch Hope/Victory House and St. Phillip's Ministry.

Cynthia Kent offered a resolution on behalf of the Conference Board of Church and Society calling for members of conference to become more aware of the Indonesian refugee crisis and to support HR 3590, which is known as, "The Indonesian Family Refugee Protection Act." The resolution was adopted.

The Board of Ordained Ministry offered a resolution asking conference churches to set aside United Methodist Student Sunday as a time of celebration during worship services for those from their congregation in full-

time Christian service, including clergy, laity and missionaries. The resolution was adopted.

In response to discussion involving differences of opinion regarding homosexuality, the conference adopted a proposal calling on the Greater NJ Annual Conference bishop "...to call upon all churches in our conference to designate a 'Day of Prayer & Healing' for our denomination, regarding this divisive issue, specifically asking pastors to lead their churches in prayer for discernment and healing on this issue by September 30, 2012." In the Intent of the resolution it was stated, "The intent is not to further conference or debate this issue, but simply for all sides to pray together in love for God's healing and discernment. Perhaps we have had too much debate and conferencing on this issue. We need now to come before the Lord in prayer."

At one of the final business items of the conference, there was lengthy discussion on the issue of the convention center hosting gambling. The Sessions Team asked whether or not it should consider the current site as a potential meeting place once current contracts are expired. By a wide margin it was decided that they should include the current site in its list of potential meeting places for future conference.

After Bishop Devadhar thanked all participants, including the Rev. Michael Harriott for his twelve years of service as Conference secretary, the Greater NJ Annual Conference adjourned.

Save the date

Bread for the World New Jersey "Offering of Letters" Workshop

Saturday, September 8, 2012, 9 AM – 12:30 PM

9 AM Registration, Refreshments, Resource Tables, Networking
9:30 AM Program

Where: Catholic Charities – Diocese of Trenton

383 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618

(convenient parking lot in back of the building – room on 2nd floor)

Who - Both Lay & Clergy church leaders interested in helping people who face hunger

Our Purpose - To enable leaders to lead Bread for the World "Offerings of Letters" to their members of Congress on behalf of people who face hunger. After the training, people are encouraged to lead Offerings of Letters in their churches, Sunday schools, youth groups, church organizations, meetings, college campuses, CROP Walks, dinners, picnics, confirmation classes, Bible studies, women's or men's groups, etc.

Our Sponsors (as of this date May 2012):

Presbytery of Monmouth

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministries of NJ

Trinity United Methodist Church, Highland Park, NJ

Sponsorship simply means the sponsor has pledged to invite people to attend.

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urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

Bread for the World is a 501(c)4 organization.

Christian churches around the country have partnered with Bread for the World, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Donations may be made through UMCOR Advance #982325, visit online at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/hunger/action/>

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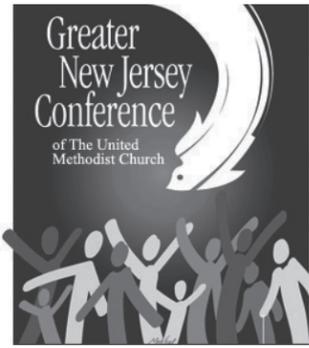
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Board of Higher Education & Ministry SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry held its annual dinner and recognition program on June 9 at First Church in Oakhurst. Bishop Devadhar brought greetings and Ramon Evangelista, pastor of First Church in Freehold, acted as the Master of Ceremonies. The conference's campus ministers were honored; the Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett from Drew, Rev. Warren Brandt from Rockland Community College, Rev. Dr. Keith Brewer from the Wesley Foundation at Princeton University, and the Rev. Ellen Thompson Little of the Wesley Foundation at Rutgers University. In addition, this year's awards and scholarships were presented. The recipients were:



David Dellett - Recipient of the Francis Asbury Award 2012

2012 Scholarship Recipients



Mary E. Badger

Emily S. Garrison Nursing Scholarship

Mary is a graduate of Communications High School in Wall, NJ. She will be attending Rutgers University. She is an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Grove, NJ.

"The United Methodist Church has been a major influence in my life, helping me to grow in my faith in Christ and in service to others. I have been taught that the Word of God is always available to me in the Bible. I have also been encouraged to develop my prayer life and my quiet times with God."



Mariah K. J. Dennis

Conference Trust Fund Scholarship

Mariah is a graduate of Arthur P. Schalick High School in Pittsgrove, NJ. She will be attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in the fall. She is an active member of John Wesley United Methodist Church in Bridgeton, NJ.

"Volunteering in the church is part of what makes it fun. Church has shown me how to reach out and become a better person. It has always felt like an extended family to me and I am happy to be a part of it."



Jamila Bruce

Frances Nelson Scholarship

Jamila is a graduate of Atlantic City High School. She will be attending the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in the fall. She is an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Atlantic City, NJ.

"The United Methodist Church has nurtured me, molded me, and has had a huge impact on the person I am today. It has influenced me to realize that our youth are our future, and it is vital that we welcome them with opened hearts and opened arms because that's how they welcomed me."



Timothy A. Lagos

Conference Trust Fund Scholarship

Timothy is a graduate of North Rockland High School in Thiells, NY. He will be attending Boston University in the fall. He is an active member of Centenary United Methodist Church in Metuchen, NJ.

"The United Methodist Church has influenced me greatly and taught me to be kind, compassionate and to love others. Being a Christian teaches you to treat others like God would want you to, with kindness and respect."

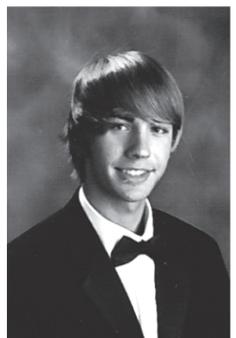


Wesley R. Buckley

Frances Nelson Scholarship

Wesley is presently attending Salem State University and will be transferring to Gordon College where he will receive his degree in youth ministry and business administration. He is an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Brick, NJ.

"A church is not a place where people gather for worship on a Sunday morning, but a body of believers who are living life together and caring for their brothers and sisters. In the United Methodist church, I have been blessed with some great Godly mentors and my faith would not be where it is now if I did not have them invest in my life."



Michael T. Leonardis

Conference Trust Fund Scholarship

Michael is a graduate of West Essex High School. He will be attending American University in the fall. He is an active member of Caldwell United Methodist Church.

"The United Methodist Church without doubt has been instrumental in shaping the person I am today. I know that there is a powerful network of support behind me at Caldwell UMC. I have learned the meaning of being a Christian steward primarily through service."

Awards Ceremony Carolyn D. Pendleton



Yoo Chan (John) Chang

Ethel Snyder Book/Inez R. Irons Scholarship

John is presently attending Columbia University where he is majoring in bio medical engineering. He is an active member of Grace Korean United Methodist Church in Westwood, NJ. John was a recipient of the Ethel Snyder Book/Inez R. Irons Scholarship in 2010 and 2011.

"The UMC has shown me that God will provide for me abundantly. I feel that there is no better way to serve God than through leadership."



Krysti M. Patient

Rev. Ralph Kappler Scholarship

Krysti is presently attending Marymount University where she is pursuing a degree in fashion merchandising. She is an active member of Buttzville United Methodist Church in Belvidere, NJ.

"The United Methodist Church and faith in God have immeasurable meaning in my life. They are a huge part of it every day. I became interested in service work. I think this is where my love for Christ and the Church would eventually grow from."



Hee-Eun Chung

Conference Trust Fund Scholarship

Hee-Eun is a graduate of River Dell High School in Oradell, NJ. She will be attending Temple University in the fall. She is an active member of Grace Union United Methodist Church in Westwood, NJ.

"Simply, I love God. I love my brothers and sisters who helped me grow my faith. I love my church. It is my second home. This church influenced me to be a better Christian and I'm thankful to God for sending me to America to meet these people."



Nikolay Petrov

Conference Merit Scholarship

Nikolay is presently attending Drew University where he is pursuing his PhD in Wesleyan and Methodist Studies. He serves as Pastor at the Port Morris United Methodist Church.

"I was able to see up close what love it is when a church chooses willingly to share others' burdens and to walk with me through crises and difficulties. The pastoral wisdom, grace and care on display have taught me things that books could never capture. I am thankful to belong and serve in the United Methodist Church."



Michael Conner

Frances Nelson Scholarship

Michael is presently attending Indiana Wesleyan University. Upon graduation he intends to attend seminary to become a full-time pastor in the United Methodist Church. He is an active member of Sharptown United Methodist Church in Pilesgrove, NJ. Michael was a recipient of a Frances Nelson Scholarship in 2010 and 2011.

"The United Methodist Church welcomed me into the family of God. So often grace is mediated to us through our relationships with one another as we become vulnerable to receive love and eager to give it. Church truly is the family of God, and I will carry the concept of a 'church family' or a 'home church' with me into life and ministry. The United Methodist Church has encouraged and facilitated my call to pastoral ministry."



Richard L. Wright II

Conference Trust Fund Scholarship

Richard is a graduate of Haddon Heights High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. He is an active member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Lawnside, NJ.

"I believe that growing up in a United Methodist family helped me to trust and develop an effective relationship with adults or anyone older than me. We all know that it takes a village to raise a child and I am glad that my village was the United Methodist Church." "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

As Long as the Sun Shines, Whiting Will be Greening with Solar Power



IT'S TECHNOLOGY, NOT THEOLOGY on the minds of these employees of Trinity Solar as they check the inverter units at the new Whiting Church solar installation. The inverters receive and store the electricity generated by the sun's rays and convert it from direct current to AC for use in the church building.

WHITING – The Whiting United Methodist Church is changing its image. The Northern Shore District congregation best known for its geriatric complex has gone from gray to green.

After a year of research and negotiation, the church has installed solar panels in pursuit of two goals: to be economically prudent and profitable and environmentally friendly. And both seem to be working out well. In the first three months that the system has been on line, it has generated 16,642 kilowatts of electricity, and electric bills have dropped into the \$150-160 monthly range, resulting in a savings of approximately \$530 per month with less use of energy generated by fossil fuels.

Faced with the economic downturn in the first decade of the new century, the Whiting Church sought some way to counteract a mounting budget shortfall. The solar solution presented itself as a means of resolving the economic problem while responding to a rising interest in green technology.

"We had to protect ourselves for the future," explains Trustee President Jeff Robbins, "and we had to do that in keeping with what was appropriate in terms of United Methodist values."

Initial reluctance to approve the panel installation was quickly erased once the system was explained to the Church Council in both environmental and economic terms. The final vote for approval was unanimous.

The months of research that followed pointed the trustees in the direction of two companies, Trinity Solar in Wall who provided the hardware, and Sunrun Technology which operates and maintains the system. Installation of the system took about a year to complete.

It's a win-win situation, the trustee president explained. "We get free energy and SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Credits) and they maintain the system.

Solar users make money in two ways, the Whiting trustee explained, by reducing the consumption and thus the cost of energy produced by commercial power companies, and by selling back the excess energy. Installed solar panels may produce an oversupply of energy which is then available for sale through Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) which are then auctioned off.

Originally projected at 240 solar panels, limited space on the roof of the Christian Life Center wing of the Whiting Church forced a scaling down to

161, but the reduction does not seem to have diminished the system's value. Placing the panels on the roof not only removes them from sight, but avoids ground installation that might have an environmental impact and would require Pinelands Commission approvals.

While not under Pinelands jurisdiction, the installation has its share of governmental oversight however at the local, state and federal levels.

Solar power systems are available on either an own or lease basis. Whiting elected the lease option for the sake of simplicity and because as a non-profit organization it would not be entitled to the federal tax credit available to homeowners and businesses.

Trinity Solar, (no theological inference intended) is billed as "the leading designer and integrator of solar electric systems in New Jersey" and serves clients in five states throughout the Northeast from Connecticut to Delaware, providing high-performing, cost-effective, environmentally respon-

sible solutions to address the energy needs of its clients. They supplied the panels

Sunrun, is a management company servicing clients in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon and Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey. It maintains and services the hardware. The company buys and takes care of the solar panels. Clients pay either monthly or upfront for the electricity that the panels produce.

Mr. Robbins spoke highly of the Trinity-Sunrun team that established and maintains the WUMC system.

"Trinity's professionalism and integrity was incredible," he said. "They came as workmen, they ended up as friends."

Mr. Robbins anticipates that the Whiting installation will serve the church as it blesses the environment for many years to come.

"As long as the Lord smiles on us with sunshine," he says with a knowing grin, "we'll be in business."



PANEL INSPECTOR. A solar panel installer checks a section of the 167-panel field at the Whiting Church which in its first months of solar operation has reduced the monthly electric bill by \$530 per month and prepares to sell back the unused portion of the 16,000 kilowatts generated.

Northern Shore District UMMen Plan Second BlueClaw Game August 10

NORTHERN SHORE DISTRICT – "Come support the United Methodist Men of the Northern Shore District while watching the Lakewood BlueClaws in action on Friday, August 10." That's the invitation of UMMen leader Lew Weil.

"Bring the whole family and have a great time," he says. "This is our second game of the 2012 Season," he continues, as he thanks those who supported the June 26 event.

A fireworks display will follow the game with the Philadelphia Phillies farm team at the BlueClaw stadium at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Cedar Bridge Road in Lakewood.

Cost of the tickets for the August 10 event is \$10.00. For Groups of 20 or more the cost is reduced to \$8.00 when tickets are purchased at the same time.

Reservation information is available by contacting Mr. Weil at (732) 849-4232 or e-mailing him at Lew_Weil@comcast.net.



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**THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE
DEADLINE
IS AUGUST 5, 2012**

United Methodist Interagency Task Force on Immigration Praises President Obama's Decision

United Methodists across the country are celebrating President Obama's decision today to direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to stop deporting undocumented immigrant youth and allow them to obtain work permits if they arrived in the United States before they turned 16 and are younger than 30, have no criminal record, have been in the United States for at least five consecutive years, graduated from a U.S. high school or hold a GED, or served in the military.

The young people affected by this policy are known as "DREAMers" after the DREAM Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAM Act-eligible students. The DREAM Act passed the Senate in 2010, but came up five votes shy of overcoming a procedural filibuster which prevented its passage. Although most Republicans voted against the DREAM Act in 2010, there has been recent openness by a few of the leaders in the party. The decision announced today by the President shows a bold step forward and many United Methodists across the country stand ready to support this important and long-awaited decision.

In the past three years, United Methodist congregations have, in many ways, led faith communities in advocating for just and humane immigration reform, including the DREAM Act. Just a few weeks ago, the United Methodist Immigration Reform Grassroots Journal was released, which illustrates United Methodists' grassroots work in support of just and humane reform.

United Methodists have engaged in over 570 events of public witness over the last three years, including public prayer vigils, meetings with members of Congress, and 250 DREAM Sabbath services in the fall of 2011 alone. This means an average of almost 200 public witness events each year, or one event every 42 hours.

In addition to the direct services that hundreds of United Methodist churches

provide immigrant communities such as Justice for Our Neighbors, legal clinics for low-income immigrants, United Methodists are advocating for legislative reform that upholds the dignity and defends the basic civil and human rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters. United Methodist boards and agencies have come together to work in a unified effort to defend and support the rights of immigrants through the Interagency Task Force on Immigration, led by Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the Phoenix area and Bishop Julius Trimble of the Des Moines area.

In response to the decision made by President Obama today, Bishop Carcaño and Bishop Trimble both commented on the fact that in states like Ohio, Florida, Iowa, Arizona, Texas and many others across the nation, United Methodists have publicly testified to the need for reform because United Methodists witness the impact of a broken immigration system every day. Seeing families torn apart through raids and long waits due to family backlogs, and seeing how that impacts our congregations who readily serve immigrant communities, has compelled United Methodists to make their voices heard.

While today's decision protects DREAM Act students from further deportations, this does not yet provide the long-term solution needed to guarantee DREAMers full citizenship in a timely manner. Bishop Carcaño stated, "Congress must step up, as President Obama has done, and provide the necessary leadership to pass the DREAM Act and ensure that justice is done for DREAM Act eligible students. These are students who serve in our communities and congregations. These are not just leaders for tomorrow, they are our leaders today and they deserve every right that every citizen of the United States enjoys. This is a much-needed first step and one that we will celebrate until we see the DREAM Act signed into law."

2012 First United Methodist Church Confirmands



Quadruplets Andrew, Stephanie, Jacqueline, Sarah, and their older sister Jessica Pascale, were confirmed into membership at First United Methodist Church in Passaic, along with fellow Confirmand Bryan Quiroz. Also pictured is Pastor Rev. Dr. Tanya Bennett and student pastors Joshua Clough and Lauren Godwin.

JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR A YOUTH DIRECTOR

KEMBLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 19 S. Broad Street, Woodbury, New Jersey 08096, is accepting applications for a youth director.

This part-time position, averages between ten and fifteen hours per week. Applicant must be a minimum of twenty-three years of age, possess Biblical knowledge and be willing to share his/her Christ-centered faith. The candidate must be mature enough to maintain discipline, but exciting enough to evoke our youths' interest. Supervisory and organizational skills are needed. Applicant must pass a background check, as required by our Safe Sanctuaries policy. Kemble welcomes, encourages new, creative and innovative ideas! Some experience is necessary.

For more information and a complete job description, please contact Dottie Lange at kembleapplicants@yahoo.com.

The SEPTEMBER Issue Deadline is August 5, 2012

Ocean City Youth Weekend 2012

SOULLED OUT

Mark your calendars!!

When: September 7-9, 2012

What: Ocean City Youth Weekend is a fun filled, mission driven weekend, where hundreds of United Methodist Youth gather to worship and play. Out weekend will be lead by the Mark Swayze Band, Bible Study led by Rev. Olu Brown, and comedy hour with Chris Wylde. We will participate in Mission projects, beach activities, and communion on Beach!!

Where: Ocean City, NJ

Who: 9-12th graders

Registration details will be available after June 1, 2012 at www.gnjmyp.org

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FURTHER

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

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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

SHARED MINISTRY FIVE MONTH 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 five months of 2012.

The first column of the report refers to the local church's 2012 Shared Ministry participation percentage. The second column represents the percentage paid by the local church toward 2012 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 42 percent.

As of May 31, many churches across the nine districts of the Annual Conference have reached the five month goal of 42% in both categories. A number have substantially surpassed that goal. The Relay extends its congratulations to these churches.

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., Ocean, NJ 07712. Call toll free to 877-677-2594, or 732 359-1000.

CHURCH NAME	MAY 2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAY 2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAY 2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAY 2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAY 2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAY 2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	MAY 2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	MAY 2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD
GATEWAY SOUTH			HALEDON: CEDAR CLIFF	4.00%	7.42%	NAVESINK	25.00%	41.67%	SOUTH AMBOY: TRINITY	0.00%	33.93%
AUDUBON	16.67%	17.92%	HASBROUCK HEIGHTS:FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	NEPTUNE CITY: MEMORIAL	41.67%	41.67%	SOUTH PLAINFIELD: WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%
BARRINGTON: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	HAYERSTRAW: LA RESURRECCION	0.00%	0.00%	NEPTUNE: HAMILTON	33.33%	33.77%	SOUTH RIVER: CONKLIN	41.67%	41.67%
BERLIN: CENTENARY	26.44%	41.67%	HAWTHORNE	28.19%	33.52%	NEPTUNE: WEST GROVE	15.22%	33.49%	SPOTSWOOD: TRINITY	12.05%	34.10%
BLACKWOOD	41.67%	34.02%	HILLSDALE UMC	8.33%	41.67%	OAKHURST: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	WARREN TWP: MOUNT HOREB	23.05%	41.67%
BROOKLAWN	41.67%	41.67%	LEONIA	0.00%	41.67%	OCEAN GROVE: ST PAUL'S	34.61%	41.67%	WARREN TWP: SPRINGDALE	0.00%	33.41%
CAMDEN: ASBURY	0.00%	0.00%	LEONIA: BETHEL UMC OF N.J.	0.00%	17.74%	OCEANPORT	25.00%	41.67%	WARREN TWP: UNION VILLAGE	0.00%	0.00%
CAMDEN: BETHEL	6.92%	33.34%	MIDLAND PARK	0.00%	41.67%	PT PLEASANT: CENTRAL	0.00%	34.11%	WASHINGTON	0.00%	41.67%
CAMDEN: FAIRVIEW VILLAGE	17.77%	31.20%	NEW CITY	0.00%	41.67%	PT PLEASANT: HARVEY MEMORIAL	17.76%	41.67%	WASHINGTON: PORT COLDEN	41.67%	24.89%
CAMDEN: FERRY AVENUE	0.00%	33.54%	OMEGA KOREAN MISSION UMC	0.00%	0.00%	RED BANK	44.69%	41.67%	WEST PORTAL	43.51%	41.67%
CAMDEN: NEW BEGINNINGS	1.33%	0.00%	PAMONA:LADENTOWN	3.84%	32.47%	SEA BRIGHT: FIRST	16.67%	41.67%	WESTFIELD: FIRST	4.19%	41.67%
CAMDEN: PARKSIDE	41.67%	41.67%	PARAMUS: ARCOLA KOREAN	0.00%	2.42%	SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: WALL	41.67%	0.00%	WHITEHOUSE	33.33%	41.67%
CERRY HILL: FIRST KOREAN	41.67%	41.67%	PARAMUS:ARCOLA	47.31%	33.56%	SPRING LAKE: ST ANDREW'S	33.33%	41.67%	CAPE ATLANTIC		
CERRY HILL: ST ANDREW'S	40.79%	41.67%	PARK RIDGE	32.97%	41.67%	TOMS RIVER: CEDAR GROVE	41.89%	41.64%	ABSECON	16.67%	18.15%
CLARKSBORO: EVANGELICAL	41.67%	41.67%	PASSAIC:FIRST	14.80%	19.41%	TOMS RIVER: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	ATLANTIC CITY: ASBURY	31.50%	41.67%
CLARKSBORO: ZION	41.67%	41.67%	PATERSON TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST ANDREW'S	33.33%	33.90%	ATLANTIC CITY: HAMILTON MEMRL	2.12%	0.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: EMBURY	25.00%	33.73%	PATERSON: CHRIST	0.00%	0.00%	UNION BEACH: GRACE	8.33%	41.67%	ATLANTIC CITY: VENICE PARK	33.33%	41.67%
COLLINGSWOOD: FIRST	38.87%	41.67%	PATERSON: MADISON PARK-EPWORTH	41.67%	41.67%	WARETOWN	32.75%	41.67%	AVALON: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%
DELAIR: ST MATTHEW'S	9.60%	40.27%	PATERSON: PATERSON AVENUE	0.95%	0.00%	WARREN GROVE	100.00%	41.67%	BELLEPLAIN	45.58%	41.67%
DEPTFORD: ALMONESSON	33.33%	34.49%	PEARL RIVER	41.67%	41.67%	WAYSIDE	0.00%	0.00%	BLUE ANCHOR: GRACE UNION	0.00%	17.51%
DEPTFORD: MT ZION-WESLEY	33.33%	41.67%	RIDGEFIELD PARK: FIRST	33.33%	33.54%	WEST BELMAR	33.33%	33.96%	CAPE MAY	41.67%	41.67%
DEPTFORD:NEW SHARON	42.48%	41.67%	RIDGEWOOD	25.00%	26.98%	WEST CREEK	41.67%	41.67%	CAPE MAY CT HOUSE: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%
GIBBSBORO	11.11%	41.67%	RUTHERFORD	8.33%	0.00%	WEST FARMS	38.87%	41.67%	CONOVERTOWN	12.20%	41.67%
GIBBSTOWN: CLONMELL	7.73%	33.66%	SPRING VALLEY	4.38%	0.00%	WEST LONG BRANCH: OLD FIRST	33.72%	41.67%	DELMONT	33.33%	41.67%
GLENDORA: CHEWS	53.35%	41.67%	STONY POINT: FIRST	2.21%	3.36%	WHITING	41.67%	41.67%	DENNISVILLE	41.67%	41.67%
GLOUCESTER: HIGHLAND PARK	33.33%	41.67%	STONY POINT: TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	CAPITAL DISTRICT			DIAS CREEK	25.00%	26.99%
GLOUCESTER: TRINITY	41.67%	41.67%	SUFFERN	41.67%	41.67%	ALLETOWN	36.08%	41.67%	DORCHESTER	41.67%	41.67%
HADDON HEIGHTS: FIRST	0.00%	41.67%	SUFFERN:VIOLA	6.08%	41.67%	ATCO	41.67%	41.67%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ASBURY	41.67%	41.67%
HADDONFIELD	33.33%	34.02%	TEANECK	16.67%	13.87%	BEVERLY	10.30%	36.80%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ZION	41.67%	41.67%
HADDONFIELD:RHOADS TEMPLE	41.67%	40.09%	TENAFLY	33.33%	34.61%	BORDENTOWN: TRINITY	0.00%	41.67%	ELDORA	41.67%	41.67%
LAWNSIDE: MT ZION	41.67%	41.67%	THIELS	0.00%	0.00%	BROWNS MILLS	25.00%	36.05%	ELM	0.00%	0.00%
LINDENWOLD: LUCASTON	41.66%	41.67%	TOTOWA	0.00%	0.00%	BUDTOWN	41.67%	41.67%	ELWOOD: ELWOOD GASKILL	41.67%	41.67%
MAGNOLIA	41.67%	41.67%	UPPER SADDLE RVR: BERGEN HIGHLANDS	0.00%	9.59%	BURLINGTON: BROAD ST	41.67%	41.67%	GOSHEN	1.57%	34.31%
MANTUA	0.00%	33.59%	W. PATERSON: APPENZELER NAIRI	14.91%	0.00%	BURLINGTON: ST MARY STREET	8.33%	41.67%	GREEN CREEK: BETHEL	41.67%	41.67%
MANTUA: BARNSBORO	41.67%	41.67%	WALDWICK	32.97%	0.00%	CHATSWORTH	41.67%	41.67%	HALEYVILLE	41.67%	41.67%
MANTUA: MOUNT ZION	43.39%	41.67%	WANAUQUE: MIDVALE	0.00%	33.61%	CINNAMINSON: ASBURY	41.67%	41.67%	HAMMONTON: FIRST	0.00%	41.67%
MERCHANTVILLE: TRINITY	20.00%	33.88%	WAYNE	0.00%	0.00%	COLUMBUS: WESLEY	41.71%	38.58%	PINELANDS UMC	41.67%	41.67%
MONROE TWP: NEW BROOKLYN	33.33%	34.26%	WAYNE: BETHANY	41.67%	41.67%	COOKSTOWN	33.33%	41.67%	HEISLERVILLE: HEISLER MEMORIAL	41.75%	41.67%
MT EPHRAIM: FIRST	33.33%	33.66%	WESTWOOD	14.11%	41.67%	CRANBURY	41.67%	41.67%	LEESBURG	33.34%	33.39%
NATIONAL PARK: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	WESTWOOD: GRACE KOREAN	8.33%	33.57%	CROSSWICKS	0.00%	0.00%	LINWOOD: CENTRAL	41.67%	41.67%
OAKLYN: EMMANUEL	28.05%	25.50%	WYCKOFF: GRACE	41.67%	41.67%	DELANCO: DOBBINS MEMORIAL	8.33%	33.62%	MARGATE: TRINITY	41.67%	41.67%
PAULSBORO: BILLINGSPOUR	50.00%	41.67%	GATEWAY NORTH			DELRAW: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	MARMORA: TRINITY	33.33%	41.67%
PAULSBORO: ST PAUL'S	25.00%	41.67%	BAYONNE: BERGEN POINT	26.67%	N/A	ELLISDALE	33.33%	33.69%	MAURICETOWN	41.67%	41.67%
PENNSAUKEN	0.00%	26.09%	BAYONNE: WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%	EMLEY'S HILL	15.37%	0.00%	MAYS LANDING: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%
PENNSAUKEN: EAST PENNSAUKEN	50.00%	41.67%	BELLEVILLE: WESLEY	8.83%	8.83%	EWING TWP: TRINITY	41.67%	41.67%	MILLVILLE: BUCKSHUTEM	100.00%	41.67%
PINE HILL: MEMORIAL	33.33%	41.67%	BLOOMFIELD: PARK	41.67%	33.38%	FIELDSBORO	33.33%	33.65%	MILLVILLE: CUMBERLAND	36.99%	41.67%
SICKLERVILLE	41.74%	41.67%	CALDWELL	41.67%	41.67%	FLORENCE	41.67%	41.67%	NEW GRETTA: ST PAUL'S	41.67%	41.67%
STRATFORD	8.33%	41.67%	CHATHAM	41.67%	41.67%	FREEHOLD: SILOAM	50.00%	41.67%	NORTHFIELD: GOOD SHEPHERD	21.33%	33.65%
SWEDESBORO: REPAUPO	41.67%	41.67%	E. ORANGE: CALVARY-ROSEVILLE	0.00%	32.05%	HAMILTON SQ: ST MARK	16.00%	41.67%	OCEAN CITY: MACEDONIA	41.67%	41.67%
TURNERSVILLE: ST JOHN'S	22.61%	41.67%	E. ORANGE: PARK AVE -ST JOHN'S	41.67%	41.67%	HAMILTON TWP: CHAMBERS	33.33%	33.86%	OCEAN CITY: ST PETER'S	33.33%	41.67%
VERGA WELFARE	50.00%	41.67%	ELIZABETH: EPWORTH	8.33%	41.67%	HAMILTON TWP: GROVEVILLE	0.00%	0.00%	OCEANVILLE	41.67%	41.67%
VOORHEES: GLENDALE	0.00%	0.00%	FAIRFIELD	100.00%	41.67%	HAMILTON TWP: NEW COVENANT	0.00%	0.00%	PETERSBURG: WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%
VOORHEES: HOPE	29.17%	41.67%	GREEN VILLAGE	26.97%	41.67%	HAMILTON TWP: PEARSON MEMORIAL	33.33%	33.90%	PLEASANTVILLE: KOREAN OF SO. JERSEY	25.00%	17.28%
WENONAH	41.67%	41.67%	HARRISON-DAVIS MEMORIAL	16.67%	0.00%	HEDDING	40.78%	41.67%	PLEASANTVILLE: MT PLEASANT	25.00%	31.45%
WEST BERLIN: ST JOHN'S	33.33%	33.51%	HOBOKEN: COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	HIGHTSTOWN: FIRST	1.21%	25.58%	PLEASANTVILLE: OASIS	0.00%	0.00%
WEST BERLIN: WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%	IRVINGTON	0.00%	0.00%	HOPEWELL	41.67%	41.67%	PLEASANTVILLE: SALEM	41.67%	41.67%
WEST DEPTFORD: ST PAUL'S	41.67%	41.67%	IRVINGTON: HAITIAN	28.20%	0.00%	INDIAN MILLS	41.67%	41.67%	PLEASANTVILLE:BETHANY-ST JOHN'S	18.59%	41.67%
WESTMONT	41.67%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: BETHANY-BROWNE MEMORIAL	33.33%	0.00%	JACKSON: DEBOWS	41.67%	41.67%	PORT ELIZABETH	33.33%	35.04%
WESTVILLE	17.62%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: CHRIST	8.33%	16.29%	JULIUSTOWN	41.67%	41.67%	PORT NORRIS: FIRST	25.00%	27.43%
WILLIAMSTOWN	41.67%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: CHURCH OF COVENANT	38.84%	41.67%	KINGSTON	25.01%	17.98%	PORT NORRIS: JOHN WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%
WILLIAMSTOWN: CROSS KEYS	34.80%	34.73%	JERSEY CITY: CLAIR MEMORIAL	1.76%	0.00%	LAMBERTVILLE: CENTENARY	15.11%	41.67%	PORT REPUBLIC: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	0.00%
WOODBURY: COLONIAL MANOR	33.33%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN	23.32%	41.67%	LUMBERTON	0.00%	25.36%	SEA ISLE CITY	41.67%	41.67%
WOODBURY: KEMBLE MEMORIAL	41.67%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: LAFAYETTE	41.67%	0.00%	MAGNOLIA ROAD	0.00%	41.67%	SEAVILLE	41.67%	41.67%
WOODYLYNNE: ASBURY	33.33%	41.67%	JERSEY CITY: TRINITY	8.04%	25.45%	MARLTON	0.00%	41.67%	SMITHVILLE: EMMAUS	41.67%	41.67%
SKYLANDS			KEARNY: CALVARY	41.67%	41.67%	MASONVILLE	41.72%	41.67%	SOMERS POINT	0.47%	12.17%
ANDOVER	41.82%	27.95%	KEARNY: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	MEDFORD	20.00%	41.67%	SOUTH DENNIS: TRINITY	41.67%	41.67%
AUGUSTA: FRANKFORD PLAINS	41.67%	41.67%	KEARNY: GRACE	41.67%	41.67%	MOORESTOWN: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	SOUTH SEAVILLE	41.67%	41.67%
BARRYVILLE	100.00%	41.67%	KEARNY: NEW CAANAN	33.33%	33.33%	MT HOLLY: FIRST	8.05%	41.67%	STRATHMERE	41.67%	41.67%
BLAVIDERE	26.10%	33.47%	KENILWORTH	6.68%	0.00%	MT HOLLY: ST PAUL UMC	41.67%	41.67%	SWAINTON: ASBURY	41.67%	41.67%
BLAIRSTOWN: FIRST	41.67%	41.67%	LINDEN	0.00%	0.00%	NEW EGYPT	41.67%	41.67%	SWAINTON: JOHN WESLEY	41.67%	41.67%
BLAIRSTOWN:WALNUT VALLEY	0.00%	33.46%	LINDEN: EL REDENTOR	0.00%	0.00%	PALMYRA: EPWORTH	33.33%	33.54%	TABERNACLE UMC	41.67%	41.67%
BOONTON	3.22%	41.67%	LITTLE FALLS	41.67%	41.67%	PENBERTON	4.76%	31.27%	TUCKAHOE	41.67%	41.67%
BOONTON TWP: ROCKAWAY VALLEY	16.67%	34.00%	LIVINGSTON	0.00%	41.67%	PENNINGTON: FIRST	25.00%	41.67%	TUCKERTON	1.36%	41.67%
BRANCHVILLE	33.33%	41.67%	LIVINGSTON: KOREAN	16.66%	0.00%	PRINCETON	41.67%	41.67%	VENTNOR: TRINITY	8.18%	17.51%
BUTLER	0.00%	41.67%	LYNDHURST	41.67%	41.67%	RINGOES: LINVALE	41.67%	41.67%	WEYMOUTH	41.67%	41.67%
BUTTVILLE	16.67%	41.67%	LYNDHURST:GLORY KOREAN	17.52%	0.00%	RIVERSIDE: FIRST	22.25%	41.67%	WILDWOOD CREST: FIRST	33.33%	33.55%
DENVILLE COMMUNITY	41.67%	41.67%	MADISON	25.00%	25.63%	ROEBLING: TRINITY	19.57%	41.67%	WILDWOOD: NORTH WILDWOOD	41.67%	41.67%
DINGMANS FERRY	0.00%	41.67%	MAPLEWOOD: MORROW MEMORIAL	41.67%	41.67%	SMITHVILLE	41.67%	41.67%	WINSLOW	41.67%	41.67%
DOVER: FIRST	33.33%	34.23%	MONTCLAIR: FIRST UMC	0.00%	0.00%	TABERNACLE	33.33%	41.67%	DELAWARE BAY		
DOVER: GRACE	41.67%	41.67%	MONTCLAIR: ST. MARK'S UMC	20.83%	41.67%	TANSBORO: TRINITY	33.33%	33.68%	ALDINE	38.87%	41.67%
ELDRED	17.62%	25.00%	NEWARK: FRANKLIN-ST. JOHN'S	13.63%	20.17%	TITUSVILLE	32.69%	41.67%	ALLOWAY	25.00%	33.80%
FLANDERS	41.67%	41.67%	NEWARK: ST PAUL'S CENTENARY	41.67%	35.64%	TRENTON: AFRICAN	33.33%	41.67%	AUBURN: EBENEZER	41.67%	41.67%
HACKETTSTOWN: DRAKESTOWN	25.00%	18.28%	NEWARK: ST. MATTHEW'S	24.31%	29.35%	TRENTON: CADWALADER-ASBURY	0.00%	33.63%	BRIDGEPORT: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	0.00%
HACKETTSTOWN: HURD TOWN	6.86%	0.00%	NEWARK: TRINITY	37.57%	0.00%	TRENTON: TURNING POINT	8.33%	41.67%	BRIDGETON: CENTRAL	33.33%	33.86%
HACKETTSTOWN: TRINITY	43.29%	41.67%	NORTH BERGEN	7.84%	41.66%	TRENTON: WESLEY	33.33%	41.67%	BRIDGETON: FIRST	33.33%	41.67%
HOPATCONG: WESTSIDE	0.00%	16.00%	NUTLEY: VINCENT	0.00%	41.67%	VINCENTOWN	41.67%	41.67%	BRIDGETON: FORDVILLE ST JOHN	41.67%	41.67%
HOPE: ST. JOHN'S	8.33%	41.67%	ORANGE	8.33%	11.41%	WILLINGBORO: GOOD SHEPHERD	8.89%	8.16%	BRIDGETON: FRIENDSHIP-FINLEY	41.67%	41.67%
JOHNSONBURG	33.33%	33.33%	PERTH AMBOY: SIMPSON	16.67%	15.17%	WILLINGBORO: ST PAUL	41.67%	41.67%	BRIDGETON: JOHN WESLEY	25.00%	0.00%
KNOWLTON	0.00%	0.00%	RAHWAY: TRINITY	0.00%	0.00%	WINDSOR	41.67%	41.67%	BRIDGETON: TRINITY	41.67%	41.67%
LAKE HOPATCONG	0.00%										

New Sunday School Curriculum



Grow, Proclaim, Serve! Is the new core children's Sunday school curriculum to be introduced this fall by Cokesbury. The United Methodist Publishing House says it is designed "to meet the needs of a variety of churches, particularly those who use 'Rock Solid'" and 'Live B.I.G.'. The curriculum will offer biblically solid, theologically sound, age-graded and age appropriate learning tools that are easy to use, fun for the children and provide lots of options." This curriculum will include multimedia tools, including video resources that will connect the children to quirky, fun characters. Music and movement videos will also be included. There will also be a teen curriculum that will have a completely different look and feel. For more information or to reserve a copy of the curriculum go to www.cokesbury.com or www.growproclaimserve.com

OBITUARIES

ROBERT RICHWOOD MARSHALL, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on Saturday, June 9. A funeral service took place on Saturday, June 16 at the First United Methodist Church, Glassboro.

As a young man he became active in the First United Methodist Church in Glassboro where he was chosen to be president of his Methodist Youth Fellowship. In 1958 he graduated from Pitman High School and was his class valedictorian. He graduated from the University of Delaware before entering Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary from where he proceeded to his ministry in the United Methodist Church. During his studies at Eastern, Bob became the Associate Pastor for children and youth at the Linwood UM Church. In 1965 he was granted the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Eastern and was ordained as an elder in the SNJ Conference of the UM Church. He was appointed to establish a new church in the Old Orchards section of Cherry Hill. Once the church was established, Bob became the pastor of the Embury UM

Church in Collingswood and later served as pastor of the Clayton UM Church, the Conklin UM Church in South River, the Pearson Memorial UM Church in Hamilton Township and finally the Absecon UM Church. He retired from his pastoral appointment in 1988.

Gifts of Remembrance, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the G. Richwood Marshall Lay Leader Scholarship, First United Methodist Church, 60 State Street, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Condolence messages may be sent to Rev. Marshall's widow, Carol, P.O. Box 327, Fortescue, NJ 08332.

LORRAINE "LAURIE" LARSEN, lay member to the Annual Conference representing the Atlantic Highlands United Methodist Church, died on May 14. A prayer service was held on May 17 at the Shore Point Funeral Home.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Shore Point Funeral Home, 3269 State Route 35, Hazlet, NJ 07730, or by going to www.shorepointfh.com.

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

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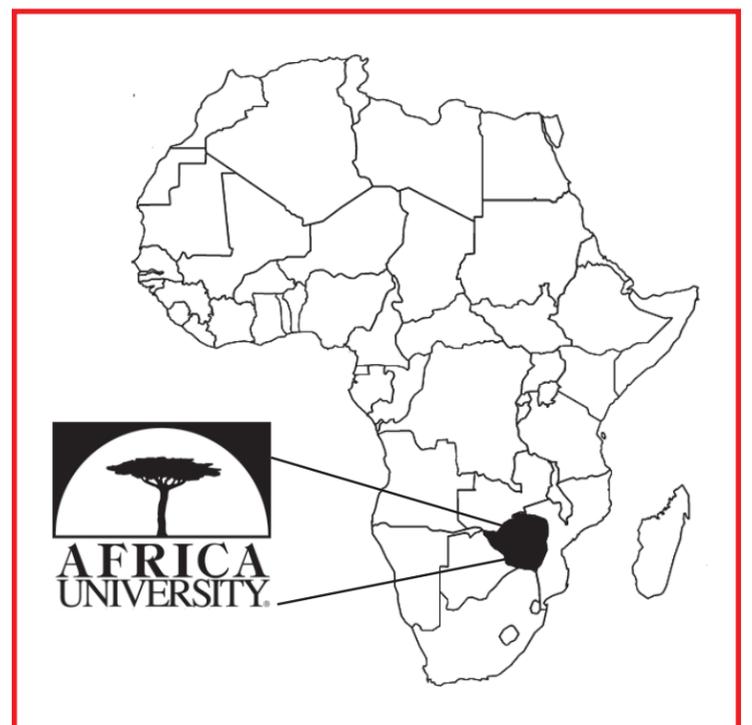
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