

All Clergy Gathering Features Expert on “Spiritual But Not Religious”

At St. John’s Church in Hazlet, nearly 400 clergy from around the conference gathered for worship, fellowship, and conversation with the Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, a pastor in the United Church of Christ and author of “When Spiritual But Not Religious Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church.” All clergy received a free copy of her book, and there was even a CBS television crew on hand to film Rev. Daniel for an upcoming special.



Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel addresses clergy gathering in Hazlet.

Photo by Chris Heckert

This all-clergy gathering is a day apart for the clergy of the conference as they prepare to lead their congregations through Lent. Begun by Bishop Devadhar and now continued by Bishop Schol, it has become an important tradition.

In her sermon, Rev. Daniel challenged the congregation to go beyond



Bishop Schol welcomes clergy to the All Clergy Pre-Lenten Gathering.

“Touchdown Theology” – the superficial understanding of blessedness embodied in the prosperity gospel and post-game locker room interviews – and encouraged them to think more deeply about the complexity of God’s call and blessings on their lives. Using the story of her own call to ministry – a call nearly derailed by a letter from her Episcopal diocese stating that she “has absolutely no discernible gifts for parish ministry, whatsoever” – she encouraged the pastors to consider the closed doors in their own lives. Noting that she had not been able to pursue her calling until she switched denominations, she asked, “What if the clicker won’t open the door because your car is over on the other side of the parking lot?”

After a service of communion and

with a “you’ll burn in hell” argument on the one hand or coddle them with a “whatever floats your boat” approach on the other. Instead, this growing segment of American society needs to be challenged to approach the task of finding a religious community with the same effort they put into selecting a college, purchasing a home, or even buying a car – to “dig deeply” into their religious traditions with the goal of “mature faith, practiced in community, over time.” This commitment implies a shift from the narcissistic focus of “finding



Bishop Schol invites the congregation of the clergy to receive communion.

Photo by Chris Heckert

anointing led by Bishop John Schol, pastors had the opportunity to hear more about Rev. Daniel’s vision for communities of faith that are “reasonable, rigorous, and real.” The answer to those who are “spiritual but not religious,” Daniel said, is not to scare them

a church that meets my needs” toward finding a “community where God needs my gifts.”

“Christendom is over,” she reminded the pastors. “No one *has* to be in church. They want you to make the case why it matters.”

Task Force on Conference Office Presents Findings



Photo by Heather Fullerton

In June of 2011, the Annual Conference empowered a task force to study the present conference center and assess present conditions, costs and repairs as well as our present and future needs. The task force has reviewed the property using engineers and contractors and has determined that our present building is not worth further investments.

The conference center is located in Ocean County just outside of Asbury Park and was purchased by the newly formed Greater New Jersey Conference in 2002. The building is over 18,000 square feet and was originally a home. It has had several additions over the years and in addition to being

a home, it was also a restaurant, a night club, and now an office building.

The building costs \$219,000 a year to operate which includes mortgage, insurance, utilities, maintenance and repairs. The building is not energy efficient, and the property is also in need of \$550,000 of repairs which includes a new retaining wall, heating and air conditioning, paving and basic painting and carpeting.

The office presently houses a little more than 30 staff. There are five windows in the entire building. “It would not be good stewardship to invest in the property,” said Rev. Lou Strugala,

Continued on page 3

Strategic Ministry Plan Begins with Listening

The Strategic Ministry Task Force has been conducting listening sessions around the conference to identify the hopes and challenges of the conference to be addressed over the next five years. The team of 12 has been meeting in every district as well as talking with conference leaders.

The team has been learning about some of the strong ministry within the Greater New Jersey Conference. We are theologically and ethnically diverse. We have vital small congregations and strong large congregations. We have vibrant urban ministries and rural ministries. In 2010, GNJ was one of the only conferences to grow in membership.

Like most US conferences we also have challenges. Over the last ten years, GNJ has seen

- Worship attendance decline by 20%
- Professions of faith decline by 34%
- Shared ministry collection rate decline from 86% to 79%
- The number of churches decline from 610 to 578
- Baptisms decline from 3,321 to 1,882
- The number of children and youth in our congregations decline from 28,581 to 25,271
- 50% of our active pastors are over

57 years old and 50% of our members are over 58 years old

“Yes, like many US conferences we have challenges but we have creative and courageous clergy and laity who are leading us through the challenges,” said John Schol, Bishop of the Greater New Jersey Conference. “Look at how our clergy and laity have responded to Superstorm Sandy. We are a leader in the state providing relief and are well organized for the long term recovery.” Schol added, “We have more churches worshipping over 500 than any other conference in the Northeastern Jurisdiction and we have strong diversity. We are making progress in the midst of stiff head winds.”

Two of the most important aspects of the plan will be how we grow more vital congregations and how we call, equip, send and support clergy and lay spiritual leaders.

There are three aspects to the life of a vital congregation: A) Life-full **stories** are being told - stories about changed lives, new disciples and transforming ministry and mission done through the congregation. B) **Fruitfulness** evidenced by new disciples being made, number of disciples in small groups for learning and faith formation, number of disciples engaged in wor-

Continued on page 3

A Message from the Bishop



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last month I talked about principles, or values, and that sometimes two principles you hold can actually compete with each other. I used the illustration of Abraham Lincoln and his prolonging the Civil War because if the war was over, the urgency for Congress to end slavery would be threatened. Lincoln wanted peace and to end slavery. Holding both of these in one hand created conflicts.

Each of us faces such challenges and that is why ethics and the study of ethics are vitally important to our faith.

One of the dilemmas the church has encountered is the different values between mosaics, the younger generation and mainstream church thinking. It is no secret that young people are losing faith in the church. Not necessarily in God, but in the church.

When asked, the mosaic generation gives any one or more of the following reasons for dropping out of church: overprotective, shallow, antiscience, repressive, exclusive and doubtless. (*You Lost Me: Why Young Christians are Leaving Church* by David Kinnaman 2011)

David Kinnaman, a researcher from the evangelical research firm the Barna Group, says that most young people do not describe themselves as church dropouts, but that the church has left them, that the church is not interested in their ideas and faith journey.

I would describe it as two sets of values and that the church is having a difficult time holding these values in the same hand. Let's unpack the values of mosaics. Mosaics see the church as

- Overprotective – mosaics want creativity and cultural engagement. They want to reimagine, re-create, rethink, and they want to be entrepreneurs, innovators, and starters. The church on the other hand highly values the opposite – tradition, consistency, evenness. Is one right and the other wrong. No.
- Shallow – mosaics see the church as boring, easy platitudes, proof texting, and formulaic slogans. Mosaics seek deeper faith and understanding and challenging ideas and beliefs.
- Antiscience – mosaics think the church sees faith and science as opposites. Mosaics see science as mostly helpful and science seems more accessible when the church and faith do not seem accessible.
- Repressive – mosaics see the church as focused on rules and repressive ideas. Sexual mores create challenges for the faith development of young people.
- Exclusive – mosaics embrace open-mindedness, tolerance, and acceptance. The church comes across as less tolerant and closed minded.
- Doubtless – mosaics do not see the church as a place to express one's doubts. Church does not seem to be a place to raise questions.

If the church is going to reach new generations of believers it will need to become like Abraham Lincoln and hold two competing values in the same hand. We will have to learn to hold in the same hand tradition and creativity; clarity and a questioning mind; faith and science; freedom and rules; sexuality as a gift and a responsibility; tolerance and boundaries; faith and doubt.

To do this, the church will need to surrender controlling the conversation and opening the conversation to be led by younger people; surrender that we are right and that truth may exist with younger generations; surrender how we do things now to how they will be done in the future.

It is not an easy journey. As a parent of three young adult children, I find that they are teaching me. For instance, in my generation we live to work. But for many young adults, they work to live. My generation has thought of mosaics as lazy. But they are anything but lazy. They have greater balance and boundaries. They are teaching me balance although I have not been very successful.

Discipleship is not only the act of following Jesus, but also a commitment to continual learning. Today the church is called to a learning place. Our values may not be the only right values. Our principles need to be laid along side of other principles from different generations, cultures and contexts. It will be a challenging and threatening time. But we do claim to have faith?

Keep the faith!

John Schol
Building a future with hope
Give to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund
www.gnjumc.org

NS District Men to Ponder Male Church Attendance at March 16 Gathering

NORTHERN SHORE – “Why do men not go to church? Is Church a women's place?” These will be the questions under consideration when Northern Shore District United Methodist Men meet March 16 for their Annual Gathering at the Matawan Church.

All who participate will be invited to take part in interactive small group discussions based on the book “*Why Men Hate going to Church*,” by David Murrow. Participants are invited to David Murrow's Questionnaire “How guys-friendly is your Church?” available on line at http://churchformen.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Guy_Friendly_Test.pdf.

Murrow contends that worship tends to follow a “soft” style that appeals to women, but repulses men. His aim is to attract “tough masculine males” to Sunday worship.

The gathering will get underway at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast, and will conclude following a light lunch at 1 p.m. Cost of the event is \$5.00 which will cover both the breakfast and lunch.

From the Conference Board of Church and Society

We know that there are a lot of activities happening in our churches related to advocacy, peace and justice.

We would like to share your pictures and stories with others. We are planning to display pictures of churches in action at Annual Conference. Please share with us pictures of your work in the community such as through feeding programs; community gardens, teen projects in the community; your church works with a housing project; holding a rally for immigrants; writing

to your legislators/President, etc..

We are very proud of the work that many of our churches do to show their theology through advocacy. By showing your pictures and sharing your stories, we want more churches to be involved in the life of their community, their country and their world.

Please send your pictures and stories to: Rev. Jonathan Campbell at pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com. Deadline is Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

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

The United Methodist RELAY

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

Send in your subscription order now.

UNITED METHODIST RELAY

1001 Wickapedia Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712-4733



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

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

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

FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT

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

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

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

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

Delaware Bay & Gateway South Districts
Position Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

Twenty Conferences Pay 100% of General Church Apportioned Funds in 2012

Overall Payouts Reach 90% for the First Time Since 2001

Nashville, TN – The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) reports 20 annual conferences paid 100% of their general Church apportioned funds in 2012 and overall apportionment payouts reached 90%, the highest payout level the general Church has reached since 2001. The conferences paying 100% are Alaska, Baltimore-Washington, Desert Southwest, East Ohio, **Greater New Jersey**, Holston, Illinois Great Rivers, Iowa, Kansas West, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula-Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, Tennessee, West Michigan, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. In 2011, 17 conferences gave 100% to all seven general Church apportioned funds. (*bold print added*)

Moses Kumar, General Secretary for GCFA said "It is truly a blessing that we had this increase for 2012. But more importantly, the people of The

United Methodist Church have come together in a way that affirms the ministries of the Church. The support of the apportioned funds is a statement that we are doing a new thing in the Church and that together we can make a difference in the lives of so many people. There are so many stories throughout the connection of annual conferences that made significant increases – and that also increases the total impact on ministry. That is a testament to the commitment of the Church for local and global ministry. Thank you."

The Tennessee Conference reached 100% in 2012. Jim Allen, Director of Administration, says "The generosity of the people in the our local churches of their gifts from God, combined with better than-expected gains from our investments, made this possible." The West Ohio Conference made a significant increase in percentage paid in 2012. Bill Brownson, Treasurer and

Director of Administration for the conference says "In West Ohio we have intentionally reset our priorities and made Connectional Giving more prominent. In combination with other initiatives to better manage total expenses both for the Conference and local churches. The Conference was able to make a significant improvement in its connectional giving while continuing to equip and support local churches and clergy."

Ten annual conferences on the 2012 list have paid 100% for five consecutive years or more. All five US jurisdictions reported increases in remittance percentages. The North Central Jurisdiction increased from 89.76% in 2011 to 95.77% in 2012." West Ohio increased from 65% in 2011 to 95% in 2012. Others with significant increases are California-Pacific, increasing 17%; Oregon-Idaho increasing 14% and Northwest Texas increasing 12%.

Task Force Presents Findings

Continued from page 1

chairperson of the Conference Trustees and the task force. "With a half a million dollars of investment, we would still be left with a building that is inadequate for our ministry and would continue to require significant maintenance," added Strugala.

The task force has a difficult challenge to try to locate property that will meet the needs of the conference and not increase the shared ministry payments of the churches. The task force has decided to look in a ten mile radius of the conference so that the staff can easily relocate, the conference center stays in the middle of the state and is near highways.

The task force will make a recommendation to the annual conference session held at the end of May 2013 in Wildwood, New Jersey.



Pastors of the Northern Shore District gather to strategize and update one another on Sandy relief and recovery efforts. Photo by Sushil Bhujbal

Listening

Continued from page 1

ship and mission, and generous giving by disciples to mission. C) Ministry activities for building up the community of faith and to transform lives and social conditions in the community and the world. Vital churches have powerful stories, fruitfulness and life changing ministries.

The 2012 General Conference committed to growing vital congregations and at its November 2012 meeting, the Council of Bishops committed for the next 10 years to lead the denomination to grow more vital congregations.

It is anticipated that the GNJ strate-

gic ministry plan will also propose how the conference will grow more diverse and reach more non and nominally religious young people as well as address mission priorities and new church starts.

"This is a time for prayer throughout the Greater New Jersey Conference," said Schol. "I believe God wants to reach new generations of believers, strengthen our ministry in urban communities and use us as a witness to the region as we help those impacted by Sandy. Prayer will sustain us for this important ministry."

Imagine No Malaria launches Mother's Day campaign

Nashville, Tenn.: Eighty-five to 90 percent of deaths from malaria are women and children under five. Imagine No Malaria, a ministry of The United Methodist Church, is launching a Mother's Day campaign so that mothers in Africa will be able to fight malaria and nurture their children into thriving adults.

The United Methodist Church operates more than 300 hospitals, clinics and health posts throughout Africa.

"This health care system is vital to saving lives and overcoming this preventable disease," said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, who chairs the United Methodist Global Health Initiative. "Your gifts provide these facilities with resources such as rapid diagnostic tests and malaria medication that will help mothers who are trying to nurture their children as they suffer from the effects of malaria."

To make a donation in honor or memory of your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister or other nurturing woman, text the word MOM to 27222 or go to ImagineNoMalaria.org/sharethelove. Those who donate \$150 via the website will receive three special

Mother's Day cards as a gift of gratitude. The cards feature poignant photos of African mothers with their children. Donations of \$200 will receive the cards and a poster.

Additionally, at ImagineNoMalaria.org/sharethelove, watch video tributes to mothers, get resources such as Mother's Day prayers and read the latest news about malaria. In May, follow and participate in a special month-long Mother's Day tribute at facebook.com/umcImagineNoMalaria and pinterest.com/nomalaria.

About Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary ministry of The United Methodist Church, putting faith into action to end preventable deaths from malaria in Africa. The first expression of The United Methodist Church's Global Health Initiative, Imagine No Malaria is an integrated effort that has become a model for collaboration among annual conferences, local churches and multiple general boards and agencies.

For more information, visit ImagineNoMalaria.org.

Sandy Aftermath is Theme of NS District Day of Learning

TOMS RIVER – "We Are God's Hands: the aftermath of Sandy" will be the theme of the annual Day of Learning at St. Andrew's Church on the Northern Shore District, March 9. Training sessions covering a wide range of local church interests will be offered at the event that will run from 8:15 a.m. registration, through two workshop sessions, a mid-morning brunch and keynote address and concluding at 1 p.m.

The Rev. Lou Strugala, pastor of Asbury Church, Egg Harbor, and chair of the Conference Board of Trustees, who will deliver the keynote address, speaking on "Sandy Relief". In addition

to the Sandy theme, the workshops will deal largely with a general review of local church interests from trustees and finance to mission and communications and more, with an eye to improving skills of local church leaders.

There is a registration fee of \$10 per person or \$40 per church for teams of six or more.

The host church is located at 1528 Church Road, Toms River. In the event of severe weather conditions please call the St. Andrew church office at 732 349-5367 or check the church website: <http://standrewtr.org>.

Attention all Clergy, Lay Members, Board, Agency and Committee Chairs

Deadline Extended for Reports and Resolutions for the 2013 Annual Conference to March 25.

All reports and legislation to be printed and presented to the Annual Conference must be submitted by March 25, 2013. This is a hard deadline! Reports and legislation received after this date will not be printed in the pre-conference Journal and will most likely not be presented to annual conference or printed in the final Journal. This is a modification from previous years. First it extends the deadline by 25 days. Secondly, reports and legislation received after the deadline will not be printed and distributed to conference members upon their arrival at annual conference as has been the practice in past years.

The requirements and instructions for submission of reports and resolutions may be found at the Conference website under the "Annual Conference" Quick Link.

The April Issue Deadline is March 5, 2013



Global Relay

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

Dig into own history, chaplain urges universities

ADRIAN, Mich. (UMNS) — The best United Methodist-related colleges and universities do not try to fit their mission around some generic idea of what it means to be “church related,” writes the Rev. Chris Momany, a chaplain and part-time professor of philosophy/religion at United Methodist-affiliated Adrian (Mich.) College and an ordained United Methodist pastor. “They dig deeply into their own histories as institutions related to the church and bring that wisdom forward.”

12 Vietnamese ordained local elders in mission

NEW YORK (UMNS) — Although the government has not yet recognized the United Methodist Church in Vietnam, the church in this Southeast Asian country is experiencing phenomenal growth, in part because of the commitment of its local leadership. Twelve of those leaders were ordained Local Elders in Mission in early January. The Vietnam Mission Initiative is one of several in Southeast Asia under the direction of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Online continuing education consortium

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry has introduced an Online Continuing Education Consortium in collaboration with the 13 United Methodist theological schools and the University Senate-approved seminaries.

Documentary explores church’s homosexuality debate

SAN FRANCISCO (UMNS) — KQED, a PBS member station in Northern California, and the Center for Investigative Reporting have launched “A Church Divided,” a multimedia partnership to examine how different denominations are approaching the divisive question of whether homosexuality is a sin. One episode focuses on The United Methodist Church discussions about homosexuality both during and after the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Fla.

Prayer webinar postponed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The webinar “When Congregations Pray,” originally scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 21, has been postponed to 7 p.m. CT Thursday, April 25. The next session in the series of free “Teach Us to Pray” webinars will be on “Praying the Scriptures” at 7 p.m. CT Tuesday, March 19.

Making the African voice heard

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — Making sure the voices of Africa are heard when the discussion turns to issues on the African continent is what motivates Jefferson Knight, who represents the central conferences on the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. “I am on the ground in Africa,” he says. He represents not only his home country of Liberia, but also Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Côte d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone.

Bishop White heads African-American heritage board

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Church’s African American Methodist Heritage Center has announced the election of retired Bishop Woodie W. White as president of its board of directors. White is a longtime United Methodist and member of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the United Methodist African-American caucus. The center works to provide research, preserve artifacts, and protect and promote the stories of black people who have been part of Methodism since its inception in the 1700s.

Mississippi ready for disaster relief help

JACKSON, Miss. (UMNS) — An invitation has been issued to United Methodist Early Response Teams that are certified to assist with work that is already in progress by local churches in the area of southern Mississippi hard-hit by a storm during the night of Feb. 10 storm. The area also received a federal disaster declaration Feb. 13 that makes available federal aid. The Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference and its disaster relief coordinator, the Rev. Wayne Napier, have provided details about how to help.

More teams needed for Sandy recovery

NEW YORK (UMNS) — United Methodist coordinators in New Jersey, New York and Maryland are beginning to schedule rebuilding teams for those whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Sandy last October. The relief phase, pointed out the Rev. Warren Ferry, a district disaster coordinator on Long Island, lasted 100 days and recovery is expected to be 10 times that, translating to several years.

Social action agency welcomes gun violence report

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Church and Society welcomed the findings released Feb. 7 by the U.S. House of Representatives’ Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, which support Vice President Joe Biden’s task force in proposing a strong plan to reduce gun violence in the United States. The agency urged Congress “to work on this issue immediately so that no more lives are lost to such unnecessary tragedies.”

EDITORIAL

Embracing Freedom of Choice

At the recent All Clergy Day in Hazlet, the usual program of music, preaching, communion, and anointing was highlighted by a surprising statement from Bishop Schol. As the bishop welcomed people for the event, he playfully said that a few superintendents were ready to pass out because attendance would no longer be taken at events such as that one. He said that if someone thought they had somewhere better to be that day or if the subject didn’t interest a person, then they should feel free not to come. He said that everybody would be better off without grumbling and complaining members of the clergy feeling coerced into attending. In fact, the cabinet has been reflecting on the ministry of leadership development and that requiring people to attend is not in the best interests of the conference. People develop best when they embrace the topic and the workshop leader. (The cabinet will be working with clergy and laity to identify their interest and best format for leadership development events. Clergy can go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QTQQM86> to provide feedback on the most recent event and future speakers they would like to hear.)

At first, the bishop’s statements elicited a small ripple of laughter. Then some began to look around to see if anyone was going to leave the church immediately. It has long been a thorn in the side of *some* of the clergy that they have been obliged to attend district and conference events, registering their attendance with administrative assistants or some other person whose task was to ascertain who made it and who did not; who was excused and who was not. The unspoken threat loomed large in the background- if a clergyperson missed too many of these gatherings with little or no legitimate excuse, they would be liable to executive censure of some sort. Sometimes that would mean a phone call from the superintendent where the offending pastor would have the opportunity to explain him or herself. Occasionally, the breach of accountability would result in a telephone call from the bishop.

It’s unclear, at this point, whether the new policy will benefit the conference or not. There are undoubtedly those who will see the new policy as an opportunity to take a pass on attending events that they see as somehow interfering with their preferred agendas. Attendance figures will likely decrease to some degree though the hope is that those who are actually present will have a greater sense of connection because they really want to be there. The bishop’s new attendance policy has some clear advantages. One is that it treats the clergy like responsible adults; it affords to professional people the respect of expecting mature and rational behavior. In some ways, the policy flies in the face of historic Methodism. Since the beginnings of the Methodist Societies in England in the 18th century, the followers of Wesley have been expected to be accountable for their living as Christians in the world. One was asked to explain how they were living according to the dictates of the faith from week to week. Giving clergy the freedom to choose whether or not to attend district and conference events requires trust on the bishop and cabinet’s part that the majority of clergy will do the right thing given the opportunity.

Another possible benefit to the new policy is that it should help to bolster morale among the clergy. Those who feel oppressed at being forced into attending district and conference gatherings will most likely feel better when given the freedom to choose and those who opt for attendance will also likely feel better knowing they are in the company of colleagues who really want to be where they are.

Methodists have always had a strong hierarchical structure with clear lines of authority and subordination. The relationships between Bishop and local pastor or between District Superintendent and local pastor have always been relatively unequivocal; the Discipline calls for the clergy to place themselves willingly at the disposal of the bishop and by extension, the Bishop’s Cabinet. In such a system, roles are clearly defined and so are the rules that circumscribe the relationships of those involved. That kind of rigidity in the system affords its members a strong sense of identification and security in the knowledge that order will prevail. The downside is that such a rigid system leaves little room for creativity, spontaneity, and movement. The tradition of always taking attendance reflects all of these dynamics.

The other side of the coin is that there are a number of clergy who will simply opt out of being involved beyond their local level when given the chance to do so with impunity, or at least, a certain level of impunity. Of course, their lack of involvement will still likely be noted, if not by the empirical data of attendance sheets then certainly anecdotally. Much has been made over the last couple of quadrennia or so that a significant factor in the appointment making process was whether or not clergy were connectional. It will be more difficult to quantify that characteristic in the clergy without attendance figures. The degree to which a pastor is or is not connectional will depend in a more significant way, on the relationship between local pastor and their District Superintendent. A superintendent who knows his or her district well will have a greater “feel” for the connectionalism of their pastors.

Of course, most of what is cited above deals with the politics of conference relationships. The best reason for giving the new attendance policy its due is that it reflects the nature of the clergy covenant that is accepted implicitly and explicitly, when one takes on the role of United Methodist clergy. UM clergy share a common ministry (in partnership with the laity) and so are bound to each other by nature and vocation. For most clergy, the best reason to attend any district or conference event has little to do with whether or not attendance is being taken or if the day’s presenter has some worthy program to share. It is because it is there that they belong, there where they fellowship with others whose friendship nurtures the spirit, and there where they are accepted and even loved. -GCF

Log on to:

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

Inspiring Greatness: CUMAC Style

What inspires you to be great?

Some people aspire to greatness because it's inside of them; it's in their soul. For many people, however, greatness is inspired by external forces. Money, a desire to please God, even the death of a family member can be strong catalysts. Regardless, greatness is in all of us.

This is important, because we face new challenges every day. There are personal challenges, like unexpected unemployment, and larger-scale challenges, like Hurricane Sandy. One would think that with all of the individual greatness that surrounds us, every challenge could be met. Every person would have a job. Every marriage would be saved. Every disaster could be averted.

The reality is, no matter how great we can be as individuals, we can't solve all of the world's problems. That's why there are members of our human race who dedicate their lives to making our reality better.

An example is the people of CUMAC, the Paterson-based food bank that was started in a church closet 30 years ago and now features a volunteer base extending into six NJ coun-

ties while "feeding" more than 50 smaller food pantries in the state. Our CUMAC missionaries have dedicated their lives to helping those who don't have the means to eat three meals a day.

While CUMAC's doors are open to everyone, its roots are in the Methodist church. Many Relay readers have heard of CUMAC; quite a few have volunteered. It would be easy to reprint all the facts about NJ hunger, but instead, try hunger out for half a day. Try skipping breakfast and lunch tomorrow. How do you feel at 1pm? At 3pm? Multiply that feeling times 365 days a year. Now you know why the great people of CUMAC work so hard. So NOBODY feels like that even one day a year.

This brings us to a challenge. The challenge, dubbed "The CUMAC \$25K to Feed NJ," is to raise \$25,000 for CUMAC by the end of April. This \$25,000 won't wipe out hunger in New Jersey. But it will help CUMAC provide the services its clients need every day.

There are 9 districts in the Greater New Jersey Conference. What if we gave our districts specific ways to help CUMAC reach that goal? What if we

included the youth and incorporated music and mohawks (or makeovers, for those of us follicly impaired)? What if we guaranteed fun and the warm feeling of community? Do you think we'd be able to reach that \$25,000 goal?

We have 3 opportunities scheduled, with 4 churches from 4 districts already on board. There's an ongoing pledge drive called **Mohawks & Makeovers for Hunger** in which anyone in New Jersey (calling all youth groups!) can pledge to raise \$180 from friends, family, co-workers, politicians - anyone you know - to receive a very cool Mohawk or Makeover for Hunger on April 27th.

What's significant about April 27th? We're holding two **simultaneous CUMAC '80s Night** benefit concerts at the Red Bank and the Chatham churches. The Sharptown praise band will play your 1980s song requests in Red Bank while members of Parish Drive, the Wayne church's house band, will do the same in Chatham.

If music inspires you and there's a great singer or musician inside of you just itching for a chance to perform a great '80s tune, these two CUMAC '80s Nights are your big chance! Request a song, pay for your request, and sing &

play with the band! Invite everyone you know. Enjoy a family outing (kids 12 & under get in for FREE). Know that you're helping CUMAC reach "The \$25K to Feed NJ" goal.

These are three great ways to help a great cause. Can you be great and tell a friend? Can you be great and request a song, sing a song, or challenge yourself to wear a Mohawk or Makeover for Hunger, just for one night? If enough of us focus our greatness on this one cause for this one period of time, we can reach our \$25,000 goal.

We can't cure hunger in one night. But we can do something great and help the inspiring people who are dedicating their lives to the fight. Will you join us?

Dave Philp, from the Wayne UMC, is Chief Organizer Guy of YouChoose, LLC, a music events organization that raises money for great causes through live benefit concerts.

You can help CUMAC by going to www.MyYouChoose.com/Events, calling Dave at 917-204-1929, or sending an email to Dave@MyYouChoose.com.

Peace with Justice Grant Application Information

Applications for Peace with Justice Grants for the coming year are due on April 1, 2013 and should be mailed to Rev. Rich Hendrickson at the Conference Office. Applications may be submitted by any group related to the Annual Conference - a local church; an agency of the conference, a district, or by two or more such groups in cooperation. Applications are available at: www.gnjumc.org.

Funding for this program is generated by the local churches through Peace with Justice Offerings taken on Peace with Justice Sunday. Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the official church wide Special Sundays when the Peace with Justice Special Offering is collected. Annual Conferences keep half of the offering to fund local projects while the other half goes to the General Board of Church and Society Peace with Justice Program to fund national and global work in social action and public policy education and advocacy. For more information on Peace with Justice Sunday, visit www.umcgiving.org. The total amount of grant monies available varies according to the size of the offerings taken each year.

Our objectives at the Annual Conference level match the General Board of Church and Society objectives for Peace with Justice Grants (www.umcgbcs.org/GBCSgrants). Specifically, we will consider funding programs that align with the following objectives:

- To assist United Methodists in understanding and responding to violence and militarism.
- To involve United Methodists in efforts to end conflicts and violent aggression around the world.
- To promote just local, national and international policies and actions (governmental and non-governmental) which seek to restore communities and respond to the disproportionate effect of injustices on racial and ethnic persons.
- To support policies that will promote systematic economic justice and the self-development of peoples.

In addition, we wish to support the Four Areas of Focus named by the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, and the Table of General Secretaries. To that end, we will also consider applications that show evidence of one of the following:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

In making its funding decisions, the Board will give priority to:

1. Successful ongoing projects or ministries which can become models for other local churches in the conference.
2. Creative projects or ministries which will serve as pilot programs for the development of new forms of Peace with Justice Ministries.
3. Projects bringing representatives from local churches throughout the conference into contact with the best leadership and resources at the "cutting edge" of vital Peace with Justice concerns.
4. Projects for which a Peace with Justice grant will serve as seed money for continuing support from other sources in later years.

Questions about the grants can be directed to:

Rev. Jonathan Campbell
(845) 845-9157
pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com

THE CUMAC \$25K TO FEED NJ

3 Ways To Help Raise \$25,000 For CUMAC By April 27th



Red Bank United Methodist Church
April 27, 2013 • 7pm

Chatham United Methodist Church
April 27, 2013 • 7pm



CUMAC
Feeding People & Changing Lives

To Make Your 1980s Song Request or Find Out How To Pledge To Receive Your Mohawk or Makeover For Hunger, contact Dave Philp at 917-204-1929 / Dave@MyYouChoose.com

www.MyYouChoose.com/Events

Young People Seek Church Relevance

A UMNS Report By Joey Butler*

"How many of you are tired of hearing The United Methodist Church is dying?"

Those were Glen Simpson's first words to participants at Relevance X 2013, a three-day leadership conference in Las Vegas Feb. 15-17 for young people 18 to 30.

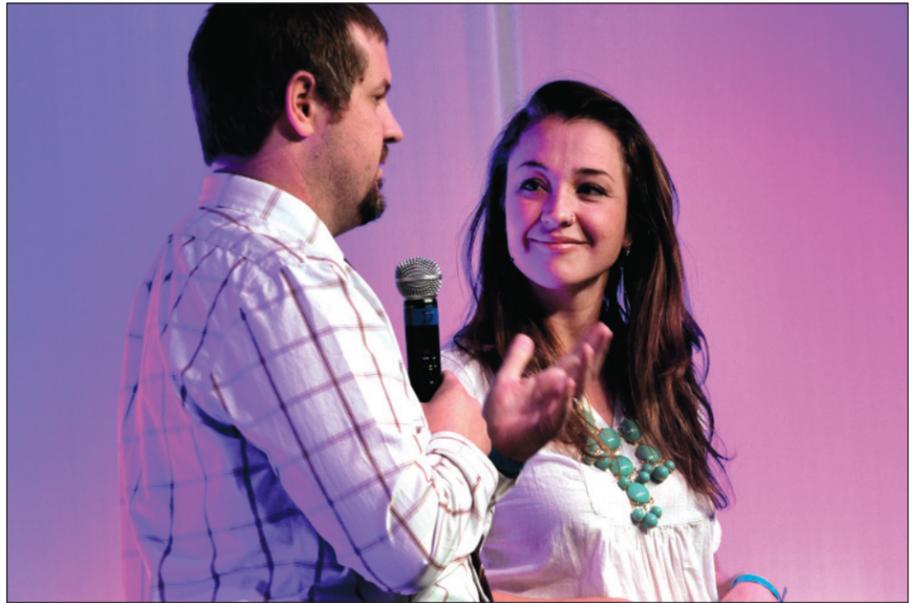
Through energetic worship services, sermons, dialogue and a unique "field trip," participants focused on service and how service should be a key component of their faith. They were challenged to exhibit their personal faith by being a servant to those in need.

The Desert Southwest Annual (regional) Conference began hosting Relevance X in 2010. Now an annual event, Relevance X aims to reach young adults who often find themselves without a voice in the church. The event was also sponsored by Claremont School of Theology and Rethink

While that information cannot be ignored, Relevance/LEAD 2013 sought to highlight unique ministries that are engaging young people and find ways similar creative ministries could be created, newer ways to appeal to those who the church does not now reach.

Evan Smith, who leads the Reverence Electro-Ministry Team in Toronto, spoke about the effectiveness of electronic music and rave culture in worship. With a bevy of tattoos, a lip ring and a streak of purple in her hair, Smith doesn't look like a typical worship leader, and her ministry isn't typical worship. It's working, but she notes that whether it's something as radical as a rave or your average lock-in, one must be immersed in youth culture to connect effectively.

"We have a responsibility to connect with youth in their way," she said. "If you're not social-media savvy, if you don't know who Skrillex is, if you can't find a



The Rev. Rob Rynders moderates questions for the Rev. Sarah Heath, pastor and artist, following her talk at LEAD 2013.

A UMNS photo by Kats Barry.

istry. You'll reach people I cannot."

Having an impact

The centerpiece of Relevance X 2013 was a service experience with Impact Las Vegas, an outreach ministry in a part of Las Vegas that doesn't get shown on TV. Just a few miles from the lights on "The Strip," the neighborhoods are far from glamorous.

Visitors see rows of homes badly in need of repair and with bars over windows to prevent burglaries. Nearby, homeless people sleep in tent cities by the interstate.

More than 500 volunteers loaded onto buses and headed into those areas to clean them up. The volunteers, more than one-third 18 to 34 and unconnected to a church, picked up trash from the streets and alleys of the Palos Verdes neighborhood and also cleaned up parts of a nature trail.

Yvonne Agduyeng, a Relevance X participant from Seattle, said she liked the experience so much that last year's event that she decided to come back.

"It's good to talk about doing something for your community, but to actually do it at a conference is why I came back. I know I can do this at home, but going somewhere else to where I can — this feeds my soul," she said.

"I always hope for people to realize we don't have to do church a certain way," Simpson said. "And I want people to see the power of the connection. The United Methodist Church is a very powerful connectional system, and how much work can we accomplish instead of competing against each other?"

*Butler is editor of young adult content for United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tenn.

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



Young adults share moments of worship, service and celebration during Relevance/LEAD 2013 held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Feb. 14-17.

A UMNS photo by Kats Barry.

Church, part of United Methodist Communications.

"We need to ask each other how we can become more relevant as a church, how we can become better leaders," said Simpson, Desert Southwest's coordinator for young adult ministries. "Relevance X is all about providing that platform."

For the second year, Relevance X ran side by side with LEAD 2013, another conference geared toward young clergy and lay leaders and those who work with young people. LEAD brings together the collective wisdom of those who want to transform and grow young adult ministry in the church. TED-style talks from a variety of faith leaders and those in creative ministry sparked conversation among participants focused on transforming young adult ministry in the church.

"I noticed leaders would come to Relevance X without their kids and thought, 'How do we do this conference for a group?'" said the Rev. Rob Rynders, LEAD organizer and pastor of City Square Church in Phoenix.

A different approach

Here come the scary numbers. For the past few months, religious news services have been breathless over an October 2012 report from the Pew Center, which declared that one in five adults in the United States are "nones," meaning they claim no religious affiliation whatsoever. According to Pew, 32 percent of adults younger than 30 have no religious affiliation, and young adults today are much more likely to be unaffiliated than previous generations were at a similar stage in their lives.

video on YouTube, then get out. They will learn more than us, bypass us, and therefore, bypass the love of Christ."

Richard Kentopp, musician-in-residence at Servant Church in Austin, Texas, echoed Smith's sentiment that you have to speak different languages for different audiences.

"We don't speak Latin any more, but we don't know how not to speak church-speak to those who are outside," Kentopp said. "Don't simply tailor your service to the people already in your world. We all need non-Christians joining our church and in our services."

One vital aspect of worship for youth

nity, and youth know Kanye West and Jay-Z more than they know James Taylor," he said. "This isn't a preference thing; it's a true linguistic barrier."

LEAD also addressed issues that young clergy face when they're the ones who represent the generation gap.

The Rev. Sarah Heath, teaching and preaching site pastor for Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., often finds her youthful appearance — and actual young age — can lead to dismissive attitudes. With a nose ring and tattoos, she knows she might not be accepted at just any church.

Richard Kentopp offers three tips on how to bring new or unchurched people into your worship service.

1. Identify what language you're speaking, both intentionally and unintentionally, and be aware of it.
2. Set your preferences aside. Encourage your congregation to think outside their preferences.
3. Make some changes. Risk your job. Be courageous. Be dynamic. The status quo isn't working and if it is working for you, it won't for much longer.

is music. Relevance and LEAD featured everything from a praise rock band, a jazz ensemble and a spoken-word artist to a club DJ and an impromptu gospel choir.

Kentopp pointed out that staying up on musical trends is key to reaching young people. He shared an anecdote about a conversation with a music pastor who led a contemporary service and described the music as similar to James Taylor.

"Your primary weekly worship gathering is the main door to the commu-

"If they don't want me with a nose ring, that's not the place for me. Your job is to be you," she said.

Heath reminded participants that being a pastor is not the only thing they are, and perhaps they have other gifts they aren't using in their ministry. She said she also experiences God through art, music and acting and knows God wants her to use those creative urges.

"God gives you unique talents and gifts ... and the world needs them. Say you're a great organizer, or you're great with finance — bless you! That's a min-



Volunteers for Impact Las Vegas 2013 help clean up the Palos Verdes neighborhood near the Las Vegas Strip.

A UMNS photo by Joey Butler.

U.S. Conferences Help Mozambique As 200,000 Affected By Flooding That Continues To Destroy



United Methodist churches in Missouri have partnered with those in Mozambique to distribute food, clothing and water to residents of Chibuto. UMNS photos courtesy of Sarah E. Bollinger.

by United Methodist News Service
 Devastating floods that began in late January continue to displace and destroy in Mozambique, leaving some 200,000 people affected and at least 100 dead. "In Mozambique rains are still devastating families, communities and the whole society. In the north of Mozambique, the reports we are receiving from the D.S. (district superintendent) are not encouraging. The rains continue to increase the number of victims," wrote the Rev. Joao Sambo,

The Mozambique church is raising money and organizing relief efforts on the ground. The Mozambique Initiative has forwarded \$15,000 and is working closely with local churches in Mozambique who have contributed supplies, food, clothing, and funds from special offerings.

The Virginia Annual Conference in the United States two weeks ago sent \$10,000 from its Initiatives of Hope fund.

Sambo wrote to Rowley that they

Through the Missouri-Mozambique partnership, two distributions of food, clothing, and water have been made to the residents of Chokwe and Chibuto, two

towns hit hardest by flooding.

The conference leadership of Mozambique, including Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala, delivered rice, beans, porridge, corn meal, oil, sugar, hygiene material, clothing and clean water to families in need.

The Flood Relief Task Force on the ground in Mozambique indicated this distribution gave a lifeline to numerous families in need.

United Nations agencies also began food relief early in February as well as efforts to minimize maternal and child deaths from the disaster.

"The situation is getting worse as more and more people are being affected," Nhanala told the Missouri conference initiative. "The needs are great and almost everything is needed."

Nhanala said the church's response locally is "very positive; our congregations are giving their support in several ways... We are also getting some help from our partner conferences from abroad and we are thankful."

The Missouri conference is asking churches throughout the state and anywhere else to contribute as able.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is accepting donations through the International Disaster Response Advance #982450.

**Sarah E. Bollinger, The Mozambique Initiative coordinator for the Missouri Annual (regional) Conference and the Rev. Glenn Rowley, director of Justice and Missional Excellence for the Virginia Annual (regional) Conference, contributed to this story.*



Among the many obstacles faced by flood relief workers are impassable roads.

pastor of Liberdade United Methodist Church in Maputo, in a Feb. 21 email to the Rev. Glenn Rowley of the Virginia Annual (regional) Conference.

The United Methodist Church and relief agencies worldwide — including United Nations agencies — have responded.

The Mozambique Initiative of the Missouri Annual (regional) Conference in the United States and supporters in Missouri are partnering with local churches throughout Mozambique to respond.

plan to use part of the money to repair two parsonages that have been left uninhabitable by the floods and the rest of the funds will go to purchase mosquito nets.

"With the rain season still taking place right now, the number of victims is increasing," Sambo wrote. "There is a lot of dirty water almost everywhere, proper for mosquito breeding, let alone many areas which are basically swamp. If we can provide mosquito nets now in this emergency period, we would reduce the number of fatalities. ..."

A Great Place to Live



For over a century, we have provided quality and caring services to senior men and women of all faith backgrounds. Six factors make us unique:

1. The Fellowship Fund assures that residents will never be asked to leave due to the inability to pay the total cost of caregiving.
2. Our "aging in place" model stands apart in senior care because it matches professional services with the needs of individuals.
3. The Front Line Professional Initiative recognizes all employees as professionals, regardless of title or position.
4. Our innovative LifeChoices program fosters a culture of enrichment.
5. Communities are woven into the fabric of local towns.
6. The Homes offers full service communities and senior housing communities.

UNITED METHODIST Homes
www.umh-nj.org

Bristol Glen
 Newton, NJ
 973.300.5788

Collingswood Manor
 Collingswood, NJ
 856.854.4331

Francis Asbury Manor
 Ocean Grove, NJ
 732.774.1316

Pitman Manor
 Pitman, NJ
 856.589.7800

The Shores at Wesley Manor
 Ocean City, NJ
 609.399.8505

INDEPENDENT LIVING • RESIDENTIAL LIVING
 ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY SUPPORT • RESPITE • SHORT-TERM REHAB
 SKILLED NURSING • HOSPICE

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



Top Ten List for Funding Ministry

- 1. Emphasize trust, not techniques.**
Trust in God is the foundation for any stewardship strategy.
- 2. Connect giving with mission and ministry.**
Make the case that even your fixed costs like utilities, property insurance, etc. provide a means for mission and ministry to take place.
- 3. Focus on building relationships with donors, not soliciting donations.**
Spend time praying for and with your people. Check in with them and offer pastoral support but not just during the stewardship campaign.
- 4. Create special giving opportunities.**
Make a wish list; find out which ministries people are passionate about and then give opportunities for people to give specifically to those ministries.
- 5. Look beyond your current needs.**
Develop strategies and relationships that will encourage your folks to see the blessing in making a planned gift to the future ministries of the church.
- 6. Say Thank-you!**
Ask your leadership to help you thank donors—as many and as often as possible.
- 7. Leverage the momentum from other campaigns.**
Maximize the “spill-over” effect of other campaigns (i.e., capital or endowment) by using the opportunity to highlight your ongoing programs.
- 8. Communicate differently with various groups within the church.**
Thank those who are faithful, encourage greater participation for those on the margins, and make a concerted, intentional effort to encourage less-than-active people to get involved.
- 9. Communicate more often.**
Use every avenue available: bulletins, newsletters, websites, mission moments, interviews, media, etc. to get the word out about how the church is changing lives.
- 10. Be fiscally responsible.**
Take a look at your expenses and make sure your using your resources in accordance with your ministry needs.

Stephen Ministry Workshop at Grace Church in Wyckoff on April 27

Would you like to learn to be an active listener and reach out to others in a distinctively Christian way? On Saturday, April 27, Grace Church located at 555 Russell Avenue, in Wyckoff, NJ will host a Stephen Ministry Workshop from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M., and refreshments will be served. The half-day workshop consists of three sessions designed both to enhance participants' caregiving skills and to help congregations explore ways to expand their caring ministry.

The workshop is sponsored by Stephen Ministries, the St. Louis-based Christian training organization that has been providing congregations with training and resources for Christian caregiving for more than 30 years.

In the first session of the workshop, “Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief,” participants learn about the grief process — the stages of grief and how to minister to people in each of those stages. They'll gain the skills and confidence to better care for individuals who are grieving.

The second session provides an introduction to the Stephen Series, a system of lay caring ministry through which congregation leaders can equip members to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in need. Since 1975, more than 11,000 congregations representing more than 150 denominations have implemented the Stephen Series.

The final session of the workshop explains “How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way.” Participants learn what makes Christian caregiving unique and how they can use resources like prayer, blessings, and Scripture in their caring for others.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation. For more information, or to register to attend the Stephen Ministry Workshop at Grace United Methodist Church, in Wyckoff, NJ, please see our website at <http://www.gumc.org> or contact Stephen Ministries at: (314) 428-2600.

New Church Plants Total 684 in Last Quadrennium, Surpassing Goal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Feb. 21, 2013 / GBOD/ – Church planters established 684 new United Methodist Churches in the United States during 2008-2012, surpassing the denomination's new church development goal for the quadrennium by 34.

“We want to celebrate the work that our planters, developers, superintendents and bishops have done to plant these 684 new churches,” said the Rev. Candace M. Lewis, Executive Director of New Church Starts (Path1), a division of The General Board of Discipleship (GBOD).

Path 1 supported the starting of new congregations in 61 of the 63 annual conferences by conducting assessments of potential planters, coaching new church starts and providing other resources for congregational developers, district superintendents and bishops in their strategic church planting work, Lewis said.

All five jurisdictions recorded healthy growth: 232 new churches in the Southeastern, 146 in the South Central, 148 in the North Central, 92 in the Northeastern and 66 in the Western.

“This data is exciting for us to share so annual conferences can see how they are a part of a larger denominational church planting movement,” Lewis said. “That's one of the reasons we celebrate our numerical progress as it reflects all of us working together to create new places for new people and to reach more young people and diverse people.”

By comparison, the denomination planted 278 churches during the previous quadrennium ending in 2007. Based on the most current data from developers and the General Council on Finance and Administration, the closure rate for new churches since 2008 has been 8 percent, or 59 of 684 churches, a vast improvement over the close rate of 26 percent during the 2004-2007 period.

“I think our denomination is starting to see the opportunity to reach new people as the U.S. population grows and shifts. A new church is one ‘doorway’ whereby someone can join a new community and grow in faith. New churches tend to be very friendly, open and relevant to the context and community in which it is started,” Lewis said. “These 684 new churches represent places where collectively thousands of new people gather to worship and serve in ministry and missions

throughout the United States.”

The new congregations encompass many worship styles and represent a wide variety of planting strategies, including multisite projects, where an existing church disciples a new community, and nontraditional starts, such as new intentional communities, campus ministries becoming congregations and house/cell churches that seek to replicate the apostolic pattern of first-century churches.

“Attending a new church or mission project sponsored by a new church oftentimes is very nonthreatening first step for a person who has never been to church to get connected and start exploring the Christian faith,” Lewis said.

Annual conferences are being intentional about reaching new people to make disciples of Christ. “In being intentional, they are really looking at creative, relevant and nontraditional ways to reach new people,” she said. “When we look at our collective approach to starting new churches, multisite, a second campus and partnered church starts are our current leading church planting strategies at this time.

At the current planting rate of 11.4 new churches per month, Path 1 believes the denomination can reach a new goal of 1,000 new church plants by the end of the current quadrennium and will move toward the goal of planting a new church a day by 2020.

“I think we have momentum now in reaching new people and creating new places, so we're going to continue to build upon that momentum,” Lewis said. “We will start creating new Wesleyan church planting resources this year to help make sure those 684 churches become self sufficient, sustainable, vital congregations.”

The hope is that the new plants begin to multiply and create other new churches, as well, she said.

“This quadrennial period we are planning to be very intentional about starting multiethnic, multicultural new churches. We also want to reach growing populations and racial/ethnic groups that we aren't currently reaching,” Lewis said. “I think there's a great opportunity to reach new Hispanic and Latino persons. That's the current largest minority group in the United States, and we're being very intentional about resourcing our Hispanic/Latino church planting effort,” she said.

Volunteers In Mission Team Leadership Training



Greater New Jersey Annual Conference **UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION** Invites you to a:

Volunteers In Mission Team Leadership Training
Saturday, April 13, 2013

St. John's United Methodist Church
2000 Florence Ave., Hazlet, NJ
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Who Should Attend?

If you are interested in learning more about being a UMVIM team leader or hosting mission teams this training is designed for you. Team Leader Training is required for all first time United Methodist Volunteers In Mission team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not.

What is UMVIM?

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love In Action” through short-term mission service in the United States and abroad. It provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders. We continually nurture our contacts with these leaders to respond to the needs of local communities and to provide comprehensive project information.

Registration

\$35 UMVIM Manual and lunch
\$10 Lunch (Manual can be shared by leaders of same church.)
Send registration and checks made payable to
GNJAC by March 29, 2013 to
Ginny Kaiser, 1001 Wickpecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712
For more information and to register go to: www.gnjumc.org or
contact Ginny Kaiser at gkaiser@gnjumc.org or 877-677-2594.



BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
United Methodist Church

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES
(Ages 12-18 years old)

TOUR HISTORICAL PHILADELPHIA

SPRING TOUR: April 20, 2013
FALL TOUR: September 21, 2013

MAKE THE HISTORICAL BLACK CONNECTION IN
METHODISM COME ALIVE BY VISITING:

- **St. George UM Church** – where racial inequalities began and affirms our beginning
- **Mother Bethel AME Church** – Richard Allen, Founder
- **Tindley Temple UM Church** – Charles Albert Tindley, Founder and meeting place of the Delaware Conference/Central Jurisdiction
- **Zoar UM Church** – Harry Hoosier, Founder who attended the Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane Church in 1784
- **St. Thomas African Episcopal Church** – Absalom Jones, Founder

RSVP DEADLINES:

SPRING TOUR: March 30, 2013
FALL TOUR: August 24, 2013

HISTORICAL TOUR BUS LEAVES @ 8:00 AM
FROM ST. PAUL UM CHURCH
CHARLESTON ROAD & LEVITT PARKWAY, WILLINGBORO, NJ

CONTACT TOUR GUIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
REV. ALFRED MURRAY, ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH PHONE: 609-877-7034 CHURCH EMAIL:
stpumc@verizon.net

**Make your advertising dollars
go**

FURTHER

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

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

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

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

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

Are You Being Digested?

Did you know the communications coordinator published the GNJ Digest, an electronic newsletter, several times each week? Each week there are multiple editions full of Announcements, Events, Celebrations, National News and Conference Calendar Updates. There are also special letters from the Bishop and notifications of deaths among members of the Annual Conference. If you are not currently on our e-mail list and would like to be, please send your request to join our list to communications@gnjumc.org.

Making the African Voice Heard

By Sandra Long Weaver



Neal Christie, assistant general secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, and board member Jefferson Knight, who is also with the United Methodist Church in Liberia, confer at the Imagine No Malaria conference in Washington, DC, on Dec. 3, 2012. *A UMNS photo*

Making sure the voices of Africa are heard when the discussion turns to issues on the African continent is what motivates Jefferson Knight who represents the Central conference on the General Board of Church and Society.

"I want to ensure the voices of Africa are heard," he said during a break in training for Imagine No Malaria Days on the Hill. Knight participated in the visits because he wanted Congress to hear his story.

"I am on the ground in Africa," he said. He represents not only his home country of Liberia, but also Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone.

He works with local health boards that provide basic training about malaria and how to use insecticide-treated nets, education about HIV/AIDS and training midwives.

"There has been some improvement in the death rates because of the net distribution," he said. "It's very important to continue the efforts _ to have the death rate reduced to the lowest level possible."

Knight shared his story about having malaria and the impact it had on his family and on him with the representatives in the Congressional offices he visited.

He said he will use the experience of lobbying Congressional offices when he returns home. It is a comprehensive project that affects all African states, Knight said. This work can influence how our countries to work together, Knight added.

"The work we are doing is important. Malaria is a killer disease. We know it. And we know it is curable," he said.

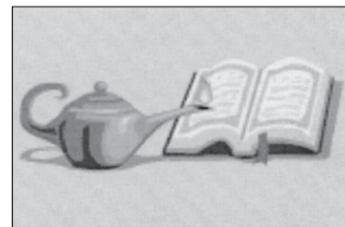
He said the United Methodist Church in the Central conference had been working on the issues surrounding malaria. "What we do now only enhances and strengthens the board," he said.

This is Knight's first year on the GBCS and besides working on malaria, he would like to address issues with clean water as well as AIDS, he said. Knight is also the program director for the Peace with Justice Liberia Annual conference.

PURSUING AN EDUCATION IN MINISTRY?

*SCHOLARSHIPS**

LOANS



*THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Application deadline March 31

*CONTACT: Jo D. Malessa (856) 786-0293
ma_malessa@comcast.net*

**Financial assistance for those agreeing to serve
at least five years as a member of our conference.*

GNJ Churches Once Again Demonstrate Good Stewardship

Once again, responding to the vote of the laity and clergy of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, *The United Methodist Relay* is pleased to keep our readers informed regarding the reports of Shared Ministry giving and Conference Billing Payments for 2012. The first column of the report below refers to the 2012 Shared Ministry participation percentage for each local church. 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. This report once again shows the progress our churches are making toward a full response to the Shared ministries asking. We applaud each congregation in its stewardship effort.

CHURCH NAME	2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD	CHURCH NAME	2012 YTD SHARED MIN % PD	2012 YTD BILLINGS % PD
GATEWAY SOUTH			HAWTHORNE	100.00%	100.00%	OCEANPORT	100.00%	100.00%	WEST PORTAL	73.18%	100.00%
AUDUBON	100.00%	86.81%	HILLSDALE UMC	58.33%	100.00%	PT PLEASANT: CENTRAL	100.00%	100.00%	WESTFIELD: FIRST	20.37%	100.00%
BARRINGTON: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	LEONIA	74.66%	100.00%	PT PLEASANT: HARVEY MEMORIAL	68.62%	100.00%	WHITEHOUSE	66.67%	76.22%
BERLIN: CENTENARY	60.24%	100.00%	LEONIA: BETHEL UMC OF N.J.	100.00%	89.43%	RED BANK	100.00%	100.00%	CAPE ATLANTIC		
BLACKWOOD	100.00%	93.59%	MIDLAND PARK	100.00%	100.00%	SEA BRIGHT: FIRST	33.33%	100.00%	ABSECON	100.00%	100.00%
BROOKLAWN	100.00%	100.00%	NEW CITY	12.08%	100.00%	SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: WALL	100.00%	65.48%	ATLANTIC CITY: ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%
CAMDEN: ASBURY	9.58%	0.00%	OMEGA KOREAN MISSION UMC	22.15%	0.00%	SPRING LAKE: ST ANDREW'S	100.00%	100.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: HAMILTON MEMRL	78.04%	0.00%
CAMDEN: BETHEL	100.00%	100.00%	PAMONA:LADENTOWN	32.78%	78.97%	TOMS RIVER: CEDAR GROVE	100.00%	100.00%	ATLANTIC CITY: VENICE PARK	100.00%	100.00%
CAMDEN: FAIRVIEW VILLAGE	37.22%	100.00%	PARAMUS: ARCOLA KOREAN	100.00%	2.51%	TOMS RIVER: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	AVALON: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%
CAMDEN: FERRY AVENUE	0.00%	100.00%	PARAMUS:ARCOLA	100.00%	100.00%	TOMS RIVER: ST ANDREW'S	100.00%	100.00%	BELLEPLAIN	100.00%	100.00%
CAMDEN: NEW BEGINNINGS	6.02%	0.00%	PARK RIDGE	100.00%	90.44%	UNION BEACH: GRACE	16.67%	100.00%	BLUE ANCHOR: GRACE UNION	0.00%	100.00%
CAMDEN: PARKSIDE	100.00%	100.00%	PASSAIC:FIRST	74.80%	87.25%	WARETOWN	100.00%	100.00%	CAPE MAY	100.00%	100.00%
CERRY HILL: FIRST KOREAN	100.00%	100.00%	PATERSON TRINITY	14.97%	0.00%	WARREN GROVE	100.00%	100.00%	CAPE MAY CT HOUSE: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%
CERRY HILL: ST ANDREW'S	100.00%	100.00%	PATERSON: CHRIST	100.00%	100.00%	WAYSIDE	0.00%	0.00%	CONOVERTOWN	29.27%	100.00%
CLARKSBORO: EVANGELICAL	100.00%	100.00%	PATERSON: MADISON PARK-EPWORTH	100.00%	100.00%	WEST BELMAR	100.00%	100.00%	DELMONT	91.67%	100.00%
CLARKSBORO: ZION	100.00%	100.00%	PATERSON: PATERSON AVENUE	0.95%	0.00%	WEST CREEK	100.00%	100.00%	DENNISVILLE	100.00%	100.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: EMBURY	83.33%	100.00%	PEARL RIVER	100.00%	100.00%	WEST FARMS	93.30%	100.00%	DIAS CREEK	100.00%	100.00%
COLLINGSWOOD: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	RIDGEFIELD PARK: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	WEST FARMS	93.30%	100.00%	DORCHESTER	100.00%	100.00%
DELAIR: ST MATTHEW'S	47.16%	100.00%	RIDGEWOOD	100.00%	100.00%	WEST LONG BRANCH: OLD FIRST	8.72%	100.00%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%
DEPTFORD: ALMONESSON	100.00%	100.00%	RUTHERFORD	99.39%	0.00%	WHITING	100.00%	100.00%	EGG HARBOR TWP: ZION	100.00%	100.00%
DEPTFORD: MT ZION-WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%	SPRING VALLEY	25.00%	0.00%	CAPITAL DISTRICT			ELDORA	100.00%	100.00%
DEPTFORD:NEW SHARON	100.00%	100.00%	STONY POINT: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	ALLETOWN	100.00%	100.00%	ELM	0.00%	82.00%
GIBBSBORO	45.19%	100.00%	STONY POINT: TRINITY	0.00%	34.58%	ATCO	100.00%	100.00%	ELWOOD: ELWOOD GASKILL	100.00%	100.00%
GIBBSBORO: CLONMELL	70.09%	100.00%	SUFFERN	100.00%	100.00%	BEVERLY	33.14%	100.00%	GOSHEN	3.18%	100.00%
GLENDDORA: CHEWS	100.00%	100.00%	SUFFERN:VIOLA	10.29%	83.79%	BORDENTOWN: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%	GREEN CREEK: BETHEL	100.00%	100.00%
GLOUCESTER: HIGHLAND PARK	100.00%	100.00%	TEANECK	50.07%	50.88%	BROWNS MILLS	83.33%	100.00%	HALEYVILLE	100.00%	100.00%
GLOUCESTER: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%	TENAFLY	100.00%	87.23%	BUDDTOWN	100.00%	100.00%	HAMMONTON: FIRST	46.12%	100.00%
HADDON HEIGHTS: FIRST	16.67%	100.00%	THIELLS	36.01%	32.99%	BURLINGTON: BROAD ST	100.00%	100.00%	PINELANDS UMC	100.00%	100.00%
HADDONFIELD	100.00%	100.00%	TOWA	17.55%	15.02%	BURLINGTON: ST MARY STREET	8.33%	100.00%	HEISLERVILLE: HEISLER MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%
HADDONFIELD:RHOADS TEMPLE	100.00%	100.00%	UPPER SADDLE RVR: BERGEN HIGHLANDS	6.08%	48.62%	CHATSWORTH	100.00%	100.00%	LEESBURG	100.00%	100.00%
LAINSWIDE: MT ZION	100.00%	100.00%	W. PATERSON: APPENZELER NAIRI	38.76%	0.00%	CINNAMINSON: ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%	LINWOOD: CENTRAL	100.00%	100.00%
LINDENWOLD: LUCASTON	100.00%	100.00%	WALDWICK	66.37%	0.00%	COLUMBUS: WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%	MARGATE: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%
MAGNOLIA	100.00%	100.00%	WANAQUE: MIDVALE	61.66%	100.00%	COOKSTOWN	100.00%	100.00%	MARMORA: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%
MANTUA	88.92%	100.00%	WAYNE	80.29%	0.00%	CRANBURY	91.67%	100.00%	MAURICETOWN	100.00%	100.00%
MANTUA: BARNSBORO	100.00%	100.00%	WAYNE: BETHANY	100.00%	100.00%	CROSSWICKS	3.12%	100.00%	MAYS LANDING: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%
MANTUA: MOUNT ZION	100.00%	100.00%	WESTWOOD	25.39%	100.00%	DELANCO: DOBBINS MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%	MILLVILLE: BUCKSHUTEM	100.00%	100.00%
MERCHANTVILLE: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%	WESTWOOD: GRACE KOREAN	75.00%	100.00%	DELRAN: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	MILLVILLE: CUMBERLAND	100.00%	100.00%
MONROE TWP: NEW BROOKLYN	100.00%	100.00%	WYCKOFF: GRACE	100.00%	100.00%	ELLISDALE	66.66%	100.00%	NEW GRETN: ST PAUL'S	100.00%	100.00%
MT EPHRAIM: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	GATEWAY NORTH			EMLEY'S HILL	46.12%	0.00%	NORTHFIELD: GOOD SHEPHERD	64.00%	100.00%
NATIONAL PARK: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	BAYONNE: BERGEN POINT	100.00%	#N/A	EWING TWP: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%	OCEAN CITY: MACEDONIA	100.00%	100.00%
OAKLYN: EMMANUEL	100.00%	100.00%	BAYONNE: WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%	FIELDSBORO	100.00%	100.00%	OCEAN CITY: ST PETER'S	100.00%	100.00%
PAULSBORO: BILLINGSPOET	100.00%	100.00%	BELLEVILLE: WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%	FREEHOLD: SILOAM	100.00%	100.00%	OCEANVILLE	100.00%	100.00%
PAULSBORO: ST PAUL'S	75.00%	100.00%	BLOOMFIELD: PARK	100.00%	97.60%	HAMILTON SQ: ST MARK	100.00%	100.00%	PETERSBURG: WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%
PENNSAUKEN	100.00%	100.00%	CALDWELL	100.00%	100.00%	HAMILTON TWP: CHAMBERS	100.00%	100.00%	PLEASANTVILLE: KOREAN OF SO. JERSEY	59.82%	64.03%
PENNSAUKEN: EAST PENNSAUKEN	100.00%	100.00%	CHATHAM	100.00%	100.00%	HAMILTON TWP: GROVEVILLE	0.00%	0.00%	PLEASANTVILLE: MT PLEASANT	100.00%	90.68%
PINE HILL: MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%	E. ORANGE: CALVARY-ROSEVILLE	50.00%	100.00%	HAMILTON TWP: NEW COVENANT	6.98%	32.58%	PLEASANTVILLE: OASIS	0.00%	8.85%
SICKLERVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	E. ORANGE: PARK AVE -ST JOHN'S	100.00%	100.00%	HAMILTON TWP: PEARSON MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%	PLEASANTVILLE: SALEM	100.00%	100.00%
STRATFORD	8.33%	100.00%	ELIZABETH: EPWORTH	100.00%	100.00%	HEDDING	100.00%	100.00%	PLEASANTVILLE:BETHANY-ST JOHN'S	34.26%	100.00%
SWEDESBORO: REPAUPO	100.00%	100.00%	FAIRFIELD	100.00%	100.00%	HIGHTSTOWN: FIRST	10.51%	100.00%	PORT ELIZABETH	100.00%	100.00%
TURNERSVILLE: ST JOHN'S	54.25%	100.00%	GREEN VILLAGE	100.00%	100.00%	HOPEWELL	100.00%	100.00%	PORT NORRIS: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%
VERGA WELFARE	100.00%	100.00%	HARRISON:DAVIS MEMORIAL	25.01%	0.00%	INDIAN MILLS	100.00%	100.00%	PORT NORRIS: JOHN WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%
VOORHEES: GLENDALE	100.00%	84.59%	HOBOKEN: COMMUNITY	0.00%	0.00%	JACKSON: DEBOWS	100.00%	100.00%	PORT REPUBLIC: ST PAUL'S	100.00%	100.00%
VOORHEES: HOPE	72.50%	100.00%	IRVINGTON	50.00%	0.00%	JULIUSTOWN	100.00%	100.00%	SEA ISLE CITY	100.00%	100.00%
WENONAH	100.00%	100.00%	IRVINGTON: HAITIAN	56.41%	0.00%	KINGSTON	100.00%	100.00%	SEAVILLE	100.00%	100.00%
WEST BERLIN: ST JOHN'S	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: BETHANY-BROWNE MEM.	33.33%	0.00%	LAMBERTVILLE: CENTENARY	100.00%	100.00%	SMITHVILLE: EMMANUEL	100.00%	100.00%
WEST BERLIN: WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: CHRIST	100.00%	81.28%	LUMBERTON	100.00%	100.00%	SOMERS POINT	1.53%	31.41%
WEST DEPTFORD: ST PAUL'S	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: CHURCH OF COVENANT	100.00%	100.00%	MAGNOLIA ROAD	100.00%	91.00%	SOUTH DENNIS: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%
WESTMONT	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: CLAIR MEMORIAL	2.21%	0.00%	MARLTON	100.00%	97.80%	SOUTH SEAVILLE	100.00%	100.00%
WESTVILLE	49.07%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN	77.67%	100.00%	MASONVILLE	74.97%	83.20%	STRATHMERE	100.00%	100.00%
WILLIAMSTOWN	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: LAFAYETTE	100.00%	27.19%	MEDFORD	73.06%	100.00%	SWAINTON: ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%
WILLIAMSTOWN: CROSS KEYS	100.00%	100.00%	JERSEY CITY: TRINITY	8.04%	100.00%	MOORESTOWN: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	SWAINTON: JOHN WESLEY	100.00%	100.00%
WOODBURY: COLONIAL MANOR	100.00%	100.00%	KEARNY: CALVARY	100.00%	100.00%	MT HOLLY: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	TABERNACLE UMC	100.00%	100.00%
WOODBURY: KEMBLE MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%	KEARNY: FIRST	0.00%	0.00%	MT HOLLY: ST. PAUL UMC	100.00%	100.00%	TUCKAHOE	100.00%	100.00%
WOODYLYNNE: ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%	KEARNY: GRACE	100.00%	100.00%	NEW EGYPT	100.00%	100.00%	TUCKERTON	65.36%	100.00%
SKYLANDS			KEARNY: NEW CAANAN	91.67%	100.00%	PALMYRA: EPWORTH	100.00%	100.00%	VENTNOR: TRINITY	28.14%	63.38%
ANDOVER	100.00%	100.00%	KENILWORTH	46.19%	0.00%	PENBERTON	73.66%	84.99%	WEYMOUTH	100.00%	100.00%
AUGUSTA: FRANKFORD PLAINS	100.00%	100.00%	LINDEN	100.00%	74.95%	PENNINGTON: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	WILDWOOD CREST: FIRST	83.33%	91.59%
BARRYVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	LINDEN: EL REDENTOR	100.00%	100.00%	PRINCETON	100.00%	100.00%	WILDWOOD: NORTH WILDWOOD	100.00%	100.00%
BELVIDERE	100.00%	100.00%	LITTLE FALLS	100.00%	100.00%	RINGOES: LINVALE	100.00%	100.00%	WINSLOW	100.00%	100.00%
BLAIRSTOWN: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	LIVINGSTON	100.00%	100.00%	RIVERSIDE: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	DELAWARE BAY		
BLAIRSTOWN:WALNUT VALLEY	16.67%	86.18%	LIVINGSTON: KOREAN	100.00%	8.91%	ROEBLING: TRINITY	100.00%	100.00%	ALDINE	93.30%	99.29%
BOONTON	100.00%	100.00%	LYNDHURST	100.00%	100.00%	SMITHVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	ALLOWAY	58.33%	100.00%
BOONTON TWP: ROCKAWAY VALLEY	100.00%	100.00%	LYNDHURST:GLORY KOREAN	52.56%	0.00%	TABERNACLE	100.00%	100.00%	AUBURN: EBENEZER	100.00%	100.00%
BRANCHVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	MADISON	100.00%	82.97%	TANSBORO: TRINITY	100.00%	91.52%	BRIDGEPORT: ST PAUL'S	0.00%	14.80%
BUTLER	100.00%	100.00%	MAPLEWOOD: MORROW MEMORIAL	100.00%	100.00%	TITUSVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	BRIDGETON: CENTRAL	100.00%	100.00%
BUTTZVILLE	100.00%	100.00%	MONTCLAIR: FIRST UMC	0.00%	0.00%	TRENTON: AFRICAN	100.00%	100.00%	BRIDGETON: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%
DENVILLE COMMUNITY	100.00%	100.00%	MONTCLAIR: ST. MARK'S UMC	100.00%	100.00%	TRENTON: CADWALADER-ASBURY	100.00%	100.00%	BRIDGETON: FORDVILLE ST JOHN	100.00%	100.00%
DINGMANS FERRY	29.64%	100.00%	NEWARK: FRANKLIN-ST. JOHN'S	100.00%	43.63%	TRENTON: TURNING POINT	100.00%	98.67%	BRIDGETON: FRIENDSHIP-FINLEY	100.00%	100.00%
DOVER: FIRST	100.00%	100.00%	NEWARK: ST PAUL'S CENTENARY	100.00%	100.00%	TRENTON: WESLEY	91.67%	100.00%	BRIDGETON: JOHN WESLEY	66.67%	42.06%
DOVER: GRACE	100.00%	100.00%	NEWARK: ST. MATTHEW'S	49.63%	61.73%	VINCENNTOWN					

OBITUARIES

DONALD H. BROWN, Retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Tuesday, January 29. A service of Death and Resurrection was held at Archer United Methodist Church, 37 E. Allendale Ave., Allendale, on Saturday, February 2.

Brown, a United Methodist Pastor for 42 years, attended Drew Theological School where he earned two masters degrees. He served churches in Clifton, NJ, Maplewood, NJ, Spring Valley, NY, Franklin Lakes, NJ, New City, NY and as a district superintendent. He was an active member of the Order of Saint Luke, a liturgical organization. He was also a frequent retreat leader. His avocation was art. In retirement Don taught watercolor classes and had several exhibitions of his work. Don was active in CUMAC in Paterson, a food pantry. He also helped his wife, Gail, run a guest home in Ocean City, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Archer United Methodist Church, 37 E. Allendale Ave., Allendale, NJ 07401 or CUMAC, PO Box 2721 Paterson, NJ 07509. Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Gail Brown, 58 Woodland Ave., Allendale, NJ 07401.

CARL W. HALVORSEN, Retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Saturday, January 26. A funeral service was held on February 1 at the First United Methodist Church, Moorestown.

Halvorsen was Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Moorestown for more than a decade immediately prior to his retirement. He also served in the US Navy during WWII as a Pharmacist Mate.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to The Evergreens Campus Renewal, c/o The Evergreens, 309 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Messages of condolence may be sent to his son, Rev. Douglas Halvorsen, 309 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

JAMES W. ROBINSON, Retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference, died on Thursday, January 24. A memorial service was held at the Manasquan UMC on February 2.

Robinson was ordained as a Deacon in the NJ Conference of the Methodist Church in 1958 and an Elder in 1961. For 4 years, he served as full time Director of Evangelism for the entire southern NJ Conference. He served churches in Camden, Somers Point, Wenonah, Highland Park and Old Bridge, followed by part time positions as Minister of Visitation in Hamilton Square, Princeton and Manasquan

Messages of condolence may be sent to James Robinson, Jr., 226 Blake Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873. Memorial donations may be sent to the World Wildlife Fund, P.O. Box 97180, Washington, D.C. 20090-7180 or go to www.worldwildlife.org.

RELAY Reflections

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

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

RELAY MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

Wanted:

Part Time Youth Pastor - St. John's United Methodist Church, Hazlet NJ is seeking a part time youth pastor to run the youth program.

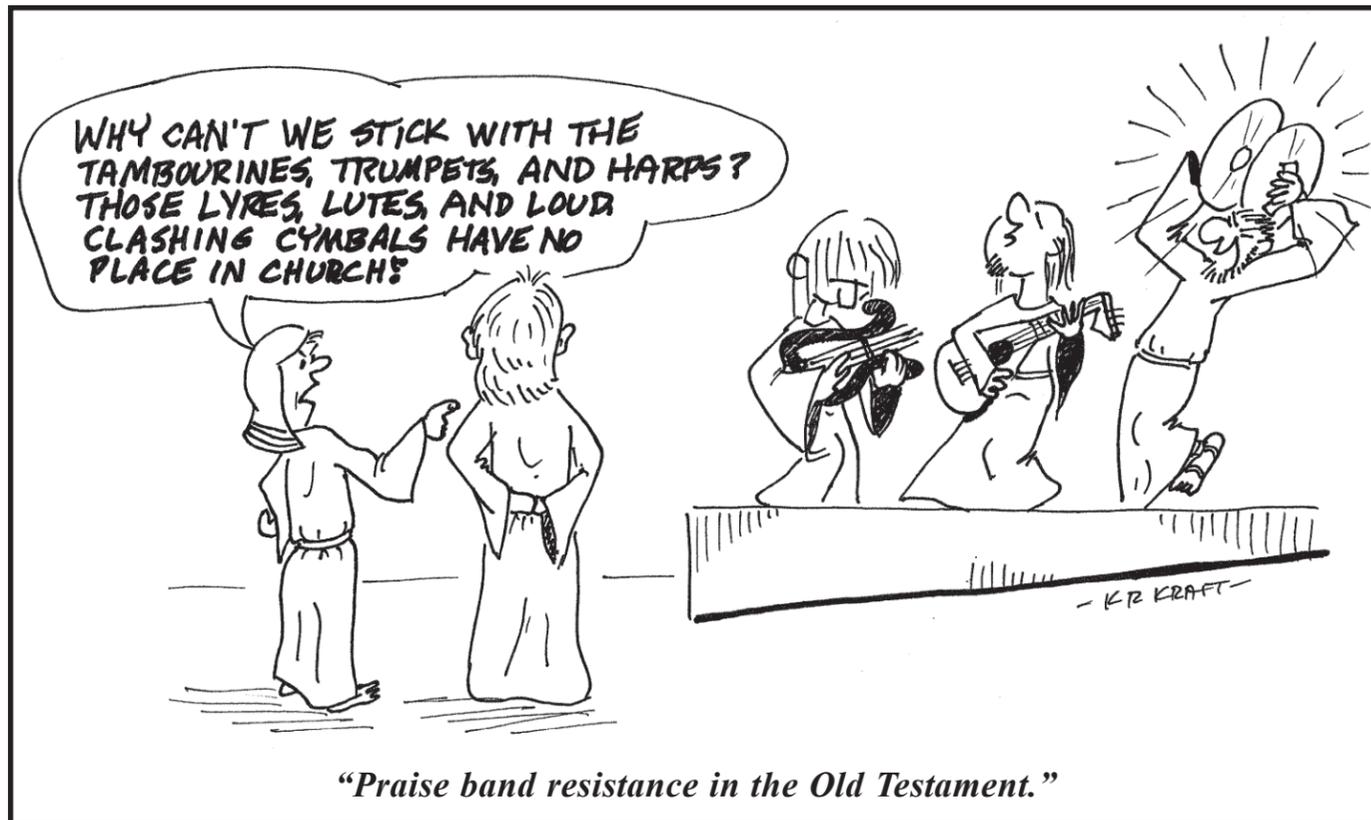
Youth ages are: Jr. High through Sr. High school.

Anticipated works hours would be 10-15 hours per week including a full day each Sunday, and other dates as needed for scheduled youth events (e.g., retreats, work-camp).

Please send resumes to Eileen Markovich at r.markovich@att.net.

For more information call 732-787-2157.

(Paid Advertisement)



"Praise band resistance in the Old Testament."

Don't let the world pass you by.

Keep in touch through the United Methodist **RELAY**.

Read Monthly

Report through your district editor.

Give the gift of a subscription to someone who doesn't receive the Relay.

The April Issue
Deadline is March 5, 2013



SLATE ROOFS
New & Repairs

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

34 Burt Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

(Paid Advertisement)

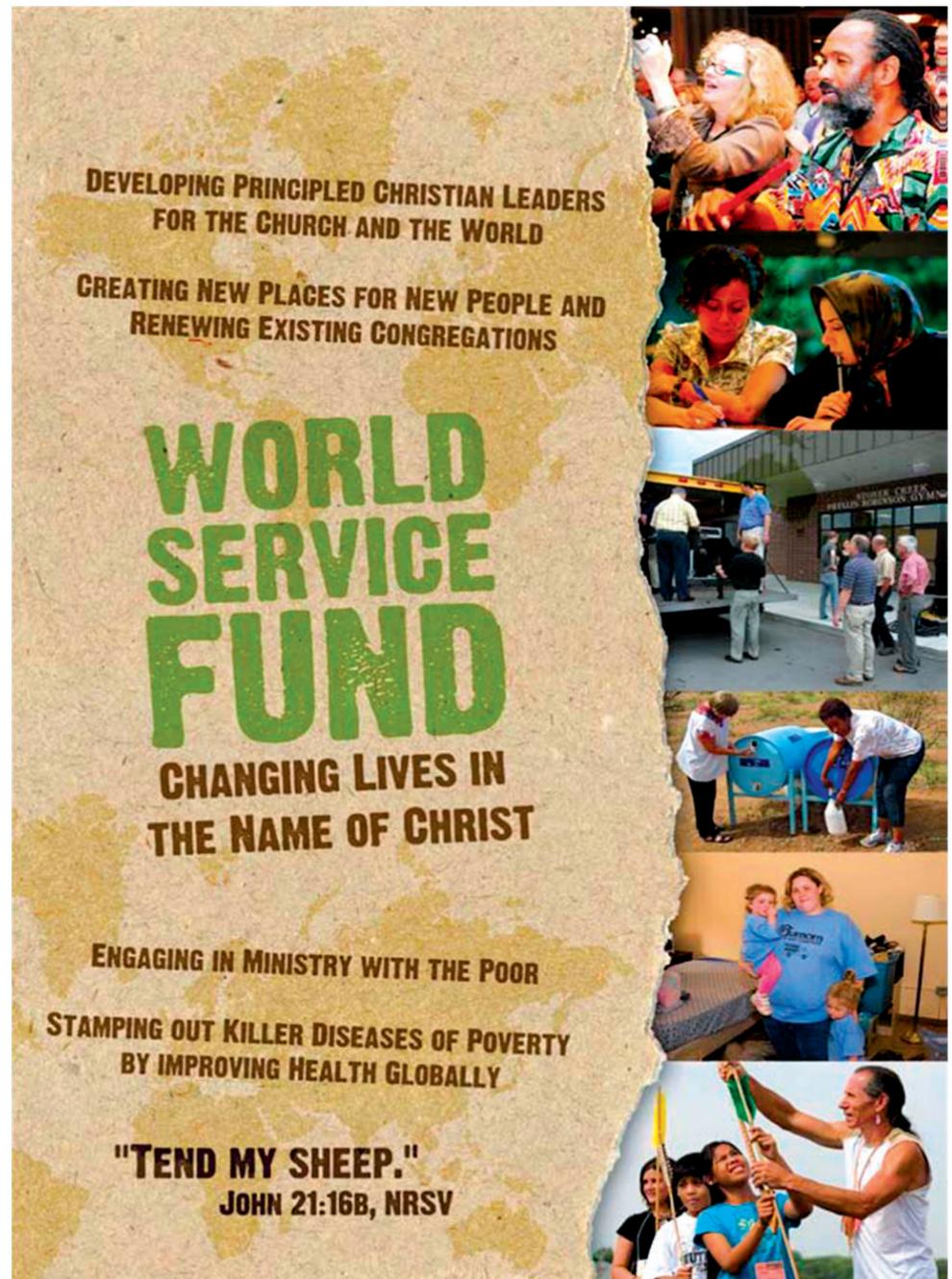
W. Michael Campbell, AIA
ARCHITECT
CHURCH DESIGN AND RESTORATION

369 West Farms Rd.
P.O. Box 86
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Phone: 732-919-2750
Fax: 732-919-2751
WMCarch@optonline.net

www.ReligiousArchitecture.com

(Paid Advertisement)



Ministry with the poor.

It began with a desire to serve, and became a portrait of genuine mission. Two members of Magnolia's Asbury United Methodist Church saw a community need for food security in their local community.

In its early days, the ministry struggled to adequately feed even 35 persons, but through private and corporate donations, and support from the World Service Fund it has grown even as need has increased. *Body and Soul Cupboard* now serves approximately 240 families each month.

The recipients are predominantly elderly women on fixed incomes who helped to build a nation even before the Civil Rights era. Their lives are inspirational stories as they have spent years faithfully enduring adversity in a culture of discrimination, and yet with a willful determination to make a better way for themselves and subsequent generations they have persevered. Many look forward to the fellowship they find from the familiar faces at *Body and Soul Cupboard*.

Those who come for food and fellowship express their gratitude for the blessing they receive. They are proud people who have found themselves in challenging circumstances after spending a lifetime making a home; working two and sometimes three jobs to feed, clothe and educate their children (including college!); and trying to make ends meet with very little left to save for the inevitable "rainy day." They persevered with the knowledge and faith that the Lord would see them through.

The **World Service Fund**, supports congregations who engage in ministries with the poor.

All this — and so much more — is possible when we pay 100% of our apportionments.

Together we can do great things in the name of Jesus

**Ask your Church Treasurer about your church's progress
toward full participation in our Shared Ministry!**

For more information go to UMCGiving.org and click on Shared Ministries