

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## Nelson, Brash Fill Key Roles in Greater New Jersey

By Josh Kinney  
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Jana Purkis-Brash and Juel Nelson have been appointed to key staff positions in Greater New Jersey starting July 1.

### Purkis-Brash will take the leadership position at the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey

After a nationwide search to fill the Executive Director position, Purkis-Brash, a GNJ pastor and leader, emerged as the candidate best suited for a job which takes the first step toward reimagining what the organization can be.

Existing to serve the financial and investment needs of GNJ, its local churches and agencies, the Foundation seeks to invest, grow, manage and utilize funds to multiply the future ministry of GNJ for disciple making and world transformation. Working with churches to develop endowments, manage reserve funds and encourage planned giving, the Foundation's investment policy follows the socially responsible investing practices of the United Methodist Church and is handled by Wespath Investment Management. In the last three years, the Foundation has grown exponentially, exceeding \$36 million in assets thanks to the many churches who have invested through it.

"Jana has served GNJ since 1982 and will draw on her personal relationships with other clergy as well as knowledge of the conference to succeed," said Sue Goodman, Interim Executive Director of The Foundation.

Purkis-Brash brings a wealth of pasto-

ral experience and a passion for outreach and mission. The position will spearhead a new department that oversees four people and helps GNJ become more regenerative in terms of funding mission particularly as our churches engage in developing Hope Centers and other community mission initiatives.

Purkis-Brash has served in ministry at Princeton UMC since 2008 and initiated the Cornerstone Community Kitchen (CCK) and Feed Truck Café. She currently serves as Circuit Elder on the Capital District, as a candidacy and clergy mentor, and on the Board of Directors for CCK, The Feed Truck, and United Methodist Communities.

"I'm very excited about this position," said Purkis-Brash. "I look forward to meeting with congregations and pastors to offer them the opportunity to join the Stewardship Foundation and be a part of the new thing that God is doing in GNJ as we partner together to birth new ministries."

Ed Bowen, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, said in announcement to the Foundation Board, "It's really a pleasure to have Jana onboard. She's led congregations, managed stewardship campaigns and has been in many leadership positions that have involved raising funds for capital campaigns. She has dedicated her life in the witness and



Jana Purkis-Brash

ministry of Christ since the early age of 13. Her strong leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills equip her to lead the Foundation into the next phase of growth."

Bishop Schol expressed his support for Purkis-Brash saying, "Jana's pastoral and executive leadership experience will be sure to serve the Stewardship Foundation and GNJ well."

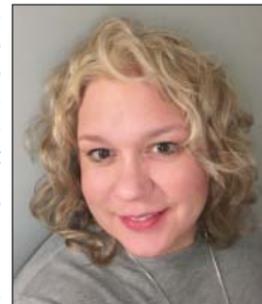
Married to Donald Brash, a professor at Palmer Theological School, the couple have one daughter, Leah, and two grandchildren. Brash enjoys days at the Jersey Shore, cooking, walking along the D&R canal trail, and adventures with her grandchildren.

Additionally, a Stewardship Director is sought to work in consultation with Connectional Ministries Team to help pastors and lay leadership grow financial resources and increase transformational leaders, disciple making, congregational vitality and community development. The director will act as a liaison between the Stewardship Foundation and Connectional Ministries Team, leading and inspiring the biblical and theological understanding of giving. To find out more about this position, visit [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org)

### Nelson will take on the new position of Director of Leadership Development

Tasked with leading and inspiring biblical and theological understanding of leadership and increasing the skills and number of apostolic transformational leaders within GNJ, the Director of Leadership Development position has been discussed and contemplated by lay and clergy leaders for several years to meet growing needs.

"Juel is really going to enable us to focus on the types of pastoral leaders that will be needed for the future," said Rev. Tom Korkuch, Board of Or-



Juel Nelson

dnained Ministries Chair and Senior Pastor of Archer UMC in Allendale. He continued, "This position will allow us to focus on the importance of finding and developing pastoral leadership for the immediate future. I find Juel to be dependable, with a terrific work ethic. She's thoughtful and capable of thinking outside the box."

Nelson will work with the Boards of Laity and Ordained Ministry, Connectional Ministries Team, and Regional Teams to ensure GNJ is recruiting and equipping transformational, apostolic leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations for world transformation.

"This position holds great opportunities for laity and clergy," said Rosa Williams, GNJ's Lay Leader and Board of Laity Chair. "I am excited for the future and to dip into the untapped gifts of laity for ministry at our local churches. I believe and dream of laity equipped to do ministry and partner with our clergy, which will bring new excitement and disciple making to our churches. We cannot develop transformational clergy leaders without developing transformational lay leadership equipped to do ministry. This position provides means to look at our

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## Eric Drew Launches New Sound for Wesleyans

By Josh Kinney  
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A new Wesleyan centered album and resource kit will launch this May with plans to ignite momentum and worship revival within the United Methodist Church. Eric Drew, Director of Worship, wrote and performed the music in the project titled, "Center of it All" and hopes it will blaze the path for what Methodist worship could be.

"We inherit a tradition of song writing greater than anyone else," said Drew, referencing Charles Wesley and the famous hymns that have come out of United Methodism. "But over the last twenty

years or so the worship wars have got us doing more criticizing than creating."

The album, birthed out of a heart for creating a new and different sound, seeks to address what the Wesleyan world has to say in regard to worship, with songs driven specifically by Methodist theology.

Drew hopes the project will offer powerful, catchy and meaningful songs as an alternative to vetting existing Christian worship music for theological alignment.

Within many Christian churches, worship leaders and congregants are writing their own worship songs that tell the faith journey of their congregations. Some

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Eric Drew, GNJ Director of Worship, will release a full-length Wesleyan inspired worship album as part of his 'Center of it All' project. Photo by Josh Kinney

## 'Rise Against Hunger' in Wildwood



GNJ volunteers will help pack 30,000 meals for the nonprofit group 'Rise Against Hunger' at the 2017 GNJ Annual Conference. Photo by Shari DeAngelo

By Josh Kinney  
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Ending hunger in our lifetime might seem like a bold feat but for the organizers behind 'Rise Against Hunger' taking a stab at it is a calling.

Formerly known as 'Stop Hunger Now' the rebranded nonprofit will give Annual Conference attendees the opportunity to help package thousands of meals to be shipped to the world's most vulnerable. Last year, Annual Conference participants packaged 30,000 meals in a little over an hour, providing life-changing aid by creating a global commitment to mobilize necessary resources.

On Monday, May 22 at 3:45 p.m. at the Wildwoods Convention Center in

Wildwood, Annual Conference attendees will be joining forces with 'Rise Against Hunger' as well as local churches, groups, and individuals from the Wildwood and Cape May County community to systematically package meals together to help feed thousands. For the fifth year in a row, at least 100 participants from GNJ have come together to prepare 30,000 meals.

"It's a demonstration of the United Methodist Church vision to end hunger," said Rosa Williams, GNJ Lay Leader and Board of Laity Chair. "The volunteers at this event come charged up and ready to work and I have heard from participants that besides learning what is going on in the General Church, this is one of the

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## A Message from the Bishop



***We have a future - Part 4***  
***I see a 20 to 50-year view of GNJ,***  
***and I am encouraged.***

When visiting our daughter Kristin in Washington, D.C., Beverly and I like to attend her church. In February, during the opening hymn, a three-year-old walked up to the pulpit area and approached the pastor with her arms wide open. The pastor stooped down and received a big

hug. During the children's sermon, two choir members acted out a scene they had made up and all the children laughed. A member of the church shared his testimony. Two years ago he tried a number of churches and decided on this church because of their shower and housing ministry with the homeless. The last song was one the congregation didn't know and barely sang but when it ended, the pastor said, "For not knowing that hymn, you did a great job." I left feeling joyful and challenged, hopeful and concerned, embraced and sent forth for a mission. Vital Mission Congregations create experiences like this.

This is the fourth in a five-part series on building and growing a regenerative GNJ that is constantly generating:

- Passionate faith
- Transformative leaders
- Vital mission congregations
- Money, and lots of it, for mission

Vital Mission Congregations focus on five ministries almost with equal intensity:

1. Inspiring disciples in worship
2. Making new disciples
3. Involving disciples in small groups
4. Engaging disciples in hands-on community mission
5. Inspiring disciples to give generously to mission

The church I described to you did not look like this eight years ago. It was a struggling urban congregation with a little over 20 worshipers. They lacked what vital mission congregations have: vision, energy, joy and a clear, compelling mission. Today this church has over 150 worshipers and it is not unusual for children to come up to the pulpit and hug the pastor or for parishioners to witness how the mission of the congregation captivated them.

Vitality begins with a compelling mission which starts with the question, "Why do we exist?" If your answer begins and ends with "to serve the people in the pews", your mission will never compel or captivate new people. Captivating mission is a description of what the church is doing with others outside the congregation.

Vitality is launched by an exciting vision. The pastor opened the worship with words of not only who the congregation was but who they were becoming. Everyone was not only welcomed, but inspired to feel that they were an important part of who the congregation was becoming, even visitors. The pastor communicated several times during the worship that "we can't do the mission and ministry without you." She cast a vision of not only the congregation but what one's life could become in light of the Gospel. People had a vision of who the congregation was becoming, their part in the vision and that there was a vision for their own life in this ministry.

Vitality is sustained through joy that is made known by a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The joy of Christ was made known in the three-year-old's hug, two choir members "clowning around" and a member's testimony of what it meant to experience God through this congregation. Joy is contagious and it is the leaders of the church who spread joy throughout the congregation by being joyous. Joy can even come forth from singing a song you do not know.

Vital congregations give almost equal attention to worship, new disciples, small groups, mission engagement and generous giving. These five take flight through a compelling mission, an exciting vision and contagious joy.

GNJ has made strong improvements in the quality of vitality within congregations and with the number of highly vital congregations. We began with 14% highly vital congregations and wanted to reach 41% by 2018. We are at more than 32% and well on our way. I hear stories from congregations of compelling mission in the community, emerging vision and newfound joy in the ministry of the congregation. God has a great future for us as we regenerate vital mission congregations.

Keep the faith!

John

John Schol, Bishop  
 The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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- The Hard Questions: Doing Theology Online | Featuring Regina Heater
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# THE RELAY

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**The April 2017 Issue Deadline**  
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# Youth Leaders Inspired and Equipped at IGNITE Training Conference



Youth leaders explored a variety of informative and inspiring workshops at the first ever IGNITE Youth Leaders Day held on Feb. 11 at Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick. Photo by Rev. Melissa Hinnen

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen

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With shouts of “Amen,” songs of praise, prayers for unity, and a sense of expectation, more than 150 youth leaders from 63 churches gathered at Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick on Feb. 11.



The event was the first ever GNJ produced IGNITE youth leaders training event. “The success of IGNITE is only as successful as our youth ministries,” Bishop John Schol said, thanking attendees and presenters for their work with youth. “I believe the church’s future is going to be through our students.” He continued, “God is going to do that because God is using you.”

Participants were exposed to a wide range of expertise from the opening praise band, “Arise” comprised of youth and young adults who lead worship at the Greenhouse church plant, to speakers, researchers, pastors, professors, authors, and scholars.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean noted, “If our faith looks exactly like everyone else’s we are missing something.” She encouraged youth leaders to examine if their ministries are colonized by “moralistic therapeutic deism,” what she described as a “be good and nice, feel good about yourself, self-centered religion that is masked as Christianity.” Dean, who is a professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, warned that self-centered ministry puts God in the background as wallpaper instead of at the forefront of faith. She encouraged leaders to challenge young people with a higher standard and to invest in the faith of the parents who love their children.

Dean emphasized that leaders must be willing to step out in faith and take chances. Quoting the snowman, Olaf, from the Disney film ‘Frozen,’ she said, “Some people are worth melting for.” She continued, “God thinks we are worth melting for. Someone’s heart melted for us and led him or her to disciple us. Who is worth it to you to melt for?”

Dismissing the stereotype that teenagers are not articulate, Dean pointed out teens are articulate about their passions like music, pop culture and school. The church can ignite young people with a passion for Christ while helping them find the words and actions to articulate their faith.

## The Intersection of Hip-Hop Culture and Christian Ministry

Kermit Moss, a Ph.D. student in the

area of Practical Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, helped attendees further explore the intersection of pop culture and church. In a session called, “Hip-Hop Youth Ministry” he explained that in many communities, Hip-hop is perceived as more authentic and life-affirming than the Christian church.

Hip-hop culture forms identity by starting as imitation but it becomes real as it is practiced. It is inclusive and builds community in three-minute “battles” that form organically in any space that people gather. Because it is youth led, according to Moss, it never dies because as people get older they are committed to mentoring the next generation.

Explaining that the church in the U.S. falls short of these pillars, Moss said young people often feel alienated. He suggested that principles, like restoring brokenness through storytelling and creating flexible practices that forge relationship, are at the heart of Christianity. Churches who are willing to engage in this way build trust, give voice and allow passionate, creative energy to grow. Youth leaders who recognize the value of hip-hop culture, use language that is meaningful to young people and provide resources and commentaries so that they can question and grapple with Scripture.

## Question-Based Curriculum and Other Positive Confirmation Class Practices

Kate Unruh agrees that young people are theologians who need “safe places to ask heretical questions.” A doctoral candidate in Education and Formation at Princeton Theological Seminary, Unruh’s research shows that a confirmation class curriculum that is guided by student questions is a common theme in positive experiences. “Our goal for them is to know Christ, not just answer questions on a test,” she explained in a breakout session called, “How Not to Suck at Confirmation.”

Unruh said that students want to learn about the Bible, miracles, the meaning of life, and how to be justice builders. “They are seeking deep responses to their deep questions,” she said. “They are curious to know who Jesus is and why he matters.”

Other factors in successful confirmation classes include a strong leadership team, establishing high expectations, including the parents and nurturing relationships, and developing a curriculum that appropriately contextualizes the congregation.

## How to Start a Youth Group

Many of those who attended the one-day IGNITE training event are in the beginning stages of building a youth-centered ministry. This was evidenced by the standing room only workshop, “Start-

ing a Youth Ministry From Scratch” led by Rev. Blair Goold. Echoing many of the ideas of relationship, identity, and deep conversations, he outlined important factors in starting a youth group: prayer, people over program, perseverance, and process.

Goold modeled a youth group gathering at Island Heights UMC where he is the pastor. He organized chairs in a circle and passed around a lit “sharing candle” to indicate whose turn it was to share.

Describing his experience of starting a youth ministry with just two participants including his daughter, he emphasized the need for patient persistence. It took his wife and him five years to grow the ministry into two full thriving youth groups with 5-13 middle and high school students.

“Personal relationship building and extending invitations to each child help develop trust and authentic connections. Praying for the ministry and each of the youth by name opens the leaders to God’s vision for the youth group and keeps the leadership grounded in his or her own faith,” said, Goold.

Integrating scripture and Bible study in the ministry without using that language, helps the students understand the church is a place that is different from the outside world. Learning new Bible stories not regularly taught in children’s Sunday school that they can relate to their lives gives them a tool to explore the depth of Christianity.

Goold reminded the group, “Developing a youth ministry is a marathon, not a sprint.” As they establish a covenant and friendships in youth group, Goold said

that putting people ahead of program sets up a dynamic that is reflected when they are outside of the group. Meeting consistently from week to week, leaders will find that students begin to gravitate to it even if they are not youth from the church. “It is an alternative fact that there are not children in our communities,” he said. “They just have not found you yet. Be patient.”

“Team Vital markers help the youth group develop a strong foundational process,” Goold continued. One of these markers is engaging in mission. Youth want to be hands on in their contributions. Mission work provides opportunities for youth to make a difference in the world. They experience the joy of giving their time to help others. Every month they can engage in a project that connects them with the congregation and the community.

“Finally,” Goold said, “be sure to identify emerging leadership among the teenagers. Each one has gifts that they bring to the group dynamic, and a strong youth minister will nurture those qualities.” Echoing Moss’ experience with hip-hop culture, Goold stressed the importance of mentoring and youth leadership. “Train youth leaders alongside you. Empower them to lead meetings and make decisions.”

Motivational speaker, Preston Centuolo closed the day of training with humor and insight. “If we are gonna lead youth, we need to get on the ball. The movement starts within,” he said. “God is calling you into this. It doesn’t matter how you start. It’s how you finish.”

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# Apostles in our Midst: Rev. Ivan Alberts and Christ UMC, Jersey City A 2017 Series on Apostolic Leadership in GNJ

**Mission:** Christ Church in Jersey City sits in the heart of the Journal Square, a central point in a city that is in the midst of a revival and yet faces the challenges of poverty, homelessness and housing. The congregation, which had been declining in numbers, began having conversations about how to be fruitful, what their future held and how they could be in ministry with the challenges facing their community.

Christ UMC starting working with Jersey City Together, an organization of 30 multi-faith churches, developing leaders, strengthening communities, and working for justice, to help them continue their conversation. With the guidance and leadership of Pastor Ivan Alberts, the church started to explore how they could use their 92-year-old facility to further their mission to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of their city. The conversation grew into a plan. One of their greatest assets was their building. Maintenance of the building was also one of their burdens. The beautiful church building had served the body of Christ well through the years but needed expensive repair and a commitment to ongoing maintenance. With



**Rev. Ivan Alberts of Christ UMC in Jersey City.** Photo by Josh Kinney

the congregation's decreasing numbers, mounting debt, and financial struggles, the forward-thinking congregation held strongly to the idea that they had been called for "such a time as this" to change their city for Christ.

They decided to use their property to construct a new facility in place of the church and create a new, modern, multipurpose space for the congregation which would include a place of worship, daycare and programming space for mis-

sion. They are turning their burden into a place of strength so the congregation can flourish with new opportunities. Alberts' leadership and encouragement is making this transformation possible.

"Life is not without its trials and difficulties, it is a never-ending journey," said Alberts. "Sometimes we have to stop and pause and let God be."

**Apostle:** Rev. Ivan Alberts was born in the small scenic town of Madikeri, India. He felt a calling toward pastoral ministry at age nine. Influential pastors in his community helped pave the road for Alberts' inspiration and ministry. He completed his undergrad and joined the seminary, completing a theological degree. Later he was appointed to serve a church in the vast, cosmopolitan city of Mumbai.

Alberts worked as the librarian at the Karnataka Theological Seminary where he also earned his Master's in Theology. At that time, he was appointed to take up honorary service at St. Paul's Church,

an English-speaking congregation. At first, he was reluctant, but recognized God's calling and stepped out in faith and trust. During that time, he met his wife Elveera, was married, and had their first child. After their second child, the couple immigrated to the U.S. where Alberts earned another Masters in Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary and then continued his education at Boston University.

Despite several years of financial hardships and uncertainty, Alberts faith was stretched and refined. He was offered a part-time appointment in South Boston before moving to rural eastern Pennsylvania. From there, Alberts and his family moved to Jersey City in 2012.

"It was a transition of enormous proportion," said Alberts, moving from a laid back countryside to a bustling city. Soon, Alberts would make new friends and shepherd the multicultural and multiethnic Christ UMC church family.

## Eric Drew Launches New Sound



**GNJ Director of Worship Eric Drew previews his original worship songs inside the studio at the Mission and Resource Center.** Photo by Josh Kinney

Continued from page 1

United Methodist churches in GNJ are starting to do likewise.

"This is a movement that's happening and I don't want us to miss it," said Drew. "What does it look like for us as United Methodists to offer a voice? Let's create and have something to contribute."

Fueled by what United Methodists believe and how that's expressed, the album is also strongly shaped by Drew's personal faith experience in 2016.

"These are real songs expressing Wesleyan theology with a new sound," said Drew. "Some are meant to express more emotion; showcasing the highs and lows we experience in our faith."

Lay leader John Mulhern at Trinity UMC in Ventnor produces jazz music at his church's professional studio. He became an adviser and close friend of Drew throughout the process.

Kurtis Parks, Worship Director of National Community Church in Washington, D.C., produced the album, working closely with Drew on the "Center of it All" project. Parks, who was the keynote speaker at last year's Central Region Day of Learning Doxology Worship Conference, coached Drew on the next steps and finances necessary to bring the project to life. Parks' worship team is made up of 150 singers and musicians who travel to churches and conferences sharing their vision to see "global revival through personal worship." With a desire to see passionate worship emerge in churches, Parks coached Drew who wrote up a proposal of the project's broad and far-reaching vision.

Bishop Schol, who has encouraged the cultivation of risk-taking and innova-

tive ministry to engage churches in new ways, expressed great support for the project.

Understanding that this album would have great impact throughout the conference, Drew applied for and received a GNJ ministry grant to help bring the project to fruition. As part of the grant agreement, GNJ churches will be able to download the sheet music for free to use in worship and 50% of all sales of the album will go toward the Mission Fund. The other 50% of sales will go to creative worship projects, supporting the innovative endeavors of other United Methodist worship song writers and musicians.

"I'm grateful for GNJ leadership engaging the next generation," said Drew, who works alongside an accountability team made up of a District Superintendent, GNJ staff, laity, and clergy to set goals and timelines.

The project includes the full-length worship album and free downloadable digital resources and sheet music for church worship teams.

"The idea here is to give the United Methodist Church as a whole a new sound for Wesleyan theology that churches can learn and use," said Drew. After the album's release, he plans on embarking on a traveling 'Night of Worship' where churches can book 'The Center of it All' worship experience and come together for a night dedicated to praise and meaningful prayer.

More information about the launch and availability of downloads will be provided on the GNJ website and in the weekly GNJ e-newsletter, The Digest, as it becomes available. Visit [www.EricDrewMusic.com](http://www.EricDrewMusic.com) to learn more.



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# Coffeehouse Ministry Brews in Moorestown

By Denise Herschel  
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On the first Friday of the month, from October through June, the capacity for a standing-room-only crowd is the typical standard at the Grounds for Good Coffeehouse in Moorestown. There, an average of 80 to 100 people gather to listen to live music, enjoy a fresh cup of brewed coffee, and chat with new friends. What began nine years ago as a small, humble congregation of approximately 25 people has grown tremendously almost a decade later; occasionally swelling to more than 200.

The coffeehouse, a component of the outreach ministry at First UMC of Moorestown, officially entered its ninth season this past October and for Jay and Kathy Appleton, church members and two of the coffeehouse's earliest supporters, the success of Grounds for Good Coffeehouse is sweet music to their own ears.

"Kathy and I were part of a group that saw a need to more effectively reach into the community; to provide meaningful support to worthy non-profit organizations and to create a performance and exhibition venue for the great musicians and artists in our region," he said. "Our beginnings were rather humble - we set up tables in the fellowship hall of the church, brewed some coffee, and invited a few different local musicians, including young people from our church to play. We selected a local organization to support, Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development, an affordable housing developer, and welcomed about 25 people to the opening night. I think we raised about \$100.00."

But over the course of several years, Appleton said that "it has grown to the point where we typically have about 80 to 100 people in attendance, not counting musicians, artists, and staff. Our February coffeehouse brought about 150, and we have had over 200 at times."

Appleton, who participates in the leadership of the church's music program and serves as host of the coffeehouse, called the "free-standing" coffeehouse a "casual gathering of friends in an informal setting that offers live music, art exhibits, and of course - coffee and snacks." Each coffeehouse session is a fundraising effort for a particular mission or charitable organization. Past beneficiaries include the Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development (MEND), The Saints Prison Ministry, and the Angel Tree Christmas.

"Our initial mission when starting the coffeehouse was to provide an environment that facilitated relaxed interaction among those in attendance as an opportunity to relax at the end of the week and a way to provide some financial support for local charitable organizations," he said. "As we have grown, identifying and supporting 'embedded' and effective community missions is our primary focus. We are very intentional about identifying groups that are sustainable in their 'business model' and that serve critical needs of their target population."

Appleton continued, "This includes basic necessities like food, shelter, children and adults with special needs, public health and education. Our community includes Moorestown but extends to nearby urban areas such as Camden and as far as Ghana, Haiti, and Guatemala. Support is provided strictly by the donations offered by our patrons - they get it, and they are generous. The mission of Grounds for Good is to support 'grassroots' non-profit organizations that are serving the needs of challenged members of the community. The organizations that receive support include those providing food, water and sanitation, education and other necessities of life."

Music ranges from acoustic singer-songwriter performances to full-out bands playing a range of music from contemporary Christian to jazz, folk and light rock. Each month includes an exhibition of the work of local artisans such as potters, weavers, quilters, and glass artists. Their work is typically available for sale to coffeehouse patrons. Coffee and tea are available free of charge and other beverages, as well as freshly-baked cakes, pies, and pastries, donated by various church ministry groups, can be purchased throughout the evening.

"Speaking as one who really enjoys his coffee, I can honestly say that our freshly brewed coffee is pretty good! When we started the coffeehouse, we charged an admission fee of \$5.00. After a couple of years, we sensed that might be a barrier to entry for some, so we eliminated the admission fee, and we now generate revenue for the organizations we support completely from free will donations from patrons," Appleton said.

He added, "The folks who attend have been tremendously generous, and more than \$30,000 in financial support has been raised for beneficiaries since the inception of the mission. Folks tell us they enjoy the coffeehouse because it's an opportunity to relax with old friends, make new ones and enjoy great music and art. Those who attend are also quite interested in the organizations we support and sometimes extend their support to personal involvement on an ongoing basis."

The coffeehouse is operated completely by a dedicated group of volunteers who faithfully work the kitchen, handle sound and lighting, set up and break down tables and chairs and coordinate marketing communications. As attendance for Grounds for Good Coffeehouse continues to grow, Appleton said his future hope for this important ministry is "to welcome more guests and especially to provide more support to more organizations."

The coffeehouse meets in Fellowship Hall at First UMC of Moorestown, 446 Camden Avenue in Moorestown, N.J. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and music begins at 8 p.m. Contact church@meetwithGod.com for more information or to learn more about participating as a musician or visual artist.

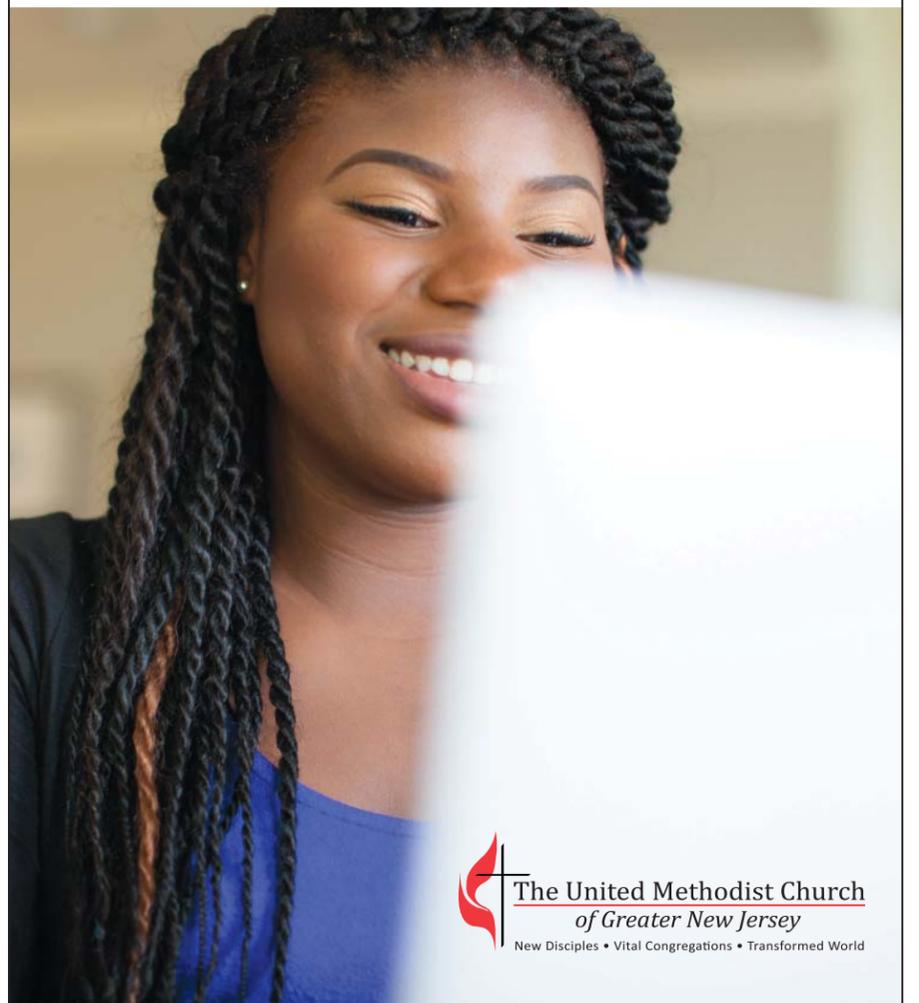


The Grounds for Good Coffeehouse at First UMC of Moorestown is pouring into their community through more than just fresh coffee. Photo provided

## NEED INSPIRATION?

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A packed house listens to live music at First UMC of Moorestown's popular and growing coffeehouse ministry. Photo provided

# Update from "Survivor": Wahl Talks Faith and Strategy

By Kayla Harrison  
5loaves2fish73@gmail.com

Living on an island, competing for \$1,000,000 through vigorous challenges, was high schooler, Will Wahl (18) of Trinity UMC in Hackettstown.

Wahl was the youngest contestant ever to be on the CBS show, "Survivor." Having always wanted to be on the show since he first watched in 2011, he believes it was made for him, as it "tests the human spirit in a way that no other competition can."

On the show "Survivor," there are extreme challenges that test physical and mental strength. Wahl fought hard, gained respect for himself throughout the show, and survived for 34 days on the island. Wahl explained that survival was the toughest aspect of the show. He mentioned that it got to a point where even moving and talking became a struggle and he began slurring his speech, finding it difficult to move about the camp.

Being a contestant of faith, Wahl relied on his trust in God to get him through hard times during the competition. He said that Jesus was his constant companion out there, and he would have been lost without his faith.

Faith was openly discussed on the Millennial tribe. They prayed before challenges, and anyone who wasn't a Christian was accepting of the religious beliefs of others. The relationships built on the show are still intact, and Wahl



Will Wahl, 18, of Trinity UMC in Hackettstown became the youngest contestant to ever compete on the CBS reality show, Survivor. Photo provided

remains close with his tribe members.

For Wahl, the best part was playing the game as a dream come true, enjoying every moment, whether good or bad. Throughout the best and worst parts of the show, Wahl learned about determination. Winning the first immunity challenge

by holding up a bar for over 90 minutes was a perfect example and a memory he treasures. Wahl never thought he would be able to accomplish such a goal, let alone compete on Survivor; yet, he did both.

To anyone looking to compete on the

show, Wahl advised: "Never give up. Getting on the show seems impossible, but I can assure you it's not. If your video is interesting enough, and if you get a little lucky, then maybe you can find yourself surviving on an island someday."

For Wahl, putting faith and strategy together got him further than he'd ever dreamed. He hopes to carry that lesson with him throughout life. Wahl became the youngest contestant, and although he didn't win, he accomplished something great by relying on a God who was greater.

Kayla Harrison is a member of St. John's UMC in Turnersville. She is following her dream of becoming a writer, while truly learning what it means to rely on God. Kayla also shares a passion for missions and reading the Word of God.



## Nelson, Brash Fill Key Roles

Continued from page 1

systems and processes, especially that of laity education and development."

Bishop Schol said that, "Juel herself is an apostolic leader growing the worship, new disciples, ministry and finances of each church she has led. She brings an innovative spirit and a belief in people's desire and ability to grow their leadership."

A passionate disciple who believes that recruitment and leadership development of clergy and laity is essential for the growth of vital congregations, Nelson is an apostolic leader who supports and encourages others to live into God's greater vision. Nelson holds a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a B.A. from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She has been blessed to serve Succasunna UMC, Franklin Lakes UMC and Dingmans Ferry UMC and is currently on the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry as the Candidacy Mentor Registrar.

"Leadership development was the

heartbeat of Jesus' ministry," Nelson said. "From calling to equipping, empowering to sending, Jesus was focused on seeking and saving the lost, and recruiting and developing leaders who would do the same."

Nelson expressed enthusiasm to work with clergy and laity to develop and grow apostolic leaders within GNJ.

"The world is summoning leaders of today to engage in a new way of thinking," said Nelson, who believes the world is changing at a rapid pace in which learning a new skill is not enough. She continued, "At one time church leaders were taught to lead by following great preachers, implementing others' successful programs, and caring primarily for the flock that attend on Sundays. Now we must collaborate with those within and beyond the church to brave new trails, experiment with new approaches, and be resilient in failure. This type of leadership development calls for innovation, new ways of thinking and learning. What will they be? Let's find out together."



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**The April 2017 Issue Deadline is March 23, 2017**

### STEPHEN MINISTRY INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS

Saturday, April 29, 2017 | 9:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church | 555 Russell Ave. Wyckoff, NJ

- Session 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Session 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry
- Session 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

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For more information about Stephen Ministries: [goo.gl/1aBRZi](http://goo.gl/1aBRZi)

Cost: \$15 person or \$50 for a group of 4 or more  
Check in, registration and light breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.  
For more info call: 201.891.4595



Register Online at: [goo.gl/9YvhYH](http://goo.gl/9YvhYH)

# Princeton Café Ministry Reaches Young Adults, Students and Community

By Denise Herschel  
Nj6pack@yahoo.com

What initially opened for Princeton University students as a night-owl operation has quickly become a welcoming place for not only undergraduates and graduates, but the community at large.

Everyone is welcome at The Feed Truck Cafe, according to Erik "Skitch" Matson, Wesley Foundation Director at Princeton University and Youth Pastor at Princeton UMC. The Cafe, a project of Feed Truck Ministries Inc., a Christian non-profit organization, in cooperation with Kingston UMC and supported by GNJ along with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC, is an extension of The Feed Truck ministry that exists to foster spiritual engagement and a love of neighbor among young adults in Central New Jersey, particularly on or around the college campuses of Mercer County.

Housed within Princeton UMC, The Feed Truck Cafe is located across the street from Princeton University in the heart of the town's downtown.

Hot coffee, cold brewed coffee, espresso drinks and bakery items from local businesses are just some of the items on the menu. At The Feed Truck Cafe, Matson said, "We want to provide a place of sanctuary for students where they can thrive academically, socially, and spiritually."

"Not only is The Cafe located literally in a church sanctuary, we want the cafe to be a place of sanctuary in the sense that it is a safe place where people are able to be exactly who they are, with no strings attached, and know that they are loved and valued," he said. "By opening our doors on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, we are providing an alcohol-free space for the community to engage in relationships as well as an anxiety-free space for students to study for finals."

Matson added that on a typical night at The Cafe, there are Princeton University students, Princeton Theological Seminary students, Westminster Choir College students, church members and local community members.

"We have had a Bible study going on in one corner, while final papers were furiously written in the other corner," he added.

The Feed Truck Cafe started as a conversation between key players in the United Methodist Church around the Princeton area. Because Princeton UMC's building is directly across from campus, there were hopes to engage more students in the local church and to increase the revenue of The Feed Truck during the times it went into "hibernation;" the winter months.

Support for the project came from Greater New Jersey, Kingston UMC, The Feed Truck and the Wesley Foundation at Princeton University.

According to Matson, there are other cafes in the United States, such as the Princeton one, but none that "we know of in New Jersey."

"California, Texas, and Florida have had flourishing cafes in churches that create welcoming environments for young adults and others. While we aren't new to the national scene, we believe we are the first of hopefully many similar endeavors in Greater New Jersey," Matson said.

The missional outreach projects of The Feed Truck Ministries, Inc. are typically built on three pillars - food, work, and neighbor. The pilot project, The Feed Truck, based at Kingston UMC, is a vehicle for ministry to and with young adults in the Kingston/Princeton area. The Feed Truck Cafe, located at Princeton UMC in downtown Princeton, is a pop-up cafe founded on the same three pillars, according to Matson, but specifically geared toward the students of Princeton University who live just across the street.

Matson, who said he has worked in camp, college, and youth ministry during the past ten years, "has had engagement with many young people across the country."

"Just about every church is wondering how to get young people into the pews on Sunday mornings and how to connect with the local community to make sure that others know the church is present for and with the community. The Cafe is



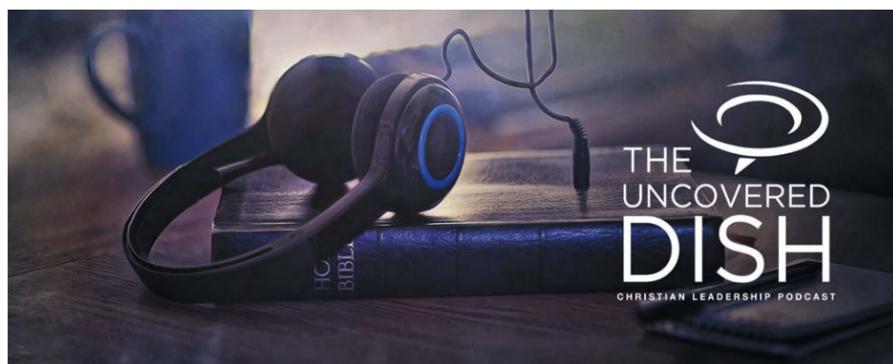
The Feed Truck Café exists to foster spiritual engagement and a love of neighbor among young adults in Central New Jersey, particularly on or around the college campuses of Mercer County. Photo provided

seeking to connect with both of these," Matson said. "While we don't expect that every young person who walks into The Feed Truck Cafe will automatically show up at church on Sunday mornings, we do know that by creating a warm,

welcoming and safe environment that is housed within the church, we are creating a connection for that person that tells them they are loved and welcomed in this place.



The Feed Truck Café is an extension of The Feed Truck ministry housed within Princeton UMC. Photo provided



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## 'Rise Against Hunger' in Wildwood

Continued from page 1

events that keep them coming back each year to be a part of something that is bigger than one person, and takes many hands to make."



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2016 statistics indicate 792.5 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life. The World Food Programme states that 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world.

In 1998, Rev. Ray Buchanan, a United Methodist minister, envisioned a world without hunger and founded the organization. According to Rise Against Hunger's website, the organization's approach to ending hunger centers on "mobilizing a global network of hunger champions." Meal packaging volunteers produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world who are best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise.

Through Rise Against Hunger's monitoring and evaluation process, the organization ensures the meals distributed by partnering countries are used as a tool to change lives by promoting education,

improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor.

"Ministry with the poor and global health are two of the four areas of focus in the United Methodist Church and GNJ," said Rev. Hector Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries. "The Rise Against Hunger mission project we host at the Annual Conference session not only allows our clergy and lay leaders an opportunity for hands on service preparing nutritious meals that are later distributed around the world, the experience also educates participants around the root causes of hunger and helps them imagine new ways to be in mission in their local communities and around the world."

Last year, GNJ's 30,000 packaged meals were shipped in a container totaling 278,208 meals from the organization's Philadelphia warehouse. The meals went on to impact thousands across the world.

GNJ is proud to partner with an organization that recognizes ending hunger is more than just feeding people but also expanding hunger-fighting programs beyond meal packaging and distribution to innovative, regenerative mission and education.

"We are able to reach so many people in the two hours that we come together for this missional activity," said Williams.

Those who are not attending Annual Conference are also invited to take part in the meal-packaging event, which welcomes youth involvement.

## UMVIM Team Brings Clean Water and Hope to Rural Haitian Community

By Brittany Rusk  
Brusk08@gmail.com

Isaiah 6:8: "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Six volunteers from GNJ answered God's call and embarked on a mission to Haiti from January 7-14. The goal was to distribute 100 water filters to people in the mountainous rural community of Furcy, provide a Vacation Bible School for the children and meet as many needs as possible. The team members came from different towns, backgrounds and

On the third day of distribution, one small congregation walked through the mountains after two straight days of torrential rains for six hours one way, starting at 2:30 a.m., with their pastor to receive their filters. Several in the group were children, who along with adults, were trained on how to use the filters. Many parents of the children were farmers who had to work in the fields and were unable to make the journey. Additionally, some suffered from cholera, an often fatal water-borne disease.

The GNJ volunteers collected 149 pairs of shoes to distribute to the people who had walked so far to receive their



The GNJ volunteers answered God's call to Haiti and came together from different towns, backgrounds and life experiences; each bringing a different expectation and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones to bless others. Photo by Brittany Rusk



Community members sat through 90-minute lessons on what contaminates spring and river water, and how bacteria and other contaminants can cause serious health problems. Photo by Brittany Rusk

life experiences; each bringing a different expectation for the trip.

"I went to Haiti not only to help people but because I wanted to find hope in the world again," said Brittany Rusk of Trinity UMC in Gloucester City. "It's hard when you look around, and things seem to be falling apart – death, sadness, hate, oppression, violence. I felt that while love may be the greatest commandment, the loudest voices weren't speaking it to neighbors. I believe we are called to love each other and show that love in tangible ways. My heart has always longed to show the world love through clean water, and this was my chance to do so."

For Rusk, hearing a call and answering it was humbling. She had ventured out on a couple of mission trips in the past. In Haiti, she stepped into uncertainty without fear and left feeling "truly blessed."

"I had a peace that while I had no idea how any of this was going to work, God was in control," she said.

The first day of water filtration training was met with a downpour. The team, concerned that no one would show up due to the weather, had arrived in Furcy the day before to bright sunshine and a bustling community. Townspeople assisted the missionaries down a steep mountain, carrying their luggage, boxes and water bottles on their heads. Furcy had experienced a three-month drought, which was devastating for the community of farmers.

"But we brought the rain," said Rusk. "Praise God for the downpour."

With the rain came red-clay mud. The dry, steep road the volunteers had gingerly made their way down the previous day was now a wet, slippery slope and the group couldn't fathom community members making it to the church for the water filtration training. However, in shoes inappropriate for the conditions, the people came, walking through the mud and rain because they knew the importance of having clean water.

Community members sat through a 90-minute lesson on what contaminates spring and river water, and how bacteria and other contaminants can cause serious health problems and even death. They heard from Haitian Project Coordinator Rodney Chanteur how to assemble the filters and keep water safe, properly washing hands and practicing safe hygiene. They watched as each member of the GNJ team took a gulp of clean, fresh water that moments before was a muddy orange.

The GNJ team provided 108 water filters so over 100 families could have clean water to drink, cook, and wash with.

water filters. All were fed with a large plate of spaghetti mixed with vegetables, which for many, was the only meal they had that day. A community meal was held at the Methodist Church where more than 300 people attended.

"It must have been what the disciples felt like when Jesus told them He would feed 5,000 people with just a few fishes and loaves," said Rusk.

Rice, small pieces of chicken, beans, and beet salad were spooned onto plates and passed from person to person until it landed on the lap of a hungry community member who wasted no time in filling their stomach with nourishment.

"Staring at these plates, I came to the realization that this might be their only meal of the day or longer," said Rusk. "I tried to pray for every plate I touched as I stood at the front of the assembly line. Sometimes love comes in the form of clean water and a plate of food."

With the help of a translator, the GNJ team organized a Vacation Bible School and craft activity for 150 children.

"To hear the voices singing the familiar tunes with words I cannot spell is a God moment," Rusk exclaimed. "We were speaking different languages, but we were saying the same things. We were worshipping the same God. 'Amazing Grace,' when sung in Creole, took on a new meaning for me. It was a beautiful cry of a community of people that on the surface, shouldn't have had anything to sing about."

Although the Haitians didn't have running water, electricity, sanitation, adequate food or water, access to education and employment, paved roads, pillows and mattresses, they sang of God's amazing grace.

GNJ thanks those who donated to the water filtration mission efforts. Kerri and Todd Greineder donated 26 pairs of new children's Nike sneakers. Janie Schildge, coordinator of the Red Bank Crop Walk, donated nearly 150 new t-shirts. Azura Ahmad collected gently used children's shoes from HUP and Whiting UMC UMW provided 100 pillowcase dresses for little girls. Additionally, Marie Andreen brought string for friendship bracelets and coloring books as well as medical items to leave with the nurse at the clinic. Marian and Gray Whetstone provided soccer balls, jump ropes, and craft supplies for the VBS and game day. Children at Linden UMC donated protein bars for the children in Haiti. Employees at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia also assisted in providing needs for the mission.

If you're interested in joining a future United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) trip to Haiti, please contact



GNJ volunteers distributed water filters to Haitians in rural mountainous communities from Jan. 7-14. Photo by Brittany Rusk

Kathy Ahmad at (732)865-3730 or email her at kahmad@comcast.net

Brittany Rusk is a lifelong United Methodist, currently attending Trinity UMC in Gloucester City. She has traveled to Africa three times on mission ser-

vice, and this was her first time in Haiti. She works at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as the Blood & Marrow Transplant Data Research Coordinator and lives in Mount Ephraim.

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# Annual Conference Awards Announced



**The Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award:  
Rick Krassow, Friendship UMC**

*Sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History to recognize the best overall church history within The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey this year.*

Rick Krassow is the historian of Friendship UMC in Monroeville. He spent more than 20 years researching and confirming the church's history, including an accurate list of the pastors appointed to the church and anticipates the celebration of the church's 250th anniversary in five years. Rick has been a member of the United Methodist Church for 30 years, serving on various committees and positions, teaching Sunday school and serving as lay speaker. He is the fourth generation of his family to attend Friendship Church.



**The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, Young Adult:  
Megan Gallagher, Jackson UMC**

*Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth pastor who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.*

A devoted Christ-follower, Gallagher will be graduating from Messiah College this spring with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She has used her gift of teaching at Jackson UMC where she has held leadership positions at summer Sunday school classes, VBS for seven years and summer camp programs for children in the community. Gallagher has served as one of the childcare providers at both Bishop's Clergy Convocation and Annual Conference for several years.



**The Multi-Media Church History Award:  
Marie Mahler, Midvale UMC**

*Sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History to recognize the best overall multi-media church history within The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey this year.*

Marie Mahler grew up in West Milford. She received a B.A. in Linguistics from Montclair State University and later attended the Latin American Institute in New York City, receiving a diploma for International Trade. She met her husband, Dan, after college. They settled in Wanaque, not far from where they both grew up and raised three children. Marie is a genealogy "fanatic." She has discovered that her father's people came to the U.S. in 1765 and that she has Methodist roots on both her mother's and father's side. Through doing genealogy, Marie has become involved in local history. She belongs to several historical societies and is the treasurer and historian for the Midvale UMC.



**Helen Alter Davidson Award: Fran Noll**

*Sponsored by the Commission on The Status and Role of Women (COSROW), to recognize a women who demonstrates vision, passion, resilience, sense of purpose, inclusiveness, perseverance, and a willingness to work with and stand for the status and role of women in ministry.*

Rev. Fran Lawrie Noll was the 13th woman ordained in GNJ. She was ordained a deacon in 1979 and an elder in 1982. She served churches in Buttzville, Free Union, First Church Arlington in Kearny, Archer UMC in Allendale, and Bishop Janes in Basking Ridge. She also served as Superintendent of the Northern Shore District. Noll is passionate about the homeless and those in need. She is a member of the Somerset County Food Bank and continues to serve the poor at food banks and soup kitchens. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.



**The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, Laity:  
Judy Colorado, Emanuel UMC**

*Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth pastor who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.*

Judy Colorado is a member of Springfield Emanuel UMC in Springfield. She grew up in the Philippines and was inspired by her family's faith heritage at a young age. A registered nurse, Colorado has been a respected lay leader in her congregation, serving as a role model for children, youth, young adults and elders through her transformational, servant leadership style that models Christ in her interactions with an inclusive, collaborative spirit. She is a member of the Connectional Table, the Board of Laity and the Council of Finance and administration. She is also serving as a lay delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conference.



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# GNJ Announcements

For weekly announcement, news, and information, please sign up for GNJ's e-newsletter, *The Digest*, at [GNJUMC.org](http://GNJUMC.org)

## Appointment Information

Each Sunday by 1:00 p.m., GNJ posts new clergy appointments on the GNJ website. Visit [GNJUMC.org](http://GNJUMC.org) to learn more about the clergy appointment process and resources.

## Display Table Registration Open

Registration is now open for display table space at the 2017 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. We welcome you to represent your ministry and encourage you to use this opportunity to outreach to the GNJ community with informative displays. Spaces will be granted in the order that they are received, however, UMC organizations take priority. Please register on GNJ's website by April 15 to ensure your space.

## Sanctuary Movement

In response to recent immigration concerns, Bishop Schol invites clergy who want to work with their congregations to become a Sanctuary Church or participate in other ministries to work with immigrants and refugees to please complete a form available at [gnjumc.org/sanctuary-movement](http://gnjumc.org/sanctuary-movement)

## Scholarship Opportunities

The GNJ Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is now accepting applications for the 2017 scholarship opportunities. A letter was mailed to each church and more information can be found on GNJ's website. The deadline to apply is March 31.

## Church Mutual Scholarships

You might be eligible to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship through Church Mutual. 50 scholarships will be awarded. Applications will be accepted through April 15. Visit GNJ's website for complete eligibility details and info.

# OBITUARIES

**Clara Thomas**, Retired Deacon, died Jan. 26. A funeral service was held on Jan. 31 at Glackin/Saul Funeral Home. Interment was followed at Colonial Memorial Park in Hamilton, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be made in Rev. Clara Thomas' memory to a United Methodist Church of your choice.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pamela Varone, 4186 Ashfield Place, Southport, NC 28461

**Bonnie E. Finch**, Spouse of Retired Elder Rev. David M. Finch, died on Feb. 17. A celebration of life took place on Feb. 25 at St. Paul's UMC in Wilmington, DE.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to St. Paul's UMC, 1314 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to David Finch, 204 Longmeadow Dr., Wilmington, DE 19801

**Lucile Sayre**, Spouse of Retired Elder Rev. Dr. Charles A. Sayre, died on Feb. 21. A celebration of life took place on Feb. 25 at Haddonfield UMC in Haddonfield, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to Haddonfield UMC, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Sayre Family, 340 Bellevue Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033

**Dawn Burton**, Widow of Rev. Charles Burton, Sr., died on Feb. 4. A celebration of life was held on Feb. 11 at Sicklerville UMC in Sicklerville, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to World Vision International. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Isaac Burton, 192 Heights Ave., West Berlin, NJ 08091

# Bridges Comes to Pitman What's Your End-of-Life Plan?

PITMAN, N.J. — Death in the American mind is something in the very distant future. Despite the fact that about half of adults say they have a friend or relative who has had a terminal illness or who has been in a coma within the last five years, only 30 percent have conversations with loved ones about their end-of-life wishes.

As a leading assisted living and nursing community in Gloucester County, United Methodist Communities at Pitman now offers another supportive option to people who cannot or prefer neither to receive hospice at home nor in the hospital. The newly-established Bridges at Pitman assists people to live out their last days with dignity and comfort.

Bridges has seven new hospice-dedicated studio apartments located in a private assisted living neighborhood. The environment has been designed for individuals facing terminal illness that no longer responds to curative treatment. Welcoming gathering spaces for families and friends and meaningful amenities such as customized dining, Wi-Fi, salon, gym, bistro, and elegant furnishings, enhance comfort.

A skilled, compassionate, multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals focus on bringing much-needed care and support to Bridges' residents, as well as to their loved ones. The expertise of the hospice team includes advanced, traditional and alternative therapies; 24-hour nursing oversight; medication management; certified caregivers; emotional and spiritual support; personal services; and palliative care for symptom management and pain control.

Pitman Executive Director, James Scalese, reflects, "We are very pleased to announce the inclusion of a hospice-dedicated program within our assisted living community. The apartments are designed to provide end-of-life care in a warm and supportive non-institutional environment."

Pitman is the third United Methodist Communities site to establish Bridges and follows sister campuses, United Methodist Communities at The Shores (Ocean City, NJ) and United Methodist Communities at Collingswood. For additional information, visit [UMCommunities.org/Pitman](http://UMCommunities.org/Pitman) or call Pam Mezis at 856-589-7800.



## THE WORK CONTINUES

A Future With Hope remains committed to the thousands of forgotten families working to get over the finish line following Superstorm Sandy. March and April volunteers include groups from:

AmeriCorps NCCC  
 Immanuel UMC - Camillus, NY  
 Karitas Foundation - Berwyn, PA  
 Kean University  
 Mission Task Force of Summerville - Rochester, NY  
 Montclair State University  
 Webster Presbyterian Church - Webster, NY  
 Williston Federated Church - Williston, VT

# THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU!

Don't miss out on making a difference in someone's life.

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**HOPE**  
 The People of the United Methodist Church

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