

## Greater New Jersey Congregations Show Record Growth

United Methodist ministries in Greater New Jersey continue to bear fruit. Recent reports from within the Conference and denomination demonstrate that we are already changing recent trends that had shown a decline in worship attendance across our churches.

The reports for 2013 show that Greater New Jersey churches saw the percentage of churches growing in worship attendance increase from 31% in 2010 to 39.6% in 2013. The goal in the Strategic Plan adopted in May of 2013 is to increase worship attendance to 51% by 2018.

The Strategic Plan also included specific goals to increase the percentage of our congregations that are vital from 14% to 41%. Initially this goal seemed aggressive - jumping to 41% is close to a 200% increase. Last month Greater New Jersey learned that we took a huge step forward in the fulfillment of this goal. The results for 2012 were reported to Conference leadership and showed the number of highly vital congregations had risen to an impressive 31.1%, up 16% since 2010.

According to Bruce Hartman, Director of Connectional Ministries, "This tremendous improvement supports my belief of the high quality of our clergy, lay leaders and United Methodist congregations; it confirms what we were seeing in our churches."

Vital congregations are defined by the denomination as congregations that have stories of changed lives, are engaging in vital ministries and are growing in worship attendance, small group participation, children's and young people's ministries, mission participation and mission giving. Vital congregations also have strong lay leadership and inspiring clergy. United Methodist congregations from around the country track vitality using tools on the UMC.org web site.

In a letter to the Council of Bishops about these results, Bishop John Schol reported, "The doubling of highly vital congregations means that there are more disciples working on justice and mercy ministries, we are making more new disciples, more disciples inviting new people, more disciples are engaging in learning small groups, and more disciples

are giving generously to mission."

Similar growth in results was evidenced across the country. In 2012, United Methodist congregations in the United States grew in the number of new disciples (professions of faith), disciples in small groups, disciples engaged in mission, and disciples giving to mission. During this same year the number of highly vital congregations exceeded 33% of our congregations in the United States. This is the first time growth like this has occurred in more than a decade.

The Council of Bishops believe these early strong results are due to:

1. Leaders are identifying, communicating and focusing on specific strategies and disciples are working toward them.
2. More and more congregations are implementing the 16 drivers of vitality.
3. Most of our congregations and conferences set goals in 2011 and worked toward these goals.
4. The congregations that are regularly updating their progress on their goals through tools such as

vital signs, grew professions of faith, small group participation, mission engagement, and mission giving more than those who were not reporting progress regularly. There is a correlation between regular accounting for these ministries and growth.

5. The writings, workshops and leading on vital congregations are increasing vitality.

Bishop Schol cautioned the Council in his report, "We must also keep in mind that vitality and sustainability can be two different things. A small congregation with a large building may be vital but have a difficult time sustaining its ministry."

While the statistics indicate we are improving in the US, there is still more to do. Within the United States, United Methodist Churches will have strong vitality when 70% of our congregations are highly vital, 70% of our congregations are growing in worship attendance, and 70% of our worshipers are engaged in a small group and community justice and mercy ministries. Ultimately vitality is witnessed through changed lives, transformed communities and renewed congregations.



### Rendering of The New Conference Center

The final plans have been approved for a new conference center on 2.4 acres of land in the area of Route 66 and the Garden State Parkway. It will take approximately 14 to 16 months for the building to be complete.

### United Methodists Raise 80 Percent of Funding Goal

**Imagine No Malaria counts \$60 million in donations and uncountable blessings**

Nashville, Tenn.: Imagine No Malaria announced today that United Methodists are 80 percent of the way toward reaching their goal of raising \$75 million by 2015. In the past year alone, the people of The United Methodist Church have made contributions and pledges of more than \$28 million, boosting the total raised to more than \$60 million.

In the coming weeks, five annual (regional) conferences will launch fundraising efforts, joining 19 other active conferences. The Holston, Illinois Great Rivers, Minnesota and Western Pennsylvania conferences have all exceeded their goals.

"For the past several years we have said 'please' consider making a pledge and a commitment to saving lives

*Continued on page 3*

## What's Next for Camping Ministry?

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Camping Board announced their decision to rest camping at Aldersgate and Pinelands for the summer of 2014. The difficult decision came as a result of several key concerns with the camping program in recent years.

1. In the last 5 years, the camping ministry had deficits totaling \$2 million with a projected significant deficit in 2014.
2. The number of campers has been declining and as a result the camping experience diminished.

In making their decision, the board considered the long term needs of camping and youth ministries. Jenn Lovallo, Camping Board Chair, commented "This was an incredibly hard and emotional decision. Everyone who serves on the Camping Board does so because they love the camps. Ultimately we decided the only way to move forward in building this ministry is to pause, reflect and create a program that is growing and engaging our youth, rather than one that is in decline."

The difficulties of the camping ministry have occurred over time. At one time our churches provided enough young people for a very robust camping ministry but as the number of young people in our congregations has declined by 60% over the last 40 years, so has the camping ministry. In addition, interests of families and young people have changed. The decline in attendance is not unique to our conference or within the denomination. Camping ministries across the country are facing the same challenge.

Creed Pogue, Vice Chair of the Camping Board, summed up the next steps, "The challenge at this point is to assess the situation and create a plan for the future. We know that camping and outdoor experiences make a difference in people's lives. I've been involved in the camps for years and I will continue to advocate for ways to make the experience available for our youth."

The Conference will work with a task force made up of young people, parents, former campers, youth leaders, camping

experts and leaders in financial management that will be empowered to address the following questions:

- How to best serve young people over the next 25 years?
- What camping and youth experiences will appeal to young people today, particularly the young people in NJ communities?
- How to provide appropriate over site of the camping/young people's ministry?
- What will be the camping/young people's ministry to transform young people's lives?
- What will be the most effective use of resources to make disciples for Jesus Christ and transform the world?

The Retreat Center at Pinelands will remain open throughout the year. Pinelands has a robust retreat schedule and this decision will have no impact on retreat activities this summer or in the future.

As a part of the reorganization, staff-

ing is also being restructured. The camps will move forward with one director. Karen Bove-Quick will be leaving Pinelands Center. Her dedication and years of service to the camping ministries is much appreciated by the staff, volunteers, campers, and Board and Conference leadership. Jestie Higgins, who had previously been Director of Aldersgate Center has agreed to take on the position of Director of Camping and oversee the operations at both facilities.

Many United Methodists around the Conference voiced their sadness and concern at the news. A post on Aldersgate Center's Facebook page summed up what many feel, "This is sad news, but also full of wisdom. We all have had significant times at Aldersgate but the young people of today, and society change. I certainly hope this isn't the end for Aldersgate too, and I pray that young people continue to get the opportunities for significant moments with God, however that looks. That was the reason we were there after all."

## A Message from the Bishop

### Part 3 - From 14 to 41%



This article is part three of a series about growing 41% of our congregations to be highly vital by 2018. Vital congregations are vibrant congregations whose disciples are testifying how they, the congregation and the community are changing because of God's movement in and through the congregation. These congregations are also growing worship, professions of faith (new disciples), small groups, community justice and mercy ministries, and giving to mission.

There are five movements congregations need to be exploring:

1. From membership to discipleship
2. From static to vitality
3. From activity to transformation
4. From manager to turnaround spiritual leader
5. From wandering to metrics

Today I will explore *from activity to transformation*. On my very first Sunday in one of the churches I served, an usher told me that one of my priorities was to deal with the number of inserts in the bulletin. There were so many announcements of activities in the church that multiple inserts in the bulletin had to be used. He pointed down the aisle where two bulletin inserts had fallen out of a worshiper's bulletin. I had two choices, eliminate church activities which meant less announcements or change the bulletin. I chose to change the bulletin.

We began use an 11 x 17 inch bulletin folded in three. We were able to print the worship service and all of the activity announcements. An easy fix.

The church is generally proud of its activities and the more active the church the better we feel. Sometime the church can be like a gerbil in a wheel, a lot activity but no progress. Churches like activity, and it seems meetings are our favorite activity. But do our activities transform or change a life. Is a life being saved through our activities? Through our meetings?

When we look at the life of Jesus and the disciples in the New Testament, the activities they engaged in led to a changed life. Their active engagement changed circumstances. Jesus expected transformation from ministry activity. The story of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) illustrated that God has entrusted us with the gifts of time, money and talents and expects that change will come because of how we use them. Is anything changing through your church activities? Has anyone reported that they are a different person because of an activity in your congregation? Are there some activities that produce more change than others?

Our congregations would do well to inventory the number of transformed lives because of the activities in and through our congregations. Several of our districts have been repairing homes devastated by Superstorm Sandy. They report that people's lives, both home owners and United Methodist disciples are changed through this ministry. I heard about one of our churches trip to Haiti and another to Cuba and about changed lives there. I heard about a men's study group that engages in deep conversation and earnest prayer and through that group men are changing their lives.

It is not that we should stop church activity, but chose activity that leads to transformation. There is busy activity and there is God transformation activity. Transformation activity tends to be disciples engaged in the community or sharing authentically about life in small groups. Transformation tends to occur in worship that is intimate even when there are 500 gathered. It is worship that reaches people's hearts and engages their struggles and hopes.

I want to invite all of our congregations to stop planning activities and start changing lives and the community through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It may take asking the question during your ministry planning, how will this activity change people's hearts?

I am grateful that you give time to planning, leading and participating in church activities. As we grow to 41% of our congregations being highly vital, it will mean more congregations are focused on how God will change lives and not on one more activity.

Keep the faith!

## Legislative Matters to be Pondered by GNJAC

As lay and clergy delegates to the 2014 session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference anticipate their gathering May 28-31, a lengthy list of legislative issues awaits. The usual votes on the budget, nominations, and changes to the rules of order will take place, but there are a number of other resolutions that the body will consider. Holy conferring for dealing with petitions to the General Conference will be an order of the day as will discussion concerning proposed constitutional amendments.

Conference Advance Specials will be voted on that will include Amistad, Camp YDP, Cape Atlantic Cooperative Hispanic Extension, Centenary Fund and preachers Aid Society, Christian Outreach Project, CUMAC/ECHO, Camden Urban Ministry Initiative, Echelon Mall Ministry, Neighborhood Center, Pennington School, Partnering Community Center of Greater Newark, and Ranch Hope/Victory House.

The conference will also vote on whether or not to have the Conference Board of Global Ministry explore a partnership with the General Board in the area of Thailand Mission Initiative and mission involvement in Nepal. A resolution that seeks to encourage local churches to educate their members about the Pan American Campaign for Children in Poverty will be considered as will a separate resolution on the Elimination of Poverty.

The members will discuss and vote upon several resolutions concerning the Strategic Disciple Making Fund and the Harvest Mission Fund. These funds are designated for the creation of new congregations and the development of existing churches.

In a bittersweet moment, the delegates will celebrate the ministries of four churches and then vote on closing them; the Barnegat, Finesville, Goshen, and Highland Park churches.

The Shared Ministries plan for 2015 will be presented. The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a budget of \$13,176,888, a figure that is \$97,680 less than the approved budget for 2014. There will also be a proposal concerning the Shared Ministry Formula that caps increases in askings from local churches at 15%, there being no cap on decreases.

There will be a number of issues related to the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits that will be discussed and voted upon. Additionally, the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan will be presented for adoption.

As is always the case, the conference will vote on the recommendations from the Commission on Equitable Salary and enabling resolutions from the Conference Board of Trustees.

There are also several resolutions that have come from one of the conference Lay Members around a variety of issues, a resolution from Archives and History that seeks to designate the South Seaville Camp Meeting as an historic site, and a resolution about clergy benefits and mental illness.

Other legislative matters will come before the conference members as the days go by. By the close of the session on Saturday, May 31, all of these and more will have been discussed and voted upon, sharpening the focus of the GNJAC's ministry in 2015 and beyond.

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## When Disaster Strikes

By Adrian Diaz

Tara has been living in Paterson for the last 15 years. She's a single parent, mother of four, who cares deeply about her family and the community. Tara had a life-changing moment just over a year ago when her apartment building caught fire. She and her children escaped danger, but the fire destroyed the entire apartment building -- all 28 homes. Just like that, everything was gone.

Tara recalls the night vividly. She was one of the first to smell smoke in her building, though she could not find the source of the fire. After rushing her children outside to safety, she returned to alert her neighbors. "I was knocking on doors, yelling, doing everything possible" she says. But it was too late: by the time the fire department arrived, the building couldn't be saved. Fortunately, Tara's mother lives nearby so her family had a place to stay, but they were left with only the clothes they were wearing.

With everything lost Tara started searching for assistance. However, after weeks of searching she was left with only more questions and frustration. This is a sentiment we've heard time and again from the community: when disaster strikes, support is tough to find and it's often too much for families to handle, pushing many into hunger or homelessness. With nowhere to turn, Tara visited CUMAC's Community Closet, somewhere she had done her shopping for years -- this time under very different circumstances.

The fire left Tara unsettled, but at CUMAC she found the support that she was looking for. "The greetings, the hugs when I walk in -- they're like family. You just feel welcome -- you don't get



Staffers at the Community Closet at CUMAC who helped Tara in her time of need.

that anymore" she says. That day, the disaster relief program provided Tara with food, clothing, and other essential items -- an experience she will never forget. It calmed her at a time when she felt constant worry and anxiety. It also gave her hope: "If it weren't for CUMAC, I don't know where I'd be."

With a fresh outlook and her confidence restored, Tara has been able to put her family's world back together. After months of searching, they have finally found a place to call home. Tara and her children are moving into their apartment this month and they couldn't be more

excited. Thanks to CUMAC's disaster relief program, they will be able to furnish their new home.

Tara continues to face challenges: money is tight and her recent disability has left her unable to work. But the disaster relief program has given her one less thing to worry about and for that she is grateful. With somewhere to live, Tara now has the opportunity to focus on what's most important: her children. "Keeping them off the street is what matters most to me." Her children are all very active and she's making sure it stays that way, no matter where they are living. She

also wants them to remember the good in all of this. That's why she plans on keeping a framed photo of the CUMAC staff in her new home, as a reminder of all the warmth and kindness they felt. "I want my kids to always remember who helped us out."

CUMAC is grateful for the opportunity to help wonderful people like Tara. Her story is just one of many in our building. Over the last few years, Paterson has experienced its share of disasters and this spring has been no different. In just two weeks, two major fires have devastated two different areas of town, leaving dozens displaced and many with nowhere to go. CUMAC has provided assistance to 21 fire victims this month and that number continues to rise.

Losing your job, becoming disabled or having your home destroyed in a fire is always within the realm of possibility. This is unsettling to consider when so many families are just one or two paychecks away from danger. When disaster strikes, having some help can make all the difference. CUMAC's disaster relief program is spreading hope and giving our community a place they can count on. Help make this vital program even stronger and learn about ways you can get involved.

*CUMAC accepts food and gently used clothing year round. With more people coming our way than ever before, your donations are critical to helping families like Tara's. For more information or to learn how you can donate, call our office (973-742-5518), send us an email (info@cumacecho.org) or visit our website (www.cumacecho.org).*

## Saint Andrew's Raises Money for Sandy Relief

By Kaitlyn Kanzler  
Reprinted from the  
Star News Group

SPRING LAKE — Parishioners of St. Andrew's Church were able to taste a bit of Italy during their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Around 120 guests and parishioners were treated to homemade spaghetti and meatballs on Sunday, March 9, as part of a fundraiser to benefit *A Future with Hope*.

According to Pastor Eusun Kim, the event raised around \$1,000.

Val and Bix Crossman and Dan and Carol Feiss help organize the spaghetti dinner, which the church has been hosting for the past 10 years.

"It's for a good cause," Mr. Crossman said. "It is a lot of work, but we enjoy doing it."

Ms. Crossman said they



had been setting up Wesley Hall and preparing the food for two days. Mr. Feiss, called "Chef Dan" by the parishioners, made the spaghetti sauce and meatballs. There was also homemade garlic bread and drinks. Chocolate and vanilla cakes were also served during the dinner.

According to Mr. Feiss, the recipe is his mother's. "It's Nana Aida's sauce," Mr. Feiss said. "The sauce we make is a traditional Italian recipe. It's made with pork and everything we make is from scratch."

Starting at 6 a.m., Mr. Feiss and Mr. Crossman used 35 pounds of meat to make 400 meatballs, made 21 gallons of spaghetti sauce, and cooked around 30 pounds of spaghetti. Mr. Feiss said none of that includes the other ingredients that go into the meatballs.

"It's a group effort," he said.

Wesley Hall was turned into a restaurant for the night with individual tables and table cloths. The dinner even had its own wait staff. The Sunday school

students were the evenings' staff, delivering drinks and plates of spaghetti to the hungry attendees.

Sophia Kim, Pastor Kim's daughter, was one of the servers. "It was really nice," Sophia said. "I thought this was a great idea." Sophia said she learned a lot about being a waitress and that serving people was difficult at first because so many people were there.

According to Pastor Kim, there were take-out orders as well.

"It's my first time at the dinner," Virginia Clemmensen, of Sea Girt, said. "The food is great, the service is excellent, and it's a great atmosphere."

There was a table set up that provided attendees with more information about *A Future with Hope* and had a donation jar for those who wished to give more to the organization.

"Where else can you do something like this, make a little money, and have fun?" Mr. Crossman said.

**Bix Crossman helped cook 30 pounds of spaghetti, 400 meatballs, and 20 gallons of sauce for St. Andrew's spaghetti dinner fundraiser of Sunday, March 9.**

Photo by KAITLYN KANZLER, STAR NEWS GROUP

## Funding Goal

Continued from page 1

through Imagine No Malaria," said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, who chairs the United Methodist Global Health Initiative. "Today, as we climb closer to our \$75 million dollar goal, it is my joy to say 'thank you' for helping to make this effort, and our denomination, a relevant and significant participant on the world scene of global health."

### The death toll has been cut in half.

Since 2006, United Methodists have focused on the challenge of saving lives at risk from malaria -- a preventable disease that still kills a child every 60 sec-

onds. In the past eight years, the church has helped cut the death toll in half.

Next month in Sierra Leone, The United Methodist Church will take part in a national distribution of 3.49 million nets. The new nets will replace nets provided through the church and its partners in 2010. The invitation to participate in the second nationwide distribution and the complementary maternal and child health initiatives is an affirmation that the Sierra Leone government recognizes The United Methodist Church as a key partner and stakeholder in an impressive network of innovators, implementers and donors.

Donations to Imagine No Malaria have aided United Methodist health facilities in Africa to improve their capacity to treat

malaria, both directly and indirectly.

United Methodist partnerships with other malaria organizations and the establishment of United Methodist health boards have made it possible to secure additional funding from outside sources. For example, the Health Board in the Democratic Republic of Congo has received funding for two grant proposals from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria. In Zimbabwe, a two-year grant will fund an innovative pilot project to test the use of mosquito repellent creams as a prevention tool. Incorporating social media is a key communications goal in the pilot.

**Campaign has helped rev-up members and revitalize churches.** Donations have been raised one dol-

lar at a time, one member at a time, one church at a time -- ranging from children donating pennies to major individual gifts of \$500,000 in Iowa and \$1,125,000 in California-Nevada -- through lemonade stands, basketball competitions, gigantic mosquitoes, Christmas tree collections and dozens of other creative ideas (even skydiving). Imagine No Malaria provides resources to help local churches with fundraising ideas.

"This campaign has moved beyond financial goals," said the Rev. Larry Holton, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. "United Methodists have embraced the opportunity to be involved in the world beyond our own backyards and mobilized congregations to make a difference on a global scale."



# Global Relay

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

## UMCOR board approves \$5 million-plus in grants

NEW YORK (UMNS) – More than \$5 million in grants in support of relief and development work in the Philippines, Haiti and the United States were approved recently by the board of directors of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

## Swiss churches to recognize baptisms

GENEVA (UMNS) – On the day after Easter, Swiss churches - Roman Catholic, Reformed, United Methodist, Old Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran - will sign an agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism, the World Council of Churches reports. Earlier this year, several Portuguese churches, including the Methodist Church, entered a similar pact.

## Two United Methodists killed in shootings at Jewish centers

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas (UMNS) – Dr. Bill Corporon, and his 14-year-old grandson, Reat Underwood, both members of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, died after a gunman shot them outside a Jewish Community Center on April 13. A third victim also was killed at a Jewish retirement community less than a mile away. A vigil was held at the church Sunday night at which Corporon's daughter, also the boy's mother, spoke.

## United Methodist Bishop Lloyd Knox dies at 85

TAMPA, Fla. (UMNS) – James Lloyd Knox, retired bishop of The United Methodist Church and a former missionary in Cuba and Argentina, died at age 85 on April 13. Bishop Ken Carter, leader of the Florida Annual (regional) Conference, said, "The history of the conference could not be told apart from his ministry."

## Church Alliance files brief for clergy housing

GLENVIEW, Ill. (UMNS) – The Church Alliance, a coalition of the chief executive officers of 38 denominational benefit programs including The United Methodist Church, has filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals (Chicago) in the case challenging the constitutionality of the clergy housing exclusion under Section 107(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Code). Barbara Boige grain, chief executive of the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits, is chair of the Church Alliance.

## Bishops address Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW AND COPENHAGEN (UMNS) – Bishop Eduard Khegay of the Eurasia Area and Bishop Christian Alsted of the Nordic and Baltic Area have issued an Easter pastoral letter, touching on the political crisis in Ukraine. "While the political winds are shifting, the church is called to be a fellowship not of this world and yet sent into this world to reflect the self-sacrificing life of Christ," the letter says.

## Internet upgrade strengthens Malawi Conference

BLANTYRE, Malawi (UMNS) – Work at The United Methodist Church's Malawi Provisional Conference should become simpler following an upgrade in connectivity, enabling the staff to have Internet access throughout the campus. The project represented a partnership of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, United Methodist Communications, Inveneo and Malawian Internet company Ultinet.

## New dean of Liberia school promises spirit-filled campus

MONROVIA, Liberia (UMNS) – During his installation service as the dean of the United Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia, the Rev. Jerry P. Kulah, former superintendent of the Monrovia District, said spiritual awakening will be a major part of his effort to restore the United Methodist-related school following a 14-year civil war.

## WCC plans June consultation on Korean peninsula

SEOUL, Korea (UMNS) – An international consultation on peace, reconciliation and reunification of the Korean peninsula will be held in Geneva in June, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, top executive of the World Council of Churches, announced April 9 at a press conference in Seoul.

## Layette Kits for UMCOR



The women of the Sarah and Naomi Circles from the Vincentown Church recently decided to prepare Layette Kits for UMCOR and offered the opportunity to their congregation. Thanks to the generosity of many in the church, the UMW group was able to complete 15 kits. Each kit included the following all new items: 6 cloth diapers, 2 shirts, 2 wash cloths, 2 gowns or sleepers, 2 diaper pins, 1 sweater or jacket, and 2 receiving blankets. Each set was wrapped with one of the blankets and secured with the diaper pins. The kits were dedicated at a special service at the church and will soon be distributed in the United States and other countries wherever they are needed.

## Church Secretaries Gather in North Carolina

Terri Pagani, Administrative Assistant at St. Paul UMC: Willingboro and Certified United Methodist Church Secretary, attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS), held April 3-6, 2014, in Asheville, North Carolina. More than 200 professionals representing United Methodist offices on various levels were in attendance.

Terri received recognition for renewing her professional certification. She is a member of the Class of 2004.

The theme of the 2014 conference was "Reaching the Peak of Our Profession," and included ten hours of continuing education on a variety of subjects beneficial to church employees. In a session led by Sylvia McClintick, conference participants discussed ways to harness the chaos and put it to work. Author Catherine Ritch helped participants discover new and exciting ways to deal with the "unwanted baggage" and recognize those mundane and disastrous

responsibilities as sweet blessings that will enable them to reach the peak of their profession.

Jennifer Davis, Human Resource Professional and Generalist led sessions based upon her expertise in business, human resources, workplace issues and relationships. An additional session was led by Rev. Beth Crissman, author of *Longing to Belong, Feeding and Leading of Shepherds, and Stepping in the Stream*.

Each year, the PAUMCS Annual Conference is hosted by one of the local chapters of PAUMCS. In addition to providing continuing education, these gatherings include worship and the opportunity to network with church professionals from across the denomination. Established in 1982 under the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church, the organization fosters individual growth, professional development, and spiritual enrichment for members.



## GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

of The United Methodist Church

## Religion and Race Grants Available

The United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) is seeking to fund **innovative, bold, high-impact initiatives** that will increase intercultural competency or support vital conversations about race, cultural diversity, and systemic equity.

Share your idea for transforming the Church and the world. Apply today for a \$20,000 to \$80,000 CORR Action Fund grant. Annual Conferences, Churches, Seminaries, Jurisdictions, and Caucuses – all are invited and eligible to apply.

We've created an easy-to-follow application process. Learn more by going to [www.gcorr.org/CORRActionFund](http://www.gcorr.org/CORRActionFund). **(Applications must be received via email to [grants@gcorr.org](mailto:grants@gcorr.org) no later than June 30, 2014.)**

Apply today! Help us reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people through groundbreaking and creative initiatives that result in long-term change and can be replicated across our Church and the world.



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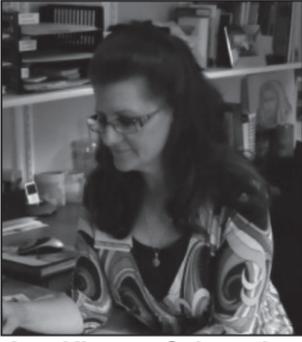
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2. Register
3. Select United Methodist Homes of New Jersey
4. Select Your Retailer!!! Go Shopping!!!

**The June Issue Deadline  
is May 5, 2014**

## 2014 Annual Conference Awards Announced



**Mary Ann Kiernan Selected as the 2014 Harry Denman Evangelism Award Recipient for Laity**

For more than 30 years, The Foundation for Evangelism has been privileged to work with annual conferences to celebrate outstanding personal evangelism ministry of United Methodist clergy, laity and youth by sponsoring the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism Award. Since inception, more than 2,500 individuals have been honored.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award is named for the founder of The Foundation for Evangelism. Dr. Billy Graham wrote, "Harry Denman was one of the great mentors for evangelism in my own life and ministry... the thing people will remember above all about Harry Denman was his love of Christ and his desire to see others come to know Him."

The GNJAC Board of Discipleship has selected **Mary Ann Kiernan** as the 2014 Harry Denman Evangelism Award Recipient for Laity.

Kiernan is dedicated to reaching out to others with the love of Jesus Christ in her church, community, and workplace. As Intake Coordinator and Christian Counselor at the America's Keswick Colony of Mercy and as an 18 year member of the United Methodist Church of the Master in Howell, Kiernan has used her gifts and training in Christian counseling to help transform countless lives.

According to Gail Oyler, a fellow church member and one of the many people who nominated Mary Ann, she "quietly comes alongside hurting people in the church and the community and offers help, prayer, encouragement, and resources for each situation." She added: "Again and again, Mary Ann faithfully shares and witnesses to the truth of the Gospel, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable the situation."

Dr. Bill Welte, President and CEO of America's Keswick in Whiting, also described Mary Ann's strong witness of faith. He stated: "In everything she does, Mary Ann serves with excellence, diligence, compassion, and love. She is bold in sharing the Gospel and has a heart of deep compassion for those who are hurting, especially those in bondage to addiction."

Rev. YoHan Baik, Mary Ann's Pastor, shared: "Mary Ann truly lives a Christ-centered life. She serves as the Church Worship Chair and as an Adult Sunday School teacher. Her knowledge and experiences as a Christian Counselor have added to the depth and power of the classes she teaches. Her ideas, witness, and gifts have helped in making our church more vital."



**The Rev. Joel Daniel Hubbard, III Selected to Receive the 2014 Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship for Continuing Education**

Each year the Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship award is given to a pastor whose plans for continuing education will

lead to strengthening his/her ministry in the local church.

Guided by Rose Seese of Gibbsboro, the widow of Harry Seese, and supported by ongoing gifts, the scholarship honors her late husband, who died while serving the Medford United Methodist Church.

For 2014, the scholarship has been awarded to **Joel Daniel Hubbard, III**. Hubbard serves as the lead pastor of the Park United Methodist Church in Bloomfield which is a multi-national/multi-cultural congregation located in a diverse urban environment. Hubbard intends to utilize his continuing education experience to develop new avenues of building and strengthening relationships between Park UMC and the surrounding civil, secular, and religious communities. Hubbard is a husband and father of four grown children and has served as the pastor for five congregations in New Jersey since 1987. He is a degree graduate of Dartmouth College, the Candler School of Theology, a certificate graduate of the Perkins School of Theology, a certified *New Life Mission/Key Event* missionary, and *Stephen Ministry* trainer.

Deeply honored to receive the *Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship*, Hubbard will be enrolled this fall at the New York Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program in the leadership, community development track.



**The Bishop's Annual Award for Service in the Area of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**

Every year, two awards are presented at Annual Conference in recognition of service in the area of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. One award is presented to **a person** who has endeavored to reach out in ministry beyond their local congregation in partnership with persons of faith who are not United Methodist. This ministry may be associated with a community ministry such as a food pantry, a coalition for human dignity and/or rights or joint worship. The second award is presented to **a congregation** who is in ecumenical and/or interfaith ministry.

The **Rev. David R. Edwards** is the recipient of the Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns individual award. Edwards has been the pastor of Millbrook United Methodist Church in Randolph since July 1, 2011.

Edwards is very involved with the Randolph Interfaith Clergy, a group that meets monthly and hosts programs that are community based with unilateral concerns for all people around Randolph Township. This group is a source of inspiration and hope to a diverse faith community. His passion for church and community is in his DNA. His motto is: "Relationships are intentional in order for a community to thrive!" He continues to be a source of inspiration to his parishioners, colleagues, and community.

Super-storm Sandy prompted Edwards to organize all houses of worship as designated warming stations, meal stations, or charging stations in the event of loss of power in the township.

He has also been active with two special events in the community – Interfaith Program for Holocaust Remembrance and Interfaith Thanksgiving Service both of which have seen an increase in community participation. His willingness to work with a diverse group has brought a younger voice to the table and has created enthusiasm for other young people to become involved.

Edwards is originally from New York City. He is a graduate of Iona College in New Rochelle, NY (B.A. in Communications), and Drew University Theological School (Master of Divinity). While at Drew, David served as Vice President of the Theological Student Association.



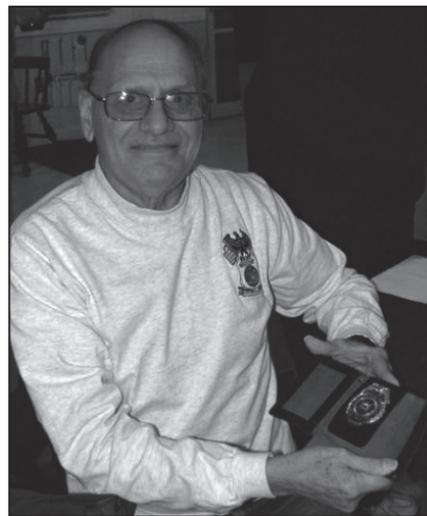
**CUMAC-ECHO** has been selected to receive the Bishop's Award as a *congregation* who has an ecumenical and interfaith ministry.

CUMAC is a private nonprofit organization, but one that was founded in a United Methodist Church, embraced by the GNJUMC, led largely by UM clergy, and supported in large part by UMC parishioners. While not a church congregation in the traditional sense, the time-honored children's hymn teaches us, the church *is* the people.

In service since the late 1970s, CUMAC is the result of one Paterson school teacher, Hugh Dunlop, who noticed that his students were having trouble focusing and complaining of hunger. He reached out to his Madison Park Epworth United Methodist Church congregation and asked them to help provide breakfast to his class. As the congregation dutifully responded to that need, a greater community need was identified, and a small pantry was started in a closet of the church to feed neighborhood families.

CUMAC/ECHO, Inc. (Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community Ecumenically Concerned Helping Others) was formally incorporated in 1985. Since then, it has grown in direct response to increasing and changing community needs. Once a small food pantry run by volunteers from a church closet, CUMAC is now a fully-staffed, multi-service agency that relies heavily on volunteer support and community partnerships in order to feed over 2,800 people monthly and share food resources with smaller pantries through its Depot.

Working together with many church and community organizations, CUMAC continues to serve as a beacon of hope feeding people and changing the lives of those it serves, and those in service with them.



**The Rev. Warren Brandt Selected to Receive the 2014 Francis Asbury Award**

The Francis Asbury Award is a non-monetary award to recognize and encourage support of higher education and campus ministries within The United Methodist Church. The award will offer recognition to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the church's ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level of the church. The award is named

for Bishop Asbury and is based on his admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school in the vicinity of every church. "We must," he said, "...give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages."

As the **Rev. Warren Brandt** steps down from 27 years as Campus Minister of the Rockland County Community College (RCCC), he is being honored for devoting his life to the ministry of Jesus Christ with the Francis Asbury Award. At RCCC, Brandt led The Christian Fellowship Club, which, as he says, "has expanded so greatly that we had to add the room next to us for our students to be together."

Brandt has been a spiritual leader to the Christian Fellowship Club and a counselor to students, faculty and staff whenever needed. Additionally, in his concern for the social justice aspect of the ministry he has connected The Christian Fellowship Club with Campus Emergency Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Domestic Abuse March on Campus, Campus March to End Slavery Worldwide, and clothing drives for People to People.

In addition to the Christian Fellowship Club, Brandt has worked very closely with The Newmen Club (Catholic), Hillel (Jewish), and the Muslim Club on the campus, demonstrating his ecumenical and interfaith consciousness. Brandt's pursuit of the religious diversity and respect has been well received and recognized by the campus and community. Moreover, Brandt has connected with local United Methodist Churches to promote the campus ministry along with many organizations to better serve the ministry of Jesus Christ. Brandt served as pastor of Westside in Patterson, and Thiells.



**Central United Methodist Church of Linwood Selected to Receive the 2014 Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award**

The Central United Methodist Church in Linwood was voted the Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award for 2014. A panel of judges from the Commission on Archives and History decided on Central's entry from a field of eight submissions. Central was selected because it best fit the criteria as set forth by Archives and History. Central's presentation wove together images, historical fact and the ministry of the church throughout the years.

The Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award is designed to motivate local congregations to rethink and recapture their ministry of memory in order to discover their place in the "Endless Line of Splendor" that is United Methodism. The process of writing a history helps each church to understand the sacrifices of former members but also validates their present day ministry for service. The history has the added value of informing their future as well. The name of the award honors Reverend Robert B. Steelman for all his superb work over the years as archivist, conference historian, officer for the Historical Society and Commissions on Archives and History, author of many articles and writing the seminal history book on Southern New Jersey Methodism. It is in this spirit by which Archives and History annually judges local church submissions.

**Last day to register May 10th!**

**May 29th - 31st 2014**

**Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ**

# SHINE

You are the light of the world. - Matthew 5:14

**2014 Session - Greater New Jersey Annual  
Conference of The United Methodist Church**

## **New Workshops Announced!**

**Don't forget to check out the new Spotlight  
Sessions on Wednesday, May 28th**



**Sessions led by the Connectional Ministries team  
(pictured above), Rev. Brian Roberts and Rev. Jeff Bills**

**Find out more and register at  
[www.gnjumc.org/annualconference.org](http://www.gnjumc.org/annualconference.org)**

# 24-Hour Dance Marathon Proceeds Help “A Future With HOPE”

With the goal of “giving back,” the Rev. Kim Padfield Urbanik of the Christian Drama School of New Jersey recently presented a check for \$3,436 to the congregation of the Denville Community Church, UMC in Denville, N.J. The check was accepted by Rev. Edward Carll and is to be used to support the efforts of “A Future with HOPE” campaign to help rebuild New Jersey communities still struggling from the impact of Superstorm Sandy.

In presenting the check, Rev. Kim thanked members of the congregation for sharing their time, money, and talents with the drama school over the past 14 years. She explained that it was a valuable lesson for the youth to see how the help flows both ways. She said the church has given its support for so many years and now the “little people” of the drama school are sending money upward to the “big church,” which in turn is supporting the “bigger” church mission.

More than 100 youth and adults participated in the marathon. Fourteen “Red Shirts”, including Rev. Kim and 13 current senior high students or graduates of the drama



Candlelight worship is celebrated by the dancers and all in attendance in the final hour of the 24-hour Dance Marathon



Rev. Kim Padfield Urbanik and several participants of the dance marathon present a check to Rev. Edward Carll to benefit “A Future With HOPE”

school, danced for 24 hours. Each of these 14 dancers was supported by a team of four “Blue Shirts” who took turns dancing to support their Red Shirt. An additional 25 children danced at various times as “Orange Shirts” in support of all the dancers. Finally, eight shifts of adult volunteers helped behind the scenes.

A total of \$14,845 was raised by the dancers. After deducting for the costs of the marathon itself, the drama school donated 25 percent of the proceeds to the “A Future with HOPE” relief campaign. Half of the proceeds will be used to support the drama school’s Uganda ministry, which supports schools and children in Uganda through the Heart for People Foundation, and the remaining 25 percent will be used to fund the ongoing work of the Christian Drama School, which relies entirely on unpaid volunteers, including Rev. Kim.

## New Food Ministry for Children at Hamilton Memorial



Recently, Hamilton Memorial Church in Atlantic City opened its doors to a new ministry called “A Cooking Ministry” for children. The Food Fun for Everyone is a community based cooking ministry for children ages 8-18 and it’s held every Friday from 5 pm – 8 pm at the church facilities.

Their certified Chef, Mr. Lee Ford who loves children and of course loves to cook, was having a little struggle with where he would fit in as far as utilizing his time, gifts and talents. Mr. Ford took his concerns to the Pastor, Rev. Jevon Caldwell-Gross, who told him to pray and ask God to lead him in the right direction. Ford did just that and a Cooking Ministry was born. With God’s direction, planning and donations from the church’s members and friends, the vision is now realized, the first of its kind in the area.

The classes average between 10 – 12 children per week who are eager to learn and have fun while cooking. They have learned how to set a table, read directions, follow instructions, identify measuring utensils, how to measure, get their hands dirty, cleanup and of course, eat. Sharing their blessings with others, the cooking ministry prepared dinner for the homeless. A Love Feast celebrating graduation day will be held for the future chefs on Sunday May 11, during a special morning worship service at the church.

## Congratulations to Covenant Manor for 15 Years of Excellence in Senior Living



Thank you for the continued blessings from our sponsors, United Methodist Homes and Covenant United Methodist Church.

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## Special Thanks From CUMAC To Our Volunteers in The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

It is National Volunteer Week, and at CUMAC –the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community- we're taking time to give thanks for the many people who make our mission possible. These past few years have been full of challenges. Hunger and the need for food support have skyrocketed, leaving us scrambling to ensure we can provide for all who come to us. All of our programs have grown at staggering rates and it's nothing short of a miracle that we have been able not only to keep up, but to thrive. With a staff base that hovers around 25 people, a big part of that miracle resides in each and every volunteer who commits their time and talent to our work.

While volunteers come from all walks of life, United Methodists have made up the vast majority of CUMAC's volunteer force since we first opened –in a borrowed UMC closet- in the late '70s. **In 2013 alone, 25 United Methodist Churches** visited CUMAC from **4 districts of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference**, as well as **1 church from the Roanoke District of the Virginia Annual Conference** for a total of **91 visits** and **1,391.5 hours** of work. **Another 42 individuals made personal commitments, collectively donating 3,604 hours** of work. If you use the standard cost of a volunteer hour in New Jersey, which is around \$25/hour, then **United Methodist volunteers donated \$124,879 in their talent and time.**

Those numbers, while impressive, don't even begin to explain the impact volunteers have on our work to feed people and change lives. In the past 12 months, our inspiring volunteers have:

- Sorted 1.6 million pounds of food for our pantries and network of 55 partner programs
- Packed the equivalent of 513,224 meals in bags of groceries for 34,000 men, women and children experiencing hunger
- Meticulously sorted and bagged fresh fruits and vegetables 4 days a week, ensuring that healthy –often prohibitively expensive- meal options are available to people in need
- Helped disaster victims rebuild their lives and low income shoppers achieve a higher quality of life by preparing clothing and household items for the Community Closet



Volunteers from Galilee UMC assembling nutrient rich meals at the Leonia UMC 20K Meals Event.

- Enabled 21 underprivileged students to realize their full potential in the Tutoring and Literacy Center
- Helped us provide a cheerful, inviting experience for those who come through our doors by painting and deep cleaning our pantry and after school program
- Organized thousands of children's books for the grand reopening of a flood devastated children's library
- Assembled over 110,000 nutritionally fortified meals for the hungry through events hosted by the Leonia UMC and Calvary UMC in Dumont, as well as by the Rotary
- Collected, sorted and distributed of 22,4000 pounds of food IN ONE DAY at the October Action Against Hunger Food Drive
- Sorted 6 pallets of medical supplies to share with programs providing care in the metro NYC area and as far as western Africa

On any given day at CUMAC, you'll see local bible studies assembling

items to help victims of fires and floods; UMWs and UMMs packing bags of food for waiting crowds; retired youth leaders working with kids in our afterschool program; Seminary students busy at their computers; and ever-industrious youth groups, having bused in from all over the state to assemble bags full of produce, snacks and hygiene items to send home with clients. All of them coming together to ensure that none among us are left to suffer in this world of plenty. All of them sharing their energy and their gifts with families and individuals who have nowhere else to turn.

Every day at CUMAC, you meet people who recognize the gifts they have to offer and choose to use those gifts in service to mankind. Every day, they inspire and every day the fruits of their effort are nothing short of incredible. Walking around our warehouse, you can't help but see just how much power we all have to make a difference in this world. To the countless churches and individuals we count among our fold, thank you

for your service and for your reminder that, together, we can achieve so much. You make our mission possible.

*CUMAC runs multiple programs dedicated to alleviating hunger and poverty in one of New Jersey's poorest counties. It regularly serves food to approximately 2,800 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](http://www.cumacecho.org). Join conversations being held at [www.facebook.com/cumacfeeds](http://www.facebook.com/cumacfeeds) people and [www.twitter.com/cumacfeeds](http://www.twitter.com/cumacfeeds). If you'd like to volunteer or host a collection, you can call CUMAC at 973-742-5518 or send an e-mail to [volunteer@cumacecho.org](mailto:volunteer@cumacecho.org). We look forward to working with you!*



Members of Wayne UMC sorting incoming food donations.

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# The Native American Act of Repentance Service is Both Noun and Verb

By John Norwood, Pat Rosello and Mark Shenise

At the end of May, the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey will include a Native American Act of Repentance at Annual Conference. This service is not just a duty or a part of history that does not pertain to present day. It is a chance to reflect and express sorrow at past wrongs against fellow Christians who just happen to be of Native American descent.

The Christian concept of repentance is fundamental to our life of faith. In the Hebrew text, the verb *swb* carries the idea of “to turn” and not just in physical sense. *Swb* also means to take a journey or a pilgrimage which changes and shapes our attitudes and relationship toward God and fellow human beings. Once a person commits to *swb*, a person, or group of people, change their attitudes in ways once not thought possible. Genuine *swb* has power over sin and prejudice.

The New Testament has its own understanding when the writers use repentance as both noun (*metanoia*) and a verb (*metanoeo*). Faith cannot be separated from *metanoia* and together they can triumph over interpersonal and intercultural sins. As a verb, *mentanoeo* creates in us a constant state of repentance that empowers changes of the heart, mind and spirit.

- Within Greater New Jersey United Methodism, we have instances of discrimination and injustice:
- St. John’s UMC in Gouldtown was part of our Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape self-made reservation. While some Native Americans signed over the land for the reservation, not all of them did.
- Mt. Misery is built on the former Brotherton reservation, which also includes Indian Mills. The name Mt. Misery took on a literal meaning for Native Americans. There were acts of discrimination within local congregations along with directed aggressive mental and physical behavior against individual Native American members while others stood by and did not help.

We include the Native American Act of Repentance at Annual Conference for the following reasons:

## 1. Cultural conditioning continues to impact our thinking, language, and dealings with Indigenous Nations and Peoples.

- We allow the “categories of conquest” and indigenous negation to remain and be passed from one generation to the next.
- We equate notions of being “civilized” with being “Europeanized” and being “savage,” “primitive,” “pagan,” or “uncivilized” with maintaining indigenous life ways and culture.
- We presume the right to define indigenous identity and rights for indigenous people and imposing such standards upon them.

d. We presume that land tenure, from the earliest arrivals, be based upon the standard the European immigrants instead of being based upon the perspective of the indigenous owners of the land.

e. We have an insensitivity regarding the language of superiority and ethnocentrism when using terms such as “first world” or “old world” over and against “new world” and “second/third world.”

**2. The continuing struggles of Indigenous Nations in their quest for justice and respect are neglected and unacknowledged.** Federal Indian policy perpetuates a “caste-system”. It acknowledges some historic tribes and not others and assumes “plenary authority” over all the tribes in a manner that often becomes a form of tyranny. There is a lack of appreciation for the uniqueness of the Indigenous Nations as distinct from other minority groups or special interest groups. Native American societies are distinct sovereign political entities that predate the United States and whose distinct rights and identities have not been extinguished. Racist stereotypes continue to be used to suppress Native American identity and subvert the efforts of tribal governments to care for and preserve their people.

**3. For overlooking the Indigenous Nations and People when speaking of, or celebrating, American culture and history.** Every time the comment “We are a nation of immigrants” is made, it ignores Native Americans by denying their indigenous identity, ancient tie to the land and participation in American society. Other insults to Indigenous nations include advocating Columbus (or the Vikings) “discovered” America and celebrating the “triumphal” expansion of US territory from “sea to sea” without acknowledging the treaty-breaking, persecution, and oppression involved in such expansion. Locally, eastern tribes (including those remaining in New Jersey) no longer exist in school curricula, government agency and institutional policies.

When we pass the peace in a church service, we forget that it is more than a physical act. In the early church when you passed the peace it meant you personally forgave while asking to be both forgiven and reconciled with the person to whom you are passing the peace to. The hand shake is a covenantal act of repentance.

There are other “R” words that Christian theology associates with the repentance. Besides reconciliation there are redemption, remembrance, rightness and resurrection. An Act of Repentance is all these and more. It starts with everyone involved on a journey to practice inclusiveness that remembers our sins of the past and present, nor will it interfere with the hope of an equally dignified membership into the body of Christ. Repent and live in Christ’s perfect way!

## Stewardship Stories

By Rich Hendrickson  
Coordinator of Stewardship Education  
and Development, GNJAC



### Generosity starts with vision!

“How will we get the money we need? Who will give it to us? How will we ask them?” According to Henri Nouwen, in his book, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, these are the typical questions that drive our stewardship activity in the church. While there’s nothing inherently wrong with these questions they are limited in their effectiveness and help to create more of an attitude of “begging” than healthy stewardship. They also tend to address the immediate financial need of a church but do very little to change the congregation’s culture around giving and generosity.

According to Nouwen, we too often we say to our congregation, “We are experiencing hard times, please could you help us out?” Instead, we might want to declare, “We have a vision that’s amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you—your energy, prayers, and money—in this work to which God has called us.”

Nouwen says that “every time we ask someone to give we ought to be inviting them into a vision of fruitfulness.” Healthy stewardship is about inviting people into a vision for ministry that is exciting, changing lives, and fruitful. Healthy stewardship begins with grabbing hold of God’s vision for ministry in your ministry setting, articulating that vision so as to inspire enthusiasm and excitement, and then inviting people into that vision through the giving of their time, talent, and treasure.

## Blueprint for Wellness Is Coming!

**Date:** Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31

**Time:** 6:00 am to 9:00 am –

*\*FAST 6-8 hours prior to test time for most accurate results*

**Location:** Wildwoods Convention Center, Room 9

**Preregister:** By phone or online

**DEADLINE:** May 15

### Alternate Time and Place

You also can take your Blueprint for Wellness at a Quest Diagnostics facility between April 1 and July 31 to earn the \$100 incentive. You must preregister to take the screening at a Quest facility and avoid out-of-pocket costs.\*\*

### Preregister Required for Quest facility.

**Recommended for on-site event.**

**By phone:** 1.866.908.9440

**Employer group:** “United Methodist Church” or “HealthFlex”

**Online:** [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org) Log into HealthFlex/WebMD.

Select “Quest Blueprint for Wellness” in left column.

### Blueprint for Wellness Highlights

- Screening — for HealthFlex participants and spouses (active and Medicare companion plans).
- Earn \$100 HealthCash — HealthFlex active (PPO) plans only. (Must be enrolled in Virgin Pulse HealthMiles at time of screening to earn HealthCash.\*)
- No out-of-pocket costs\*\* at an on-site event or Quest Diagnostics facility.
- Preregistration required for screening at Quest Diagnostics facility. (Details below.)
- Preregistration strongly recommended for on-site event — at least three weeks before event. Walk-ins are limited.
- Fast 8–12 hours before screening (overnight) for the most accurate results.

*\* \$100 HealthCash applies only to HealthFlex PPO plans.*

*If you’re not enrolled in Virgin Pulse HealthMiles, go to [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org), click on “HealthFlex/WebMD” and enter your WebMD username and password. Then select “Join Virgin HealthMiles.”*

*\*\*If there is no Quest facility within a reasonable driving distance, you can still receive the \$100 HealthCash incentive by submitting a Physician Results Report Form (completed by your doctor) by July 31. Call your plan sponsor or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at 1-800-851-2201 to request the form.*

**Applicable out-of-pocket costs apply for tests you receive through your doctor.**

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**Ranch Hope For Boys and Girls will celebrate it’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 8, 2014**

Rev. David Bailey, staff, young people and our Board of Directors want to thank all the churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for helping make this possible. You have been with us from the beginning.

**Romans 15:1**

“We who are strong, ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

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# Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association

1869 - 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCEAN GROVE 2014 SUMMER SEASON

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

### SUNDAY SERVICES

- June 15-10:30am -Rev. Dr. Kenda Dean, Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary.  
 June 22-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Dr. Eddie Fox, World Director of World Methodist Evangelism, World Methodist Council, Hermitage, TN.  
 June 29-10:30am & 7:00pm- Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Senior Pastor to the Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, NJ  
 July 06-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Nancy Beach, Speaker/Teacher, Lead Coaching Associate SlingShot Group, Barrington, IL  
 July 13-10:30am -Dr. Karl Eastlack, District Superintendent, Penn-Jersey District of the Wesleyan Church.

#### 7:00pm 60th ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Directed by Dr. Jason Tramm

- July 20-10:30am & 7:00pm- Dr. Duffy Robbins, Professor of Youth Ministry, Eastern University, St. David, PA

### 145th ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

- July 27-10:30am & 7:00pm -Rev. Steve DeNeff, Senior Pastor, College Wesleyan Church, Marion, IN.  
 Aug. 03-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor, Grace Church, UMC, Southwest Florida  
 Aug. 10-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Steve Brown, Founder of Key Life Network, National Radio Program, *Key Life*  
 Aug. 17-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA  
 Aug. 24- 10:30am -Rev. Tom Tewell, Founder and President of Macedonia Ministry, Atlanta, GA

#### 7:00pm SACRED MASTERWORK CONCERT

- Aug. 31-10:30am & 7:00pm- Rev. Tullian Tchividjian, Senior Pastor, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Coral Ridge, Fla  
 Sept. 07- 10:30am - Salvation Army, Commissioner David & Barbara Jeffrey, National Commander and National President of Women's Ministries

### BIBLE HOUR

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

- June 23-28-Pastor Lloyd Pulley, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel Old Bridge, NJ  
 June 30-July 05- Rev. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Senior Professor of Homiletics, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY  
 July 07-12- Pastor Scott Brown, Senior Pastor, Colts Neck Reformed Church, Colts Neck, NJ  
 July 14-19- Rev. Rob Cruver, Senior Pastor, Zarephath Christian Church, Zarephath, NJ  
 July 21-26- Dr. Duffy Robbins, Professor of Youth Ministry, Eastern University, St. David, PA

### 145th ANNUAL CAMP MEETING WEEK

- July 28-Aug. 2- Rev. Glen Conaway, Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church, Mullica Hills, NJ

**EVENING SESSIONS:** July 28 to July 30-- 7:30pm  
 Boardwalk Pavilion, Pastor Randy Smith, Pastor, Grace Tabernacle Church, Allenwood, NJ

- Aug. 4- 9- Rev. Roger Casey, Retired Senior Pastor, Rock Church, New York City, NY  
 Aug. 11-16- Pastor Chris McCarrick, Senior Pastor, Cornerstone Calvary Chapel, Howell, NJ  
 Aug. 18-23- Dr. James Fleming, Director of the Biblical Resource Center, LaGrange, GA  
 Aug. 25-30- Major Kevin Stoops, Commanding Officer at the Salvation Army, Asbury Park, NJ

### THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



August 14th & 15th- Join 100,000 leaders for this annual injection of vision, skill development and inspiration simulcast to OG.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Men's Ministry Outreach- Six Week Bible Study**  
 33 the Series Vol. 2- A Man and His Story  
 July 3, 10, 17 24 31 & August 7- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Youth Temple  
**Biblical Resources Seminar:** "Cities of the Epistles"  
 Mon. Aug. 18 to Fri. Aug. 22, 10:30 am -12:30pm  
 Community Room. Led by Dr. James Fleming.  
 Seminar fee \$125. Continental Breakfast  
**Women's Conference Simulcast**  
 Saturday, April 5- 9am Priscilla Shirer - Live Simulcast Held in the Youth Temple, \$25.00 per person see our website  
 Saturday, September 13- 9am Beth Moore- Live Simulcast Held in the Youth Temple, \$25.00 per person (see our website)

### CHRISTIAN SHOWS IN THE GREAT AUDITORIUM

June 27- Bridgefest Concert Event- [www.bridgefest.org](http://www.bridgefest.org)  
 Special Guest: Jeremy Camp

### BEACH FESTIVAL

June 28- Bridgefest w/ Bridge FM- [www.bridgefest.org](http://www.bridgefest.org).

### MONDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

July 7, 14, 21 & Aug. 4, 11- 7:30pm "Under the Umbrella"  
 Open to all women. A relaxing time of fun, friendship and a focus on God! Look for the pink striped umbrellas on the beach located in the Middle Beach area.

### TUESDAY EVENINGS ON THE BEACH

Tuesday Evenings July, 1, 8, 15, 22, 7pm: "Flying Upside Down, the Christian life." Bible Study with Rev. David Cotton, Chaplain, Jersey Shore Medical Center. On the beach just south of the Beach Office.

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS  
 CALL OGCMA At 732 775-0035  
 Purchase tickets online on our website:  
[www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org).**

## OBITUARIES

**MARGARET HITCHENS WINNER**, widow of Reverend Walter C. Hitchens, Elder of the former Southern New Jersey Conference, died on April 5. A funeral service was held on April 10th at the Wiley Church, Marlton.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 32 Conrow Rd., Delran, NJ 08075-1720. Messages of condolence may be sent to daughter, Ruth Ritchie, 4653 Ogden Highway, Adrienne, MI 49221.

## Yes, You Are Being DIGESTED!

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

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

## RELAY Reflections

Thoughts on the Spiritual Life  
Relayonline at [www.umrelay.org](http://www.umrelay.org)

Read, Reflect, then Write your own and e-mail your contribution or comments to [editor@umrelay.org](mailto:editor@umrelay.org).

## DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE RELAY

If you are a member of a local church who is relinquishing membership on the Charge Conference and therefore no longer entitled to a complementary subscription to the *Relay*, you may soon miss the monthly visit of your conference newspaper.

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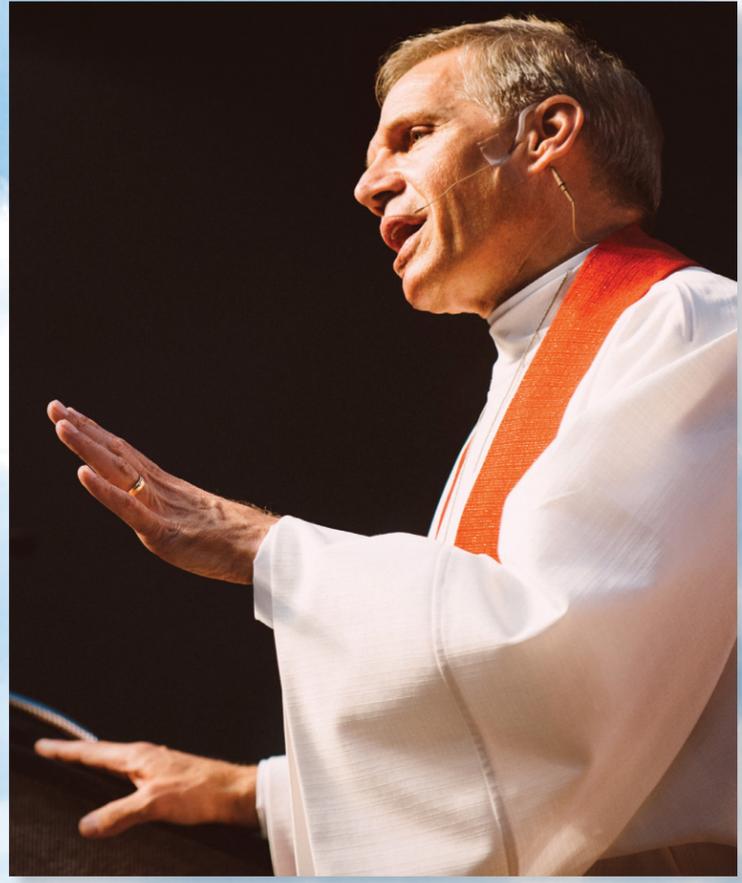
# MISSION MATTERS

“I was moved when I heard Bishop Schol talk about his and Beverly’s three year commitment to the Mission Fund and the sacrifices they would make to meet the challenge. I consider myself a faithful servant and I realized right then and there **I, too, could do more.**”

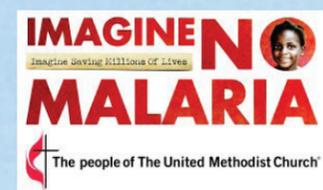
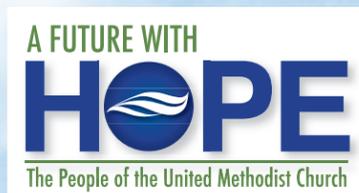
When I returned home I challenged my husband. I had recently received an inheritance and if he agreed to match my gift we would meet this God-sized challenge head-on.

Together, my husband and I have pledged \$100,000 over three years to change the lives of people who lost their homes during Sandy and children who are dying of malaria in Africa. **Mission matters to us.**”

- Kathy Schulz, Bridgewater UMC



## HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR CONGREGATION INVOLVED?



To find out how you can be involved contact Rebecca Nichols, Field Coordinator for the Mission Fund  
**rebeccanichols@gnjumc.org • 732.359.1047**