

## Changes In Store for Members of Annual Conference 2012

This is a construction and design update on the sessions of Annual Conference 2012, Thursday, May 31 – Saturday, June 2. As was anticipated for several years, the Valley Forge Convention Center has re-invented itself as the Valley Forge Casino Resort with the receipt of their Pennsylvania gaming license. The Sessions Team with help from the consultants at Travelink have worked hard with the staff of VFCA to make this a positive experience for all GNJAC members and guests.

This year, the conference will be welcoming Bishop J. Michael Lowry as the conference preacher, and Dr. Joy Moore as the early morning Bible study leader; while the Tribute Service will be led by Rev. Glen Conaway, and the Celebration of Ministry service will be led by Bishop Jong Hoon Kim. Conference members will be chartering a new church, welcoming a US-2, recycling the lunch leftovers, collecting writing materials for Social Action as business is conducted, building up the community and celebrating ministry together!

While most of the meeting areas are the same, the entry points have been radically changed. Gone are the outside steps to the Scanticon registration desk. In their place are valet parking and on level gaming. The entire front lot area is now designated as handicapped parking spaces. The second entry where the vending machines and circular garden were now opens into a food court and coffee station. This entry is closest to the large open parking lot. There is new carpeting and fixtures throughout this Casino Main level, and the whole facility has many new restaurants.

Our meeting space is down the



steps or elevators to the Convention concourse level and it looks the same as it has in years past. This is the space where we met previously except for the last two years when we met in an identical space one level up. Hospitality Team members will be attired in matching vests to direct folks and will have plenty of signs throughout the facility to help.

One concern some have expressed was whether or not the presence of the casino above the conference space would be too noisy. During the Sessions Team site visit on April 9, they found absolutely no sound issues with the space and the casino floor. When the elevator doors open at the bottom of the steps, registration will be straight ahead. There will be new large banners directing folks in this space. The display area, Cokesbury, hospitality, First Aid, and Conference Secretary's office are all in their same spots. The dining area is still the Delaware Room with a café in the back for snacks – the laity session will be held here and the clergy session in the plenary area. The Pennsylvania Room is where plenary sessions will be as usual but the decision was made to reorient the room so that it lessens the noise from the display areas—the stage will be on the far wall. The Audio-Visual crew will add flat screen TV's to increase visibility and also add them to the registration area and space outside the plenary room. This year there will be designated doorways into the plenary and dining spaces just for handicap accessibility. The choir room, childcare, Taize services, offices will be in the same area & most in the same rooms. As was the case last year, there will also be a Wellness Clinic for clergy health insurance incentives.

## District Days of Learning Continue To Provide Ministry Tips and Tools to Local Church Leaders

Learning is an important aspect of life that goes beyond school years and the world of academia. It is also important for church leaders to continue to learn and expand their horizons to better serve and lead their congregations. During the months of January, February, and March 2012, each of the nine districts of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference hosted a "District Day of Learning" designed to teach pastors and laity about im-



Rev. Dr. Beauty Maenzanise, Dean of Africa University addresses the Gateway South District.



The day gets off to a singing start at Morrow Memorial, Maplewood.

portant aspects of ministry. Each district offered workshops geared towards the needs of their areas, as well as sessions offered by members of the Conference staff. Guest speakers spoke on a variety of subjects ranging from how to better serve those affected by poverty to Africa University. This year also provided a venue for delegates to General Conference to talk about the major issues that will be deliberated in

Tampa and answer questions about the legislative process. Attendance was strong for each district's day and those in attendance enjoyed the sessions offered. Be sure to follow announcements in The Relay, the GNJ DIGEST, and the Conference ([www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org)) and Districts ([www.gnjumc.org/districts](http://www.gnjumc.org/districts)) websites for information about future learning opportunities offered.

## Dean of Africa University Visits Gateway South Church

On Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Dr. Beauty Maenzanise, Dean of Africa University, shared in worship in Clonmell Church, Gibbstown, N.J. It was part of a two-week journey from Georgia through New Jersey as she represented her ministry at Africa University.

Dr. Maenzanise talked of the dream presented to the 1988 General Conference for the creation of a United Methodist related university for Africa. She painted a picture of that dream being realized as, at first, a few students have now grown to more than 1600 studying in more than seven programs. Ms. Maenzanise serves as Chaplain of Africa University and thus becomes our United Methodist witness and conscience throughout its program. Her commitment to Jesus Christ; her joyful spirit and love for people are a continuing reminder that Africa University provides a special witness for all people in Africa. Its mission is: *Changing Africa. Learning Here. Living Here. Leading Here.* That mission is accomplished by enabling people to function in a



Pictured are;  
Top Row: Lynette Milanese, Jim Harre  
Middle Row: (baby) Julia Williams held by Joyce Williams, Ken Milanese, Jane Harre  
Bottom Row: William Williams, III, youth pastor, Dr. Beauty Maenzanise, Robert Tomer, pastor.

modern world becoming leaders in their countries. Throughout students' time at Africa University, they are able to meet, have opportunity to love and encouraged to live Jesus Christ.

Beyond her general work in the university, Ms. Maenzanise oversees the School of Theology. She spoke with pride of the great cost her students

make in coming to the seminary. They leave family and home for a four-year program. The first year involves an intensive program of learning English. The remainder of the program involves theological studies. Because most students do not have the resources, they will not have opportunity to travel home during that time. And, because the uni-

versity does not have the resources, there is no possibility for family housing. The Dean spoke of her unique role with the theological students – because of the stressors on them; she strives to do whatever possible in helping them be successful and keeping focused on becoming well-equipped for the ministries they will live for Christ.

Beyond her work at Africa University, Dr. Maenzanise is actively involved in building a new church for her home congregation. The congregation outgrew its present building. The new, larger church finally has walls completed. Now, she is awaiting the time when work will begin on constructing the roof.

Interpreting a dream into reality; developing program into life; encouraging people along their journey in faithful ministry; offering thanks to a congregation for opportunity to meet, love and live Christ; or sharing with congregations, Beauty Maenzanise is willing to do, "what it takes" for Africa University to succeed for Christ's sake.

## A Message from the Bishop

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

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

I am fascinated by and glued to the latest book by Dr. Leonard Sweet, *Viral: How Social Networking is Poised to Ignite Revival*, (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press, 2012). In this book, Sweet argues that the Gutenberg culture [which started with the printing press] helped Martin Luther begin the Reformation movement in the early sixteenth century, and it is still very much in our churches, impacting how we do our ministry and mission. Today, Dr. Sweet says, we live in a TGIF culture. By this he means,

...TGIF does not stand for Thank Goodness it's Friday, nor is it the acronym for a chain of family restaurants. TGIF is the Google Culture that is built on Twitter, Google, iPhone, and Facebook—the most visible and relied-upon tools of relationships and life (p.15).

Elsewhere in the book he writes, "Church leaders and supporters, members and pastors, all are concerned about the generation [googler] that is not present on Sunday mornings" (p.194). He cites the difference in perspectives between the Gutenbergs and Googlers, acknowledging the wealth of information available through technology today.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birthday of the Church, the Pentecost, we need to receive, reflect, and act upon a clarion call that Dr. Sweet gives in this book. He writes, "The nature of the church is cross-cultural. At Christmas, we celebrate baby Jesus' birthday in Bethlehem. At Pentecost, we celebrate the body of Christ's birthday in Jerusalem. A missionary church requires fresh adaptations of faith as it spreads across space and spans through time. There is no such thing as an untranslated version of Christianity. God crossed cultures when God became human and lived on earth" (p.30).

As I read the powerful and prophetic words of Dr. Sweet, my head is reeling with many questions. For example: Which is important to us? Is it the culture we inherited or is it listening to the voice of God as it challenges us to move beyond? Is it our culture or is it listening to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Is it enough to lament at meeting after meeting why the people who embrace the google culture are not in our midst or is it to ask what we need to do to make sure they are with us? Or is it to ask boldly what we need to do so that we are the Church in mission consisting of both Gutenbergs and googlers? Do we seek to blossom for the glory of God, filled with Christ's compassion and deeply moved by the power of the Holy Spirit?

As we gather later this month at Valley Forge for our Holy Conferencing, with a casino in the building, the question before us in many quarters is should we go there or not? Though we have resolved this prayerfully as an Annual Conference, this question is still lingering out there. As people committed to Holy Conferencing we need to honor and respect each viewpoint....there is no question about it. However, the big question that we need to wrestle with is how do we make sure that both googlers and Gutenbergs answer this together, fully considering our social principles, so that we can work hand in hand to make disciples for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As we continue to struggle with these challenges may we be guided in our prayers by two of the many quotations used by Dr. Sweet in this book. One that is very familiar to us, by Charles Wesley, "To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill, O may it all my power engage, to do my master's will" (p.26). The second is by Dr. William Sloane Coffin, who said, "O Lord, take our minds and think through them...use our hearts and set them on fire. Amen" (p.36).

May the grace of our Creator God, the love of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to guide us as we journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

*Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar*



## Clergy and Laity Consider Annual Conference Resolutions

With only a few weeks left before the Greater New Jersey Conference meets at Valley Forge Convention Center May 30, lay and clergy members will be considering the usual range of issues and resolutions. As of this writing, the downloadable resolutions and recommendations are available in detail on the conference website. The listed proposals are:

- Proposed Rules of Order,
- A resolution calling for a "Time of Celebration for Those Called to Full Time Christian Service"
- Trustee Enabling Resolutions
- Equitable Compensation Commission recommendations
- Council on Finance and Administration recommendation.
- Pension and Health benefits resolutions

### Equitable Compensation Commission Recommends Minimum Salaries

Most newsworthy of the listed legislative items is the annual recommendation for clergy salaries from the Equitable Compensation Commission.

The Commission will recommend that the Annual Conference establish the minimum equitable salary for clergy in full connection and under full-time appointment in the local church at \$40,715. Provisional and associate members would receive a minimum of \$36,644 and full time local pastors would receive \$34,608. The schedule would become effective January 1, 2013.

The proposed salary of \$40,715 for full time, fully connected pastors represents 85 per cent of the 2013 denominational average salary of \$47,900.

Clergy on half or quarter time appointments would receive an amount equivalent to the proportion designated.

A \$300 minimum increment in the base salary for each year of full-time service up to 17 years is also recommended.

As in the past, each pastor's salary above the minimum equitable salary is determined by the local church or charge in consultation with the district superintendent, taking into consideration the pastor's experience, education, leadership, benefits package and family needs.

The Commission left virtually unchanged its recommendations regarding parsonage requirements, accountable reimbursement expenses, and vacation policy for pastors.

### Finance and Administration, Conference Council on

The Council on Finance and Administration calls for approval of the Shared Ministries Plan for 2013, but left unstated the amount of the budget that will be provided in the registration packets at Valley Forge.

### Time of Celebration for Those Called to Full-time Christian service

Another resolution, submitted by the Rev. John DiGiamberardino, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Brick, calls for "A Time of Celebration" in each local church for those from that faith community in full-time Christian service. The celebration would be designed to raise awareness within the congregation of the goal of "developing Christians leaders for the church and the world."

If passed by the conference, the Board of Ordained Ministry will provide resources to help churches to plan the celebration, and will follow up on its observance.

Two housekeeping measures, while lacking dramatic interest, are essential for the smooth working of the annual meeting.

### Trustees Enabling Resolutions

The usual Trustee Enabling Resolutions would approve actions by the Conference Board of Trustees authorized by the previous conference and permit the board to act in behalf of the Conference on legal matters such as church closings, property disposition, etc., between sessions.

### Rules of Order

Before the business of the conference can unfold, the body annually enacts a complex set of rules that govern the conduct of the assembly. Long and ponderous, the Rules of Order total 10878 words and provide minute guidance to the bishop, secretary and other officers on every aspect of the conduct of the Conference business.

### Pension and Health Benefits, Board of - Recommendations

That the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 be set at \$607per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

That contributions for the Clergy Retirement Security Program for January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 be set at 15.5% of plan compensation for full-time and less-than-full time Clergy. That contributions for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be set at 3% of plan compensation for full-time Clergy, at 3.4% of the Denominational Average Compensation for less-than-full-time (3/4 time & 1/2 time), and at 4.4% of the Denominational Average Compensation for optional coverage (1/4 time and leave status). A number of other resolutions from the Board of Pensions and Health benefits will also be considered.

Additional resolutions and proposals will be found in the registration packet when lay and clergy members converge on the conventions center May 30-June 2.



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## Representatives of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Enjoyed The Radical Hospitality Of The Bupyeong Methodist Church

(A summary of a 10 day Journey of Understanding)

Written by Zandra Strother

The Bupyeong Methodist Church in Bupyeong, South Korea has a unique mission. Each year this congregation, under the leadership of Senior Pastor, Rev. Eun-Pa Hong invites groups to visit South Korea to learn about its people and culture, to worship with his parishioners and to meet leaders from other churches and educational institutions. To execute this mission, the church has created a Mission Center that houses as many as 35 visitors in beautifully appointed, modern rooms. Twenty six visitors, representing the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference received the most gracious and loving care from the Rev. Hong, his staff of associate pastors and volunteers from his congregation. Some of the lay members of the group had travelled from as far as Texas, Pennsylvania and South Carolina to be a part of this unique experience. At every juncture of this journey of understanding, the primary focus was directed towards making sure that our group was comfortable, safe and happy.

### Early Trip/Our First Days in Korea:

The group was well prepared for the manipulations of the first days in South Korea. We were met at the Incheon Airport and bussed to the Mission Center where we left our large bags before we moved on to the South Eastern part of the country. On our very first day we learned how to eat 'ssam bab' [described as Wrapped Rice with Vegetables]; rode the Bullet Train to Gyeongju and We then visited the 'Seokgularm Grotto' - UNESCO traditional village restoration, watched steel being made at POSCO and been bathed in the new sites and sounds of the vibrant and exciting Pohang city. We also saw national treasures that included golden crowns of former kings and fossilized etchings and inscriptions at the Gyeongju National Museum. More delights awaited us the next day when we rode in our bus up the mountain to see the 'Bulguksa Temple' where Buddhist Monks pray each day. We saw depictions of the four guards of Confucius and gardens of rocks stacked by visitors hoping for good fortune.

The highlight of our next city, Ulsan was visiting the Hyundai auto and ship building plant. We got to view the assembly for the autos and ride through the massive construction site for ocean going ships.

Before making our way back to Seoul, we enjoyed a rainy walk through the massive Jagalchi Fish Market that provided live sea food; common fish and unusual delicacies, crowded into

overflowing tanks. Our rainy evening ended with a viewing of 'Nanta' a humorous production of musical drumming and theatrical skits. Nanta has been seen internationally and is thoroughly enjoyable.

At Geoje, we saw a most poignant memorial to the Allies that came to the aid of South Korea in 1950 when it was invaded by North Korea. This recreation of a POW camp, showed dioramas and photos of mistreatments, murders and rebellions during the Korean War and emphasized the gratitude felt by Koreans for the countries that helped South Korea recover and rebuild. During our travels, Rev. Dr. Kim told us of his family's experiences during the Korean War, making our visit to the POW memorial a shared personal encounter.

### At the Bupyeong Mission Church:

The order of life at the Bupyeong Mission Church is to begin each day with prayer and praise at the 5am service. Each morning our group found itself in the company of at least 500 people who came to the sanctuary to hear a message encouraging prayer and faithfulness and to sing hymns with a rapid march tempo and enthusiastic clapping to keep time. Each prayer service concluded with exaltation to God by calling out "Lord! Lord! Lord!" and period of individually spoken prayers. Our group enthusiastically joined in the rapid singing helped considerably by the projected English translations. One of our most constant guides was Associate Pastor David Kim who provided excellent English translations of sermons which we heard via earphones. Pastor Kim also translated greetings and presentations as we met Pastors and other leaders in our travels to several sites in Seoul and Bupyeong. Some of the things we learned about the Bupyeong Mission Church:

- The church has a membership that is over 7,000 people strong.
- They have a system of Class membership in which each class has an Associate Pastor and a Lay person. Some classes have 500 people in them. Some classes meet weekly for prayer, worship and to address community concerns.
- The church has approximately 1900 Sunday school students and more than 300 Sunday school teachers. These teachers start Sunday's at the 5am service, stay for the 11 am service, and teach young children.

- The church has seven choirs. The Sunday service we attended had a choir of approximately 110 voices and the orchestra for that service had between 25 and 30 musicians.

To meet as many people at the mission as possible, our group spent a wonderful Sabbath, attending parts of services at 9:30 and 10:30am before attending the 11am service. At each service we were introduced and the mission of creating an understanding between countries and cultures was discussed. Our Bishop Devadhar delivered the sermon for the 11am service. In his message, he thanked the Leaders and members of the Bupyeong Methodist Mission Church for their radical hospitality and emphasized that there was no turning back in our mission to create new disciples for Christ.

### Visits in Bupyeong and Seoul:

I am sure that the members of our group now have a thorough understanding of what it means to receive royal treatment. We visited the Bible Museum of Incheon. We were met and addressed by the Bishop of the Seoul Annual Conference of Korean Methodist Church (our sister conference) Northern Seoul Korean Annual Conference and the Bishop of the South Seoul Annual Conference of KMC Southern Seoul Korean Annual Conference. We were greeted by the Dean of the Methodist Theological Seminary University. We visited a Korean Assembly of God church and the Gye-San Methodist Church. Everywhere we went, we were received with gracious, loving kindness. Many of our hosts were happy to let us know how important the work of American missionaries was to the growth of the Korean Christian community. Appenzeller and Underwood are the names of the first American missionaries to Korea. Our group will never forget about them. Their legacy is displayed throughout South Korea in both secular educational and religious institutions.

### Some Important Messages:

Summarizing the events of a 10 day trip in the company of 26 people; I heard one theme is that America is important to Korea. As Christians, the Korean people have a high regard for the early American Missionaries and emulate their ways by continually evangelizing to Koreans at home and abroad. Sr. Pastor Hong told us that God sent us to Korea to remind us of our original vision. He blessed us, telling us to keep our faith in Jesus Christ and remember John Wesley's admonition that "the world is my parish."

## Bishops Urged to Bring Peace to GC2012

A UMNS Report By Heather Hahn



Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster

A UMNS file photo by Ronny Perry

TAMPA, Fla. (UMNS) — United Methodist bishops on April 18 heard a challenge to embody the peace of Christ to the 2012 General Conference, to an anxious denomination and to the greater world.

Charlotte (N.C.) Area Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster delivered that call during his final address to the Council of Bishops as that body's president.

"Can we bishops find a way to incarnate Christ's love?" he preached. "Can we find a way to lead and model and extend the peace of Christ to the delegates, to Tampa, to our world?"

Goodpaster's sermon, during opening worship at the council's spring meeting, came just days before nearly 1,000 United Methodist delegates will convene in Tampa for the denomination's top legislative assembly. Goodpaster called the April 24-May 4 gathering "our quadrennial test of stamina and endurance known as General Conference."

### Decisions to affect every level

The assembly will grapple with petitions that could affect just about every level of The United Methodist Church. These include proposals endorsed by the Council of Bishops to restructure general agencies, to fold the denomination's ecumenical agency into the Council of Bishops, and to establish a full-time council president without the usual responsibilities of overseeing a geographic area.

General Conference also will take up a proposal to eliminate job guarantees for ordained elders and once again debate the denomination's position on homosexuality.

"We will be making decisions of historic importance about structure and governance and decline and change and positions and principles and mission," Goodpaster said. "Little wonder there is so much anxiety!"

Bishops do not get a vote at General Conference, and they cannot address the assembly on legislative matters without special permission. Goodpaster acknowledged the bishops' common lament that they often have nothing to do at General Conference "but sit around like wilting potted plants."

### How to bring peace

However, he suggested ways they could bring peace even amid contentious discussions about the future of the church.

He urged the bishops:

- As storytellers to retell and live out the story of the gospel.
- To be a non-anxious presence, modeling themselves on the example of the risen Christ bringing peace to his frightened disciples.
- To reclaim John Wesley's vision of Christian conferencing.

Bishops will soon have a chance to

### June 1 - ARMS Luncheon

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

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# Global Relay

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

## Immigration protest at General Conference sessions

TAMPA, Fla. (UMNS) — A rally to protest the growing private prison industry in the United States, and especially the use of such facilities to incarcerate immigrants, took place April 28 at the Tampa Convention Center during the 2012 United Methodist General Conference. The rally was sponsored by the denomination's Task Force on Immigration and local and state groups opposed to the building of a 1,500-bed private immigrant detention center in Broward County, Fla.

## General Conference considers new relationship

TAMPA, Fla. (UMNS) — Delegates to the 2012 United Methodist General Conference are considering a vote to affirm a new relationship with the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, African Union Methodist Protestant, Christian Methodist Episcopal and Union American Methodist Episcopal denominations. A celebration of Pan-Methodist full communion will be at 4:30 p.m. May 1, a day also set aside for recognition of United Methodist ecumenical partners.

## UM board signs letter against religious profiling

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Church and Society was one of 35 religious groups signing a congressional letter against religious profiling. "When law enforcement profiles individuals and communities based solely on their real or perceived religion, religious appearance, religious observance, or religious practices, it undermines Americans' trust in those sworn to protect them," said the letter, which was sent Tuesday to a Senate subcommittee holding a hearing on racial profiling.

## U.S. food aid policies must change

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — United Methodists and other members of the Interfaith Working Group on Global Hunger and Food Security have sent letters to congressional leaders, asking them to fundamentally change U.S. food aid policies to lower costs, deliver disaster aid faster and better help hungry people break out of poverty and aid dependence. "Food shipped from the United States takes longer to arrive than food purchased regionally," reads part of the letter. "For people facing a famine or other crisis, additional waiting time for a food delivery can be a matter of life or death."

## Korean caucus concerned about guaranteed appointments

PARAMUS, N.J. (UMNS) — The National Association of Korean United Methodist Churches has issued a statement expressing concern over General Conference legislation that would eliminate security of appointment for clergy. "We ... have reservations and concerns that racial-ethnic clergy and women pastors might become vulnerable to arbitrary decisions on the part of bishops and cabinets due to their English accent, cultural differences and theological positions ... Furthermore, some of our bishops in the Church might not have the sensitivity or depth of knowledge to fully understand the cultural underpinnings of racial ethnic clergy, especially women in ministry." There are 300 Korean United Methodist churches and more than 660 Korean pastors serving United Methodist churches. About 300 Korean-American pastors serve Korean immigrant churches and about 250 Korean American clergy serve cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments.

## Church planting campaign on fast pace

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — More than 600 new United Methodist churches have been planted since 2008, according to Gary A. Shockley, executive office of the Path 1 New Church Starts Division. At this pace, Shockley said, the campaign should surpass the goal set four years ago of having 650 new churches in the United States by the end of 2012. Path 1 is a collaborative partnership with the church's annual (regional) conferences and the General Board of Discipleship. The goal of 650 new churches was set by the 2008 General Conference. The new-church pace of 11.8 churches per month is almost three times the monthly rate from 2004 to 2007.

## Bishops Urged to Bring Peace to GC2012

(Continued from Page 3)

put Goodpaster's challenge into action. On April 25, the second day of General Conference, active bishops will preside over small-group "holy conversations" among delegates about United Methodist theology and human sexuality. They spent much of their council meeting's first afternoon discussing how they should handle scenarios that might occur in these conversations. Bishop John Innis of Liberia said after Goodpaster's address that he hopes he can remind those at General Conference that "we are all one in the

Spirit even if we are at odds."

"Peace is all we need," he said. "Peace is a gift from Jesus Christ."

Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy A. Johnson said with "inclusiveness, a listening ear, forgiveness and understanding," United Methodists will have the kind of holy conferencing Wesley desired.

"Today, let us find, individually and collectively, the peace of God, which passes all understanding, a peace that will keep our hearts and minds tuned to Christ, relieving anxiety and calming fears so that we might lead into the future," Goodpaster said at his sermon's conclusion. "And then there shall be *shalom* in Tampa and beyond."

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

## Drakestown Church Prayer Ministry Celebrates One Year Anniversary

On Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> the Drakestown Church Prayer Tent ministry celebrated its first anniversary. A 24-hour prayer vigil was held outside under the canopy by the side of the road. From 6pm Sunday night until 6pm Monday, the Drakestown Church prayer warriors waved and smiled at passing cars. In the dark hours of the night, they huddled under blankets around a campfire, and the following day, they shared snacks, songs and praise. They prayed and laughed and waved and smiled.

People driving by honked their horns and waved back—some even at midnight and 2am. They stopped for prayer. They pulled their cars off the road or rolled down their windows. They got out and came over to talk. One young man brought pizza to share for an impromptu supper picnic. Another man walking to the store stopped to chat. A local school teacher stopped to bring news of a gravely ill boy. Strangers, commuters, shoppers and friends, they stopped to say thank-you or to ask for prayers. They stopped for directions. They stopped to find out just what was going on, and they stopped to say they were praying for the Drakestown Church.

The Prayer Tent began as a Lenten Season outreach last year and has grown into an interactive community ministry. The Prayer Team stands by the side of the road, waving and smiling, every Monday morning and evening. They hold up signs that say simply, "We're Praying for You". There is also a small, waterproof drop-off box

to collect prayer requests daily, and hundreds of drivers who pass the tent are witnessing the presence of God in their community. Through the Prayer Tent, the Drakestown Church has made connections that have allowed them to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus. People stop with a prayer request, and then weeks later stop to give updates on how God has answered those prayers. People have made connections to the Church's food pantry. Through the networking of the Prayer Team, jobs and housing have been found for several people, including a young family that has been rescued from homelessness.

Through the Prayer Tent Ministry, the Drakestown Church has grown into a place where people can go for help, for hope, and for connection to God. A simple investment of time is starting to reap amazing results. Human beings need connections-to each other and especially to God. By standing out by the road, the Drakestown Church is letting the community know God is active in the world. The Church is ready to help and God is ready to help. By waving at passing cars, they are living out their faith. By smiling, they are fulfilling the mission of the church to transform the world for Jesus Christ. They are letting the world know that God cares.

For more information on The Drakestown Church Prayer Tent Community Outreach Ministry, Contact the Pastor, Rev. Bob Mayer at (908) 852-4460. Find the Drakestown Church on the web at: [www.drakestownumc.net](http://www.drakestownumc.net).

## Upper Room Offers Workshop: Retirement Matters: Transitions, Opportunities, Challenges May 7-18, 2012

This seminar offers those approaching retirement a better understanding of the personal transitions experienced in this phase of life. Led by Jack Hansen and Jerry Haas, participants also explore the unique opportunities of retirement and talk about the important challenges of aging.

The text for the course will be *Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement* by Jack Hansen and Jerry Haas. The seminar is designed for women and men preparing for retirement, for those in the first few years of retirement, and for professionals helping people plan and prepare for retirement (investment counselors, pastors, social workers, etc.) Participants will need to purchase the book separately.

Here is what one participant had to say:

"I would definitely recommend this class to anyone close to retirement, those just having retired and those having retired a few years ago. The class discussions and resource book answer the questions of "what now" and how to have fulfillment on the journey to knowing "what now" is. Also, through the interaction with others, you don't feel like you're the only one not having all the answers about what retirement is. Often times, the emotional part of retiring is not discussed/studied enough. This is what this class is all about." Vickie Waters

The course will be covered through six online assignments given on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week beginning Monday, May 7, 2012. \$50

To read more about the workshop, watch a short video, and enroll, go to [www.BeADisciple.com](http://www.BeADisciple.com).

## Aldersgate Sunday Service 175th Anniversary

The GNJ Commission on Archives and History will host their annual Aldersgate Sunday service on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at Chews UMC in Glendora. This year's theme will be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first New Jersey Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Bill Wilson will be the keynote speaker. This is a great teaching opportunity for confirmation classes on the history of the United Methodist denomination. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For additional information contact either Mark Shenise at [mshenise@gcah.org](mailto:mshenise@gcah.org) or (973) 408-3194 or Bill Wilson at [pastorbill@chewsumc.com](mailto:pastorbill@chewsumc.com) or (856) 939-1007.

The June Issue Deadline  
is May 5, 2012

## VIEWPOINT

### Pastor Reflects on Church's Mission

by Rev. Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

Whose mission is it anyway? This is a question that I must admit I had never considered before, until recently. Since I first became active in leadership in my local congregation, I was always told that we needed as a leadership team to discern "our mission." What an exhausting process that was. Every year for hours and hours we went over different biblical passages, talked about the needs of the community, and how we could create programs and initiatives to address these needs and make a difference in people's life.

What a blessing it has been for me, as a United Methodist clergy, to read John Edward Nuessle's book *Faithful Witnesses: United Methodist Theology of Mission* (GBGM, 2008) and discern that the mission of the church is not "our mission" on behalf of God, but God's mission in the world in which we are invited to join and collaborate to make God's dreams for his creation a beautiful reality. As Nuessle's declares in his book, "We, all believers, are called to participate in the *missio Dei* – God's Mission in the world – as faithful witnesses to the fullness of God's grace" (Nuessle, 21).

So what is God's mission in the world? As Nuessle expresses it, God's mission is to spread his reconciling love as manifested through Jesus Christ, to all of creation (John 3:16-17). This love, God's grace, which is the very nature of God, is also the nature of "God's interaction with the world, human and natural" (Nuessle, 17) is our mission; we share it and incarnate it through word and deeds. Just as we cannot "manufacture grace or manipulate its presence" we cannot manufacture a mission and identity as people of faith outside of the one that has already been given by God, through Jesus Christ.

As people of faith, we need to embrace the gift of God's grace, and join God in this mission of love by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. This is not a matter of what we do, but rather of who we are called to be. Mission "is not so much what we do as who we are. We are the church of Jesus Christ that participates in what God is doing in the world" (Nuessle, 24). **This is the foundation of our theology of mission: the church exists to "point the peoples of the world toward the gracious free gift of love and acceptance in Jesus Christ, and for us, as the body of Christ, to live the reality of God's loving presence in the world. Christ, who as the Word was God"** (Nuessle, 18). If we are not doing this, whether we want to consider it or not; we are not the church of Jesus Christ.

This understanding of God's work in the world is crucial if we are to be effective in the work of witnessing to people about the love of Jesus Christ, locally and around the world (Acts 1:8). Our mission work, rather than consisting solely of programs and initiatives, ought to be a reflection to the world of our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ (Nuessle, 24). It should be a tangible expression of God's grace, which is always reaching out to us, bringing us closer to a full relationship with our Creator (Nuessle, 26). Sharing the good news should not be limited to a passive proclamation (we are not mere messengers) – we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through words and deeds – we are "doers" of God's mission (Nuessle, 27).

We are at a time in the life of our beloved denomination, The United Methodist Church, where we need to, once more, hear God's call to "participate in the mission Dei through a lifelong journey as faithful witnesses to the living Lord Jesus Christ" (Nuessle, 39). Once more, we are being called by God to "live in the way of Christ" (Nuessle, 41).

As disciples of Jesus Christ in our connectional system, we need to understand that we cannot effectively fulfill God's big dream for all creation by ourselves – we simply can't. If we are to be the church of Christ and effective participants in the mission Dei, "we must seek the natural relationships that enable us to be both visible as Christ's body in the world, and to engage the world with the Gospel" (Nuessle, 91). It is through this understanding of an organic-connectional organization, which is central in our Wesleyan tradition, that we, as Nuessle argues, "can literally beat the devil" at his game (Nuessle, 92). Our connectional structure is not merely a way to organize for business, but as Nuessle suggests, "it is the biblical model for the church to be organized for its task of witnessing in the entire world" (Nuessle, 93).

As we seek to live in the world, as witnesses of the God of Love, Mercy and Justice, we need to claim this vision of who we are, and whose mission we are being called to join. Even more, we should insist in asking God to join "our mission" and fit in our models of ministry. This needs to happen at all levels in the life of the church, from General Conference and the Council of Bishops, all the way to our local congregations. It needs to infest both clergy and laity, young and old, men and women, children and our youth. We need to reclaim a vision of God's mission, join God in mission, and work hard to transform our local "Jerusalems" so that out of our local congregations and communities we can go out into the world and be in global ministries that will heal, feed, nurture, care for, and empower the people of the whole world.

(Ed. note: Mr. Burgos-Nunez is the pastor of Oasis Church in Pleasantville and the Associate Pastor at Tuckerton as well as an Associate Editor of the UM Relay.)

### 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.

## B-1 Fast at Hackettstown

On February 3-4, Trinity Church, Hackettstown, hosted the 2012 B-1 Fast ... "One Being, Being One". This year, students and adults gathered together on Friday and Saturday of Super Bowl Weekend. As many prepared to celebrate in excess, they chose, in the name of Christ, to be in solidarity with those who were without by sacrificing their time, their food, and partnering with God to change the world.

The 24 hour overnight food-fasting event included guest speaker Harry Flaherty (former NFL football player), worship, songs, juice bar, games, activities, candle fire, Letters of Love, visitation to local retirement homes, shopping for TUMC Lord's Pantry, B-1 Fast commercials, movie "I Am", Saturday Night Worship, and a B-1 Feast at the conclusion of the fast.

There were 62 participants (students/adults) from Trinity Church and 9 participants (students/adults) from Simpson Church, Old Bridge, New Jersey. The total mission donations were **\$3,409.42**. The mission donation breakdown was as follows:

**Trinity United Methodist Church Mission Donations:** \$2,404.42

The Lord's Pantry - Trinity Church, Hackettstown, NJ - \$594.85

United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC) - \$594.86

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Advance #982450

East Africa - \$1,214.71

**Simpson United Methodist Church Mission Donations:** \$1,005.00

For information on how to be part of the **B-1 Fast for 2013** contact:

Rev. Don Gebhard

Youth & Children's Pastor

dgebhard@catchthespirit.org

908-852-3020 ext 19

### Director of Youth Ministry

The Aldersgate United Methodist Church, located in East Brunswick, NJ (one half hour from Princeton) is seeking to hire a seminarian or mature Christian to lead the youth ministry of our church. This position will begin on July 1, 2012. While working with the youth in both Sunday School and Youth Group will be the primary responsibility, this position also offers opportunities for preaching, leading in worship and involvement in the numerous ministries of the church. Salary and expenses are negotiable. Approximately fifteen hours per week are required. Please contact Rev. Robert D. Cook at 732-254-7361 (office) or e-mail [aldersgateumc-eb@comcast.net](mailto:aldersgateumc-eb@comcast.net).

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18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

The Nancy Gilbreth Rhoads  
**WALK for  
ALL AGES**



Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 1:00 pm

Great Auditorium Pavilion, Pilgrim Pathway, Ocean Grove

In-person registration begins at 12 noon

For additional information, to download a brochure,  
register and donate visit [www.umhfoundation.org](http://www.umhfoundation.org)

*The Walk raises money for the Fellowship Fund, which promises that no resident will ever be asked to leave a United Methodist Homes' community for financial reasons. The Homes provides compassionate, caring service to almost 1,400 seniors of all faith backgrounds in 10 communities.*

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## FRANKLIN LAKES CHURCH OFFERS UMCOR BASIC ERT TRAINING



UMCOR Basic ERT Training was held at the Franklin Lakes Church on Saturday, March 3. The mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring presence in the aftermath of a disaster through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The class was taught by an authorized UMCOR trainer, and the 25 newly trained team members from the Palisades District will be given ID badges as evidence of training. All were blessed by the experience and hope with God's grace to be a blessing to others.

### Conference Board of Church and Society Seeks Donations of Writing Materials

The Conference Board of Church and Society in partnership with IRATE and First Friends (a non-profit organization that upholds the inherent humanity and dignity of all immigrants) are working with and on behalf of immigrants being held in detention centers in New Jersey. They provide visitors and non-legal assistance for immigrants held in detention and work for improved conditions.

They are looking for help. IRATE and First Friends will be at the display table at Annual Conference to share resources and information about their work. The Board of Church and Society would like to help them by collecting items for the detainees. Those items are: paperback books in English, Spanish and Chinese; stationary (paper/envelopes) and Forever stamps. They are asking members of the conference to bring these items to the table or give these items to your pastor or lay leader who can bring them to the table.

Assistance and support for detainees would be greatly appreciated by the board and they also request that members keep them in their prayers.

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## Youngest Evangelist at Whiting

When Kim and Heather Archer, in the company of a membership class of nine, stood before the Palm Sunday congregation of the Whiting Church, their story of how they came into the fellowship of the church was enough to stir the hearts of those present.

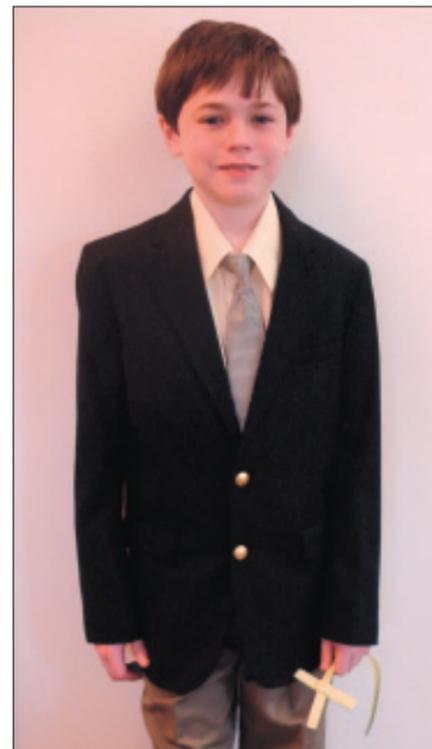
What gripped the attention of the congregation was the account of the influence of one young boy. It was an echo of a familiar biblical theme: "A child shall lead them."

The Archer family was not involved in any church. Then at the invitation of his grandmother, Irene Archer, 11 year-old Blake began attending the intergenerational Sunday school at Whiting UMC. After two Sundays under supportive mentoring by the teens of the church and their teacher, Carol Lageveen, the Archer boy declared to his parents, "Mom and Dad, I'm going to join this church!"

As the nine newest members were received, Pastor Jeffrey W. Tilden described Blake as the "youngest evangelist" in the congregation.

The Whiting Church has successfully combined a specialized ministry to seniors with an intergenerational concept of mentoring and discipleship that has brought new members of all ages to the growing fellowship.

Among those sharing the occasion were Blake's Mother and Father, Kim



WITH PALM SUNDAY CROSS in hand, Blake Archer, Whiting's "youngest evangelist" witnesses to the faith that has drawn his parents into the church. *Photo by Eugene Haaf*

and Heather Archer of Beachwood, and his grandmothers, Irene Archer and Christine Wade.

*Log on to:*

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

### Reap the Benefits of a Balanced Approach



The United Methodist Foundation's Balanced Fund approach continues to serve the member churches and other investors, which have invested over \$4.89 million. It is designed to protect investors from extreme market swings.

Since 2008, our fund has had an annualized return of 5.95% compared to a 5.54% blended benchmark consisting of the S&P 500 and a Barclay's fixed income index.

Our core services of planning, consultation, education and training services are provided free of charge to GNJAC churches.



For additional information contact  
K. Edward Jacobi, President,  
at 732-747-4891 or  
ejacobi07739@yahoo.com  
or Jay Kim at the  
GNJAC Office 732-359-1032.

## Receptionist Erma Henderson Retires After 27 Years of Service to Pitman Manor



What would be more appropriate than a cake with a telephone for a lady who handled the switchboard all her working life?

**PITMAN** – Recently, associates and managers gathered to say farewell and good luck to Pitman Manor part-time receptionist Erma Henderson who retired after 27 years of service. What makes her retirement especially noteworthy? Henderson is 87 years young.

“Erma’s story started in the summer of 1984 – when she spotted an ad in the *Gloucester County Times* for a Relief Telephone Operator. She applied for the job and was hired practically on the spot,” said Executive Director James Clancy.

Clancy went on to share some further tidbits about Erma during lunch, “Some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouth but Erma was born with a

phone in her hand. Her very first job out of school was... you guessed it... a switchboard operator. Over the years she was employed at a variety of places but her duties always involved answering the phone.”

Office Manager Tess Frie presented Erma with going away gifts and made some heartfelt comments about the long-time receptionist. “Erma was always the consummate professional. She pleasantly greeted thousands of visitors over the years and she was always a calm and welcoming presence at the front desk. Technology changed but Erma just went with the flow. She made many friends over the last three decades and will be sorely missed by everyone.”

## Recovering Ministry in Hurricane Aftermath



Trustees, and many others, St. Philip’s is repaired and the building is in place to do ministry for many years to come.

“Rejoice with us as we celebrate the miracle at St. Philip’s Ministry and give



This past year, the congregation in Patterson witnessed a miracle at St. Philip’s and Place of Promise. As they were severely impacted by Hurricane Irene and subsequent flooding, they learned to continually seek new ways to do ministry in Jesus’ name. “God is with us, even in our struggles, and He is able to transform our downpours and tears, into rivers of renewal, which bring forth new life,” said Rev. Stafford Miller.

Mr. Miller said that with the prayers of the saints, God’s help and support from Bishop Sudarshanna Devadhar, Rev. Wayne Plumstead (the Palisades District Superintendent), the Rev. Louis Strugala, the GNJAC Board of

thanks with us for God’s unconditional, sacrificial love and His resurrection power in our lives,” said Mr. Miller. “May God bless each one of you who has been part of this great, ongoing miracle at St. Philip’s Ministry of the United Methodist Church. With God as our center, let us all continue to keep the miracles at St. Philip’s Ministry a reality in this broken and hurting community of Paterson. Please keep us in your prayers.”

## 2012 Methodist History Trip



Members of the 2012 Methodist History trip that each year is coordinated by Rev. Al Murray. Visits to places of historical import in the city of Philadelphia teaches young people, most of whom are being confirmed, about their Methodist roots in America. The group is pictured here in front of Old St. George’s Church where participants also learn of the role played by Black Methodists in our Church’s founding. A visit to Mother Bethel Church is also included in the tour as is a stop at the National Constitution Center.

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To register for the outing, visit [www.bristolglen.org](http://www.bristolglen.org)

## Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education  
and Development, GNJAC



It was eerily quiet as I stood on Cemetery Ridge, Gettysburg National Park, waiting for the sun to rise over the battlefield. The battlefield was shrouded in a heavy pre-dawn fog. As I gazed upon that sacred landscape I couldn't help but wonder what it must have been like during the three days of the battle of Gettysburg 150 years ago. What would have caused tens of thousands of soldiers to fight against overwhelming odds, in the face of withering enemy fire to keep trying and trying to win the battle? When that question was posed to the men who landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day in WWII they responded with two very clear reasons: They had a great belief in their cause and an equally strong commitment to those they were fighting next to.

Not to push the military imagery too far; I can't help but wonder what our congregations, churches, conferences, and denomination might be able to accomplish even against sometimes overwhelming odds and withering enemy fire if each and every one of us had an irresistible belief in our cause of making disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and an absolute commitment to those with whom we share that belief. Stewardship begins with each and every one of us and all of us together making the decision and determination that making disciples, making a difference in the world for the sake of Christ, and giving ourselves to God's work in the world will, in fact, be our life's work.

## Peace with Justice Grants Applications

Applications for Peace with Justice Grants for the coming year are due on June 1, 2012 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](http://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.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org). The total amount of grant monies available varies according to the size of the offerings taken each year.

The objectives at the Annual Conference level correspond to the General Board of Church and Society's objectives for Peace with Justice grants ([www.umc-gbcs.org/GBCSgrants](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/GBCSgrants)). Specifically, the board 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 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) 786-5651  
[pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com).

## 2012 Cooperative School of Christian Mission Event

That All May Have  
Life

In John 10:10, Jesus proclaims "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." God's ultimate will for humankind is that all persons will have fullness of life – a life of wholeness and hope; a life of freedom from oppression, a life of justice and truth, a life of inner peace and strength.

### Cooperative School of Christian Mission Event

This annual education opportunity is a way to offer effective mission ministry for local churches across the Greater New Jersey Conference. The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Greater New Jersey Conference of United Methodist Women co-sponsor and present these schools. The Cooperative School of Christian Mission is for all. We invite **women, men, children, pastors, and friends! Make it a family retreat!** For more detailed information, access our full brochure and registration form with costs at <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/304>.

#### • Young Adult School (Poverty Study): Lakewood only

A young adult program will be available in Lakewood for ages 17 to 24. Space is limited, so register soon. Enrollment fee covers housing, all meals and transportation during the weekend, and study book.

#### • Youth School (Poverty Study): Lakewood only

This is a weekend to visit area mission sites, meet other Conference Youth and Young Adults, and learn about our social issue study, Poverty. There will be opportunities for fellowship, singing, worship, and FUN! The School will be held at Georgian Court University, in conjunction with the Adult School. This is a coed program for ages 13-16. Enrollment fee covers housing, all meals and transportation during the weekend, and study book.

#### • Children's School (Haiti Study)—Saturday Only: Lakewood only.

This is a one-day class for children who have completed grades K through 3, and a class for grades 4 through 6. A guardian must be on the premises attending the adult School of Christian Mission. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. If dinner is needed for Saturday, please check the box on the registration form. Evening movie included.

#### This year's topics for adults—spiritual, geographic, social issue and Conference Study

##### • Immigration and the Bible

This Spiritual Growth study presents a contemporary context of immigration and migration. Explore the Biblical and theological understandings of immigration, immigrants, and migration. Participants examine what it is to be a sojourner and to live into the Biblical mandate of hospitality for "the stranger" and "aliens" in our midst.

• **Haiti** - This second year repeat Geographic Study offers an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people.

• **Poverty** - This Social Issue Study explores the many faces of poverty. Some of the topics are: Are we avoiding or encountering the poor; Biblical Witness and our United Methodist Heritage; Global Poverty; Consumerism and Spiritual Poverty; Charity vs Justice and Advocacy. Stories of those living in poverty and multiple and diverse examples of encounters between middle-class Christians and the poor are woven throughout the study to deepen your understanding of the realities of poverty.

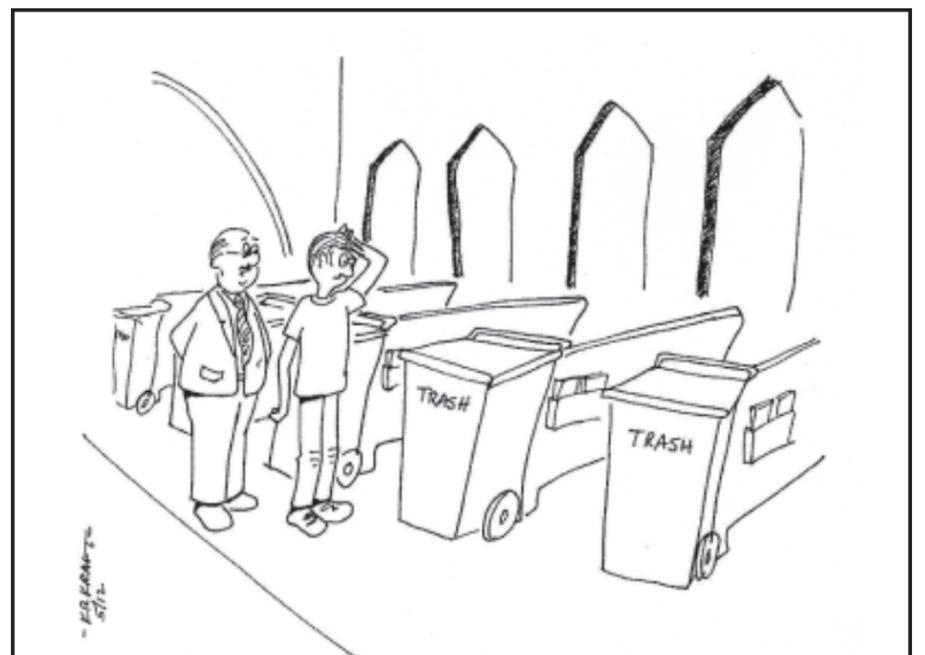
##### • Adult Fast Track – One Day: Lakewood and Union

For those who want to participate, but cannot commit to a full weekend, both sites will offer an abbreviated, Fast Track Event on Saturday, July 7 in Lakewood and July 21 in Union. You will attend a five hour mini-study, in your choice of **either IMMIGRATION AND THE BIBLE or POVERTY**. Registration begins at 8:00am and follows the Saturday schedule. Your registration cost includes a continental breakfast and lunch. You are welcome to join us for dinner [additional cost of \$15] and for the evening events. Please select that box when filling in the Registration Form. **Child care is available, if requested no later than 10 days prior to school start.** Child's dinner (\$5) is available – see Registration Form.

• **Conference Study** The Economy of Love: Creating a Community of Enough America thrives on a simple message—That what we currently have is not enough. Not big enough, not nice enough, not fast or hip enough. The American Dream is based on wanting more. But does God's dream for the world look like the American Dream? The Economy of Love will challenge individuals to join in community, journeying together as they begin to consider a new standard of living—a personal economic threshold oriented not around the size of a monthly paycheck, but around the value of enough.

Our School endorses and abides by all Safe Sanctuary Guidelines.

Address for full brochure and registration form <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/304>



**"Unsightly, perhaps, but we no longer have the problem of candy wrappers and tissues in the hymnal racks."**

## VITAL CONGREGATIONS

### It's All About the Mission

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



James Carville may be best known for the mantra he articulated for the 1992 Presidential campaign. "It's about the economy, stupid." I recently noticed a similar phrase posted prominently in a colleague's office. "It's about the mission, stupid." My colleague wanted that phrase before his eyes every day.

In these days of General Conference meetings and changes happening all around us, it would behoove us all to keep in mind always that it *is* about the Mission. Our ministries are not about ourselves but rather about the overriding claim that God has on our lives and the Mission to which he sends us. And make no mistake about it: it is not *our* mission. It is God's mission. We are invited to join God in the work God is undertaking in the world.

The future of our church is inextricably linked to whether or not we seek to join God on God's mission in the world. How would our thinking change in our local churches were we to think of our communities as our congregation and not only those who attend our worship services? Where might we see God already at work? How could we build bridges of love between our worshipping community and the community at large?

One way to build such bridges is by intentionally creating new communities of faith with people who are not yet a part of our existing fellowship. Throughout this quadrennium the United Methodist Church has made real progress in creating new places for new people through new church starts, but we've only just begun. Starting new faith communities is essential to reach more people, more diverse people and more young people. Listen to what a young participant said of one of these new churches:

*"I had given up on church. I was hurt and tired of the judgment, the condescending looks from others, and the image of a God who was waiting to cast me out at the slightest thing. I was done. And hurt. And then I stumbled upon these people called RISE. They are different. I feel hopeful. I have met a different God than the one I used to know, and I now believe that God truly loves me. – from a participant in a new UM faith community started this quadrennium. Average age of participants? 24.*

This young person's testimony underscores what is at stake by keeping the Mission before our eyes. There are many people out there who yearn to know Jesus and seek to be part of an authentic, caring community of faith where they can grow, learn more about what it means to follow Christ and can join forces with others to join God's mission.

It is all about the Mission.

**THE JUNE ISSUE DEADLINE  
IS MAY 5, 2012**

#### Join your Host

**Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson on:**

#### The **2013 Protestant Heritage Tour**

Departs the USA April 29, return May 10

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- Local Tours in Bristol, Bath, Oxford, and London, Brussels, Heidelberg, Bern, Geneva, and Zurich.

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### YES, YOU ARE BEING DIGESTED!

By now, you have probably discovered the thrice-weekly GNJ Digest, your conference's electronic newsletter full of Announcements, Events, Celebrations, National News and Conference Calendar Updates. There are also special letters from the Bishop and notifications of deaths among members of the Annual Conference.

If you are not currently on our e-mail list and would like to be, please send your request to become a part of our "digested community" to [communications@gnjumc.org](mailto:communications@gnjumc.org).

## OCEAN GROVE CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION SEEKS NEW COO

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association Board of Trustees is searching for our senior staff person, the Chief Operating Officer, who God is calling to lead our multi-faceted ministry. The mission of the OGCMA is to provide opportunities for spiritual birth, growth and renewal for people of all ages in a Christian seaside setting. To support that mission we have a vibrant summer program, and an expanding schedule in the other three seasons centered on the Word of God expressed in worship, cultural, recreational and educational programs. Programs are supported by an historic 6,000 seat auditorium, both retreat and youth centers, a variety of other program spaces and a beach located on the Jersey Shore in an oceanfront town halfway between NYC and Philadelphia.

The COO position requires a proven leader who demonstrates commitment to Christ in servanthood, spiritual maturity, and a desire to make disciples. Reporting to the President and Board of Trustees, direct reports include professionals in Program, Development, Operations and Finance who oversee an in-season staff of 300. Candidates must demonstrate a proven record of leadership applying business skills in ministry. Experience in program development, finance, human resources management, and conflict resolution as well as excellent written and oral communication skills consistent with a Biblical worldview are desired. To obtain a copy of the job description, please email [sharyn@oceangrove.org](mailto:sharyn@oceangrove.org). For more information about OGCMA, please visit our website at [www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org).

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invites you to 5 nights of*

# REVIVAL!

**May 14 – 18, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**116 Main Street  
Flemington, New Jersey**

#### GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| Mon. | Pastor Tim Lucas<br>Liquid Church, Morristown, NJ                         |
| Tue. | Rev. Darrell Armstrong<br>Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, NJ              |
| Wed. | Rev. James DeVries<br>Hunterdon Medical Center Chaplain<br>Flemington, NJ |
| Thu. | Pastor Jim Walker<br>Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community<br>Pittsburgh, PA   |
| Fri. | Rev. William Howard<br>Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, NJ                 |

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# Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association

1869 - 2012

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCEAN GROVE 2012 SUMMER SEASON

[www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org) 732 775-0035

### SUNDAY SERVICES

June 10-10:30am-Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins, Professor of Youth Ministry, Eastern University, St. David, PA

June 17-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dr. Steve DeNeff, Senior Pastor, College Wesleyan Church, Marion, Indiana

June 24-10:30am & 7:30pm-Rev. Dr. Thomas Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

July 01-10:30am & 7:30pm- Anne Graham Lotz, Founder, AnGel Ministries, Raleigh, NC

July 08-10:30am- Dr. Haddon Robinson, past President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is the Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching

### 7:30pm 58th ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Directed by Dr. Jason Tramm

July 15-10:30am & 7:30am- Rev. Paul Lawler, Senior Pastor, Christ Church, Birmingham, AL

July 22-10:30am & 7:30pm-Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, NJ

### 143rd ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

Fri. July 27- 8:00pm - *Love Worth Fighting For*, Kirk Cameron & Warren Barfield, Marriage Conference, Ticketed event

July 29-10:30am-Kirk Cameron, Actor, Author, Christian Inspirational Speaker.

July 29-7:30pm- Rev. Roger Casey, Senior Pastor, Rock Church, New York City, NY

Aug. 05-10:30am & 7:30pm-Rev. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism, The Methodis Council, Hermitage, TN

Aug. 12-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Stephanie Hand, Associate Minister of Evangelism and Disipleship, Providence United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC

Aug. 19-10:30am & 7:30pm- Rev. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

Aug. 26- 10:30AM Dave Dravecky, Former Major League Baseball player and Christian motivational speaker.

### 7:30pm SACRED MASTERWORK CONCERT

Sept. 02-10:30am & 7:30pm- Dr. Ravi Zacharias, CEO & Founder of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Atlanta, GA

Sept. 09- 10:30am The Salvation Army Sunday

### BIBLE HOUR

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

June 25-28- Ken Medema, Christian singer, songwriter, adapter of hymns for the church in a contemporary way.

June 29-30- Pastor Rodney Finch, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel Cary, Apex, NC

July 02-07- Rev. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Senior Professor of Homiletics Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY

July 09-14- Dr. Dean Trulear, Associate Professor of Applied Theology, Howard University Schollo of Divinity, Wash. DC

July 16-21- Rev. Paul Lawler, Senior Pastor, Christ Church, Birmingham, AL

July 23-28- Pastor Gayle Erwin, Founder of Servant Quarters, Cathedral City, CA

### 143rd ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

July 30-Aug. 4- Rev. Roger Casey, Senior Pastor, Rock Church, New York City, NY

Evening Sessions:- Pastor Lloyd Pulley, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel, Old Bridge, NJ

Aug. 6-11- Rev. David Harstine, Senior Pastor, Fellowship Community Church, Grove City, PA

Aug. 13- 18-Dr. John Oswalt, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY

Aug. 20-25- Dr. James Fleming, Director of the Biblical Resource Center, LaGrange, GA

Aug. 29-Aug. 31- Rev. Paul Brown, Senior Pastor, First Pentecostal Church, Neptune, NJ

### THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



August 09th & 10th- Join 100,000 leaders for this annual injection of vision, skill development and inspiration simulcast to OG.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

#### *Shalom Week: Theology and Practice of Shalom*

The seven day intensive course, also offered for Continuing Education Credit, an introduction & certification to Shalom Training- Contact Peggy Grow at [pgrow@drew.edu](mailto:pgrow@drew.edu). or 973 408-3868 Cost: \$300. 3 credits

**Biblical Resources Seminar:** "The Parables of Jesus in First Century Context." Mon. Aug. 20 to Fri. Aug. 24, 10:30 am -12:30pm Community Room. Led by Dr. James Fleming. Seminar fee \$125. Continental Breakfast

### Christian Shows in The Great Auditorium

June 16 - Ocean Grove Hymn Sing -7:30pm Tabernacle

June 29- Bridgefest Concert Event- [www.bridgefest.org](http://www.bridgefest.org)

July 28- Michael W. Smith In Concert - 8pm

Sept. 22- *VeggieTales Live* "God Made You Special" 3pm

### BEACH FESTIVAL

June 29th & 30th- Bridgefest w/ Bridge FM- [www.bridgefest.org](http://www.bridgefest.org).

### MONDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

July 2, 9, 16, 23 & Aug. 6 -7:30pm "Under the Umbrella" Open to all women. A relaxing time of fun, friendship and a focus of God

### TUESDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

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

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS  
CALL OGCMAAt 732 775-0035

Purchase tickets online on our website:  
[www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org).

## OBITUARIES

**Mark Mc Combs**, part-time local pastor of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, serving the UMC of Orange, died on Tuesday, March 27. A funeral service took place on Sunday, April 1 in the UMC of Orange.

Besides serving the church, Mark was a Columbia High School health and physical education teacher, working at the school district since 1999 and also working as a football coach.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mc Combs Children Scholarship Fund, c/o Franklin - St. John's United Methodist Church, 142 Maple Avenue, Newark, NJ 07712. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his widow, Roslyn Mc Combs, 1344 Denmark Road, Plainfield, NJ 07062.

## June 10 – Walk for All Ages

NEPTUNE — United Methodist Homes 18<sup>th</sup> annual *Walk for All Ages* in Ocean Grove. Registration at Great Auditorium Pavilion, 12 noon; Walk begins 1:00 pm. Lunch, entertainment, guided tent tours, awards, and more. To pre-register and donate online, visit [www.umhfoundation.org](http://www.umhfoundation.org). Call 732-922-9802 x121 for additional information.

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*Save the Date...*

## Summer Music Institute 2012

Two Days! - Thursday - Friday, July 26 & 27

**You're Invited to...A Praise Party!**

What if our invitations to worship in our local church sounded like this one, inviting everyone to a praise party? Would people come expecting to sit quietly in their pews and sing softly out of hardbound hymnals and pray with hands folded and heads bowed. Or would they come ready to shout, laugh, dance, cry — and sing with mouths wide open and voices raised in a community roused by joyful choirs and worship leaders?

This year's Summer Music Institute will feature engaging and exciting techniques of song leading, liturgical design and aesthetics that renew our passion for worship. Worship that is focused on a Holy Spirit-filled, Justice-driven liturgy, Our hope is that the worship at SMI will create and model for its participants an intentionally diverse community passionately welcoming all people. **More information to follow!!! Mark your calendars today!**

Questions? Contact Nancy VanderVeen, Director of Theological Lifelong Learning, at [nvanderveen@drew.edu](mailto:nvanderveen@drew.edu), or 973-408-3084.



**ALDERSGATE CENTER  
and  
PINELANDS CENTER  
at MT. MISERY**

**ARE GETTING READY  
FOR A GREAT YEAR!  
BUT THEY NEED YOU!!**

The 2012 Camp Season will start on July 8-14  
and continue through the week of August 12-18.

We have sent out this year's Camp brochure, registration form and campership form to churches, pastors, youth leaders, camp representatives and previous campers. The brochure and forms are also available on the Conference website at [www.gnjumc.org/camps](http://www.gnjumc.org/camps)

There are employment opportunities available at both camps!

We need Program Directors to run the summer program at each camp!

We need Counselors, Lifeguards and Kitchen Help at each camp!

Laity and clergy are all invited to help!

*Remember clergy, Bishop Devadhar regularly reminds everyone that volunteering a week at camp does NOT count as a week of vacation!*

**WE NEED YOU!**

If you can help, please either contact Mike Andrews, Office Manager, at 609/893-3354 or email the camps at [aldersgate@gnjumc.org](mailto:aldersgate@gnjumc.org) or [pinelands@gnjumc.org](mailto:pinelands@gnjumc.org)



# The Episcopal Fund

Bishops have a very special role as they are elected and consecrated to speak to the church and from the church into the world. Bishops are called by God from many settings and bring to the church” . . .varieties of gifts... the same Spirit...varieties of service...varieties of activities...the same God” (1Corinthians 12:4-6, NRSV). Their role is both practical and visionary since bishops oversee and promote the church’s spiritual and temporal interests.

## Reasons to Give:

Why give to the **Episcopal Fund**? Bishops oversee the United Methodist faith community. Their guidance depends on our financial support. The fund supports the office operations, travel salaries, health insurance, pensions and other expenses of the bishops’ office. The fund supports 69 active bishops and approximately 125 retired bishops and surviving spouses in the five U.S. Jurisdictions and the Central Conferences (Europe, Africa and the Philippines).

The bishops in The United Methodist Church oversee and are responsible for the congregations in their respective Episcopal areas. Bishops determine pastoral appointments. Bishops counsel with pastors, encourage congregations and lead in many ways. Supported by your gifts to the **Episcopal Fund**, bishops not only lead in the connectional ministry of the church, but you will also find them on the forefront of world issues encourage secular leaders to incorporate faith in their decision making.



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

**For more information go to  
[UMCGiving.org](http://UMCGiving.org) and click on Shared Ministries**