

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Elects Three New Bishops

The West Virginia Annual (regional) Conference hosted the 2012 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference from July 16 – July 20, 2012 in Charleston, West Virginia. Jurisdictional conferences are held every four years in each of the five jurisdictions: Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, and Western. Every conference elects new bishops, adopts a budget, elects members to

the general board and agencies, celebrates the ministries of bishops retiring and those bishops who have died. The number of bishops elected depends on how many are retiring or can no longer serve in an active role. The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) needed to elect three new bishops to replace retiring Bishop Ernest Lyght, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton and Bishop Peter Weaver. This proved to be a daunting task with many ups and downs along the way; however, after a record-setting 35 ballots, the election process was complete. The NEJ delegates elected the following new bishops: Susan Steiner Ball of the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference, Martin McLee of the New England Annual Conference, and Mark Webb of the Susquehanna Annual Conference.

As soon as all new bishops are elected, the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy gathers to decide where each of the nine active bishops in the northeast will serve for the next four years. After the announcement is made, delegates are given the opportunity to meet and welcome their new or returning bishop on behalf of their conferences. Each appointment begins on September 1, 2012.

Anticipation was mounting as delegates and guests waited to hear who would be leading each of the conferences in the next quadrennium. On



GNJAC at NEJ: Bishop Devadhar, delegates, and GNJAC guests pose for a photo at NEJ 2012

Friday, July 20, it was announced that Bishop John Schol, of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, will be leading the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in the next quadrennium. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar will be moving to the New England Annual Conference.

All of the NEJ episcopal appointments through 2016 are as follows: Baltimore-Washington: Marcus Matthews Philadelphia Area (includes Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware): Peggy Johnson Greater New Jersey: John Schol New England: Sudarshana Devadhar New York: Martin McLee Susquehanna: Jeremiah Park

Upper New York: Mark Webb Western PA: Tom Bickerton West Virginia: Sandra Steiner Ball

When members of the GNJAC met with Bishop Schol and his wife, Beverly, he expressed his appreciation for being assigned to the GNJAC. He said he feels "called by God to this Conference" and wants to "get out and get to know the people." He went on to say that he understands the GNJAC is a conference "very rich in resources and diversity." He assured the members that he "will be a Bishop of all people and will do [his] very best to serve you well."

In addition to the election of new bishops, the NEJ voted on several important topics. These included: approv-

ing the 2013-2016 budget of \$1,052,925 - which is a 19.1 percent decrease from the 2009-2012 budget, adoption of a rule change for episcopal office campaigning allowing "Christian conversation" with individuals and groups in-person or by electronic means, and the affirmation of a statement of full inclusion. The Native American Ministries Task Force also became the "Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee."

Beyond the business of the conference, there were many inspiring moments. Young people from the GNJAC joined with their peers from around the jurisdiction to perform a skit reminding the attendees that "We Have The Power!" You can view a video of the skit on the GNJAC Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gnjumc. Mark Miller of the GNJAC led an impromptu sing-a-long during one of the session breaks that had everyone in the room sing and dancing. Bishop William Morris, of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, led a spirited morning meditation on Thursday of the conference. He talked about the importance of making disciples and what it means to have Jesus in one's life. "When Jesus comes into your life, you've got to do something... We need to be a witness, tell folks what God has done." Morris continued his encouragement as he discussed how many people struggle with the concept of "making" disciples, "The Holy Spirit will be with you all, all you have to do is be available."

Additional stories, issues of the Daily Christian Advocate, and multimedia presentations from NEJ can be found by going to the Conference website: www.gnjumc.org/news/detail/103.



Episcopacy Committee Chairperson Rev. Frank Fowler and youth delegate Sam Sim welcomes Bishop John Schol to the GNJAC.

NEW JERSEY TO RECEIVE JOHN ROLAND SCHOL AS RESIDENT BISHOP



Bishop John Schol Photo by John Goodwin

The 2012 session of the Northeastern Jurisdiction was high on the interest list of the clergy and laity of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. Among the other business of the jurisdiction was the matter of Episcopacy elections and appointments. After careful discernment, prayer, and long deliberations, John Roland Schol was selected to become the new bishop serving the New Jersey Area. Elected

to the episcopal office in 2004, Bishop Schol has provided leadership to almost 1,000 clergy and 200,000 lay people, overseeing the administration, mission and ministry of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Before his appointment to the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Bishop Schol served as pastor of the West Chester UMC in West Chester, Pa., near Philadelphia, since 1997. There he helped instill new vitality and vision in a declining downtown congregation, thus expanding its membership, facilities, mission involvement and witness for justice and compassion in the community.

From 1993-97, John Schol directed the Office of Urban Ministries at the denomination's worldwide missions agency, the General Board of Global Ministries, in New York City. There, he

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EIGHT YEARS OF THE DANCE

Eight years ago Sudarshana Devadhar was elected as a bishop of the United Methodist Church and assigned as Resident Bishop of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. In his installation service message he asked us to "...dance with him." He outlined some of his hopes, goals and dreams.

Bishop Devadhar asked us to focus our attention on making disciples for Jesus Christ. He told us some things he would emphasize in order to try to achieve that goal. During the past eight years he has led us in accomplishing many of the ideas he lifted up that day at the Princeton University Chapel. Bishop Schol, our incoming episcopal leader, has commented, "I am happy to be following Bishop Devadhar. He has been an excellent colleague in the Council of Bishops. He and Prema have been good friends to Beverly (Mrs. Schol) and me. He has been a great leader in the Greater NJ Annual Conference. I am happy to be coming to a conference that has so many good things happening."

One pastor said, "Bishop Devadhar has given new meaning to 'Servant Leadership.' He has developed relationships with pastors and laity without regard to age, gender, economic status, ethnicity, politics or theology. He has prayed for us in thousands of instances. He has called, visited, e-mailed, sent letters and attended funerals. He has crossed boundaries by attending countless meetings, visiting every sized church, preaching all over the conference, doing service projects, and tirelessly making himself available. In his preaching, teaching, writing, and personal witness he has humbly reached out in a spirit of openness, love, justice and mercy. A local church laywoman stated, "Our bishop has truly



Bishop Devadhar

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A Message from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am honored and humbled to serve as the spiritual leader of the Greater New Jersey Conference. You have been modeling for our denomination and the world the important mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It will be a blessing to serve with you. I also give thanks for the ministry and leadership of Bishop Suda Devadhar. His leadership was a model of grace and humility. He has led you to make new disciples, grow vital congregations and engage in mission throughout the world. I am indebted to his leadership among you and look forward to continuing the many ministries established under his leadership. I am also grateful for the time he spent with me to share about the ministry in Greater New Jersey. He shared with me about the rich diversity, how loving and faithful you are, and how you are working together toward our mission. As you read this letter, I invite you to take time to pray for Bishop and Prema Devadhar. I invite you to give thanks to God for their ministry and to pray for them as they begin ministry in the Boston Area.

As I begin my ministry with you, I recognize that together we are going through transition. Change is much easier than transition. For example, a moving van pulled up to my house, loaded all of Beverly's and my belongings onto the truck and delivered it to a new home in New Jersey. That's change.

But we are also transitioning. We are packing memories and gifts that we have accumulated over the last eight years. We are saying goodbye to friends and colleagues who have enriched our lives over the past eight years. We will be making new friends and engaging with new colleagues in Greater New Jersey. That's transition. It's emotional work and it is spiritual work.

I want to offer to you some of the things I am doing in the hope that they support you in the transitions you experience in life.

One of the first things I have learned in the midst of change is to acknowledge my feelings and emotions. Emotions are a powerful barometer of internal reactions to external circumstances. Some of my feelings presently are loss, sadness and fear. To bury these feelings means they will only come out in future relationships. To acknowledge them in a superficial way creates disease and challenges for those around me. To acknowledge them as real, to pray with God and to talk about my feelings with trusted family, colleagues and friends helps to unburden my soul and release emotions that ultimately could become destructive for me and those around me. I also unburden myself through prayer. Healthy



doses of lament and confession are good for the soul. As I have begun this prayerful journey, I have been able to release past wounds, forgive ornery people and churches, and embrace the many joyful memories of past ministry. Also, I am already anticipating wonderful people in Greater New Jersey and by God's grace I look forward to great ministry together with you.

Second, over the years I have learned that what is, is. There are some things I cannot change. I cannot change that we are moving, that my ministry is changing. All of this means packing and unpacking, doing ministry differently and meeting lots of new people.

While I cannot change these realities, I can change my attitude. For instance, Beverly and I have an incredible new front yard in New Jersey. It is called the Jersey shore. We will have the opportunity to sample Jersey tomatoes, James' salt water taffy, and Johnson's popcorn. I also anticipate that I will encounter some of the best disciples and congregations The United Methodist Church has to offer and I recognize I will meet some ornery disciples and congregations along the way.

What is, is. Acceptance of what is, is the first step toward a new future. Framing change in an attitude of adventure, exploration and possibility is not disloyalty to the past or wishful thinking. It is adjusting one's attitude to what is and approaching it with faith that God is in the midst of life and change. Prior to his death, as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, he asked that the impending change (his death) could be prevented. Ultimately he surrendered to God and prayed, "not my will but your will." Maybe that is the attitude we should all seek. God is in the change. *God, reveal to us what your will is for our lives, our conference, and your church.*

A third lesson for me in the midst of transition is to remember the past and embrace the future. I carry a great gift with me. It is the memory of the love of Jesus Christ that I found through the people and congregations of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. But I also embrace what God has in store for me and for you here in Greater New Jersey. I am feeling excitement and hope for the future. There will be new opportunities to do great ministry through God and the people of Greater New Jersey. I encourage you to embrace all God has done and what God is about to do through our ministry together.

As you move through the transition, there might be some important work to do in your life – acknowledging some of your feelings, accepting what is, and seeing your past as a resource for your future.

Keep the faith!

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey

Are You Being Digested?

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

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

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

Sushma Ramswami visits St. Philip's Ministry in Paterson



Rev. Stafford Miller and Ms. Sushma Ramswami the Vice President of NCCI, National Council of Churches of India. Ms. Sushma Ramswami is also the Communication Secretary of the Church of North India

During the month of July, St. Philip's Ministry in Paterson was introduced to a new friend and sister in Christ from a thousand miles away - Ms. Sushma Ramswami, the Vice President of NCCI, National Council of Churches of India.

The NCCI is the united expression of the Protestant and Orthodox churches in India. It is a common platform for thought and action by bringing together the Churches and other Christian organizations for mutual consultation, assistance and action in all matters related to life and witness. It represents 13 million Christian people throughout the country. Since its inception the council and its members have been actively engaged in the work of nation building. It is an Inter confessional autonomous council which embraces, promotes and coordinates the various forms of the church's ministry for the people including the churches and Christian organizations such as National Council of YMCAs, YWCA of India, Henry Martyn Institute, International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation, Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI), Bible Society of India (BSI).

"It was of great joy to speak with Ms. Sushma Ramswami," says Rev. Stafford Miller. "I found her to be original, willing to share her position as vice president of the National Council of Churches and answer any of my questions. Yet what impacted me the most was the way that she was deeply interested in the city as well as the role of the black Church in the life of God's people. She was so eager to listen to what I had to say. Her presence here in Paterson was truly a blessing."

DOS AND DON'TS IN AN ELECTION SEASON

Churches and religious organizations in the United States qualify for exemption from federal income tax, and are generally eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

However, there are ways churches may jeopardize or even lose this status, and one is a concern each election season.

According to the Internal Revenue Service's *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations*, churches are among the tax-exempt organizations "prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office."

But there are more "dos" than "don'ts" regarding churches' political activity. The key to an activity being prohibited is if it is for the benefit or detriment of a candidate or is partisan.

Churches can:

- Discuss issues, provided the discussion does not exhibit preferences for or against specific candidates.
- Distribute voter-education materials and sponsor "get out the vote" campaigns.
- Host a candidate if all other candidates are invited.
- Serve as a polling place.
- Invite a candidate in a non-official capacity, such as a groundbreaking ceremony, provided the person is not introduced as a candidate, no mention is made of his or her candidacy and the event is not promoted as an appearance by "Candidate X."
- Lobby for certain issues, provided the time spent in this endeavor is "insubstantial" compared to other church activities.

Churches cannot:

- Openly take sides in an issue, specifically espousing or denouncing the views of any particular candidate.
- Endorse a candidate.
- Distribute materials biased toward or against a particular candidate, or distribute materials provided by a candidate or political party.
- Raise money for a candidate or political party or contribute to a political campaign.
- Clergy members may take sides for or against a candidate or issue if they are doing so *as private individuals*, not as representatives of a church. They may not use the pulpit, church publications or any other forum related to the church to declare their individual preferences.

Updated from an Interpreter article originally written by Joey Butler, young adult content editor, United Methodist Communications.

For more information

Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations, Internal Revenue Service Publication 1828, download at www.irs.gov/eo or order by calling (800) 829-3676 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (800) 829-3676 end_of_the_skype_highlighting.

"IRS EO Update," a periodic newsletter with information for tax-exempt organizations and tax practitioners who represent them, visit www.irs.gov/eo and click on "EO Newsletter."

BISHOP JOHN ROLAND SCHOL

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led the development of two major initiatives that are still operating and still popular among many churches and conferences: a holistic urban ministry training program known as the Holy Boldness Urban Academy and the innovative, collaborative community development program known as Communities of Shalom. The latter ministry engages churches and communities in creative ministry together in urban and rural communities across the United States and in Africa. There has already been a significant impact made in a number of the urban areas of New Jersey as a result of the Communities of Shalom program.

After earning a Master of Divinity degree at Boston University School of Theology in 1981, Bishop Schol became executive director and pastor of the Frankford Group Ministry, a cooperative parish ministry in Philadelphia, from 1981 to 1993. He later earned a

Doctor of Ministry degree from Boston in 1995.

Bishop Schol is a member of the board of trustees of Wesley Theological Seminary, American University and Sibley Hospital, in Washington D.C. He also serves on a number of United Methodist groups, including serving as chair of the General Board of Archives and History and the National Shalom Committee.

The architect of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's "Discipleship Adventure," Bishop Schol brings to the church a visionary, strategic mind, a servant-leader's spirit and a prophetic voice that expresses his faith in the transformative and renewing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He now brings that mind, spirit and voice to the work of leading the GNJAC.

(This report was adapted from an article first appearing on the webpage of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.)

EIGHT YEARS OF THE DANCE

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been our shepherd."

A review of some accomplishments under Bishop Devadhar will verify that good things are happening in our conference:

- The former "North" and "South" are now unified at every level. We have restructured.
- During Bishop Devadhar's tenure the loss of membership stopped.
- In 2011 we actually had a net gain of members, for the first time in at least 45 years. Churches are growing in many places in our conference.
- In the Northeast Jurisdiction, the GNJAC has the second highest number of "Vital Congregations" and the highest percentage of its members attending worship.
- For the last five years, the GNJAC has contributed 100% of its share to the general church missions efforts, while also contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars for Nothing But Nets, No More Malaria, Wings of the Morning, UMCOR, and other second-mile projects.
- The Harvest Mission Fund and Strategic Disciple Making Funds have been created.
- We have two new district parsonages.
- We now have the highest starting clergy salaries in the Northeast.
- The Pre-Lenten gathering now includes laity.
- We have 36 quality Resource Day programs each year for clergy and laity.
- The Convocation on Ministry has grown in numbers and enthusiasm.
- Our Bishop has provided reading suggestions and made district visits each year.
- He started the annual conference breakfast Bible-study.
- Youth Weekend, Search, Mission of Peace, and the Bishop's Confirmation Rally are all strong.
- CUMAC and the Neighborhood Center are doing vital ministry.
- Hundreds have traveled on the Taize pilgrimage.
- Our Camping ministry is improving.
- New inner-city initiatives have been developed.
- Our finances are in a strong position. Appropriate reserves are in

place.

- Future liabilities for pensions and health care are being well managed.
- Higher standards have been developed for candidacy, clergy effectiveness, recruitment, and exiting by BOOM.
- His emphasis on individual Church Conferences, SPRC meetings and parsonage inspections have increased the spirit of connection.
- The Multi-Cultural Celebration has grown.
- New relationships have brought GBGM missionaries, pastors from other nations, and even a retired bishop to serve in our conference.
- Appointments are now made on the missional basis of matching church and pastor profiles, as opposed to seniority, gender, ethnicity, or age.
- Inclusiveness and diversity have been emphasized in appointments and nominations, but based on excellence in ability.
- New relationships have been forged with area colleges and seminaries.
- Communications are strong through the *Relay*, the *Digest* and the improved conference website.
- Morale and enthusiasm are at a high point.

One D. S. has stated, "Bishop Devadhar will surely be remembered for his pastoral heart, his visionary leadership, and relentless challenge for do more and to better, BUT surely no clergy or layperson will ever forget some of his favorite sayings, "My brothers and sisters in Christ, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...God loves you and so do we...God loves you - and there is nothing you can do about it...If I have offended you in any way, please forgive me...It is not about Sudarshana Devadhar - It is about Jesus Christ... Thanks be to God, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

We now all join together in saying, "Thank you for the dance. We wish you and Prema well in your dance with new partners in the New England Annual Conference, as we begin the dance with our new partner, Bishop John R. Schol!"

The October Issue Deadline is September 5, 2012

2011 Numbers Show U.S. Members Still Sliding

UMNS Report By Heather Hahn

The United Methodist Church saw a reduction of at least 71,971 U.S. members in 2011. Put another way, the denomination in the United States lost in one year roughly the equivalent of the Minnesota Annual (regional) Conference and Red Bird Missionary Conference combined.

This snapshot comes from reports from 55 of the 59 U.S. conferences, which followed spring and summer annual conference gatherings.

The vast majority disclosed declines between 2010 and 2011 in membership, worship attendance or church-school participation — three commonly used metrics for charting disciple-making. Twenty-eight U.S. conferences reported losses in all three categories. Eighteen noted membership drops of 2 percent or more.

Eleven U.S. conferences increased in worship attendance, and five gained members. But, only three report both membership and worship growth.

The General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination's finance agency, will release the official 2011 figures next spring. But, it's already clear the denomination continues its decades-long decline in U.S. membership even as it grows worldwide. That trend has drawn the mounting concern of church officials.

"At the current rate of decline from the last five years, we have less than 50 years of The United Methodist Church in the United States," the Rev. Adam Hamilton told the full body of the recently-completed 2012 General Conference, the denomination's top law-making assembly. Hamilton is the senior pastor of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan.

The numbers have a spiritual dimension. Efforts to make new disciples in the United States are not keeping pace with either the nation's population growth or the death rate of the denomination's older members.

At the same time, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton pointed out that many churches, including those in the Susquehanna Conference, which encompasses central Pennsylvania, are serving more constituents than before.

The denomination defines constituents as unbaptized children, church school members and others who are not members of the church but are in relationship with the congregation and for whom the local church has pastoral responsibility. Susquehanna Conference saw a 39 percent increase in constituents in 2011.

"The increase in constituents exceeded three times over the number of people we lost," Middleton said. "What you'd hope to see is an increase in worship attendance, and that did not happen. What it is saying to me is that this is an era where people don't want to join."

In the United States, people no longer commit to fraternal organizations like the Lion's Club or civic groups like Rotary Clubs at the rates they once did. That phenomenon, Middleton said, "is now reflected in the church."

Yet she and other church leaders see signs of hope in their own conferences and in the larger United Methodist connection.

Beyond The United Methodist Church

In the United States, the problems of emptier pews and tighter budgets are not limited to The United Methodist Church or other mainline Protestant churches.

According to the 2012 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, both the Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention — the nation's two largest denominations — saw slight membership declines in 2010. For the Southern Baptists, it was the fourth consecutive year of shrinking rolls.

Total membership overall in the top 25 largest churches declined 1.15 per-

cent, to 145.7 million, the Religion News Service reports.

At the same time, per capita giving in U.S. and Canadian churches declined by 2.2 percent, representing a \$1.2 billion loss.

Worldwide growth, U.S. shrinking

One of those hopeful signs can't be repeated often enough. The United Methodist Church is still growing, particularly in Africa but also in eastern Europe and the Philippines. In the decade between 1999 and 2009, the denomination's membership grew by 25 percent. The General Council on Finance and Administration reports The United Methodist Church now has more than 12 million professing members around the globe.

The Burundi and East Africa annual conferences offer an example of that growth. In the past year, the two conferences report an increase of more than 68,000 members — from 231,924 to 300,265.

However, the denomination's financial base is shrinking. Indeed, 16 U.S. conferences reported planned budget reductions either this year or in 2013.

As of 2010, about 99 percent of the money that supports general church operations through apportionments — including mission work around the globe — came from the United States.

For decades, giving increased even as U.S. membership declined, but after the 2008 economic crisis, giving dropped.

"It's difficult for me to say whether we've reached a tipping point," said Scott Brewer, the executive of connectional relations for the denomination's finance agency. "We've seen pretty steep declines in membership and attendance in the U.S. these past couple of years, but we've also had an economic recession. At this point, it is still difficult to tell whether it's the drop in membership, the recession or both."

The denomination's U.S. membership in 2010 was fewer than 7.6 million members.

Signs of growth

Still, the numbers reported by U.S. conferences did show some bright spots. Moreover, the strategies that some conferences have used to grow others can replicate across the United States.

The Greater New Jersey Conference, for example, experienced its first membership growth in 45 years. Its membership stands at 93,655, up by a net of 240 from the previous year.

The Kentucky Conference saw its membership grow by 1,036 to 151,858, and its worship attendance increase by more than 450. That is the largest increase in both categories the conference has seen since its formation in 1996 through a merger of two conferences in the state, Bishop Lindsey Davis said.

Leaders in both New Jersey and Kentucky have embraced an adage from church-planting circles that it's easier to make babies than to raise the dead.

"You don't grow an annual conference by trying to revitalize existing churches," Davis said. "I think some can be revitalized. But I don't think we'll ever revitalize enough churches to reverse the attendance and membership trends that we've seen over the last several decades."

In Kentucky, the conference has started 15 new churches over the past four years. Davis said the conference allocates \$1 million of its \$9 million annual budget for planting churches.

Some resources to help grow churches

- Church planting strategies from Path 1, New Church Starts at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship
- United Methodist Vital Congregations

GLOBAL RELAY

Clergy assessment project to begin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — A pilot project to assess the performance of United Methodist pastors will begin in September. The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which is overseeing the assessments, says the goal is to help churches and clergy become more effective and engaged.

How to deal with the media

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The 24/7 news cycle can be daunting. But what do you do when your congregation or program is becoming newsworthy? United Methodist Communications will offer a day-long media training workshop Sept. 13 to help equip you with the tools you'll need to seek publicity or handle a crisis.

Leadership training in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (UMNS) — Leadership development and multicultural ministry is the focus of the 2012 School of Congregational Development sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, Board of Discipleship and Path 1. This year's event is Aug. 16-19 in St. Louis.

UMCOR helping Cheyenne fire victims

UMCOR is helping the Northern Cheyenne people begin their recovery from widespread fires with an emergency grant of \$10,000 for the Yellowstone Conference. These funds will help the Native American Ministries committee at the Sheridan United Methodist Church in Wyoming as it assesses needs and plans a long-term response. The church, which has worked for several years to establish a long-term relationship with the Northern Cheyenne reservation, is located about one hour's drive from the reservation.

Church Olympics opener draws crowds

The number of people attending the hundreds of Olympic opening night events hosted by churches far exceeded expectations, according to reports from around the UK. Churches in Buckinghamshire had expected 2,500 people for their Opening Ceremony festival but around 6,500 people turned up.

Program funds halted to East Africa

NEW YORK (UMNS) — After three audits in 16 months, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has suspended all funding to the denomination's East Africa Annual (regional) Conference. Auditors recommended the suspension of funds until the East Africa conference agrees "to be accountable and all internal controls have been put in place."

Church reaches out after Sikh temple attack

OAK CREEK, Wis. (UMNS) — United Methodists are reaching out in support of their Sikh neighbors after a gunman's attack at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee that left seven people dead, including the shooter. Bishop Linda Lee is calling for Aug. 12 to be a day of prayer for those affected by the tragedy. She also hopes it can be an occasion for Christians to learn more about the Sikh religion.

Ecumenical agency responds to shooting

OAK CREEK, Wis. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the denomination's ecumenical agency, issued a statement Aug. 7 in response to the Aug. 5 shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. "May nonviolence, compassion, and love prevail; and may we all live into the great truth that all people are brothers and sisters of one another," said the Rev. Steve Sidorak Jr., the agency's top executive.

Wespath investment managers embrace UN principles

GLENVIEW, Ill. (UMNS) — Two additional United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits' Wespath investment managers have signed on to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. All the investment managers follow the pension board's policies for avoiding investments in six areas that go against church teachings. Now these signatories also will follow international principles that recognize the importance of environmental, social and governance factors in corporate decision-making. Twenty of the pension board's 47 investment managers have become signatories to the U.N. principles, collectively overseeing 70 percent of the board's \$17 billion in assets under management.

Missionaries commissioned

ARLINGTON, Va. (UMNS) — More than 200 people gathered at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Aug. 3 for the commissioning of 34 Young Adults in Mission. It was the most diverse group ever, representing seven countries, according to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

- Tips for welcoming new people

In New Jersey, where less than 60 percent of the state's population is white, much of that conference's growth has come from reaching out to new or recent immigrant communities as well as Anglo communities, said Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar.

The conference has planted six churches in the past eight years. It has congregations that include Korean-Americans, Hispanics, Brazilians, Haitians as well as members from various African countries. The Rev. Douglas Ruffle, the conference's congregational development team coordinator, said the conference also includes perhaps the only Arabic-speaking United Methodist congregation in the United States.

"At celebrations and annual conferences, you really get the sense that this is the church of the Pentecost," Ruffle said.

Both Davis and Devadhar also agree that it's critical to work with young church members and particularly young clergy. Devadhar spends time with clergy in each district.

Davis meets once a month with clergy younger than 40. The clergy meet with leaders from the general church and from the Kentucky Conference, who talk with them about what it means to be effective pastors.

Devadhar said he has brought in church leaders from around the United

States to "inspire and stimulate clergy and laity" in helping to grow the church. He also ensures that each of the conference's congregations has its own charge conference with its district superintendent in a worshipful setting.

Davis added that he makes sure clergy know he values performance, especially in the work of growing the church.

"Anybody can have a good year," he said. "What you have to strive for is to put year after year into the work so it becomes a trend. I'm thrilled with what we did this past year, but we need to continue to focus on the things that strengthen the church."

Middleton, who will soon retire as an active bishop, said she thinks the denomination already has the tools to thrive in the United States.

"I think we as a church are absolutely where we need to be in our statement of the mission. We need strong disciples, and we need to be outward focused," she said. "For me, that is the key to our future — that we truly understand we are not meant to be in insular, ecclesiastical ivory towers — that we are truly meant to be in our community."

Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. News media contact: Heather Hahn, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org

Carol McKinley Appointed Vice President Operations of United Methodist Homes of New Jersey

NEPTUNE, N.J. — Carol McKinley, Ph.D., has been appointed vice president of operations at the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey, effective July 16. The Homes operates five full-service and five affordable housing communities. McKinley will have strategic oversight and management of all five full-service communities: Bristol Glen (Newton), Collingswood Manor (Collingswood), Francis Asbury Manor (Ocean Grove), Pitman Manor (Pitman), and The Shores at Wesley Manor (Ocean City).

The Ocean View resident possesses senior level leadership and management experience delivering senior housing and health services within faith-based organizations. This includes continuing care retirement community service operations, assisted living and nursing home administration, budget and program development and implementation, strategic planning, staff development, risk and crisis management, community/church relationships, licensing/regulatory compliance, accreditation, union relations and numerous other areas.

Most recently, McKinley earned a Ph.D. in Administration and Leadership Studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that Boston University awarded her a Master of Social Work with a specialty in Medical Social Work and Gerontology, complementing her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from West Virginia Wesleyan College. Nursing Home Administrator licensure in New Jersey adds to her credentials. For the past five years, she was executive director of the Homes' Ocean City community, The Shores at Wesley Manor.

"Her track record of competent leadership, background and professional vision, represent a perfect fit," reflects Homes' President and CEO, Lawrence D. Carlson. "Her knowledge, wealth of skill and experience in gerontology, senior housing, leadership, and administration are strengths that will blossom from the local level to the entire organization."

As a clinical and medical social worker and family therapist in her early career, McKinley conducted psychosocial assessments, family therapy, care plans, referral and discharge planning; consulted with psychiatrists/psychologists; and planned group education. In a hospice setting, she counseled ter-



Carol McKinley

minally ill patients and their families, gave input in case conferences and made referrals.

Later, she transitioned to assistant nursing home administrator and assistant executive director of resident care and services at Foxdale Village (State College, PA). As vice president of service excellence at Albright Care Services (Lewisburg, PA), she assumed responsibility for staff competency, establishing benchmarks, corporate-wide quality improvement processes, resident and employee satisfaction surveys, and staff education, training and supervision.

These on-the-job experiences shaped McKinley's broad understanding of working with seniors. "I view my work as a ministry, my calling. The foundation of my vocation is my faith and I live them in my passion about how care and services are provided to seniors, how families are integrated into this care, how staffs understand the impact of the care they provide, and how environments and programs need to adapt to meet the ever-changing philosophies of elder and health care."

In academic circles McKinley has lectured at York College (York, PA), Millersville University (Millersville, PA), and Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA). While she has served on many boards throughout the years, she currently participates on the boards of the United Methodist Association, LeadingAge (national and New Jersey Chapter), and St. Peter's United Methodist Church Pastor Parish Committee.

Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson

Coordinator of Stewardship Education and Development, GNJAC



The importance of a well-trained, well-informed, effective stewardship team in the local church cannot be overstated. In so many of our congregations the work of stewardship is simply included in the duties and responsibilities of the finance committee. The presence of the finance committee is very important in every local church, monitoring and managing the church's financial system. Stewardship work however, is just as important and takes an entirely different skill set than those we often ask to serve on finance.

Stewardship folk need to be good storytellers. Healthy stewardship work in the local church needs to be invitational, year-round, focused on the ministries of the church and not on begging for money. Scott McKenzie and Kristi Miller in their book, *Climb Higher: Reaching New Heights in Giving and Discipleship* are helpful in describing the work of the stewardship committee. "Your stewardship committee needs to serve as ambassadors for the ministries of your church and share their enthusiasm with others as often as possible."

I want to encourage each and every local church as you prepare for your individual charge conference to create a stewardship team if you don't already have one in place. This may be a challenge for some of our smaller congregations, however, try and put together a team regardless. It doesn't have to be a large committee; two or three people might be enough. Look for folks who are already good stewards, who are enthusiastic about the ministries of the church, and who can effectively tell the story of the church's ministries to the members, friends, constituents, and beyond all year long.

If you need help in identifying, recruiting, training, and/or empowering your stewardship committee contact me at RHendrickson@gnjumc.org.

EDITORIAL

THE DEVADHAR YEARS

It could be any time of the day or night. The parsonage phone rings. At the other end there comes a warm voice enriched by the intonation and accent of the East. He speaks: He has heard of illness; he extends warm wishes for recovery; and then he prays. Very quickly the transaction of caring has been completed. The phone is returned to its place. The pastor's pastor has once more extended the love of Christ to a soul in need.

This has been a scene oft re-enacted across the Greater New Jersey Conference over the past eight years, the Devadhar years. If there is one aspect of his ministry among us that symbolically marked those years it was the way Sudarshana Devadhar showed his love whenever he learned of illness or crisis in the life of those under his care. If one were to name one trait that characterized his tenure among us, it was his pastoral temperament and concern.

But while that is central to his make-up, there is much, much more to Bishop Devadhar. He is a keen judge of character, a perceptive observer of human nature, an able administrator, a brilliant scholar.

Upon his arrival in 2004 the conference had experienced an alarming shrinkage in membership and participation reflecting a long-standing trend across the denomination and among other faith groups. Under his wise and patient direction the conference has arrested that downward slope and for the first time in many years reported a reversal of the curve at its 2012 session.

One of his first acts upon arriving here was to launch a movement for the spiritual renewal of youth. In the ensuing years, scores of youth have attended the annual pilgrimages to Taize, the ecumenical retreat center in France. Others have enlisted in the Mission of Peace, a yearly journey of discovery and shalom to other nations. These pilgrimages have had a transformative impact on the young peoples' faith journeys.

Under Bishop Devadhar's guidance, the conference has offered a wide-ranging program of leadership training for clergy and laity utilizing wide-ranging and effective resources. Recruited at his behest they have materially enhanced the effectiveness of the GNJAC.

Knowing the importance of communication in the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ, Bishop Devadhar has been warmly supportive of both electronic and print media in telling the story of the church. Not a single issue of the *Relay* has gone to press without either his monthly article or news of his office. We of the *Relay* deeply appreciate his support.

Finally, we need to mention his love for missions. Under his tutelage our conference grew in its understanding of mission work, its support of many causes, and its improved record of connectational giving.

Add to his acknowledged skill as a general superintendent of the United Methodist Church, we have seen him in another role that he no doubt treasures equally and performs superbly: that of a loving husband, father and grandfather – O, what a grandfather!

As an obedient disciple of Jesus Christ, Bishop Devadhar has accepted his new assignment to the New England Conference with a good spirit. As we say our farewells to him and his gracious wife Prema, we prepare to welcome our new leader, Bishop John Schol, who will be transferring from the Baltimore-Washington Area. Let us pledge to him our prayers and our support.

And our prayers will continue with you, Bishop Devadhar, as you share your love and your leadership in your new area. We hope that you will miss us; we know we will miss you.

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First Time Campers Get Hooked on Fishing

First time campers to GNJAC's Aldersgate or Pinelands Centers, especially those from economically stressed urban neighborhoods, always bring a special excitement to the outdoor experience. If you are able to think back to the first time you felt a tug at the end of a fishing line you cast, you can picture the wide eyed excitement of CUMAC's Tutoring and Literacy Center (TLC) students as they joined the "Fishin' Away" campers and staff for the day at Aldersgate Center in Sussex County, NJ.

TLC is an afterschool program operated by the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC) for some of Paterson's School 5 middle school students. Through TLC, a group of about 30 kids get help with homework and improving their English literacy and social skills. The neighborhoods in which these children live are among the most dangerous in Paterson. TLC provides its students with a safe haven where they are able to re-

each of them have aspirations that far exceed the statistical expectations of their populations' life outcomes. The high school that TLC's students will attend is among NJ's "most at risk for drop outs". But these kids want to be college students, teachers, and doctors.

Daviel, age 13, was one of the 14 kids that went to Aldersgate this summer. He graduated from middle school in June and thus will not be able to return to TLC in the fall. He will, however, like many other TLC graduates, be back to mentor the other kids and share his successes in high school. This recent grad described his and the other kids' excitement upon catching turtles and frogs.

After their time at the pond, students enjoyed another fun crowd favorite, a dip in the pool, where they lounged in the sun and played pool basketball. There were a few groans regarding the amount of walking required at Aldersgate, but each student said they



Top row from left to right: Cesarina (Teacher), Damaris (AmeriCorps Teacher), Randy (8th), Daviel (9th), Carmelina (7th), Brailin (7th), Marleni (9th), Yaneris (11 yrs). Middle row from left to right: Catina (6th), Merlin (8th), Yaniris (7th). Bottom row from left to right: Miguel (8 yrs), Genessis (8 yrs), Wander (10yrs), Emily (10yrs), Alejandro (9yrs), Gisela (Teacher)

sist drugs, alcohol and gangs. Siblings of the TLC students are often invited to accompany their older brother or sister on excursions during the summer program.

Stretching his hands wide apart to show the size of the monstrous catfish he proudly caught, Wander, age 10, smiled excitedly as he told the story of his struggle to reel in the biggest fish pulled from the Center's Walden Pond that day. Though he was a bit disappointed about having to throw the creature back, he didn't mind returning her to nature since, as he exclaimed enthusiastically, "she was pregnant!"

As Wander told his story, one of the smallest campers, eight year old Genesis, seemed to be sulking. When asked what was wrong, she looked at the floor and shyly said that she had been the last of the group to get a bite from one of the pond's inhabitants. "But it was the first fish I ever caught!" she exclaimed as she perked up and grinned. Most of the kids listed fishing as their favorite part of camp, but there was much more to do.

While at Walden Pond, the kids puckered their faces in disgust as they learned to bait their hooks with "gross" worms, and thought up names for their catches. Wander crowned his prize catfish "Fileberto" while Genesis named her first fish "Guadalupe". Miguel, age 8, went with a more cartoonish nom de guerre for his pez, "Nemo!"

These students are special. Not only do they volunteer regularly at CUMAC, receive excellent grades and avoid disciplinary action in school,

would tell their friends that they had a lot of fun. All wanted to return next summer and said they'd love to try sleep away camp where they could spend more time enjoying nature, swimming in the pool and maybe even learning to sail. Hopefully, they will.

Research by John Hopkins University shows that during the summertime, students living in low income areas are most at risk for falling behind their more privileged peers; not only in academics but in the culture garnered from exposure to life experiences outside of their neighborhoods. TLC students know Aldersgate Center and the other field trips they go on as "fun times." What they don't fully realize is that these experiences are helping them grow, learn and become well rounded and productive citizens of the world.

Thanks to the generosity of Carl Bruger, known to the students as "Mr. Carl", each of them went home with a new fishing pole. They're all excited to use them around Paterson with Dads, Uncles and cousins. Besides fishing poles, the kids got to go home with something less immediately tangible but more challenging to give; an improved shot at success.

In addition to the TLC kids, another 80 or so out of approximately 200 campers registered for the 2012 summer camps were there for the first time. Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, of GNJAC's UM Camping Ministries Board, reported that she hoped youth from Camp YDP, also in Paterson, would also be able to visit Aldersgate Center before the summer season ended.

The Gateway South District Youth Blitzed Camden



Gateway South youth work in the garden of the neighborhood Center as part of the blitz.

During the week of July 29 to August 4th, the Gateway South District Youth were joined by a United Methodist Mission Team from Indiana for their Annual Service Blitz. There were about six young people from Mantua, twelve from Haddonfield, six from Glendale, eight from Delair: St Matthews, and six from Wenonah and New Sharon United Methodist Churches, joined by the team of seventeen from Indiana. Several residents from Life Link Homes (Robin's Nest) joined in as well. The projects included: clearing lots, serving meals, working in the garden, leading a Vacation Bible School program, planning and running a carnival and office work at the Camden Neighborhood Center; renovating the 3rd floor for computer space and making the stairway more accessible at Fellowship House; and assisting with

the Camp CUMI program at the Parkside church.

There were opportunities for fellowship and fun as well. The Haddonfield congregation hosted the opening dinner and lock-in. St. Andrews in Cherry Hill hosted a dinner on Monday, and Life Link Homes had a Bar-B-Que on Wednesday evening. The week ended with a Bar-B-Que held at Pinelands Center and hosted by the Wenonah and New Sharon churches. The dinner was followed by a closing campfire. A special thank-you is expressed to St. Andrews for hosting the group from Indiana for the week.

The Service Blitz was originated by Michael D'Italia and the Haddonfield Youth. Last year, it was expanded to a three day project of the Gateway South District Youth and this year it became a week long project.

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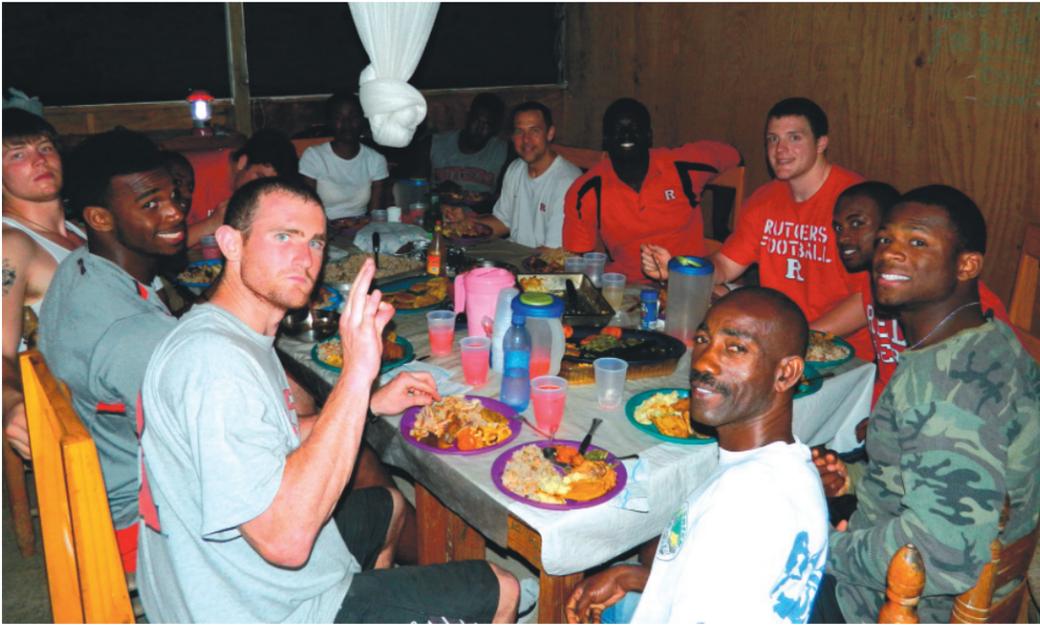


For additional information contact
Jay Kim at the
GNJAC Office 732-359-1032.

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2012 GNJAC Haiti UMVIM Trip a Blessing to All



Meal time in Haiti.

The fourth GNJAC UMVIM Trip to Haiti was a blessing, both to the team members and their Haitian hosts. Nearly all of the team members were affiliated with Rutgers University. The team members were ten Rutgers football players (Hugh Ahern, Brandon Coleman, Justin Doerner, Quentin Gause, Aaron Hayward, Ka'lial Glaud, Brian Leoni, David Miliewski, David Osei and Mason Robinson). Also on the team were John Mauer, campus director of Athletes in Action at Rutgers University, Tariq Ahmad, Director of Recruiting Operations for Rutgers Football, and Kathy Ahmad, the GNJAC UMVIM coordinator. When asked about how they had found the trip, as with previous teams, many said it had been a life-changing experience. One team member said, "Clearly it has been important for us to feel that we have contributed to the reconstruction efforts of the Haitian Methodist Church (EMH), but the near unanimous opinion of the various team members is that the experience enriched our lives more than we could have imagined." It is the philosophy of UMVIM that the most important part of the mission is to build relationships with the members of the community where the team is working. Another member added, "The people of the church and community that we interacted with thanked us over and over for showing that we cared about them and that they had not been forgotten."

The team went to Mellier, near the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake. Over 80 percent of the homes in the area were seriously affected by the earthquake. The first Haitian UMVIM trip was to Mellier and the team spent a week clearing away rubble from the Methodist church and school. They found great progress had been made at the site. All of the remaining buildings had been demolished and removed and new temporary wooden classrooms and a temporary church had been constructed. Also, the first floor of the permanent concrete church had been erected and the team worked on the second floor balcony of the church. Many of the workers had been at the site since the work started. Since there is nearly a 50% unemploy-

ment rate in Haiti (down from approximately 80% after the earthquake) one of the main features of the UMVIM plan is to provide employment on site to at least two Haitian workers for each volunteer. In fact, UMVIM has been able to meet a number of three Haitian workers employed for each volunteer.

During the school recess, the team would all go to the empty field next to the complex and play soccer, jump rope and fly kites with the children. The children were delighted and would cling to the players, hating to go back to school. The water pump where the whole community would get their water was on the complex. All day until late in the evening women and little children came to the pump to fill jugs and buckets with water. When the team took a break from work the football players would take turns pumping the water for the women and children. The women and children were overjoyed that the players were willing to help them in this way embodying God's love.

If anyone would like to become a member of one of the GNJAC UMVIM trips to Haiti, there are currently two scheduled – one October 27 – November 3, 2012 and another January 26 – February 3, 2013. To obtain more information about joining a team or to obtain an application, contact the GNJAC UMVIM coordinator Kathy Ahmad via email kahmad@comcast.net or by cell 732-865-3730. Also, if you would like to lead an UMVIM team either to Haiti or anywhere else, there will be an UMVIM team leader training workshop on October 6, 2012. A brochure with an application may be obtained from the conference office.



Team members are greeted by Haitian children.

LOVE IN ACTION AT GALILEE

The members and friends of Galilee Church of Englewood, NJ are demonstrating "Love in Action" in Bergen County and beyond. Each month, a small group of Galileans meet at Teaneck Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center on Teaneck Road. They come armed with a piano keyboard, small rhythm instruments, sheets of familiar hymns and tunes, scriptures, loads of smiles, good cheer, compassion and listening ears. They visit with the clients, read to them, converse, sing and play instruments and generally uplift the spirits of the patients and staff.

"Love in Action" is demonstrated in a number of ways at Galilee Church. Some members with "green thumbs"

participate in a community garden and share its resources with those in need. Church members who are skilled in clothing design and sewing, make and distribute ponchos for the homeless.

Those known for their delicious foods participate in the preparing and feeding the hungry on a monthly basis. Other members volunteer to organize and distribute food in the food pantry

near and far. Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson is pastor of Galilee which is located at 325 Genesee Avenue in Englewood, NJ. For more information, call the church at 201-567-0009.



Members of Galilee United Methodist Church gather in front of Teaneck Nursing and Rehab Center after they visit with clients of the center. The members, sang, played, read and conversed with the patients bringing great cheer. Pictured left to right are: Harry Nelson, Samuel Tolbert, Ludella Nelson, Eve Clyburn, Vivian Rogers, Patrick Henry, Dr. McKay, Lizo M'Timkulu, Linelda Henderson, Madeline Thomas, (front row) Carol Ottley and Bradley Thomas.

division of CUMAC in Paterson, NJ. Some members of Galilee annually organize a "Free Market" for those in need to shop for items for their family and friends - free of charge. Technologically talented Galilee members organize the free and very popular computer classes, "Social Network Training for Seniors."

These are just some of the ways members and friends of Galilee Church are showing "Love in Action" and are helping their neighbors,

Celebrating Sixteen Years of Ministry at Broadway Church

The Reverend E. Joan Palmer was the guest of honor at a luncheon celebrating her sixteen years of faithful service to the congregations of the Broadway and Port Colden churches in the Raritan Valley District. The luncheon was attended by many of the members of the churches of the Francis Asbury Parish where Ms. Palmer has been appointed since 1996. In addition to serving the local churches, the erstwhile pastor was also the director of the cooperative parish for a time and participated in many outreach ministries through the years. She also officiated at numerous community events and scouting dinners in Franklin Township. Ms. Palmer retired on June 30th from full time ministry.





The GNJAC hosted a retreat for active and retired bishops from around the Northeastern Jurisdiction August 13 - 15, 2012 in Red Bank, NJ

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Anger/Rage

By Charles G. Hankins

One of the characteristics of post-traumatic stress disorder is the inability to hold back anger and rage. As a person grows older his/her ability to restrain these emotions gets harder and harder. When this happens, people, whether family or coworkers, tend to avoid getting the PTSD sufferer upset because they don't know what to expect. This is especially to be seen in military veterans.

Someone asks me every once in a while about how to deal with a person who can't manage his or her anger. Call it grumpiness, call it irritability, it all means the same: anger/bad temper/rage is something every one of us may have to deal with, yet if it gets out of control, it presents a problem.

Henry Drummond, founder of the YMCA and the author of the book *The Greatest Story Ever Told* wrote:

"No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed or gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to un-Christianize society than this sin. For embittering life, or breaking up communities; for destroying homes; or withering of men and women; for taking the bloom of childhood; in short, for sheer gratuitous misery - producing power, this influence stands alone."

What evil could Drummond be describing? The answer: anger or bad temper.

That judgment may bring agreement from many of us, moderated by whether or not we are the ones expressing bad temper or receiving it from someone else. This is true, in part, for all human conduct. But in no example of such conduct is a difference so pronounced as in bad temper - uncontrolled anger.

No one can read the pages of Holy Scripture without seeing bad temper at work. Moses did not commit murder because he was feeling good on that particular day. And if one becomes irritated again and again, it is part of our human tendency to explain it away by saying, "It's my nature.... my parents were like that," or "I'm a perfectionist." The list of rationalizations is almost endless and marvelously ingenious.

A bad temper is not, as far as I know, ever listed as a reason for divorce, but it is surely somewhere in the mix of underlying causes. And I wonder how many people lose their jobs or are denied promotions because of their bad temper? How many people do you know that take classes in anger management? Even the Veterans Administration has seen the need for anger management classes.

How many hours of your life have been made difficult by people who snap out at you, grumble and complain? How many hours of unhappiness have you given to others by this same such conduct?

Remember! The bad temper is one of the most dramatic forms of selfishness. When we treat others sharply, when we lose our temper, when we can't hold back harsh feelings; when we are unpleasant we ought to stop long enough to ask ourselves several direct questions:

- Who do I think I am that other people should have to put up with my nasty disposition?
- Why should others have to suffer because I cannot simply curb my tongue?
- What right do I have to inflict my unpleasantness on a family member or coworker?

Now add the element of rage! In many ways, the combat veteran is a highly explosive, emotional time bomb just waiting to go off. His/her rage frightens them as well as those around them. They often displays displaced anger toward a random subject in overwhelming proportion, for no apparent reason. This behavior occurs frequently and repeatedly, despite the fear that this behavior awakens in them. They feel out of control.

This behavior is intensified when under the influence of other substances, such as drugs or alcohol. Flashbacks, reliving reliving moments cause the veteran to respond as they were trained, producing a difficult situation for those who may attempt to take control of them by force.

The conditions of war as well as military training often have produced angry men. Rage was equated with masculinity. There were no outlets offered for the combatant to release his anger and anxiety. He was trained to respond, not to feel, and therefore was able to make the transition smoothly from combat to a noncombat setting. There was no account given for the human, emotional side of the soldier. Left untreated, such a veteran will never discover constructive modes of emotional outlet, but will only be lead to self-destruction.

The apostle Paul writes in first Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind... It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." (First Corinthians 13:4 - 5 NIV). Following this directive, we turns things over to the Lord and in turn are transformed by the power of God who accepts us and helps relieve us of our bad temper or eruptions of anger.

It is a wise person who has a friend who can feed back to him/her how they see us acting and coming across, and then give us suggestions on how we can change. There are times when God needs an agent who can work on God's behalf to help us change.

(Dr. Charles G Hankins is a retired United Methodist pastor; retired Naval Reserve chaplain and a marriage and family therapist.)

Twenty-four Churches Unite in Ministry to the Poor during the Palisades District Days of Service

This past June, 55 church leaders and congregants representing 24 churches within the Palisades District came together to combat hunger and poverty during the Palisades District Days at CUMAC. Over a two day period they assembled well over 2,500 bags of food for the hungry; prepared dozens of household items for disaster relief and affordable shopping; and organized thousands of health and hygiene items to be shared with human services programs throughout the city of Paterson. It was quite an impressive two days and all who joined felt a true sense of accomplishment upon completion! On June 20 and 21, Palisades District volunteers walked into CUMAC's usual "happy chaos." Staff and Pathways to Work trainees were scrambling to keep the pantry stocked with food, while clients patiently waited for assistance in a bright but crowded room, some joking with staff, others keeping their young children entertained, still others going through the piles of bread and cake that are donated in bulk and made available to the public. Each volunteer crew was taken through CUMAC's building and taught about the growing severity of hunger in New Jersey as well as the work CUMAC is doing to help people stay afloat.

After receiving their assignments for the day, volunteers quickly got into a rhythm. As remembered by one woman, "We must have filled seven huge boxes with hundreds, if not thousands of bags of food. That will only last CUMAC through the end of the month, it really shows how many people out there are in need. I'm glad we could do our part to help, I know my husband and I will be back."

Time spent with CUMAC offers a firsthand look at the hardships so many are facing. Painful stories abound and it's hard not to feel a little lost when you learn about a family of four watering down one can of soup and calling it a meal, or about a person losing everything to a fire and, without the resources to recover, having to choose between purchasing groceries or putting a down payment on a new home.

After just an hour on-site, it's impossible not to feel excited about just how much one team, even one person, can do to make a difference. District clergy and lay members left CUMAC truly inspired by how much they had accomplished and eager to collect plastic bags to aid food distribution, hold summer food drives, invite speakers to their congregations and come back to donate their gently used shoes, clothing and household items. One band of friends has even made a point of re-



Children who benefit from CUMAC'S ministry find the love of God both deep and wide.

turning every week since the Palisades District Days to sort and package fresh fruits and vegetables for CUMAC's 2,600 clients per month.

As Volunteer Coordinator, Stephanie Ames, tells all who join her for facility tours, "it has been really hard to keep up with rising need. Our staff of only 20, most of whom are part time, would never be able to help so many without the incredible generosity of our volunteers and supporters." From the staff stopping by to say thanks and offer cold water to a busy volunteer and a board member popping in on a lunch break just to say hello, to the shouts of "thanks, God bless!" coming from the pantry as clients leave with groceries, volunteers come away with a real sense of how much their help means.

As CUMAC works to assist areas of deep and chronic poverty found in Paterson and Passaic, while also meeting a growing need for their services from surrounding communities, broader support is more critical than ever. CUMAC's staff appreciates all who volunteered during the Palisades District Days of Service and to the many churches that make the work possible. It is truly making a difference for all who walk through their doors.

CUMAC, the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community, runs multiple services dedicated to alleviating hunger and poverty in one of New Jersey's poorest counties. It regularly 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 being held at www.facebook.com/cumacfeeds people and www.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.

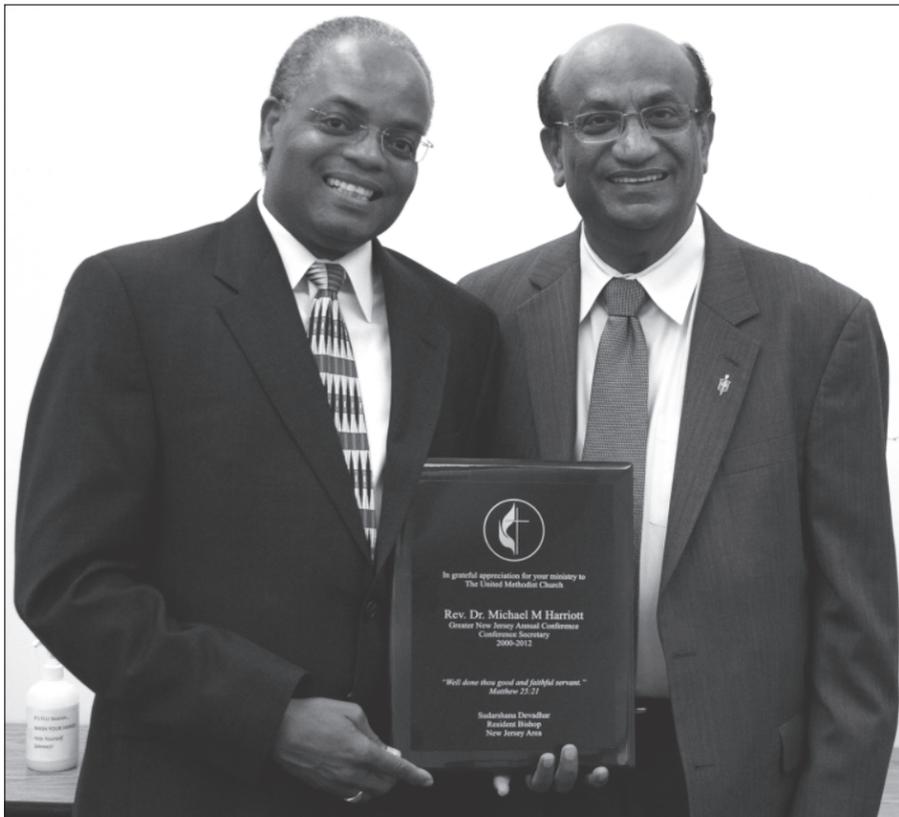
To Directors of Music: We have a lot of music for you to use in your services, i.e., choral SATB anthems, easier SAB anthems, many solos for various voices, duets, quartets. The choral anthem, "Mary" has enjoyed nice acceptance in many churches. That one anthem is appropriate for Easter, for Christmas, and most especially Mother's Day. It is the Gospel we proclaim from the Mother's point of view. There are many such songs, for use by today's church choirs. Call or Write for a free Catalog of Marcia's Melodies. Your orders will be promptly shipped. This will help you be able to choose and plan your music for the fall and Advent Season.

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**The October Issue
Deadline is September 5, 2012**



The Rev. Dr. Michael Harriot was honored by Bishop Devadhar on August 24, 2012 for his gifts, grace and 12 years of services as the Conference Secretary.

Churches team up to make a positive difference in their local community



This summer, the Tansboro, Trinity and Atco Churches worked together in several outreach projects that allowed them to make a positive impact in their community despite difficult financial times. Early in the month of June, both churches came together and participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program which allowed them to clean up the environment while earning money to help fund their Vacation Bible School for 2013. Members from each church came out early in the morning and picked up trash and debris along the roadway in an effort to help the community by making it cleaner and by spreading God's word.

On June 30, members from the churches joined together again and

served breakfast to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Camden. In addition to helping out those having a tough time, they made new friends and shared God's love with the community. Lastly, July 15th to July 19th, the Tansboro and Atco churches came together once more to put on SKY VBS for the children of the community. Many lives were touched including those putting on the program. In fact children not only learned about God, played games, made snacks, explored their imaginations, and sang their hearts out, but even started to come to church regularly. These are just a few examples of what churches can do together to make disciples and transform the world.



First Walk to Emmaus in Spanish in GNJAC

"While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them". - Luke 24:15

A long time dream of the Hispanic community in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is finally becoming a reality. In a joint effort of the Garden State and Skylands Emmaus communities, along with a missionary Emmaus group from Puerto Rico and several Hispanic leaders of the GNJAC, Hispanic men and women in the area will now have the opportunity to experience the Emmaus retreat in Spanish. For many years, Hispanics interested in participating in this spiritual renewal experience had to travel to Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Georgia or New York. The first men's walk will take place September 20-23, and the women's will follow on the weekend of September 27.

The Reverend Manuel Sardiñas, co-chairperson of GNJAC's Hispanic Committee expressed his joy for this opportunity now available for Hispanic congregations around the Conference. "The Walk to Emmaus experience offers participants a unique opportunity to explore and strengthen their faith in a safe and life-

VITAL CONGREGATIONS



Belonging

By Douglas Ruffle

Coordinator of Congregational Development, GNJAC

One of the fundamental changes I have seen through the course of my ministry is the difference in attitude when newcomers visit a church. Thirty years ago I would assume—rightly or wrongly—that a person who came to church already believed in basics: they believed in God, they believed in Jesus. By coming to church, I thought, they sought a concrete way to live out their beliefs in a particular community of faith.

They were wondering whether *this church* would provide the space where they could live out their Christianity.

It is different today. People may not believe even in the basics of faith when they visit a church. There are a different set of questions they are posing. "Is this a place where I can belong?" "Is this a place where my child can learn about God and godly values?" In fact, some people come to church already convinced that they don't believe in many of the tenets of Christianity (i.e. the virgin birth, the Immaculate Conception, the authority of ministers or priests). They come because they seek fellowship that is healthy for themselves and for their children.

Diana Butler Bass, in her recent book, *Christianity After Religion*, helped me put all of this into perspective for church life in the 21st Century. Bass, who was one of our District Resource Day speakers, says that people prefer to identify themselves as 'spiritual' and not necessarily 'religious' today. They engage church life seeking first of all to belong, and then they will see about how belonging affects their behavior and their beliefs. Years ago it was reversed: one believed first, then made behavioral changes and then sought out a church to belong to. Bass points out that in the Bible, Jesus did not ask Peter or James or John to believe in his doctrines first. He said, "follow me." Jesus formed community first. The community of disciples then went about demonstrating their faith through actions: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, announcing the Good News.

People need community. A healthy church can provide a space where people can discover more deeply who they are, what is important, how they can impact their world and how they can instill in their children core biblical values to live by. The lesson of this, I believe, is that we ought not assume people who visit our churches believe the same as we do. We can, however, provide a safe space where they can gain clarity about who they are in God and how church life can make a difference in their lives. We provide the space where people can discover how *with others* they can impact the world. It can start with belonging before 'belief' takes shape. The challenge for our churches is to provide a discipleship system whereby people can learn and grow in their faith walk. As we gear up for the Fall season, we are invited to provide ways in which people can ask questions freely without fear of judgment or rebuke and where people can grow deeper in their understanding of God and what it means to belong to a church.

I recommend a reading of Diana Butler Bass' book, *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* (Harper One, 2012).

OPERATION OVERBOARD



Operation Overboard: Dare to go deep with God was the theme at Drew UMC in Port Jervis, NY. Twenty-nine children between the age of four and grade six, plus seven teen helpers and eleven adults, gathered to hear Bible stories from Mrs. Noah, Naaman's servant girl, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul. There was also plenty of time to play water games outside, make picture frames and sing. The church's new, large flat screen TV was useful when divers viewed the adventures of Oogle and the Captain with Ocho the Octopus and the Dive Captain who instructed on each ocean insight: Depend on God, Dare to Care, Claim Jesus, Choose to Follow, and Change the World.

changing environment. The hope is that Hispanics throughout the conference will embrace the Walk to Emmaus which can bring a renewed sense of purpose to individuals and congregations as well.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to participants through other believers. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others. It is open to members of any Christian denomination. Emmaus is for the development of Christian leaders who: are members of a local church, have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives, may have unanswered questions about their faith, understand that being a Christian involves responsibility, and are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner.

For more information on this event, go online to www.gardenstateemmaus.org

Green Village Church Welcomes Dennis Singini



Dr. Michael Christensen, Director, Communities of Shalom; Reverend Clarissa South Holland, Pastor of the Green Village United Methodist Church; Dennis Singini, Regional Shalom Trainer in Mzuzu, Malawi

The Green Village Church on the Gateway North District welcomed Pastor Dennis Singini to their pulpit on July 1. Also in attendance was Dr. Michael Christensen, Director, Communities of Shalom

Mr. Singini, a circuit-riding pastor in Mzuzu, Malawi, is program coordinator for CitiHope Malawi in charge of food and medical relief, and HIV/AIDS training for churches. He also works for WorldHope Corps in Malawi on its Well-rig crew, drilling deep-water wells for villages without a clean water supply. CitiHope's Food for Peace, funded by USAID, is a nutritional Dehydrated Vegetable Soup supplement distributed to HIV orphans and other vulnerable children and families in northern Malawi.

In addition, Mr. Singini serves as a Regional Shalom Trainer in Malawi for Communities of Shalom International, based at Drew University. He was in New Jersey as part of Drew's certification program for regional Shalom Trainers meeting at the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association for their annual 36-hour Training of Trainers event.

He shared with the Green Village congregation about "What God is doing in Malawi" in relation to 2 Cor. 8:7-15 and Gal 3:28.

The 2 Corinthians passage refers to the "Manna Provision" in the Exodus story of scarcity in the wilderness, about how "those who gathered much did not gather too much and those who gathered little did not gather too little, so that all had what they needed." (Ex. 16:18)

In Northern Malawi, Mr. Singini explained, "there are families who went to church this morning without having anything to eat today. There are villages without a clean water source, where a shallow well or a stream [with contaminated water] is the only place to go. A dog will drink from this stream, a cow will drink from this stream, and children will drink from this same stream." In his role as overseeing pastor of eleven small, poor congregations in remote villages, he sees first hand "how farmers don't even harvest enough for their own families." According to the World Health Organization,

one out of five children die from water-borne diseases in villages where there is no clean water supply. WorldHope Corps recently procured its own well rig to continue its village well program begun in 2008. WorldHope Corps has drilled 18 deep-water wells so far, and seeks sponsors for its 2012 village well program.

Mr. Singini reminded the congregation at Green Village, with respect to Galatians 3:28, saying, "there is no Jew or Gentile, there is no male or female, there is no slave or free, but we are one in Christ Jesus. Therefore we should care about each other; love each other equally in Christ. I'm sure none of you have had to sleep with farm animals; none of you have had to eat grain with chickens, just because you were HIV positive. But I tell you; this is what is happening in Malawi. And we who are Christians should love each other, and accept each other, even if we have HIV." Pastoral and Congregational Training Care Training (PACCT) recently received a \$10,000 grant from the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund for their outstanding, church-based, HIV/AIDS training in rural villages.

The Rev. Clarissa South Holland, pastor of the Green Village Church, emphasized the desperate conditions, and how FOMCO orphan care center (feeding 200 children daily just last year) recently closed because they ran out of food and funds. She shared about what she saw in Malawi when she and her daughter, Libby, went on a WorldHope mission trip a few years ago, and urged members and friends to literally 'share their food with the hungry.'

Those who are willing to help Pastor Singini continue his ministry to families affected by HIV/AIDS, children without food to eat, and villages without clean water, can help save a life by contributing online to www.WorldHopeCorps.org or by sending a charitable gift to the following address: WorldHope Corps, Inc., 10 Lincoln Place, Ste. 295, Madison, NJ 07940 973-714-0023; info@worldhopecorps.com; www.worldhopecorps.org

'Stop Fracking' Is Message of Capital Rally

WASHINGTON — Red Bank United Methodist Church members Janie Schildge and Kathy Hackler joined 5,000 others from across the nation at a Stop the Frack Attack rally and March, July 28, on the lawn of the nation's capital.

The rally, the largest call for oil and gas justice in the history of the movement, called attention to the destructive aspects of the practice known as hydrofracking. Also known as fracking, this method involves injecting chemicals, some deemed to be dangerous, mixed with millions of gallons of water and sand into wells to extract the natural gas. The practice is suspect in polluted drinking water in Arkansas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming following fracking operations. Cited as "clean energy", this process is exempt from major clean air and water laws, and companies have been allowed to develop this process with few safeguards or oversight.

The Stop the Frack Attack movement is a coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch, and numerous faith based groups, who are asking that fracking be halted until safeguards and laws that protect air and water be put into place.

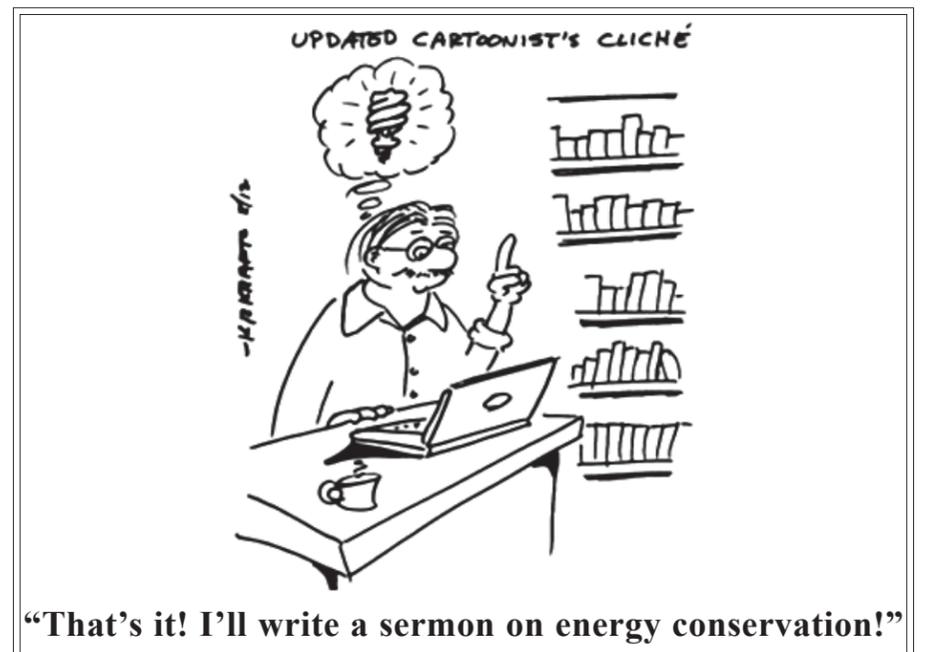


SIGNS OF THE TIMES. With the U. S. Capitol as a backdrop, Red Bank's Kathy Hackler and Janie Schildge hold signs calling for end to fracking, a method of extracting natural gas from the ground which they fear may poison the earth. The demonstration drew an estimated 5,000 people to Washington July 28.

The Red Bank church is a member of Greenfaith, an interfaith organization dedicated to stewardship of the planet, which educates, advocates, and works to connect all faith groups in green energy efforts. Greenfaith is based in Highland Park, New Jersey, and its founder and director is the Rev. Fletcher Harper.

As part of a two year certification process, the church has been involved in environmental action and education. On the church property itself, energy efficient lighting and solar panels have been installed. Members have been educated about mountain top removal mining in Appalachia where youth and adult members go each year to work on housing, environmental justice in places like the Ironbound section of Newark, and also on everyday steps each can make to limit carbon footprints. The congregation writes letters advocating green energy initiatives and networks with environmental groups in the community and county.

"We hope to receive our certification this September," says Ms. Schildge.



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2013 Community Outreach Grants

The Parish & Community Development Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will be receiving and reviewing applications from churches for grants to fund **new programs** in the local church designed to reach out beyond our walls and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world with emphasis on the Four Areas of Focus: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Congregational Development; (3) Ministry with the Poor; and (4) Global Health.

Local churches must submit their application before the **October 15, 2012** deadline. Application forms will be mailed as requested by local churches (call Ginny Kaiser at 732-359-1043) or may be downloaded from the conference website www.gnjumc.org

Criteria:

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

Please follow the general instructions listed in the application as the Funding Committee will not consider **incomplete** applications.

Completed applications must be returned to the Conference Office no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, October 15, 2012.

All applications are to be sent to:

Rev. Sung H. Ahn, Greater New Jersey Conference, 1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712, or faxed to 732-359-1049.

If you fax your application, you must also mail the original. No emails will be accepted.



Volunteers In Mission Team Leadership Training

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION Invites you to a:

Volunteers In Mission Team Leadership Training

Saturday, October 6, 2012 St. John's United Methodist Church

2000 Florence Ave., Hazlet, NJ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Who Should Attend?

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

What is UMVIM?

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

Currently we have two teams scheduled to travel to Haiti.

October 27 - November 4, 2012

March 16 - 23, 2013

Registration

\$35 UMVIM Manual and lunch

\$10 Lunch (Manual can be shared by leaders of same church.)

Send registration and checks made payable to GNJAC by September 28, 2012 to Ginny Kaiser, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712

For more information and to register go to: www.gnjumc.org or contact Ginny Kaiser at gakaiser@gnjumc.org or 877-677-2594.

OBITUARIES

MARIO L. FERNANDEZ, retired Local Pastor, died on July 14 in Plantation, Florida. He served the Iglesia Presbiteriana Metodista Unida in West New York, NJ from 1975 to 1990. Messages of condolence may be sent to his sons, Arles and Amos Fernandez, 1532 Whitehall Drive, Apt. 202, Davie, Florida 33324.

PAULETTE (Paula) N. CHRISTIE, wife of retired Elder, Reverend Thomas

R. Christie, died on Wednesday, July 25. A memorial service was held on July, 29.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Coming Home Rescue, PO BOX 405, Rockaway, NJ 07866. Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. Christie, 52 Downs Avenue, Wharton, NJ 07885-2550.

CURTIS W. GARRETT, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference,

Register Now:

UMAdvocacyPA's Anti-Poverty Summit III Oct. 7-8 Camp Hill UMC

Register now for United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania's Anti-poverty Summit III, Oct.7-8 at Camp Hill United Methodist Church.

- **Mike Slaughter** will teach that social justice advocacy is all about the Bible, not secular politics.
- **Lorenza Andrade-Smith** will share how Christ led her to ministry by becoming one with people living on the streets.
- **Faith Fowler** will demonstrate how United Methodists are reclaiming a crumbling, decaying community - feeding thousands, housing hundreds, and creating jobs.

Registration is \$75. It includes three meals, a work book, the chance to make new friends, and the opportunity to change your community, your state, and the world. Register by clicking here.

Mike Slaughter - Changing the World

In his book, *Change the World*, Mike Slaughter, lead pastor of Ginghamburg UMC near Columbus, Ohio, says "the business of the church is to engage and empower disciples of Jesus in meeting the needs and closing the gaps of disparities for the least of these."

Slaughter, a leader in the growing missional church movement in The United Methodist Church and beyond, will be part of the summit's Town Meeting on Faith-Centered Advocacy on Monday, Oct. 8.

The two-hour session, hosted by Emmy-winning public television anchor Nell McCormack Abom, will focus on God's call to Christians to engage in the world of advocacy in communities and capitals.

Slaughter emphasizes that what we do isn't about Republican or Democratic politics. It's not about liberals or conservatives. We create a voice of faith seeking justice for the poor, the sick, the elderly, and the marginalized.

A key part of our Christian mission, Slaughter says, is doing justice. "Not just to believe in justice, or to study justice," he adds, citing Psalm 19:6 -The Lord is known by his acts of justice, and Psalm 103:6 - The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

"The foundation of God's kingdom is established on justice... We must be political for the sake of giving voice and vote to those who are denied, but we must repent of our partisanship..."Neither the Democratic nor the Republican Party speaks for Jesus and his kingdom... we stand in prophetic tension with the systems and ideologies of the world.

Lorenza Andrade-Smith - Seeing God on the Street

The Rev. Lorenza Andrade-Smith, who has given up home, salary and church appointment to minister to those who live on the streets, will be our worship leader and chaplain.

Andrade-Smith is in the midst of a three-year journey, living and pastoring to persons living on the streets. She took a vow of poverty in 2011, leaving behind her home, her car, and her salary to live on the streets.

"I have to live it to understand it," she says. "I think I could not work or advocate on their behalf if I did not know what it is to live with it." Based in San Antonio, Texas, she is traveling throughout the U.S, living with and ministering with persons living on the street.

She travels by bus, and often sleeps under bridges, on park benches, and in makeshift shelters with persons who have no homes. Her most important possessions: a pewter chalice and plate for serving Holy Communion to persons living on the streets.

Faith Fowler - Transforming a Neighborhood

The Rev. Faith Fowler is a United Methodist pastor and director of Cass Community Social Services in downtown Detroit.

"Cass Community United Methodist Church started doing 'charity' work during the Great Depression," Fowler says. "Our mission now is to work in areas of concentrated poverty providing food, health care, housing and jobs"

The community-based ministry:

- Turns thousands of used tires into jobs for persons who used to live on the street. It has a "green gym" producing power for the machines in its "green" industries employing 65 persons.
- Prepares and serves 20,000 meals a week. Many of the vegetables are grown in their nine community gardens.
- Operates a weekly free medical clinic and programs for men, women and children with HIV/AIDS as well as those with mental illness.
- Provides emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing for 300 homeless people each night.

Cass's ministries use 11 buildings, including seven within a three-block campus, Fowler explains, creating what she terms as a pedestrian pocket in the neighborhood. After Fowler returns from the Anti-Poverty Summit, Cass Community will break ground on a 10 million dollar affordable housing apartment building in the neighborhood.

died on Tuesday, June 26 in Toms River, New Jersey. A Memorial Service was held on Friday, July 27.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. Garrett's widow, Julia, 50 Lacey Rd Ste D110, Whiting, NJ 08759-4420. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Neighborhood Center Inc., 278 Kaighns Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103.

CHERITH HOPE JOHANSON, Wife of retired Elder Gregory J. Johanson, died on Tuesday, June 19 in Mill City, Oregon. A service of celebration was held on June 24. Gifts of remembrance may be made to a charity of your choice in Hope's memory. Messages of condolence may be sent to Rev. Johanson, P.O. Box 23, Mill City, OR 97360.

DONNA KULINSKI, lay member to the Annual Conference from the Community United Methodist Church in Roselle Park, died on July 2. Mrs. Kulinski was also the secretary at the Cranford United Methodist Church. A Celebration of Life service was held on July 7.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Friends of Linden Animal Shelter. Messages of condo-

lence may be sent to her husband, Jan Kulinski, 7 Phillips St., Cranford, NJ 07016-3457.

JAMES E. THOMPSON, retired Associate Member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on July 5 in Pitman, NJ. The funeral service was held July 9.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Reverend Thompson's daughter, Mrs. Nancy Bringham, c/o the Pitman United Methodist Church.

CHARLES M. BURTON, SR., retired Local Pastor of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, died on Thursday, August 16, 2012. Beginning in 2000, he served Pine Hill: Memorial Church and in 2006 he retired. In retirement, Mr. Burton served the Ewan Church.

A Memorial Service was held at the Sicklerville United Methodist Church on August 21, 2012.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Vitas Hospice, 18 East Laurel Road, Stratford, NJ 08084.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Burton's widow, Dawn Burton, 192 Heights Avenue, West Berlin, NJ 08091.



Together We Can:

*Transforming the World
Through Our United Methodist
Connectional Giving*

- The ministries of the United Methodist Church are wonderfully diverse and are made possible through the church's apportioned funds, designated giving, and Special Sunday offerings.
- Funding our Shared Ministries financially underwrites United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church.

"The United Methodist Church is an active, worldwide group of interconnected communities - a connection of people who believe we should spend our days making the love of Christ real in our actions. Our connection encourages us to live gracefully, as one unified global community that does not harm, does good, and stays in love with God. Together we can do more good than any one congregation can do alone."

Together We Can brochure



Clergy Support & Administration



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

To order resources, call 1-888-346-3862 or visit www.umcsgiving.org