

LAST THANKSGIVING DAY

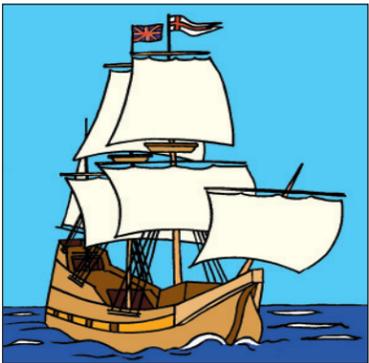
A November Thursday one year ago
and in our neighbor's yard
a holiday surprise: Turkeys!
Unexpected but certainly appropriate,
and not just one;
there's two, three, four
counting up to 14,
courageously defying any holiday assassin.
In a matter-of-fact way,
and with no spread-tail strut to mar their show,
busily they forage the autumn-brown lawn
reaping whatever nourishment they can.



Reflecting on the scene
as they cross over onto our lawn,
I think, "What a blessing!"
For this fine flock of timely visitors
point beyond themselves,
and beyond the multiple distractions
of latter day observances
— like football games and shopping tours.
We're back to basics now,
reminded of a simpler time

**The Relay staff
wishes you and
yours a Blessed
Thanksgiving.**

when Plymouth pilgrims
tutored by native guides
enjoyed a modest feast;
a time when faith filled the sails
that drove the vessels
of God-drenched travelers
from Old World to the New;
and an overarching Providence
inspired and empowered them.



I hope the turkeys come again this year,
calling me back to real Thanksgiving.

IVC



Bishop John Schol celebrates the sacrament on World Communion Sunday with Rev. Dr. Gregory Young, pastor of the UMC at New Brunswick.

Finance Agency Asks For E. Africa Funds Cutoff

By United Methodist News Service*

The United Methodist Church's finance agency announced Sept. 27 that it recommends general agencies, annual (regional) conferences and local churches withhold funding from the East Africa Annual Conference until further notice.



Bishop Daniel Wandabula -
A UMNS photo by Larry Nelson

In addition, the board of the General Council on Finance and Administration approved filing a formal complaint against Bishop Daniel Wandabula, who has led the East Africa Annual Conference since 2006. The complaint, to be filed with the Africa Central Conference College of Bishops, deals with concerns about his use and accountability of funds for various ministries in that conference.

Other responses — including possible legal actions in secular court — are also under consideration by the board, said agency officials and a

to assure the funds are being used for the work for which they were intended."

Wandabula was not available for comment on the finance agency's actions.

The General Council on Finance and Administration's board made its decision after the report of its Committee on Audit and Review. That committee is charged with making sure that general church funds, including money given to Advance specials, has gone to the purposes donors intend. It does not monitor the use of gifts from individual local churches and annual conferences.

The committee, after consultation with representatives of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, told the finance agency that the East Africa Annual Conference has failed for several years to provide complete and accurate financial audits of general church funds it has received.

Until the East Africa Annual Conference can provide satisfactory explanations of how those funds were spent, funding from general church entities will not be forwarded to that annual conference or related organizations, the finance agency's statement said.

The agency encouraged annual conferences and local churches to review their own funding of East Africa projects.

"What we're saying is that unless (local churches and annual conferences) are confident that their accountability are such that they can guarantee their donors that the money is going for the purpose it was intended that they should consider suspending fund-



The East Africa Annual Conference, which is part of the Africa Central Conference, includes Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the new nation of South Sudan. The East Africa Conference office is in Kampala, Uganda.

statement from the finance agency.

Finance agency officials could not say how much money its recommendation would affect.

"The actions of GCFA reflect our fiduciary responsibility for the whole church as we work to protect, defend and strengthen the trust our United Methodist people have in their churches, conferences, agencies and projects," said Indiana Area Bishop Michael Coyner, president of the finance agency's board, in the statement. "We take these actions in concert with other entities within the church

ing," said John Goolsbey, executive of administration at the General Council on Finance and Administration.

Goolsbey said the finance agency's recommendation will not affect disbursements from the denomination's Episcopal Fund that support Wandabula. Even if a bishop is under suspension, the Book of Discipline — the denomination's law book — requires that a bishop's salary, housing and benefits continue.

The East Africa Annual Conference includes Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and

Continued on page 3

A Message from the Bishop



Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. –Romans 8:39

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am grateful for the meaningful and inspiring installation service that the conference leaders organized and was held in Princeton, NJ on October 27. Beverly and I were overwhelmed by your love and thoughtfulness and it again reminded us why we are so blessed to be a part of the Greater New Jersey Conference. We look forward to the years of ministry we will share together

in Greater New Jersey, a conference that is dynamic and Spirit-filled.

I have already begun to experience the great gift you are to our denomination.

- **Your diversity.** While others long to look like the kingdom of God, you reflect the faces of God's people from around the world. In addition to our ethnic diversity, I applaud your ability to hold in creative tension theological diversity. We demonstrate not only to United Methodists but to the Nation that liberals and conservatives, Tea Party and Green Party, evangelicals and progressives can work together to honor God, love the church and serve the world.

- **Your passion to evangelize.** I meet pastors and laity regularly who seek to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. I have met people who use preaching and one to one evangelism as well as congregations that are sponsoring Sunday tailgate parties to engage new people.

- **Your passion for social justice.** I have witnessed churches ministering to communities with high unemployment and violence. I have talked with people who have served in mission to Haiti, Guatemala, Liberia as well as Patterson, Newark, Trenton, Asbury Park, Camden, and Atlantic City.

- **Your gifted and dedicated clergy.** As I have traveled to the districts, I have met some of the finest clergy our denomination offers. I met a pastor who prays at his church every day at 4:00 AM, a pastor who regularly walks the streets to engage young people and homeless, a pastor who visits in the prisons regularly. Our clergy are bright, dedicated and seeking to serve and lead the church to reach new generations of believers and transform congregations, communities and the world.

- **Your gifted and committed laity.** I continue to be overwhelmed by how our laity are leading and serving. I talked with a business person who told me he was happy to help churches think about being vision focused and mission organized. I met lay person who has just retired and is going to school to learn Spanish so that he and his wife can go to Guatemala to serve as missionaries. I met a lay person who volunteers on an inner city mission board and has found that it changed her life.

When I meet the people of the Greater New Jersey Conference, I ask myself, *why God has favored me to be so fortunate to serve with you.*

None of this is to deny our challenges or deny that there are a few ornery United Methodists in Greater New Jersey. But it is to say, you are a light on a hill and that you are making a difference. We have good people and good ministry to build on and I am convinced, that nothing in all of creation will separate us from the love of God or the love we have for one another.

Keep the faith!
John Schol, Bishop

Delaware Valley UMC Wins 2012 Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award

The Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History would like to congratulate the Delaware Valley United Methodist Church, Sandyston, for winning our 2012 Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award.

To see an electronic version of their submission, go to <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/60288214/Delaware%20Valley%20UMC%20History.pdf>.

Archives and History would like to thank the following churches for participating in this year's annual event: Aldersgate in East Brunswick, Bernardsville, Kingwood, Linwood Central and West Farms in Farmingdale. All of the entries were strong candidates which made choosing the winner very difficult for the judges.

The Commission on Archives and History looks forward to all the 2013 entries as they continue to document our Greater New Jersey Ministry of Memory.

5 New Ideas from GBOD

Every month the General Board of Discipleship sends 5 ways you can better equip Vital Congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Here's this month's issue!

Join the new Field Guide Network of youth and young adult workers. Become a mentor (Field Guide), and share your expertise in ministry, or sign up as an Explorer to learn from proven leaders how to increase your ministry's effectiveness. Any leader of a youth or young adult ministry is welcome to join the Field Guide Network. For more information, go to <http://www.fieldguideumc.org>.

Learn more about the seasons of church planting. Growth isn't instantaneous. In nature as in the life of a new church, there are seasons of gradual quiet change leading up to abundant full bloom. Read the *7 Seasons of Church Planting*, which is available for free in English, Spanish and Korean.

Nourish your spiritual life, deepen your experience of faith. The 35th Academy for Spiritual Formation® opening in January in Burlingame, CA, combines Christian study with spiritual disciplines and community. Applications, brochures and additional details are available online or by contacting the Academy office at 1-877-899-2781, ext. 7233.

Start Covenant Discipleship groups in your church. Rooted in Wesleyan tradition, these groups of 5 - 7 people meet weekly to offer one another mutual accountability and support in living the teachings of Jesus in daily life. For more information about organizing these vital groups, go to <http://bit.ly/R2UiXB>.

Think now about your worship plans for next year. The 2013 Planning Calendar, a free resource from GBOD, contains lectionary readings, holidays, seasons and special days from both the church and civil calendars. The calendar is especially perfect for worship and music planners. Download the 2013 calendar and for help with the remaining months of this year, get the 2012 calendar at the GBOD website.



Serving the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

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

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EDITORIAL

How are you going to celebrate Christmas this year?

Every year, right about this time, most people start thinking and making plans as to how they are going to celebrate Christmas. For many, Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends. People plan dinners and parties that are filled with good food and fellowship. For others, Christmas is all about the decorations, so they start planning for themes, colors, and the amount of lights they will use to decorate their homes. However, there is something that seems to be in *everybody's* minds as Christmas time approaches and that is the gifts they *need* to buy to share with their loved ones during the holidays.

According to the Barnas Group, this year, people in the United States will spend approximately \$465 million dollars in gifts during the Christmas season – by any standard that's a lot of money. Ironically, the same group estimates that giving to churches and non-profits during the holidays will go down approximately 22% compared to the previous year. People seem to be spending more during Christmas, but giving less.

In light of these figures, we need to ask ourselves as the Body of Christ: *is spending the best way to celebrate the birth of our Savior?* As pastor Mike Slaughter explains in his book *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*, every year, we [Christians] say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. Churches, through their programs and outreach initiatives should help people reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy. As Mr. Slaughter points out in his book, pastors and church leaders should help people in their churches cast a vision for how Christians can experience the true joy of *living* and *giving* like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing as a lifestyle.

One way to encourage families to look at Christmas in a different way is for churches to take stock of their own traditions around the holidays. How much has the secular version of Christmas crept into the festivities of the congregation? If the church doesn't resist the temptation to make the celebration of the birth of Jesus into a celebration of consumerism and secular tradition, how can we expect our members to act differently?

Many churches are currently involved in annual stewardship campaigns wherein an emphasis is placed on tithing and putting first things first. Perhaps the planning of these campaigns could include a section on the stewardship of Christmas that addresses the money we spend and how we spend it as well as how much of our time we give to secular activities compared to our time in the worship of God. Congregations could be encouraged to tithe their Christmas giving or commit to extra service to others.

The main problem, of course, is that our traditions around Christmas are some of the most fervently held and fiercely defended of all traditions. Any pastor or group of church leaders who dare to suggest they might be changed is treading on very thin ice. So resistance is inevitable. What we should never do is surrender to the popular culture, though that is precisely what some churches do. They find they cannot or think they cannot win the battle, so they give in and do whatever seems expedient.

One way to bring about change is to do it a step at a time; don't try to change everything all at once! Try one thing this year. Make sure you can back it up with sound biblical teaching and preaching.

The example our churches set will, in turn, enable those who sit in the seats to rethink what they do at home and in the mall.

E. Africa Funds Cutoff

Continued from page 1

the new nation of South Sudan. The conference office is in Kampala, Uganda.

Wandabula was re-elected for life on Aug. 17 when the Africa Central Conference met in Nairobi, Kenya. Unlike in the United States, the Africa Central Conference bishops are not elected for life at their first election.

Moses Kumar, top executive and treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, said his agency's actions "are being taken to help all of our members feel confident that faithful ministries will continue to be funded properly and can be supported by the church."

Mission agency concerns

The General Council on Finance and Administration's decision comes after multiple concerns were raised across the denomination about the East Africa Annual Conference's use of funds. Many questions specifically center on the administration of Wandabula.

After three audits in 18 months, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries on Aug. 8 accepted a recommendation from its audit committee to suspend all funds indefinitely to the East Africa Annual Conference.

Bishop Peter Weaver, chair of the audit committee since 2009, told United Methodist News Service that regional auditors found "unsatisfactory accounting practices."

The denomination's mission agency had previously suspended funds in September 2011 to the Humble School in Mukono, Uganda, after a routine four-day, on-site audit of funds managed by the East Africa Conference.

Besides Humble School, other projects reviewed and affected by this year's suspension of funds include the Hope for Africa Children's Choir Music Academy in Mukono, Namunkanaga HIV/AIDS and Malaria Awareness, Trinity United Methodist Church in Wanyange, United Methodist Women Center in Jinja, and the United Methodist Empowerment Center of Jinja.

The amount on hold for East Africa Annual Conference Advance projects on Sept. 27 was \$73,541.43, according to figures from Melissa Hinnen, public information officer for the mission agency.

Most other general agencies don't have any immediate projects scheduled in the East Africa Annual Conference.

The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits officials said the next payment to retired clergy and surviving spouses in East Africa is not scheduled until 2013. The pension payments are part of the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

"The administration systems we are putting in place are designed to assure pension payments made are delivered and received. If we have any indication that payments are not being received, we will discontinue them the following quarter," said a statement from Barbara Boigegrain, the pension board's top executive.

Some continued support

The Holston Annual Conference,

which includes churches in parts of Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia, plans to continue its financial support in the Yei District of South Sudan.

The Holston Conference is working very closely with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries to ensure that its funds are sent to South Sudan in a way that is totally accountable to Holston, to the mission agency, and to the people of South Sudan, said the Rev. Carol Wilson, the conference's director of communications.

"The Rev. Fred Dearing, the district superintendent of the Yei District, in August underwent a very careful audit of all funds sent to South Sudan from Holston through the (the Board of Global Ministries), and (Global Ministries) was very affirming of the handling of all funds," she said. "We seek to manage all funds sent for work in South Sudan in a manner that is according to good fiscal accounting practices, and (Global Ministries) confirmed that we are doing so."

Case heading to Judicial Council

The Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, will take up other questions about the East Africa Annual Conference's use of funds when it next meets Oct. 24-27 in the Chicago area.

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has asked the Judicial Council to rule whether funds given to the East Africa Conference were used in accordance with the intent of the donors as required by Paragraph 258.4 of the 2008 Book of Discipline.

The Western Pennsylvania Conference's former Pittsburgh East District raised about \$90,000 for churches, wells and maize mills in Uganda before the district was dissolved in 2005. One church building was never completed, the maize mill did not work and the well was dug where there was no United Methodist presence, district leaders charge.

The district sent the funds directly to Wandabula, a district superintendent and project coordinator at the time.

Wandabula earlier told UMNS that \$86,888 from the East Pittsburgh District and \$19,994 from the Africa Church Growth and Development funds were used to "pay part of the Namboole United Methodist Church land, pay attorney expenses, pay the land surveyors, land transfer fees, seal, architectural drawings, a maize mill and bore hole. All these investments were accounted for."

The Western Pennsylvania Conference also has asked the Judicial Council to rule on whether money members had designated for Isaac Sebit, a pastor in South Sudan, ever reached the pastor.

The petition also requests the Judicial Council to review whether a complaint against Wandabula filed by Nancy Denardo, a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conference, was properly handled.

**Information for this story is based on a General Council on Finance and Administration news release by Sharon Dean and reporting by the Rev. J. Richard Peck and Heather Hahn.*

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

RETHINK CHURCH®

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It's time to update your church's Find-A-Church profile!

"Which church will we attend this Christmas?" Many will ask this question. How will Christmas visitors find your church?

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This quick form is set up just to receive updates for Advent and Christmas. You can include information around five areas: worship, festivities, children's programs, ways you can serve and remembering those who may be lonely.

To provide even more information, you can go to the full *Find-A-Church* update page.

Make this Christmas different for "CEOs" (Christmas and Easter Only visitors). Give them a reason to return before Easter!

Download *A Different Kind of Christmas* sermon series by The Rev. Mike Slaughter.



[Video] Reclaim Christmas: Less Hype. More Hope.

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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.



Global Relay

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

Report: Church's path is 'unsustainable'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Church's way of doing business remains "unsustainable," and the changes made during and after the 2012 General Conference are insufficient to address the challenges the denomination faces. That's the assessment of the final report of the Call to Action Interim Operations Team, which since its formation in late 2010 has been looking at ways to reorder the life of the church.

Bishop calls funds issue 'mud-slinging'

KAMPALA, Uganda (UMNS) — Bishop Daniel Wandabula, who leads the East Africa Annual (regional) Conference, says he blames the decisions of church agencies to withhold funds from his conference on a campaign "of malice, mud-slinging, character lynching and insurrection." The General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination's finance agency, recommended Sept. 27 that all United Methodist bodies cut off funds to the East Africa Conference until further notice. The agency's board also filed a formal complaint against Wandabula with the Africa Central Conference College of Bishops. The Board of Global Ministries, the denomination's mission agency, announced Aug. 8 the decision to suspend all funds indefinitely to the East Africa Annual Conference. (See full UMNS article on this story elsewhere in this issue of the Relay.)

Young adult Oklahoman helps Georgia children

FAIRVIEW, Okla. (UMNS) — Her mother recognized Jerrica Becker's big heart for children when her daughter was a little child. Now young-adult missionary Jerrica uses her gift to help neglected children in Cedartown, Ga. In August, she was commissioned as a US-2, through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and began her assignment as assistant chaplain at a residential children's center.

Conferences begin adding group mentoring

LAKELAND, Fla. (UMNS) — Research has found some consistent challenges across The United Methodist Church for ordination candidates. These challenges include misunderstanding among candidates about the process, too few gifted mentors to guide candidates and inconsistency in the candidacy experience. One possible solution the Florida Annual (regional) Conference has found and other conferences are discovering: group mentoring.

10-Fold features young people in mission

NEW YORK (UMNS) — 10-Fold, webcasts about United Methodist projects around the world supported by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief, will feature young people in mission this week. Each visitor can trigger a \$1 donation from sponsors to the week's project by clicking on the BE COUNTED button.

Archives and History elects Park as president

PHILADELPHIA (UMNS) — Harrisburg Area Bishop Jeremiah Park was elected president of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History during its first annual meeting of the new quadrennium Sept. 13-16. The Rev. Beauty Maenzanise, dean of the faculty of theology of Africa University, was elected vice president, and Nancy Watkins, director of the Heritage Center for the Southeastern Jurisdiction, secretary. The commission's actions included adoption of a position paper establishing an advisory committee for Hispanic/Latino church history and affirmation of continued support for the African American Methodist Heritage Center.

Discipleship board organizes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Discipleship's new, smaller board, in its first organizational session, has selected Mountain Sky Area Bishop Elaine Stanovsky as president and the Rev. Eric Park, a district superintendent from Western Pennsylvania, as vice president for the coming four years. The board, which was reduced to 23 members from 60 members by the 2012 General Conference, also created a new working structure and meeting schedule.

Ecumenical news service suspends operations

TORONTO (UMNS) — Ecumenical News International announced Oct. 1 that its ENInews service is suspending operations, effective immediately, as it seeks emergency funding for the remainder of 2012. "We regret taking this step, but despite a massive reorganization, ENInews is feeling the effect of the deep cuts from its historic supporters as well as from non-payment by quite a number of subscribers," said the Rev. David Harris, president of ENI and publisher of the Presbyterian Record.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

Getting Congregational Development Information Online

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC



This past year our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference website was redesigned. We congratulate Heather Fullerton, Leo Park and Chris Heckert for helping to put this together. Whereas before the Office of Congregational Development had its own website, now information can be accessed directly from the GNJAC website. The URL to access this information is <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/297>.

This is the "Congregational Development" page that includes information about coaching, natural church development, new church development, the resource *Roadmap to Renewal*, and "turn around strategies."

There is also a Bookstore page with links to online stores where resources can be purchased.

The website that I used to manage, www.yourchurchcangrow.org will now be redirected to the Greater New Jersey Congregational Development page.

I have received requests for past articles and other writings and as a result have created a new website where these can be found: www.dougruffle.com. I welcome feedback on both the GNJAC website and my own.

Serving Christ through Our United Methodist Connectional Giving: Ministry Shares

"This is about something bigger than any one of them. They just know there is a reason they feel good doing this, and God is that reason. They helped work a miracle."

-Retired teacher Francie Markham, describing volunteers for famine-stricken Zimbabwe

"Whether we're packing school supplies for a village in a distant land or putting money in our church offering plate, we know our gifts help God to work miracles." Some of the biggest miracles in The United Methodist Church happen because committed congregations pay their apportionments at 100%.

One-hundred percent giving to United Methodism's seven apportioned funds translates to supporting outreach through the church's general agencies, paving the way for African students to pursue higher education, enriching eleven historically black colleges, nurturing our bishops in their ministry, providing the financial backbone for General Conference, cooperating with people of other faiths and strengthening seminarians in their spiritual journey.

Apportioned funds enable United Methodists to do together what no church, district or annual conference could do alone.

All of this—and so much more—is possible because when we join The United Methodist Church, we promise faithfully to participate in its ministries through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. The Conference is striving for all churches to be alive in the Holy Spirit by reaching or maintaining your ministry shares goal of 100% this year.

In the coming weeks and months there will be stories and resources made available to you to share with your congregations prior to the offertory. Many churches have found that by providing tangible and relatable stories about how giving is making a difference in the world, offertory has become a more positive experience for all. Read the stories in services, print them in newsletters and electronic communications, and help change the way congregations think about connectional giving.

Our giving makes a difference around the world!

2012 Shared Ministry and Conference Billings Due

Note to Local Church Treasurers: The Conference Council on Finance and Administration has advised that the deadline for submitting payments for the 2012 Shared Ministry and Conference Billings to the conference office is **January 15, 2013**. Payments received after the deadline will be credited to the local church for 2013.

Log on to:

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

**The December/January Issue
Deadline is November 5, 2012**

Area Crop Walks Take Steps to Eradicate Hunger

In Red Bank on the Northern Shore District, October 21st dawned bright and beautiful, with golden and crimson maples lining the streets, as Crop Hunger Walkers turned out in big numbers to bring in 13,160 pounds of food, 2000 pounds more than last year's record. Rumson Country Day School led the way once again, with a record 5300 pounds, to fill the empty shelves at local food pantries. Congratulations are in order.

Over 70 groups registered including faith groups, scout troops, schools and individuals to walk the 5 mile course through Fair Haven, Red Bank, and Little Silver. DJ Jon Limyansky of J & J Music, celebrated his 10th year of playing for Crop Walk - an incredible donation of time and talent. Red Bank Regional Key Club took group photos, and numerous art entries decorated the school with visual messages of how we can help hungry neighbors. Advocacy tables provided links for action along with Christian Brothers Academy's winning cardboard box "house" from a sleep-over for the Family Promise program, housing homeless families.

Teen leaders led the crowd in a lively musical rendition of "Crop Walka Walka" as Mickey Mouse and Short-



stop the Clown danced with vigor. Later both clowns directed "traffic" as walkers moved quickly through Red Bank and back to the high school to enjoy apples and ice cream, thanks to Delicious Orchards, Super Foodtown, and Sickles Market, to wind down this fun filled community day.

In spite of a long economic downturn, Crop Walkers and sponsors rose to the occasion to help hungry neighbors and early count estimates are well on the way to reaching the goal of \$130,000.

Donations may be sent in through the website www.redbankcropwalk.com. The organizers are grateful to all their loyal, sponsors, walkers, and volunteers, who helped make the day possible.

Elsewhere on the Northern Shore District, a smaller but no less committed and enthusiastic crowd of 70 walkers gathered at the Whiting Church for the 20th annual event involving area congregations and individuals who en-

joyed the beautiful day and the opportunity to serve others. On hand were Dolly Dyer, Development Associate for Church World Service and James Vaccaro, Chairperson of the Manchester Township Planning Board who was there to represent area businesses that contributed to the walk. The Whiting area is primarily populated by people of retirement age so it was not surprising to see a significant number of participants who had canes, scooters, and service dogs. The fact that an older group with mobility issues is still willing to do what many younger people take for granted in order to help others is laudable and a testimony to the Church's mission to feed the hungry.

AND WHAT ELSE?

(A Recurring Column on Older Adult Ministry)

A few years ago, Rev. Jim Davis and I led a District Day of Learning session on older adult ministry. Participants were asked to tell about this ministry within their local church. One woman answered: "We pick up our seniors and we bring them to our dinners." "And what else?" she was asked. Unfortunately in that church, there was no "what else". Hence the name for this column.

My intent is to spotlight local church sponsored programs; programs with seniors, for seniors, and by seniors. So, e-mail me with your program information and photos. If I am available to visit your program, I will.

Last month, I represented our conference at the Older Adult Ministry Symposium, sponsored by the GBOD and held in Nashville, Tennessee. I was amazed at the number and the variety of older adult ministries going on throughout our denomination. Do you receive "Center Sage"? This newsletter is published twice a year by the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries. The GBOD provides this resource by contacting: rgentzler@gbod.org (for subscriptions) or is available on the GBOD website. And it's FREE! The next edition will spotlight Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey; a faith based non-profit organization providing services to Ocean County Seniors, enabling them to remain independent in their own homes. Over 60 churches and synagogues are involved, including ten United Methodist churches.

For more information, please contact me at: pwallace072003@yahoo.com.

Pauline Wallace
Waretown/Barnegat Anew United Methodist Church
Caregivers Volunteers of Central Jersey

WESTWOOD UMC SEEKS YOUTH MINISTER

The Westwood UMC is seeking a Youth Minister for weekly meetings at the church on Sunday. A monthly special activity or event should be held each month. The target age group is Confirmation age through grade 12. The starting time would be immediate.

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

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.

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Butler Missionaries Run Health Clinic in Honduras

A team of six volunteers and one trained nurse, traveled as representatives of the Butler Church, to work with members of the Manantial de Vida church in the town of Valle de Angeles in Comayagua, Honduras. There from Aug.31-Sept.8, they worked with church members sharing the gospel, helping to construct their new sanctuary, and assisting in a one day medical clinic.

During their time at the clinic, they formed a team of three doctors, four dentists, two nurses, four pastors, and eleven members of the laity from the two churches. The doctors and nurses, who also volunteered their time, were from the Santa Teresa hospital of Comayagua. The response from the community for this one day free medical clinic was so large, that it had to set-up in the Jardin de Niños elemen-

had treated 120 patients, 57 children received free haircuts, and every mom received multi-vitamins for their children. Personal hygiene and sanitary food preparation was taught as well as many other general health care instructions by the trained professionals and several people made first time professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Team members said that the doctors they had worked with reported they have done many of these types of free clinics, but have never seen one run as smoothly and efficiently as this one. "I know it was because we were a group of Christians that truly loved and cared about the people we were helping," said Jack Inglis, Coordinator of Outreach Ministries at Butler Church.

The rest of the week was spent helping the people of the Manantial de Vida church construct their new sanctuary



tary school. There, the doctors interviewed and examined patients, then wrote prescriptions for the medications needed which the team had brought from the United States. The medications were generously donated by C.M.M.B. and U.M.C.O.R. The prescriptions were then filled by qualified nurses as they explained the proper use of those meds. All of the donated medicines had to be counted, separated, labeled and put into containers for distribution to patients according to the doctors' instructions. Dentists examined, cleaned, repaired or removed teeth as needed.

By the end of the day the doctors had treated 196 patients, the dentists

just down the road from the clinic. Missioners carried cement blocks, dug trenches, and mixed cement. "The construction work was hard, and it was very hot, but the Holy Spirit empowered and refreshed us as we worked together with our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ singing praise songs in both English and Spanish," said Inglis. "The blessings we experienced throughout the week were much more than we could have imagined. The week with the Manantial de Vida church marked the beginning of a partnership in ministry with the two churches. We all look forward to our next opportunity to work together in ministry."

Food Pantries Struggling to Meet Demand Supported by CUMAC



Volunteers from Cornerstone Church collecting food at an Action Against Hunger site.

Sunday morning, October 14th, CUMAC staff and volunteers waited amidst hundreds of empty boxes, anxious to receive the truckloads of donated food that promised to fill them. It was the 21st Annual Action Against Hunger Food Drive, and that food was desperately needed to help struggling pantries fill their barren shelves and continue their work to feed the hungry.

The Action Against Hunger Food Drive is a community service program of the North Jersey Media Foundation. On this day every year, pantries throughout four counties receive food collected at over 100 sites. CUMAC coordinates efforts within Passaic County and relies totally on the dedication of volunteers, the compassion of donors and the cooperation of the weather to make the day a success. Passaic County is home to two cities that have a history of deep, chronic poverty and hunger. In these difficult times, surrounding towns are seeing higher instances of economic uncertainty and food insecurity as well. The 2012 Action Against Hunger Food Drive was absolutely critical to ensuring our pantries can serve all who come in need.

This year, over 220 people came together in support of CUMAC and its partner pantries. Volunteers and pantry representatives collected food at 32 grocery stores and a volunteer trucking fleet transported approximately 38,500 pounds of food back to CUMAC's facility. There, another team was prepared to sort items into boxes, which will be distributed to pantries throughout the county in the upcoming weeks. "It was a day of great energy, compassion and commitment," said Stephanie Ames, Volunteer Coordinator. "CUMAC is so incredibly grateful to all of the volunteers and donors who made it possible." She said pantry shelves have been bordering on empty across the county and the food collected will be a huge boost to supplies. Each item collected—from baby formula to cans of tuna to pet food—will help a struggling family or individual get by with one less worry.

Ames said that CUMAC's staff is working around a maze of carefully

stacked food boxes, awed by the sight of a warehouse brimming with supplies and struggling to operate machinery with so little space left unoccupied. "We are, however, mindful of the simple fact that this food won't last," she said. "This year's drive, while very successful, still brought in around 3,500 pounds less than last year's drive. At the same time, food is being distributed to more pantries than ever, while many long time pantries are serving significantly more clients." Donations and government allocation are down as well and the Action Against Hunger collection will need to stretch farther than in the past.

The food collected will tide our pantries over until the holidays. Ames said it will go a long way toward feeding people during the upcoming months, but come winter we will once again be struggling to keep our shelves full.

Ames said that CUMAC's partners within the GNJAC were instrumental in making the drive a success. Churches came from all over to collect food at stores and to unload and organize here at CUMAC. "Thanks to your efforts we'll be able to fill pantry shelves across the county," she said. "But please keep your energy and your passion for helping the hungry alive. We're living in a time where too many people are falling through the cracks and where the agencies protecting people from the brink are struggling just to keep their doors open; we can't keep up without you."

Ames encourages churches to keep up the momentum to ensure that nobody has to suffer the pain and hardship of food insecurity. Winter food collections will make sure none are ever turned away and financial donations allow CUMAC to purchase critically needed items at an incredible bulk rate of \$0.18 per pound.

CUMAC runs multiple services dedicated to alleviating hunger and poverty in one of New Jersey's poorest counties. It serves food to approximately 2,600 food insecure individuals every month, a number that represents over a 60% increase in need in the past few years.

To learn more, visit www.cumacecho.org.
Join conversations at [facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople](https://www.facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople)
and twitter.com/cumacfeeds.

If you'd like to volunteer or host a collection of your own, feel free to call CUMAC at 973-742-5518 or send an e-mail to volunteer@cumacecho.org.

**The December / January Issue
Deadline is November 5, 2012**

Fair Haven Garden Fights Hunger Locally and Globally



PARTNERS IN PLANTING are Bob Pruchnik, whose vision of growing crops to feed the hungry in the Red Bank area ignited Christ Church's Harvest Garden Ministry, and Pastor Kim as they set out a row of eggplant in the church's plot.

FAIR HAVEN — With Thanksgiving fast approaching, Christ Church here has some solid reasons for gratitude — their own and that of persons caught in the cycle of hunger and malnutrition. The Northern Shore faith community has cast its lot with ONE, a global grassroots organization aimed at combating poverty and preventable dis-

another church member, Bob Pruchnik, noting that "we have a lot of unused property and we have a mandate from Christ to help others, especially the poor," proposed a gardening project to help feed the needy. The idea caught on, and church members started the garden on a 60'X70' plot, growing peppers, squash, tomatoes and other veg-



SHARING THE MIKE at World Food Day news conference at Christ Church, Fair Haven, is sportscaster Melissa Stark, and Christ Church Pastor Eusun Kim. The thrust of their message: "Act locally and think globally to fight hunger." Ms. Stark, a reporter for the NFL Network and a member of the Christ Church congregation, boasts a portfolio that includes that of a correspondent on NBC's Today show and anchor of MSNBC's coverage of the Beijing Olympics.

eases by raising public awareness.

The story was shared on World Food Day, October 16, when the Rev. Eusun Kim, Christ Church pastor, hosted a discussion on the importance of "acting locally and thinking globally" to fight hunger. The Fair Haven pastor is a regional faith leader of ONE, which raises public awareness and pressures political leaders to support effective life-saving policies in places like Africa — and nearer to home as well.

Co-founded by Irish musician and philanthropist Bono, ONE is nonpartisan and works closely with African activists and policy makers.

Assisting Pastor Kim in the October meeting was NFL sports announcer Melissa Stark, a pioneer female sportscaster and a parishioner at Christ Church.

"She agreed to help promote both our Harvest Garden ministry and ONE's THRIVE campaign focused on the sweet potato," explains Pastor Kim.

Christ Church's involvement in the hunger ministry began a year ago when

establishes through the summer. Businesses and community groups donated seeds and gardening equipment and church members handled the labor.

In spite of a late start, the gardeners were able to donate several boxes of vegetables to Lunch Break, a Red Bank service providing food, clothing and fellowship for the hungry in the community.

"There's something about putting our hands to labor, that makes it so much more connected, and the ministry comes alive," Mr. Kim told an Asbury Park Press reporter in a story informing this report.

But Pastor Kim and Christ Church's interest takes on a global dimension with their involvement in ONE. At the October 16 press conference, the Fair Haven pastor tied together the issues of local and global hunger.

"We envision the day when poverty won't be an issue," he said. The discussion highlighted ONE's global campaign "Sweet Potato on the Menu, Nutrition on the Agenda" as well as the

Youth Praise Band



Members of Trinity Hackettstown YPB (Youth Praise Band) lead worship at the Skylands District Youth Team Kick Off. What is the district youth team? The team will provide an opportunity for young people (grades 6 to 12) to come together as a larger group. The voices of young people will be what shapes what the team does and how they do it. The team will help plan relevant ministry, mission and fellowship opportunities that will draw all district youth closer together as they seek to learn and serve God together in a new and exciting way. If you are a youth or youth leader who would like to participate on the team, it's not too late to join the fun.

Contact District Youth Coordinators Todd Lattig at 973-383-4868 or pastor.toddlattig@gmail.com or Jessica Stenstrom at 973-627-1041 or dcc.youth@verizon.net.

Oktoberfest Brings Together Young Adults From Around the Conference



Over 30 young adults gathered on Friday, October 5th at the Glassboro Church to join in praise, worship, and dialogue about their journeys and the United Methodist Church. Joining the young adults was Rev. Jim Walker from the Hot Metal Bridge Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Walker brought to life the commonly told Bible story of Jesus and the four fishermen in Matthew Chapter 4 while comparing it to modern-day ministry.

After worship, the young adults split into small groups to talk and get know one another. For a list of future young adult events and resources, visit the GNJ MYP website at www.gnjmyp.org.

local church's Harvest Garden Ministry.

ONE is using the sweet potato, packed with vitamin A, as a symbol in its campaign calling on world leaders to support programs and policies that help the millions of children who suffer malnutrition.

In 2010, 171 million children suffered chronic malnutrition, according to ONE, and 600,000 children die every year from vitamin A deficiency.

"Not all people are fortunate enough to have food on the table every night," said Ms. Stark. "This is great for our children."

Locally, hunger and nutrition has become an increasingly critical issue for residents of the Red Bank area, as families face the ravages of unemployment and underemployment. Lunch Break, active for nearly 30 years, reports a 500 percent increase in the

need for food since 2008 as it serves about 100 people each day, Monday through Saturday.

"We are trying to initiate a healthier diet both in the soup kitchen and also in the food pantry," says Gwendolyn Love, Lunch Break's executive director. "By organizations like Christ Church donating their fresh produce ..., it just enables us even more to be able to provide fresh foods."

The link between Christ Church and Lunch Break is not a new one. In the years following the founding of the soup kitchen in 1983, three Christ Church volunteers, Alice Dragan, Lola Merrill and Nina Brown were faithful weekly workers at Lunch Break. Thus the Harvest Garden Ministry carries on a continuing line of Christian witness and service that touches lives of the poor and hungry.

Sharon D. Clapp Appointed Vice President of Development



Sharon D. Clapp

NEPTUNE, N.J. — Sharon D. Clapp, M.Div. has been appointed and assumed the role of vice president of development for the United Methodist Homes Foundation. Clapp will lead the trustees and staff in creating a culture of philanthropy throughout the organization by enhancing giving and communication programs. The Homes operates five full-service and five affordable senior housing communities statewide.

Along with the Foundation's board of trustees, Clapp will be responsible for oversight and management of the Development Office including raising funds for capital campaigns, Fellowship Fund, endowment and other philanthropic priorities. Development also focuses on the cultivation and stewardship of donors. The Fellowship Fund, a cornerstone of the Homes' ministry promises that no resident will be asked to leave a United Methodist Homes' community due to inability to pay for care.

Rev. Clapp earned a Bachelor of Journalism, Marketing and Public Relations from Norfolk State University and a Master of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. The Partnership for Philanthropic Planning, Association of Fundraising Professionals and National Association of Female Executives are among her current professional affiliations. She has served on the boards of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, Imani Foundation and the AIDS National Interfaith Network.

"Sharon brings a wealth of experience in philanthropic organizations, a proven track record in fundraising and is well regarded by the organizations she has served," United Methodist Homes' President and CEO Lawrence D. Carlson remarked. "Sharon's development of relationships in New Jersey will be a key ingredient of our ability to grow the Homes' Foundation which serves the needs of our under-resourced residents. Additionally, her presence will strengthen the Homes' leadership team."

Clapp previously directed the Office of Philanthropic Services for the General Council on Finance and Administration and worked for the United Methodist Church Foundation. Here in New Jersey, she was executive pastor at Calvary Church in Garfield and associate minister at Community Baptist Church in Englewood. As executive director of a nonprofit organization, she dealt with capacity building for religious organizations, local churches and community development corporations.

Other faith-based settings include Church Growth Ministries, National Council of Churches of Christ, Church Women United, The United Methodist Church, Church World Service, and Witness. She was an executive producer for the Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Telethon broadcasts in 1996 and 1997.

Clapp reflects, "Psalms 55:8 reads, 'I would hurry to my place of shelter....' Through the work of the United Methodist Homes many have found their place of shelter. I have eagerly taken God's outstretched hand to partner with Him in this endeavor and to create an endowment that will ensure that no one will ever be turned away because of an inability to pay. I believe that my journey thus far in life, has prepared me for the work that God has set before me in this, my ministerial place of shelter."

United Methodist Homes is a not-for-profit organization guided by a volunteer board of directors affiliated in ministry with the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. *The mission of the United Methodist Homes is to provide quality and caring services to senior men and women in a Christian community.*

Social Principles Bulletin Inserts Available

Free resource downloadable from General Board of Church & Society website

by Wayne Rhodes, Editor, Faith in Action on October 04, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) has developed bulletin inserts featuring individual United Methodist Social Principles. The resource, designed to be included in church worship bulletins, can be downloaded for free from the agency's website.

The inserts highlight positions approved by the denomination's highest policy-making body, the General Conference, on issues such as abortion, immigrants, health care, religious minorities, racism and children's rights.

The bulletin inserts are designed in two colors that reproduce excellently in black and white. They are 11 by 8.5 inches. They are available in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

The Social Principles

The Social Principles are a call to a "prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice," according to their Preface in the United Methodist *Book of Disci-*

pline. While not considered church law, the Preface emphasizes that they are an effort on the part of the General Conference "to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions."

The inserts highlight positions approved by the denomination's highest policy-making body.

Each Social Principle is grounded in scripture, tradition, experience and reason. They guide the work at the General Board of Church & Society, whose prime responsibility is to seek implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns.

The bulletin inserts can help local churches raise awareness about the social justice ministries that are at the heart of United Methodism. They also are an easy way to keep congregants apprised of United Methodist positions involving social concerns that may be in the news.

If you need an insert on a particular subject that has not been prepared yet, one will be developed at your request

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson
Coordinator of Stewardship Education
and Development, GNJAC



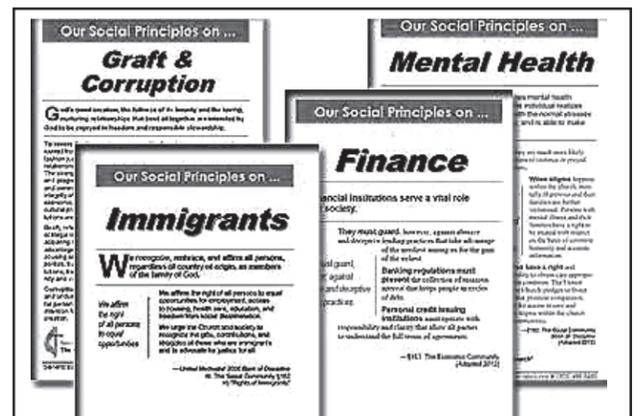
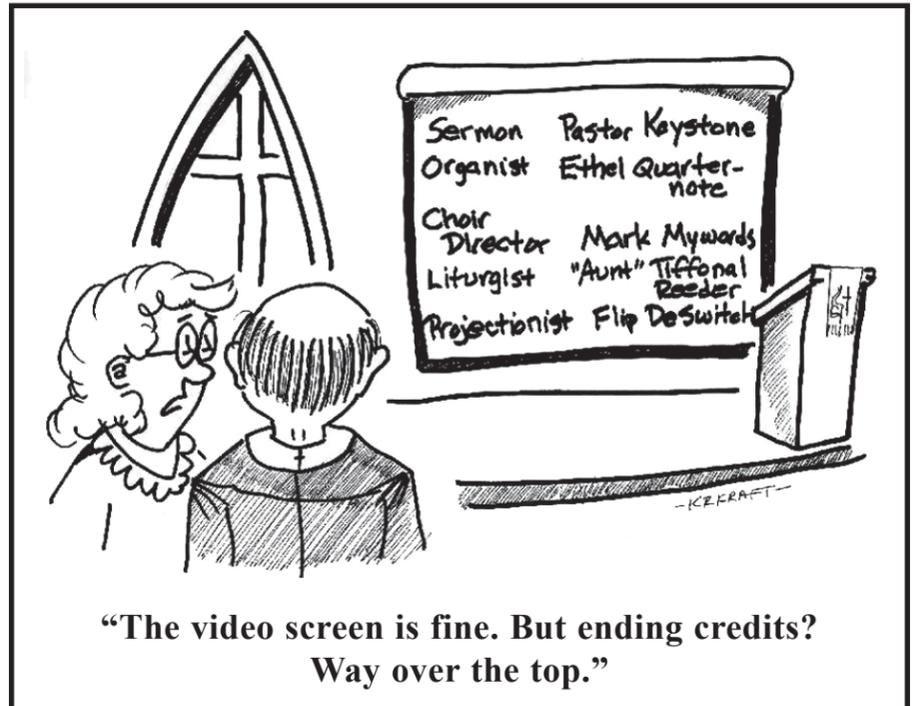
Accentuate the Positive

Herb Mather and Don Joiner in their book, *Celebrate Giving*, make the point that when parishioners give their money to the church they are more interested in what their money does than anything else. People give to support dreams and visions and they get more excited about mission and ministry than they do about bookkeeping. Stories are much more interesting than numbers.

While a line-item budget is absolutely necessary for managing church funds, don't be surprised if a numbers budget alone doesn't motivate giving. You need something else; you need the ministry stories behind those numbers to stir people's eagerness to give.

So when you present your ministry plans for the coming year to your church members and participants, present them as **goals to be reached, programs to be carried out, ministries to be offered, missions to be fulfilled, people to be served, and life's to be transformed.** Belief in the church's mission is the #1 reason people give. Tell the story of your church's mission all year long.

If you need help telling your church's story contact the Stewardship Coordinator at RHendrickson@gnjumc.org.



United Methodist Social Principles bulletin inserts are available for download.

and added to the website. Make your request via email to Wayne Rhodes or call (202) 488-5630.

For more information about this new resource or Social Principles training opportunities, contact the Rev. Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, at (202) 488-5611.

Social Principles bulletin inserts

The Natural World

- Animal Life
- Climate Stewardship
- Energy Resources
- Food Justice
- Food Safety
- Natural World
- Science and Technology
- Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants

The Nurturing Community

- Abortion
- Human Sexuality
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Abuse

The Social Community

- Rights of the Aging
- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Rights of Children
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Genetic Technology
- Right to Health Care
- Persons Living with HIV & AIDS
- Rights of Immigrants
- Medical Experimentation
- Mental Health
- Rights of Racial & Ethnic Persons
- Rights of Religious Minorities
- Sexual Orientation
- Rights of Women

The Economic Community

- Collective Bargaining
- Finance

The Political Community

- Church & State
- Political Responsibility

The World Community

- War and Peace

20 Ways to Reach Out on Veterans Day

A UMNS report By Barbara Dunlap-Berg and Kathy L. Gilbert*



Elysia Cooper, 2, hugs a state flag during a visit to Ox Hill Battlefield Park, Fairfax County, Va. More than 1,500 soldiers were killed or wounded during this Civil War battle on Sept. 1, 1862.

Photo by Seth Cooper

The observance of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, began almost a century ago.

In the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Allied nations and Germany declared an armistice — a temporary cessation of hostilities — in World War I. Commemorated as Armistice Day the next year, Nov. 11 became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938. After World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to U.S. veterans of all wars.

Now is the perfect time for congregations to engage in ministry with active troops and the families left behind. Here are 20 ideas.

giving and Christmas food drives.

- Invite children to write thank-you notes and draw pictures for troops, especially at special times such as Veterans Day. This is a good class project.

- Assemble and send care packages. Here is a list of suggested contents from Hugs for Soldiers. When the spouse of a newly deployed soldier began attending Glendale United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tenn., members sent care packages and letters to him throughout his deployment. They assured the young man that members were caring for his wife and daughter back home.

- Do something special for troops

ment of Veterans Affairs website for planning ideas and images.

- Study and discuss The United Methodist Church's position on military service, which reads in part: "We support and extend the ministry of the Church to those persons who conscientiously oppose all war, or any particular war, and who therefore refuse to serve in the armed forces or to cooperate with systems of military conscription. We also support and extend the Church's ministry to those persons who conscientiously choose to serve in the armed forces or to accept alternative service. As Christians we are aware that neither the way of military action, nor the way of inaction is always righteous before God" (The Book of Discipline, 2008, Par. 164 I).

- Invite military family members to participate in community-outreach projects with other members of the congregation.

- Evaluate how welcoming your church is to newcomers. Military families often live in a community for a short time, rarely more than three years and often much less. Must a person sing with the choir for years before being offered a solo? Do children of long-term civilian families always get the leads in the church play? Are project chairs only selected from long-term members? If the answer to any of those questions is "yes," military families could spend a lifetime being on the outside and never having a significant role in any of the churches they attend. Remember to allow even your short-



Sunday school participants at Industry (Texas) United Methodist Church create cards for the military personnel serving overseas.

A UMNS 2004 file photo by Mike DuBose.

Reach out to families

United Methodist Chaplain Laura Bender, who serves at the United States Marine Corps Wounded Warriors Regiment in Quantico, Va., offered suggestions for starting a conversation or beginning a local church program.

- Identify the military families in your community.

- Are there any wounded veterans? Offer their families assistance with yard work, errands, child care, respite care and transportation to appointments.

- Start a "veterans only" fellowship. Reservists and veterans, especially in areas remote from military bases, often find it difficult to find others with whom to speak about their military experiences. Those who have experienced combat are especially in need of fellowship with other combat vets. Begin with the veterans of any war who are in your congregation. Ask them to do a community-service effort, a building project, an athletic event or a meal together. Include only veterans. Leave them alone. Let them talk. If a few are motivated enough to invite other veterans and plan other activities, you'll have an ongoing program. Even if they meet only a few times, you've given them the opportunity to identify those with whom they can confide.

- Holidays can be especially difficult for military families who move often and usually live far from extended family. Invite them to share an activity or meal with your family. Give them good community info like where to get the freshest real Christmas tree or the best deal on decorations; what parades, concerts and festivals are held annually; and directions to the sunrise service. Ask what additional support they need through the holidays while their loved one is deployed. If they are reluctant to seek help, do something nice to surprise them and don't wait for a response.

term members an opportunity to use their God-given talents.

- Advocate for the needs of veterans within your community and at regional and national levels.

- Use your influence to educate potential employers about the benefits of hiring veterans. If you are an employer, hire a vet.

- Offer to mentor and apprentice veterans in the acquisition of new skills so they can be better prepared to transition to civilian employment.

- Transcend your position on war and find ways to care for military members and their families despite your politics or faith stance.

Always, pray for military members and their extended families. Support troops and their loved ones in a variety of ways by getting involved in a community project that includes military families or just spend some time with people from diverse viewpoints to talk about your corner of the world and how to expand it.

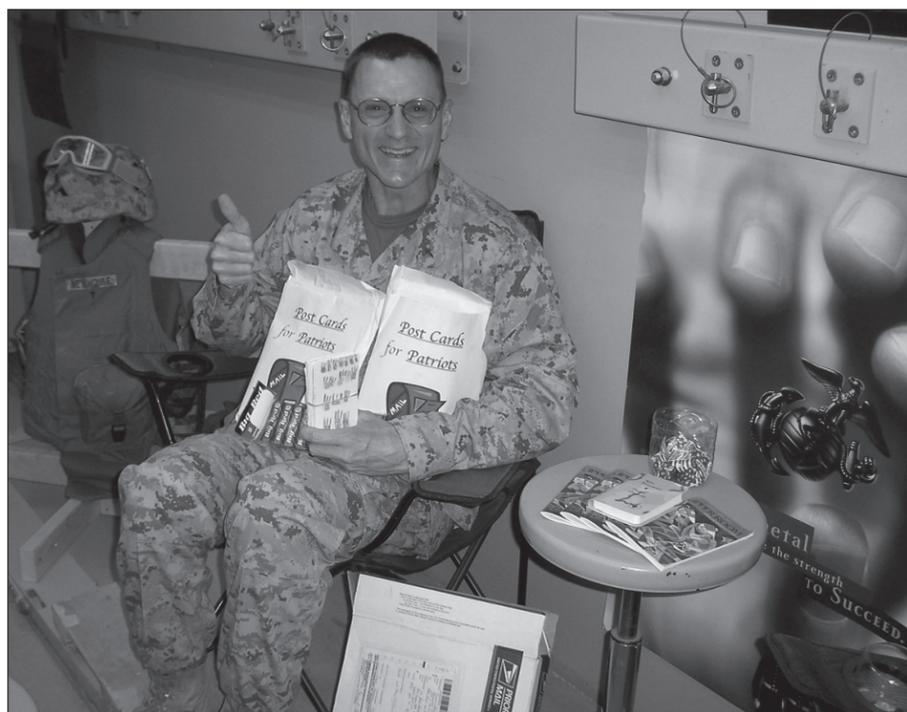
The United Methodist Church has many chaplains providing spiritual care for military service personnel and their families. Based upon their input, the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, has put together a list of ideas that empower congregational care for deployed and returning service members and their families.

Veterans Day is a perfect time for congregations to integrate some of these ideas as we remember and care.

Learn more about other ways in which The United Methodist Church provides support to military families.

**Dunlap-Berg is internal content editor and Gilbert is a multimedia reporter for the young adult content team at United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tenn.*

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Maggie Hillery, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.
First published on Oct. 11, 2012



Chaplain Ron Newhouse from New Covenant United Methodist Church, Edmond, Okla., coordinates care packages from his tent in Iraq.

A UMNS 2006 file photo courtesy of Ron Newhouse.

Reach out to soldiers

- Bless deploying troops, praying for safety and for peace. Include deployed soldiers on the weekly prayer list. At Christ United Methodist Church, Franklin, Tenn., the list includes friends and relatives of church members and constituents as well as those with a formal relationship with the church.

- Send birthday cards and personal letters of encouragement. Angie Doerlich founded "Hugs for Soldiers" in 2003 as a ministry of First United Methodist Church, Duluth, Ga. The program has grown from encouraging 31 soldiers deployed from Fort Benning, Ga., to more than 1,000 service men and women. Families, individuals, schools and church groups "adopt" troops to receive supportive mail during their tour of duty. Hugs for Soldiers also assists military spouses and children in Duluth through Thanks-

during the holidays. One idea is to sew Christmas stockings from camouflage-print fabric, fill them with goodies and mail them to soldiers.

- Make lap robes for injured troops using instructions from eHow mom.

- Send a Cup of Joe for a Joe. Since 2009, the Green Beans Coffee Company has delivered a cup of coffee and a personal note to troops serving far from home. The company has cafés on military bases in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Southwest Asia and United Arab Emirates.

- Start a military support group like Liz Whitley did at First United Methodist Church, Oviedo, Fla. "It's put me in contact with thousands of soldiers and their stories," she told a Seminole Voice reporter. "They remind us why we're here and the importance of what we're doing."

- Go to the United States Depart-

UMW Unveils Ad Countering Hate Speech

During an interfaith press conference Sept. 25, UM Women (UMW) General Secretary Harriett J. Olson unveiled an ad countering the anti-Muslim hate speech of another ad posted in 10 New York City subway stations. Organized by the Interfaith Center of New York, a coalition of community and faith-based organizations, including UM Women, gathered at the steps of New York's City Hall in Manhattan to denounce the "harmfully provocative and inherently divisive" ads, the group said. "We needed to be present with a counter voice, we need to stand for the work of peace, and to say that free speech should not be used recklessly or in an inflammatory way," said Olson.

The counter ad, sponsored by UM Women, states, "Hate speech is not civilized. Support peace in word and deed." They are scheduled to appear in the same 10 subway stations where the ad implying Muslims are "savages" appears.

"Religions of the world should invest in the work for peace," Olson said. "Peace comes because we work for it. Women know that the best." Other leaders of the interfaith coalition advocated for moral speech, while recognizing the right to free speech.

Speakers celebrated the diversity and tolerance New Yorkers have for one another, in community. "In this city, we're from many countries, but from one city where we value each

other as human beings," said Councilman Robert Jackson. "We stand for peace and justice no matter what faith you come from."

Dr. Sayyid Syeed of the Islamic Society of North America added, "America's strength lies in building the most diverse society in the world. There will always be people trying to undermine the work of diversity, but

every time, people of faith and no faith have raised voices against this immoral behavior."

The speakers encouraged people to engage through the Twitter hashtag #MySubwayAd in order to make their voice heard on the issue; go to "*Hate Speech Is Not Civilized.*" —Leigh Rogers, UMW

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.



Taizé 2013 Young Adult Spiritual Pilgrimage



You Are Invited!

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

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

Taizé Retreat Center:

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

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

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

The Experience:

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

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

2013 Taize Pilgrimage

Dates: July 19—July 29, 2013

Travel between New Jersey and Geneva, Switzerland.

Cost: \$2350*

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

*Subject to change based on airline surcharges

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

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

OBITUARIES

WARREN D. LIGHT, retired Elder of the GNJAC, died on Oct. 8 in Woodbury, New Jersey. Rev. Light was currently serving as the Coordinating Pastor at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Gloucester City. Visitation and a funeral service was held on Oct. 12 at the Kemble Memorial United Methodist Church, Woodbury.

Light was a pastor of many churches including Kemble Memorial, Colonial Manor, West Chester Pa., Moorestown, Mt. Ephraim, Pitman & N. Wildwood. He specialized as Minister of Education, dedicating his life to the ministry of Children and Youth, and serving as Pastor of Visitation. He served as Chaplain of various fire companies and ambulance squads and he was the State Chaplain of the NJ State Exempt Fireman's Association; upon retirement, he served as Chaplain Emeritus until his death. He also served as Chaplain for Tranquility Hospice.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. Light's family, in care of his daughter, Mrs. Susan Martorano, 137 Swordfish Road, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. Memorial gifts may be made to the Permanent Memorial Fund at Kemble Memorial United Methodist Church, address above.

EDWARD J. CASEY, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference died on October 20. A funeral service was held on October 26 at the Stockholm United Methodist Church.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Penny Casey, 5 Weatherhill Road, Hamburg, NJ 07419. Gifts of remembrance may be made to UMCOR, c/o The General Board of Global Ministries, P.O. 69068, GPO, New York, NY 10187-90868 (or go to www.umcor.org), or to Florida's United Methodist Children's Home (www.fumch.org), 51 Children's Way, Enterprise, Florida 32725.

SHERMAN S. ROBINSON, retired Elder of the GNJAC, died on Sept. 22. A funeral service was held on Sept. 28 at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Neptune.

He served churches in Camden, Auburn and Deepwater, North Wildwood and Burleigh, Millville, Florence, Long Branch (Simpson Memorial), Neptune (Hamilton), Pleasantville and Long Branch (St. Luke's), before his retirement in 1982.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Edna Robinson, 615 Fletcher Drive, Neptune, NJ 07753-3910. Memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers may be made to the church of your choice.

HOWARD MINNICHBACH, lay member to the Annual Conference, representing the Good Shepherd UMC in Northfield, NJ, died on Saturday, October 13. A Memorial Service was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on October 20.

Mr. Minnichbach was the Cape Atlantic District Disaster Response Coordinator and Director of the (UMCOR) Mission Central HUB in Northfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Good Shepherd UMC, 207 Northfield Avenue, Northfield, NJ 08225, for mission work, or to the ARC of Atlantic County, 6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234 for its performing arts program.

Condolence messages may be sent to his widow, Rose Minnichbach, 12 Yorkshire, Northfield, NJ 08225.

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Imagine No Malaria helps us take the next step in this fight. Think of it as *Nets Plus*. We continue to support *Nothing But Nets*, because bed nets are an effective tool against the disease. But, we're doing more...improving infrastructure, communications, education because nets are not enough. And we are not alone. We work with organizations who are global leaders in the fight against malaria and other diseases of poverty.

For more information go to imagineenomalaria.org

Contact Rich Hendrickson at the Conference office to find out how you and your church can make a difference by donating and/or raising funds for our global fight against this killer disease.

RHendrickson@gnjumc.org

732-359-1045