

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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No. 5

Drew Theological School is Partnering With United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

(Neptune, NJ) – Last week, in a joint announcement at the opening of a new Mission and Resource Center, Bishop John Schol of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey and Dean Javier Viera of Drew Theological School announced a new partnership between the two organizations.

“Today we announce that the Mission and Resource Center of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey will be a Drew satellite campus for Drew courses,” said Bishop Schol. “Our partnership with Drew University and in particular with the Theological School continues to grow and evolve.”

DREW

Drew University, located in Madison NJ, was founded as a seminary with Methodist roots in 1867. Today the University and its Theological School are world-class institutions noted for academic excellence, innovation and civic engagement.

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, which has 560 churches throughout the region, opened the Mission and Resource Center, a new facility in Neptune NJ that houses administrative offices and has more than 4,000 square feet of meeting space and a full service audio and video studio.



Photo by Seth Bechtold

This fall, Drew University will start offering courses to theological students at the Mission and Resource Center, a new facility opened by The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey in Neptune.

Schol said in his statement that the leaders of the church envisioned the new facility to serve as more than just office space, “The Mission and Resource Center will be a place of inspiration and learning for spiritual and community leaders

throughout the state, region and world.”

Holding classes at this new facility serves both organizations. The new facility in Neptune offers a second site for Drew that will provide easy access to central and southern NJ students and provides options for clergy and laity from the United Methodist Church for continued learning opportunities.

Drew Theological School Dean, The Reverend Dr. Javier Viera, shared his excitement about the possibilities that are opened by this partnership. “Our work together is not only about training clergy for the church. We want to also focus on offering educational opportunities to the laity. We also want to reach out to the growing Latino community throughout the state and strengthen our ministry and service together. The course offering this fall is just the beginning of what I know

will be a major and long-term partnership with the people of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.”

Viera has already started meeting with Hispanic leaders in the church to partner with Drew. “I’m excited about what it means. We are exploring the possibility of offering courses in Spanish to help equip the lay leadership of the church for service in their communities,” Viera said.

The first course in this partnership will be taught this fall by Dr. Virginia Samuel Cetuk, Associate Dean for Contextual Learning. “The Landscape of Loss will help students understand the gift of life, and the attending grief related to multiple kinds of loss. The course will draw upon the resources of the Judeo-Christian heritage to assist people to adapt and embrace the abundant life offered by Jesus Christ,” said Cetuk.

Recognizing Mission Fund Giving from Congregations



Photo by Seth Bechtold

First Korean United Methodist Church of Cherry Hill was recognized for their Mission Fund commitments at a dinner in the new Mission and Resource Center held in April. Pictured with Bishop John Schol are Lay Member Richard Lee, Pastor Han Seung and his wife Ellen Koh.

Entering the third year of the Mission Fund with approximately 50% of the goal reached, Bishop Schol invited the clergy and lay leaders for Greater New Jersey churches who have made the largest commitments to the campaign to join him in a special dinner on the eve of the dedication of the New Mission and Resource Center.

The invited guests included representatives from congregations who have contributed the most to date and those who have the highest average per worshiper.

“It is important to recognize not just congregations that have the resources to contribute large amounts but those

congregations whose generosity has exceeded expectations in the average gift per worshiper,” said Bishop Schol.

The \$12 million Mission Fund is a part of the Greater New Jersey strategic plan that was passed by the Annual Conference Session in 2013. That plan called for congregations to contribute an average of \$90 per worshiper in order to meet the goal. To date, the average contribution per worshiper is \$50.

Last month, Bishop Schol made a renewed appeal for the Mission Fund Campaign and together with his wife Beverly, increased his own pledge from \$53,000 to \$60,000 in honor of their 60th

Continued on page 7

Children in Sierra Leone welcomed a mission team from Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church in Maplewood in April.

See story on page 6.



A Message from the Bishop



According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible. 1 Corinthians 3:10-13

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Today I would like to demythologize appointment making.

Most United Methodists wonder how clergy are appointed to new churches each year. People have wondered about dart boards and Ouija Boards. In a previous time when there was a lot more homogeneity in the UMC and there was not a lot of difference between the ministry of an urban church and rural church, it pretty much was based on three things to be promoted, tenure, paying apportionments and keeping your nose clean (figuratively and literally).

Today there is a lot more complexity.

- cultural and ethnic diversity,
- personal needs including spouses employment,
- care for elderly parents,
- health care,
- ministry gifts and preferences,
- children's schooling,
- language,
- capacity to lead congregations toward health,
- ability to connect with the congregation AND the people who live in the community,
- ability to work with and through the Holy Spirit to change lives,
- ability to lead a congregation through change,
- ability to present the Gospel in an intriguing, urgent and compelling way that makes people want to love God and follow Jesus, and
- ability to lead people through conflict.

And of course raising sufficient funds to grow ministry and keeping your nose clean. But not tenure. The system and needs are far too complex to make tenure a driving factor in making appointments.

Leading congregations is challenging and difficult today and I am grateful for pastors. Today's pastors have a difficult job and insufficient support in facing stiff challenges.

Lovett Weems, Wesley Seminary professor and head of the Lewis Center says the best determinant of how well a pastor will do in their next appointment is how well they did in their last appointment.

There is one mission and one thing we determine for the GNJ cabinet in making appointments, to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow a vital congregation to transform the world.

The Gospel and times demand such a mission and the call is for transformational leaders to lead the church forward in a time of deep cultural change in the society and the church.

To help the GNJ cabinet make healthy spiritual appointments we use:

- prayer,
- an assessment of the congregation's AND community's gifts and needs,
- and the congregation's and pastor's track record in five areas: making new disciples, growing worship, involving disciples in small groups, engaging disciples in hands on mission and inspiring disciples to give generously.

Of course these will look different in different contexts.

Today pastoral leaders need to be relational and strategic, both in the moment and through thoughtful planning. They need to build on the tradition and innovative, build consensus and be directive, and have theological and cultural competent.

Congregations are also facing challenges like they have never faced before. Congregations need to balance the desires of present worshipers and attract today's new worshipers who have different experiences This balance and clarifying God's vision creates uneasy tension.

While there is significant complexity in making appointments it is becoming clearer what the cabinet uses to make decisions - prayer, advisory information from pastors and SPRCs, and narrative and data that informs how one is leading. There is mystery and there is also clarity.

I ask for your prayers as the people of GNJ work together to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

Keep the faith!
John Schol, Bishop



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MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

www.gnjumc.org/team-vital



The June Issue Deadline is May 15, 2016

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THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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Question:

How many unique visitors worshiped in United Methodist churches in Greater New Jersey last year?

Hints:

On average, each GNJ church had 67 unique visitors throughout the year or 1.3 new people per week per church.

The average number of weekly worshippers in our conference declined by 1,196 last year.

If GNJ had a 5% retention rate of unique visitors, our worship attendance would be growing and not declining.

**88% of Americans still say...
“my religious faith is very important in my life.”**



So, how do we turn new visitors into regular worshippers?

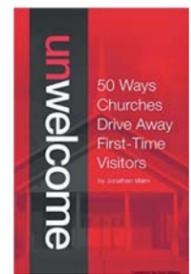
What does your visitor follow-up process look like?

How quickly does a visitor get greeted when they arrive at your church?

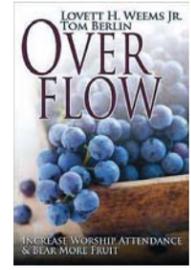
Are first-time visitors presented with obvious (and easy) ways of getting connected with the church?

Once churches begin to grow, they continue to grow. That’s because the newest faces in our churches are almost always our best evangelists. They’re most aware of God’s life-changing power, and they’re most likely to invite new friends from outside the church.

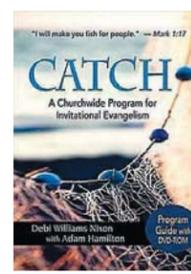
Book Suggestions:



Unwelcome: 50 Ways Churches Drive Away First-Time Visitors
Walking into a church for the first time can be scary. Are you making your first-time guests feel welcome?
Available at: www.amazon.com



Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance & Bear More Fruit
Our churches exist in order to glorify God and to share God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Thus, worship is at the center of the congregation’s life.
Available at: www.cokesbury.com



CATCH: A Churchwide Program for Invitational Evangelism
A comprehensive program filled with practical ideas to help churches of any size guide visitors to becoming thriving members
Available at: www.cokesbury.com

For New Disciples Resources and Information, contact:



Trey Wince, Director of New Disciples
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ANSWER:
37,322

General Conference Delegates Listening and Learning

By JD Watson

jwatson@afuturewithhope.org

In preparation for the May 10-20, 2016 General Conference, in Portland, Ore, Greater New Jersey delegates met with, connected with laity and clergy throughout GNJ in preparation for this important legislative meeting.

Every four years, delegates from around the world convene at General Conference to discern changes in the Book of Discipline. The United Methodist Book of Discipline establishes practices and policies for the United Methodist Church.

At the 2016 General Conference, there will be a variety of legislation to be discussed and voted on. Some of the legislation includes human sexuality, revoking guaranteed appointments for clergy, term limits for bishops, an amicable split of the denomination and how

the denomination is organized.

To help discern the diverse views of Greater New Jersey congregations, the eight delegates elected to represent the conference, held listening sessions in each district to allow laity and clergy to share concerns and viewpoints.

In addition to the sessions, many throughout GNJ corresponded directly with the delegates, sending them letters and emails to share their views. To help facilitate communication, a web page was opened on Greater New Jersey's website. This page provided a form where people can directly share with delegates. At the end of April, 62 people have shared their hopes and concerns with the delegation.

More information about General Conference can be found on the General Conference webpages on www.umc.org or www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016.

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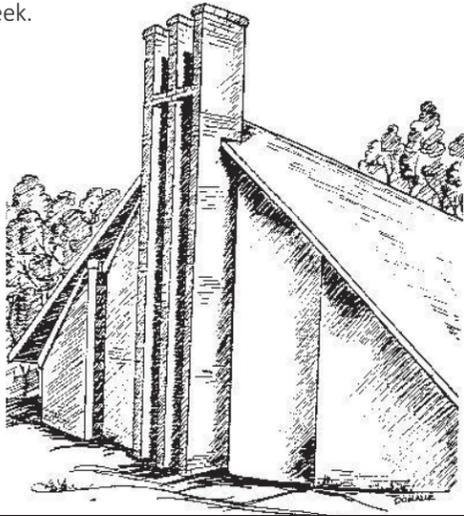
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110 Salem Hill Road
Howell, NJ 07731



Who's Who Among GNJ Delegates

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey is sending eight delegates and two reserves to the General Conference. They were elected at the 2015 annual conference session. They include:

Bethany Amey

— Regarding the General Conference, Amey said she hopes "this denomination finds a way to work through our differences in theology and finds a way to move forward together, united." A laity delegate from Trinity UMC, Amey had previously been a delegate to the General Conference in 2012 and will be reporting on Church and Society 1.



Lynn Caterson, Esq

— A lay delegate from UMC at Absecon, this is Caterson's fourth trip to the General Conference as a delegate, most recently in 2012. Caterson will report on Judicial Administration. She said she prays that "differences in race, culture, language, gender and social-economic groups be the focus of learning and understanding rather than a barrier to communication."



Judy Colorado

— A lay delegate from Springfield Emmanuel UMC, this will be Colorado's first trip to General Conference as a delegate. Colorado's hopes for the General Conference include inclusiveness and conversation. "The thrust for healthy conversations is a fully accepting, welcoming and supportive dialogue; listening to all perspectives with respect and love," said Colorado. She will report on Discipleship.



Rev Jisun Kwak

— While she has been a member of the clergy for 20 years and is presently the Delaware Bay District Superintendent, this is Kwak's first General Conference as a delegate. As for what to expect from the General Conference, Kwak said, "It is my hope for the next General Conference to become a conduit channeling the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit and to proclaim God's grace rather than claiming our agendas." Kwak is to report on Ministry and Higher Education/Superintendency.



Rev Tom Lank

— Associate Pastor at Haddonfield UMC since 2012, this is Lank's first trip to the General Conference as a delegate. Lank will be reporting on Faith and Order. He is a deacon and serves as the chairperson of the delegation. "I see a church that is not defined by its building or its positions, but by the way it loves people," says Lank.



Rev Eunice Vega-Perez

— Senior Pastor at Vernon UMC, will be attending her first General Conference as a delegate. Vega-Perez



said of her hopes for the General Conference, "may we establish general principles that will be applied locally and variously and move away from minute legislation that stalls and distract us in our embrace of mission." She will report on Global Ministries.

Rosa Williams

— Laity delegate from Galilee UMC, Williams was an alternate Delegate at the 2012 General Conference. Williams said she hopes that the General Conference "will be able to set missional priorities, complete a quadrennial budget and pass legislation." She will report on General Administration.



Rev Varlyna Wright

— Capital District Superintendent, Wright will report on Conferences. Previously, she has served as a delegate to the General Conference in 2012. Wright said that she hopes decisions made at this year's General Conference, "will bring vitality, growth, peace and justice to the global church."



The Greater New Jersey Conference will also send two Reserve Delegates to the General Conference.

Rev Drew Dyson

— District Superintendent of the Raritan Valley District, Dyson was a delegate to the 2012 General Conference. Of the General Conference, Dyson said, "it is my deep prayer that we find a creative solution to the profound divide over issues dealing with human sexuality while affirming our shared identity as United Methodists." Dyson will report on Financial Administration.



Stephen Quigg

— Laity Delegate from Elmer UMC, this is Quigg's first General Conference. Quigg said his hope for the General Conference would be, "that the collective experience from last General Conference would inspire everyone to maximize cooperative efforts and minimize divisive ones so we could all move forward together." Quigg will report on Church and Society 2.



Rev. Gene Hamilton

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Hope Circle

\$300+ per worshiper

Wenonah UMC	\$600.75
Drakestown UMC (Hackettstown)	\$492.84
Vincent UMC (Nutley)	\$460.43
New Sharon UMC (Deptford)	\$436.54
Allentown UMC	\$420.29
Friendship UMC (Monroeville)	\$388.35
Dennisville UMC	\$374.75
Bergen Point Community (Bayonne) (Fed)	\$365.00
Community UMC (Roselle Park)	\$336.05
Kynett UMC (Beach Haven)	\$309.43
Hopewell UMC	\$307.28

Rebuilding Circle

\$200+ per worshiper

Middletown UMC	\$280.46
Buckshutem UMC	\$256.24
UMC in Madison	\$254.49
Asbury UMC (Woodstown)	\$253.55
Bridgewater UMC	\$250.71
First UMC (Mount Ephraim)	\$250.60
Repaupo UMC	\$245.75
UMC of Red Bank	\$227.76
Debows UMC (Jackson)	\$224.95
UMC at New Brunswick	\$209.06
Sparta UMC	\$204.28
Conklin UMC (South River)	\$203.20
The UMC in Union	\$200.25

Renewing Circle

\$100+ per worshiper

Atlantic Highlands UMC	\$196.21
Boonton UMC	\$194.57
Avon UMC	\$185.71
North Hunterdon UMC (Hampton)	\$183.66
Stratford UMC	\$180.73
Jerseyville UMC (Freehold)	\$166.50
First UMC (Ridgefield Park)	\$165.25
Trinity UMC (Highland Park)	\$164.70
Manasquan UMC	\$158.82
Hamilton UMC (Neptune)	\$155.99
First UMC (Port Norris)	\$154.29
Bishop Janes UMC (Basking Ridge)	\$148.33
Emmanuel UMC (Penns Grove)	\$143.15
Arcola Korean UMC (Paramus)	\$140.96
Porchtown Zion UMC (Newfield)	\$140.15
Embury UMC (Little Silver)	\$137.66
Port Colden UMC	\$137.08
Califon UMC	\$135.14
Midvale UMC (Wanaque)	\$135.08
First UMC (Haddon Heights)	\$135.00
Eldora UMC	\$132.39
Chatham UMC	\$127.31
First UMC (Farmingdale)	\$126.84
Roselle UMC	\$125.72
Westwood UMC	\$125.65
First UMC (Westfield)	\$124.13

Christ UMC (East Rutherford)	\$122.05
UMC at Demarest	\$120.81
First UMC (Hasbrouck Heights)	\$119.15
Bethany St John's UMC (Pleasantville)	\$115.20
Arcola UMC (Paramus)	\$114.38
First UMC (Keansburg)	\$114.01
Ewan UMC	\$112.60
Evangelical UMC (Clarksboro)	\$112.59
Juliustown UMC	\$112.17
UMC at Absecon	\$111.71
Mt Zion UMC (Barnsboro)	\$111.15
Bloomsbury UMC	\$108.96
Cross Keys UMC	\$108.19
UMC at Milltown	\$105.94
The Church of the Master UMC (Howell)	\$104.27
Clonmell UMC (Gibbstown)	\$103.53
Kemble Memorial UMC (Woodbury)	\$102.18
Caldwell UMC	\$100.93

Repairing Circle

\$50+ per worshiper

Dorchester UMC	\$98.71
First UMC (Toms River)	\$98.46
Belford UMC	\$96.90
Salem UMC (Pleasantville)	\$95.99
Sergeantsville UMC	\$95.92
Denville Community UMC	\$95.69
Harvey Memorial UMC (Point Pleasant)	\$95.57
Butler UMC	\$95.35
Audubon UMC	\$93.67
St Paul's UMC (Thorofare)	\$92.82
Ridgewood UMC	\$91.43
Wayside UMC	\$91.33
Stockholm UMC	\$89.39
Bernardsville UMC	\$88.24
Grace UMC (Dover)	\$87.69
First UMC (Somerville)	\$83.71
Almonesson UMC	\$83.14
Rutherford UMC	\$82.19
John Wesley UMC (Swainton)	\$81.56
North Wildwood UMC	\$80.90
First UMC (Oakhurst)	\$80.69
First UMC (Dover)	\$80.17
Harmony Hill UMC (Stillwater)	\$78.89
St John's UMC (Harrisonville)	\$77.92
Haines Neck UMC	\$77.39
Trinity UMC (Hackettstown)	\$77.04
First UMC (Montclair)	\$77.03
Allerton UMC	\$77.00
Masonville-Rancocas UMC	\$76.19
First Korean UMC (Cherry Hill)	\$76.06
Morrow Memorial UMC (Maplewood)	\$75.82
Malaga UMC	\$75.80
First UMC (Williamstown)	\$75.54
Haddonfield UMC	\$75.49
Round Valley UMC (Lebanon)	\$75.48

Bethany UMC (Wayne)	\$75.10
East Pennsauken UMC	\$74.90
Cedar Cliff UMC (Haledon)	\$74.89
Friendship-Finley UMC (Bridgeton)	\$73.12
Green Village UMC	\$72.20
Ferrell UMC	\$71.56
Fairfield UMC	\$71.43
Cape May UMC	\$71.39
First UMC (Millville)	\$71.16
First UMC (Beach Haven Terr)	\$71.12
Nuevo Nacimiento (Paterson)	\$70.83
Weymouth UMC	\$69.79
Florence UMC	\$69.77
Ferry Ave UMC (Camden)	\$69.06
Barnsboro UMC	\$69.00
Oceanville UMC	\$68.31
St Andrew's UMC (Cherry Hill)	\$66.40
Bethel UMC of NJ (Leonia)	\$66.25
First UMC (Belmar)	\$64.32
First UMC (Passaic)	\$63.93
Wesley UMC (South Plainfield)	\$63.11
West Belmar UMC	\$60.93
Epworth UMC (Palmyra)	\$60.88
Centenary UMC (Metuchen)	\$60.02
Hillsdale UMC	\$59.78
Seaville UMC (Ocean View)	\$59.67
Centenary UMC (Lambertville)	\$59.52
Clinton UMC	\$57.57
St Peter's UMC (Ocean City)	\$57.56
Teabo UMC (Wharton)	\$57.23
Navesink UMC	\$56.90
First UMC (Cape May Court House)	\$56.85
St Mark UMC (Hamilton Square)	\$56.83
First UMC (Avalon)	\$56.56
Elmer UMC	\$55.73
Stanhope UMC (Netcong)	\$55.69
UMC of Mantua	\$55.41
Asbury UMC (Egg Harbor Twp)	\$55.29
Calvary UMC (Dumont)	\$55.16
Neshanic UMC (Branchburg)	\$55.13
Roseland UMC	\$54.39
Sussex UMC	\$54.14
Martinsville UMC	\$53.95
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Woodruff UMC	\$51.20
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Hurffville Bethel UMC	\$50.22
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Chatsworth UMC	\$50.00

Mission, Morrow and Sierra Leone

By Dorothy Wetzel
Morrow Memorial UMC Global & Community Outreach Chair
dorothy@extrovertic.com

Seeking to make a greater impact with its global outreach, Morrow Church of Maplewood sent a small team to Sierra Leone last month. Inspired by a recent discussion of the book *When Helping Hurts*, the Morrow team was looking to take their current relationship with the Sierra Leone Conference to the next level. With the ultimate goal of building a long-term and asset-based partnership, the team had three objectives for their trip:

- Listen and learn from the Sierra Leone Conference members where Morrow Church could make a difference
- Witness and report about the impact the Ebola virus has had on the lives of Sierra Leoneans
- Talk & connect with the Sierra Leone conference members, teachers, students, doctors, nurses, patients and administrators

The team was hosted in Sierra Leone by Olivia Fonnle, Director of Christian Education/Specialized Ministry to Children. Tim Roebuck, Team Leader of Sierra Leone outreach at Morrow, worked with Fonnle to create an itinerary that would expose the group to a variety of potential projects.

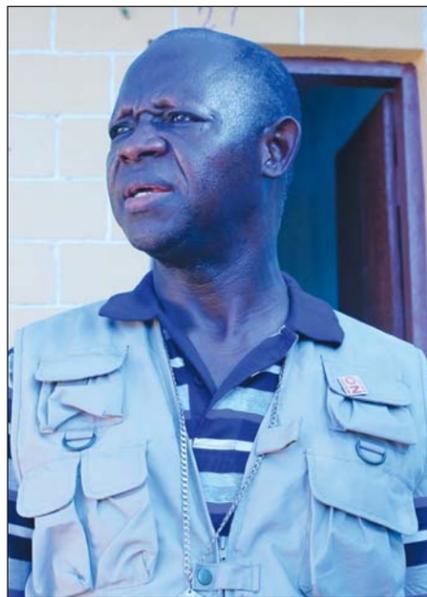
Initially, when considering the trip, the Morrow team had concerns that the Sierra Leone Conference would benefit more from a donation than a visit. But once there, Bishop Yambasu of the Sierra Leone Conference reassured the Morrow team saying, "You should come even if you never even give a dime, because when people come and see (Sierra Leone), they are never the same. People visit and then spread the word back home...who knows what will come of that?"

Over the 10 days in Sierra Leone, the Morrow team traveled across the country visiting multiple UMC run schools, hospitals and women's empowerment projects. The team journeyed to many of the areas hardest hit by the Ebola virus including Bo, Moyamba and Kenema in the Southern Province.

An evening of cultural exchange at



Morrow Church member, Shona Roebuck, led girls from the Moyamba Harford School for Girls in Sierra Leone in praise songs and popular American line dances.



Bishop Yambasu of the Sierra Leone Conference "You should come even if you never even give a dime, because when people come and see (Sierra Leone), they are never the same."

the famous Moyamba Harford School for Girls proved to be a real highlight. Harford is a UMC school that has historically provided the country with many of its women leaders. The Harford Girls put on an energetic show of traditional African dances. In return, Morrow Church member, Shona Roebuck, led the girls in praise songs and popular American line dances.

Talking about soccer proved to be a great icebreaker with the students. Using soccer as a springboard, the team found it easy to engage the students about their hopes and dreams for the future. "The students we met have ambitions to be lawyers, accountants, nurses, doctors and in one case, even the President of Sierra Leone," says Shona Roebuck.

The team received an enthusiastic welcome at a temporary UMC primary school in Kenema. This school, deroga-

tively termed a "mushroom school" by the government, was made of bamboo stakes intermittently covered by well-worn tarps. Each day the children carry their benches in and out of storage to prevent them from being stolen. However, after six years of moving from place to place, land for a permanent school has been purchased and architectural plans have been drawn up.

Inspired by the passion and determination of the teachers and students at the Kenema school, the Morrow team bought tarps to get the school through the rainy season. Back home, they hope to generate more long-term support by telling the story of the "mushroom school" at every opportunity.

For Mary Beth Scherer, it was energizing to see how far a dollar could go. "There's a well crafted 10 year plan, highly resourceful people in place and strong community partnerships to make our efforts sustainable," she said.

According to Melinda Wilkening, the team built lasting relationships with the people throughout the Sierra Leone Methodist Community, "As we toured the hospitals and schools, we connected with our hosts on a personal level, sharing stories about our families, our churches and our lives. We even made a few new Facebook Friends."

The trip culminated in a dinner with Bishop Yambasu. The team was inspired listening to Bishop Yambasu talk about the leading role the UMC played in compelling Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma to announce an Ebola state of emergency. "It made you feel proud to be a Methodist to see what a pivotal role our leadership played in bringing the Ebola crisis to the world's attention," said Scherer.

According to Tim Roebuck, "There are so many opportunities for congregations in Greater New Jersey to make a difference, whether it be sponsoring individual students, paying the salaries of village medical professionals or even, transforming a 'mushroom' school into a building with a permanent roof." He urges other congregations to visit Sierra Leone and see what God is calling them to do.

Congregations wishing to learn more about making a visit or to see a short presentation on Morrow's experience in Sierra Leone should contact Tim Roebuck at timroebuck@gmail.com.



IGNITE CONFERENCE 2016

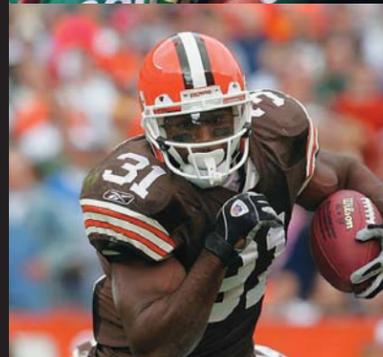
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250 People Celebrate Dedication of the Mission and Resource Center

(Neptune, NJ) - On Friday, April 15 at 10:30 a.m., Bishop John Schol, the leaders of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey and 200 special guests celebrated, dedicated and blessed the new Mission and Resource Center in Neptune, New Jersey.

This space houses the leadership and staff offices of the church and resident bishop. It includes 50 offices, 4,000 square feet of meeting rooms and a video and sound studio.

More than just office space, the Mission and Resource Center will be a place of inspiration and learning for spiritual and community leaders throughout the state, region and world.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar from the New England Conference who served Greater New Jersey in 2007 when the idea for the new conference center was initiated, shared, "We are standing in this magnificent Mission and Resource Center because of years of faithful and caring hands, hearts and minds committed to the Glory of God."

Others joining the event included retired Bishop Ernest C. Lyght and General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, Alfred T. Day who shared artifacts from Francis Asbury's circuit rides in the region.

The Mission and Resource Center will serve as the administrative headquarters for A Future with Hope, the nonprofit organization started by the United Methodist Church to help people in the region recover from Superstorm Sandy. A Future With Hope has become a leader in Sandy recovery around the state and to date has rebuilt 209 homes and employed more than 11,000 volunteers.

In addition to Sandy recovery, the people of the United Methodist Church have a tremendous impact throughout the state. Their 560 congregations care for the spiritual health of their communities and have served 452,572 people in need throughout the state, region and world in 2015 alone.

Hector Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries shared at the service, "Today, we dedicate the Mission and Resource Center, a place from which many will go out into the world equipped for life giving ministry and mission., we celebrate that so far the Lord has helped us and recommit ourselves to the mission we have been call – all to the glory of God."

Specifically, he stated that we are providing primary resources to equip our clergy and lay leaders that include coaching, clergy and lay peer learning groups, Team Vital to help congregations plan for vital ministries and Communities of Hope to equip congregations to be a catalyst for change.

United Methodist in Greater New Jersey have a long list of affiliated organizations that also help to further the mission including:

- Camp YDP which educates and cares for children in Paterson
- The Neighborhood Center which provides education, athletics and

- arts programs for youth in Camden
- CUMAC/Echo an urban resource center in Paterson that feeds 40,000 people in New Jersey each year
- Respond Inc., a day care and job training center in Camden
- Drew University, Centenary College and the Pennington School who educate NJ children.
- United Methodist Communities (formerly United Methodist Homes) which include 10 assisted and independent living facilities for New Jersey seniors.

The Mission and Resource Center will allow the church to reach even farther into communities and around the world.

Several state elected officials offered congratulations on the dedication of this new facility including Governor Chris Christie, US Congressmen Frank Pallone and Chris Smith and US Senator Cory Booker. In a letter to the Bishop, Senator Booker shared, "Throughout its long history of service, The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey has been guided by the conviction that we must take care of each other. For many in the community, The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey has provided a place for connection and togetherness."

"United Methodists continue to show their leadership in the region by providing vital service programs in their local communities, around the world, and through A Future With Hope which has provided safe and secure homes for hundreds of people who had nowhere else to turn," said Bishop Schol, "We are a growing church and the new conference center reflects our need to support our local churches to continue to engage their communities in new and necessary ways."

The 19,200 square feet building was designed by Shore Point Architecture, PA in Ocean Grove and built by Jack Green Construction also in Ocean Grove. The work of United Methodists was evident throughout the construction. Jack Green and his foreman, Norm Cetuk worship at United Methodist Churches. The granite pillar for the baptismal font was provided by Garey Hope who is a retired Elder and Scott Maat, pastor of Butzville UMC, built the cabinetry.



Photo by Seth Bechtold
Bishop Schol waves to a child at play through the skylight at the Mission and Resource Center dedication.



Photo by Seth Bechtold
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar from the New England Conference, Bishop John Schol from Greater New Jersey, Bishop Ernest Lyght, retired and General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History Alfred T. Day helped dedicate the Mission and Resource Center for the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey .



Photo by Seth Bechtold
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar from the New England Conference (and former Bishop of Greater Jersey) consecrates the baptismal font in the main entrance of the Mission and Resource Center.

Mission Fund Contributors Honored



Photo by Seth Bechtold
Vincent UMC Pastor David LeDuc and his wife Karen joined Bishop Schol at the Mission Fund dinner held to recognize GNJ congregation's committed to the campaign.

Continued from page 1
birthdays this year.

The Mission Fund was designed to raise funds in support of local, regional and global needs. Congregations were asked to run a multiyear campaign that would help fund a local mission project and contribute toward the larger goals for A Future With Hope and Imagine No Malaria.

Vincent United Methodist Church in Nutley embraced the program. Running from May to July of 2014, the campaign covered the first three Sundays in May with one highlighting A Future With Hope, one highlighting Imagine No Malaria and one highlighting a local project to move the ministry forward.

Vincent was one of the churches celebrated at the Bishop's dinner in April and Reverend David LeDuc joined 9 other congregations that were equally lifted up.

"The local project we selected was to help a family in our congregation who has a special needs son. They needed help with renovations in their home so that it could accommodate his wheelchair and he could have mobility and independence," said LeDuc. "We were astonished and delighted to receive 39 pledges totaling \$64,125 for our efforts."

While gifts are still coming in through the campaign, to date, Vincent UMC has

contributed \$45,122 with an average gift per worshiper of \$460.43 putting them in the top 5 congregations in both the total dollars raised and the average per worshiper.

"God was powerfully at work among us through this campaign and will richly bless this ongoing effort of Greater New Jersey and our church," said LeDuc who attended the dinner with his wife Karen.

Bethany UMC in Wayne was another church celebrated during the dinner. In a special announcement at the first anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, Associate Pastor Hoo Sug Lee announced their commitment of \$400,000 to the campaign. To date, Bethany has already fulfilled more than \$100,000 toward that pledge and Reverend Leo Park represented the congregation at the dinner.

The other churches recognized for total amount pledged include Trinity UMC in Hackettstown, First Korean UMC in Cherry Hill and Arcola UMC in Paramus.

Churches recognized for the average amount raised per worshiper included Allentown, New Sharon, Drakestown and Wenonah. A full list of churches and their average contributions can be found below. For more information on the Mission Fund, please see www.gnjumc.org/missionfund.



Photo by Seth Bechtold
Greater New Jersey staff members Nicole Caldwell Gross, Jasmine Ferguson and Archana Tamakuwala celebrate at the dedication ceremony.

A Future With Hope Headed North

By Chris Carter

ccarter@afuturewithhope.org

The first images that come to mind of Sandy's effect on New Jersey are flooded seaside towns, wave battered boardwalks and inundated islands. Much of the attention and media coverage after the storm was focused on those communities in the southern half of the state. Devastation from the storm was also felt across northern sections of the state. The recovery process in the north may not have been as visible, but it was no less strenuous.

A Future With Hope has worked in 13 of New Jersey's 21 counties including Bergen, Union, Essex and Middlesex counties in the north of the state that are not always associated with Sandy damage.

Most of this work has been hand in hand with local recovery agencies, such as county long-term recovery groups (LTRGs). These LTRGs are cooperative bodies made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster. Their stated goal is to unite recovery resources with community needs in order to ensure that even the most vulnerable in community recover from disaster.

By forging strong partnerships with the LTRGs in Bergen, Union and Middlesex counties, A Future With Hope and United Methodists were able to extend assistance far north of the Raritan River, serving Sandy survivors from Gateway North District to Cape Atlantic District.

"Our program was set up to handle

A FUTURE WITH HOPE

The People of the United Methodist Church

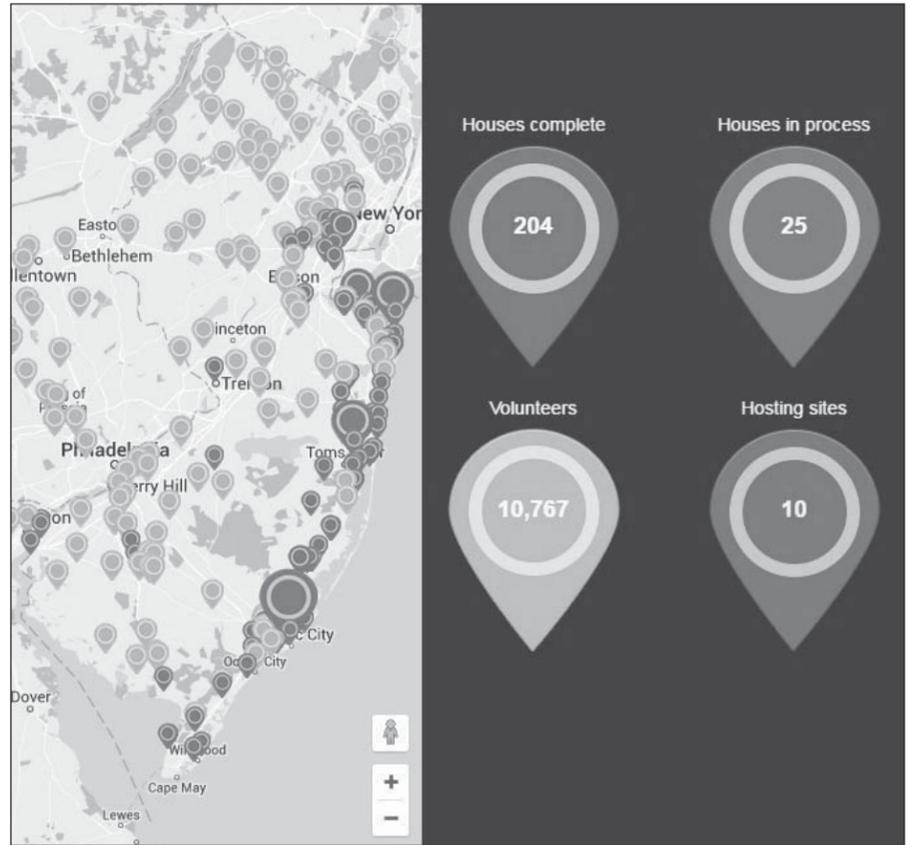
all areas of Sandy rebuilding," says Rev. Lou Strugala, Construction Director for A Future With Hope, "So we were able to help other agencies fill in gaps and get people home quicker than we or they could have done alone."

Different needs required service in different ways. In the southern region, A Future With Hope often acted as the primary case manager and construction leader on projects. In Union County, A Future With Hope's construction team joined other organizations that were already on the ground working with Sandy survivors.

In Bergen County, A Future With Hope worked with the VOAD (Volunteer Organizations in Disaster) to collaboratively finance necessary repairs for homeowners, including mold remediation, electrical work, roof work, even replacement of a mobile home.

When A Future With Hope could not send construction teams to support a project they assisted in the financing. Since 2013, they have helped finance rebuilding on 22 homes in Bergen and Middlesex counties.

When building crews were sent in, United Methodist churches were at the ready to host volunteers and provide radical hospitality. Aldersgate United Methodist Church in East Brunswick and Park United Methodist Church Mission



A Future With Hope has helped rebuild or finance rebuilding on homes throughout the state – including northern counties not often associated with Sandy damage.

House in Bloomfield served as host sites to more than 300 volunteers. Churches, including New Dover UMC of Edison, Clinton UMC, FUMC Somerville, Sayreville UMC, UMC Madison and FUMC Westfield, dispatched members with donated meals to feed the hard working volunteers lodging at these host sites.

In total, A Future With Hope has helped rebuild or finance rebuilding 50 homes in 15 communities in Bergen, Union, Essex and Middlesex counties resulting in 135 people moving back home. A Future With Hope continues to work in both regions and will do so until recovery is complete.

Soaring Like an Eagle United Methodist Communities Awarded EAGLE Accreditation

NEPTUNE, NJ — As the only eagle unique to North America, the bald eagle very rarely flaps its wings when flying — it soars. United Methodist Communities has earned and was awarded the EAGLE (Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence) accreditation, given by the United Methodist Association (UMA).

EAGLE is the only faith-based accrediting body in the world and focuses on ministry with older adults and children. Their goal is to recognize organizations that voluntarily go beyond the minimum requirements of licensure to improve operational processes and outcomes. EAGLE challenges organizations not just to compete in challenging human services environments, but to soar above the competition while living their faith values. Though the UMA's foundation and history are based in Methodism, EAGLE is ecumenical and applicable to all denominations.

In 2015, United Methodist Communities' associates across all disciplines and communities, analyzed processes and compiled data as part of the first component of the accreditation process. Many, many hours were spent on this self-assessment step and the detail was submitted to the EAGLE accrediting team. The EAGLE accrediting body, composed of independent health care professionals from all parts of the country conducted rigorous evaluations.

As examples of their approach EAGLE:

- Establishes responsible stewardship over physical and financial assets
- Focuses on long-term sustainability
- Affirms not-for-profit status by reinforcing community benefit and spiritual values
- Curbs public perception as faith-based organizations are held to a higher standard
- Provides external accountability

- Improves performance, results, and outcomes in key areas of care
- Contains built-in methods to help organizations constantly improve
- Ultimately, calls organizations to be better with a passionate pursuit of perfection.

In the second component, a team of trained peer reviewers made onsite visits and spent considerable time with associates discussing the submissions. The final component of the process, which typically takes twelve to eighteen months to complete, came this spring. United Methodist Communities became EAGLE accredited!

The EAGLE Accreditation continues for four years, during which timeframe, United Methodist Communities will be responsible for continuing to meet or exceed all EAGLE Principles, submit annual reports and successfully respond to all Commission requirements.

Vice President of Operations, Dr. Carol B. McKinley, declared, "United Methodist Communities is a forward-thinking organization, working to stay ahead of the ever-changing healthcare landscape. We are honored and proud to be recognized with the EAGLE accreditation."

About United Methodist Communities United Methodist Communities is a not-for-profit organization guided by a volunteer board of directors affiliated in ministry with the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. The mission of the United Methodist Communities is compassionately serving in community so that all are free to choose abundant life. With over 109 years of continuous operation, the organization has grown to ten communities offering affordable senior housing, independent and assisted living, long term care, rehabilitation, memory support, respite, and hospice to persons of all faith backgrounds. For additional information visit UMCommunities.org or call 732-922-9800.

United Methodist Homes of New Jersey is now...



United Methodist Communities

Abundant Life for Seniors

As a leader in senior living and wellness, we have met the needs of our communities, residents and families for 109 years. While our faith-based values remain constant, we have broadened our ministry to include home and community based services, reaching seniors wherever they live. For a complete listing of our communities, visit UMCommunities.org and discover the innovative ways we can support your loved one.



www.UMCommunities.org

Affordable Senior Living | Independent Living
Residential Living | Assisted Living
Memory Support | Respite | Short-Term Rehab
Skilled Nursing | Hospice



... And that is Good News

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen
melissa.hinnen@nyac-umc.com

Worshippers at Trinity United Methodist Church leave every service with a sense of affirmation about God at work in their community. The order of worship in each of the four weekend services has a time just before the closing praise song or hymn to proclaim three to five examples of good news in the Hackettstown church.

"God continues to do many good and wonderful things in and through our congregation. Here are some things from the past week," the pastor, Dr. Frank Fowler III, tells the congregation before sharing several uplifting stories.

The initiative started last year after Fowler heard a powerful story from Phil, a member of Trinity. But the story didn't have an appropriate place in the sermon. Phil had shared with Fowler that his wife, who was fighting cancer, told him "some good ole fashioned barbeque would taste good". Thankful that she had an appetite, Phil went to a barbeque restaurant and ordered her some food. After explaining to the owner that the food was for his wife who had cancer, the owner responded by not charging for the meal and offered a prayer for Phil and his wife. "Right there in this restaurant, the owner prayed with Phil," Fowler told the congregation. "And that is good news."

"At the end of the service, when I shared the story, people felt an emotional response and clapped. It ended the service with a positive feeling," says Fowler who after that began adding good news to the weekly worship service. Sharing it at the end of the service sets a positive tone as people go out into the world.

Visual images add another layer of engagement. Fowler projects a photo to go with each story. He says he sometimes finds graphics on line but often he uses his phone to capture images of good news to go with the stories. He collects the stories during the week and submits the photo to the technical team on Thursday and the text to all of the worship leaders by Saturday.

While the same stories are shared at each of the four services, the style of presentation is different depending on the worship leader. "I announce it with energy in front of the altar. One pastor has the keyboard playing in the background during the good news. Another reads it from her phone," says Fowler.

From faith in action, to successful blood drives, to welcoming the stranger, there is a broad range of Good News topics. But Fowler has established some guidelines to determine what is reported. For example, in an effort to avoid unintended consequences, he is thoughtful and consistent about what kinds of good news is not shared during this time. "We generally avoid medical situations because if someone receives a good medical report but someone else just received difficult news, it could be a source of pain," he says. "We also don't disguise program promotion as good news and except for rare occasions, we don't use the time to celebrate birthdays." He explains, "It is a time to lift up the ways that God is at work in the life of the family – in the life of the congregation."

Noting that volunteers on mission trips often are asked to be on the look out for "God sightings," Fowler says that likewise, sharing good news each week conditions people to be alert for points of grace in everyday life. Because he is constantly collecting the good news each week, he enters many conversations through that lens. It often gives him a talking point with members. "So do you have any good news for me this week?" he asks them.

The stories from week to week offer hope and encouragement. Some examples of Good News at Trinity:

- "Last Saturday 23 of our young people went to Newton to serve a meal to economically disadvantaged people through the Bread for Life ministry. They prepared and served a meal for about 35 people., and then spent time visiting with them and getting to know them. Kids from grades 6 through high school participated, and learned more about how to be the hands and feet of Jesus . . . AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS."
- "Last Sunday our Trinity Ringer teenage English Hand bell choir, returned from a 4-day trip to play and serve at Disney in Florida. They played sacred and secular music for the public, and then played and served at Give Kids the World, a program for children with life threatening illnesses. They helped serve breakfast to some 450 people there, and had powerful experiences in sharing God's love with children facing some very difficult times in life. God gave Trinity

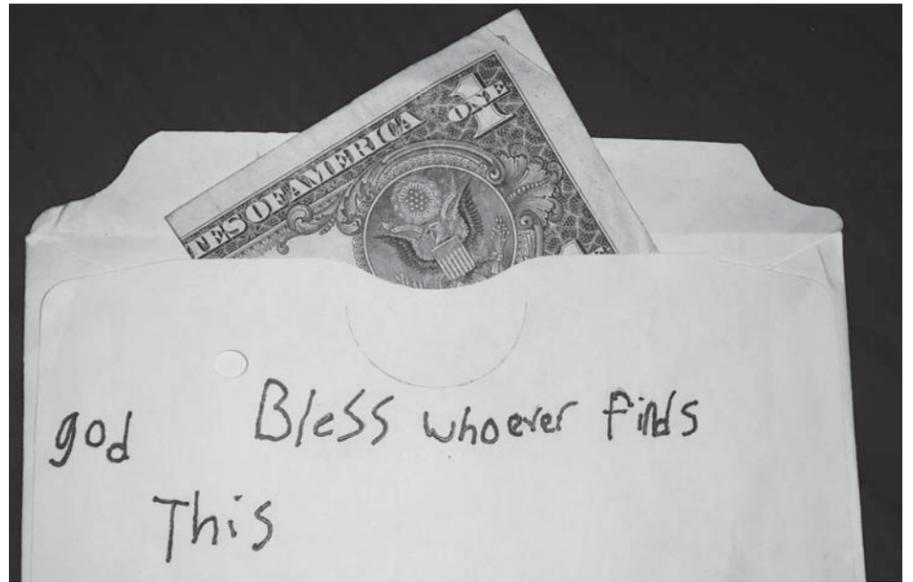


Photo provided.

A child at Trinity UMC in Hackettstown shared the Good News through their gifts during worship.

church the opportunity to love his children in Florida . . . AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS."

- "Every week Trinity's buildings are used for a variety of activities and this past Friday night we hosted a unique evening in Trinity House. It was a Senior Prom for senior citizens. The Hackettstown school district invited students and senior citizens to a prom, with food, a DJ, dancing and much fun. About 90 folks turned out for this enjoyable intergenerational event, in which several Trinity people participated. We are glad to share our facilities with others for such an event, at which young and young at heart had a lot of fun . . . AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS."
- "This past week Trinity had a "baby boom" as 4 babies entered the world after we welcomed one new soul last week. We share joy with the Lubkiewicz/Heembrock family, the Mark/Broeker family/ the Miko/Philhower family, the Alford-Wolf family and the Rinaldi family. We all know what a blessing it is to receive the gift of new life and we

share joy and prayers with these families . . . AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS."

- "This week we found an envelope in one of our children's treasure bags that we provide of kids to use during sanctuary worship. When the bag was turned in after worship recently one of the children using it included an offering envelope with a dollar bill in it. On the outside was written a note "GOD BLESS WHOEVER FINDS THIS." What a joy to know that our littlest ones are learning to be Jesus' disciples in such a powerful way . . . AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS."

Fowler is beginning to see a cultural shift from the practice of sharing good news. It's not unusual for someone to echo the words from church in weekday conversation saying, "...and that's good news!" Members have expressed that they look forward to that part of worship. Some have said it is their favorite part. "There is so much bad news but when we begin to look for it, we can start to be more sensitive and appreciate the good in life."

A Movement Making Young Disciples

By Jessica Stenstrom
jessica_stenstrom@yahoo.com

Sometimes an experience can change your course in ministry and in life. For eighth grader Liseth Rodriguez, that experience stemmed from the first IGNITE youth conference in 2012.

"Ever since the first Ignite, I have been more engaged in church. I want to go more and more. I'm reading my Bible more," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, a member of First UMC in Dover, credits the work of her pastor Charles Perez for keeping the spirit of IGNITE alive. Since the first IGNITE Conference, close to three years ago, Perez has organized several Ignite movement weekend and invites Hispanic youth who attended the conference to join together for worship, fellowship, prayer, mission and fun.

"I felt something inspired in me," said Perez, "The conference definitely ignites something in people's hearts."

Perez was inspired to expand his IGNITE movements to include other youth with the recent Skylands district youth gathering called "Resurrected" which brought out over 60 youth and their leaders. He said that at one of the gatherings last year, over 75 people were holding hands and praying together.

"I want to make disciples. I want young people to know they are the church of today," he said.

Rodriguez says that attending IGNITE in Wildwood and participating in IGNITE movements throughout the year have helped her grow in her faith. One moment that stands out for her is a moment at the first IGNITE conference when young people were given glow sticks as a way of expressing they had accepted Jesus in



their life. "I've been going to church since I was 2 years old but it was one of the nicest experiences I've had spiritually."

Evidence of her faith growth is through her sharing at one of the IGNITE movement gatherings. "Pastor Charles called it preaching, but I was just talking. My dad died when I was 11 and I was able to share how God helped me through it," said Rodriguez. "I think it helped out a couple of people who were there."

Not only has she grown in her faith and her commitment to God, IGNITE has helped her build friendships with other young people her age who also have a love of God. "If you've never attended IGNITE, you should definitely go," said Rodriguez. "It's an experience that's nothing like church. It's a really fun being able to spend some time getting to know God better with lots of other young people."

Perez couldn't agree more. "I want young people to know God loves and accepts them just as they are," he said. IGNITE is the perfect place to find that out.

This year's IGNITE Conference will be from September 30 to October 2nd at the Wildwoods Convention Center. The lineup includes Tedashii, Bellarive, Blanca, Willie Green, Laurie Polich Short. Preston Centuolo is also returning again by popular demand. Registration is now open with discounts for registering early. Visit ignitenj.org for additional information about registering, the schedule and lineup.

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by Marcia J. Hendron

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2016 Summer Season Highlights

Sunday Services in the Great Auditorium

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>June 12 - 10:30am
Dr. Cleo LaRue
<i>Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ</i></p> |  <p>July 10 - 10:30am
Dr. Barry C. Black,
U.S. Senate Chaplain
<i>US Senate Chaplain,
Washington, DC</i></p> |  <p>July 31
10:30am & 7:00pm
Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell
<i>Macedonian Ministry,
Atlanta, GA</i></p> |  <p>August 28 - 10:30am
Dr. David Ireland
<i>Christ Church, Rockaway, NJ</i></p> |
|  <p>June 19 - 10:30am
Dr. Wess Stafford
<i>Compassion International,
Colorado Springs, CO</i></p> |  <p>July 10 - 7:00pm
62nd Annual
Choir Festival</p> |  <p>August 7
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. R.T. Kendall
<i>R.T. Kendall Ministries,
Hendersonville, TN</i></p> |  <p>August 28 - 7:30pm
Annual Sacred
Masterwork
Concert</p> |
|  <p>June 26
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. Tim Kimmel
<i>Family Matters, Scottsdale, AZ</i></p> |  <p>July 17
10:30am & 7:00pm
Lee Strobel
<i>Woodlands Church,
Woodlands, TX</i></p> |  <p>August 14
10:30am & 7:00pm
Skip Heitzig
<i>Calvary Chapel,
Albuquerque, NM</i></p> |  <p>September 4
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. Mitch Glaser
<i>Chosen People Ministries
New York, NY</i></p> |
|  <p>July 3
10:30am & 7:00pm
Brother Roy Lauter
<i>New Hope International
Ministries, Wilmore, KY</i></p> |  <p>July 24
10:30am & 7:00pm
Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins
<i>Eastern University, St. Davids, PA</i></p> |  <p>August 21
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. Tom Long
<i>Emory University, Atlanta, GA</i></p> |  <p>September 11
10:30am
Lt. Colonel
David E. Kelley
<i>Salvation Army</i></p> |

Bible Hour

In Bishop Janes Tabernacle
Starting at 9:00am

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>June 20-25
Pastor Rob Cruver
<i>Zarephath Christian Church,
Zarephath, NJ</i></p> |  <p>July 4-9
Brother Roy Lauter
<i>New Hope International
Ministries, Wilmore, KY</i></p> |  <p>August 1-3
Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell
<i>Macedonian Ministry,
Atlanta GA</i></p> |  <p>August 22-27
Dr. James
W. Fleming
<i>Biblical History Center
La Grange, GA</i></p> |
|  <p>June 27-29
Dr. Tim Kimmel
<i>Family Matters, Scottsdale, AZ</i></p> |  <p>July 11-16
Pastor
Christian Andrews
<i>Park Church, Tinton Falls, NJ</i></p> |  <p>August 4-6
Rev. David Cotton
<i>First Presbyterian Church of
Manasquan, Manasquan, NJ</i></p> |  <p>Aug. 29 - Sept. 3
Pastor
Bill Beckelman
<i>Calvary Chapel Coastlands,
Eatontown, NJ</i></p> |
|  <p>June 30 - July 2
Pastor Ray Tate
<i>Life Chapel, Pt. Pleasant, NJ</i></p> |  <p>July 18-23
Rev. Roger Casey
<i>First Presbyterian Church,
Milford, PA</i></p> |  <p>August 8-13
Jay Seegert
<i>Creation Education Center</i></p> | |
| |  <p>July 25-30
Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins
<i>Eastern University,
St. Davids, PA</i></p> |  <p>August 15-20
Dr. Paul Maier
<i>Western Michigan University,
Michigan</i></p> | |

Camp Meeting Week - Sunday, July 31 - Sunday, August 7

Many more events and activities being held during this week. For complete listing see our website.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Monday, August 1
Tuesday, August 2
7:00pm
Dr. Tom Tewell
<i>Macedonian Ministry,
Atlanta, GA</i></p> |  <p>Wednesday, August 3
Ocean Grove
Summer Band
Concert - 8:00pm
<i>"Hymns of the Faith"</i></p> |  <p>Sunday, August 7
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. R.T. Kendall
<i>R.T. Kendall Ministries,
Hendersonville, TN</i></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

SAVE THE DATES
JUNE 24TH
JUNE 25TH

89.7 THE BRIDGE
LISTEN • LEARN • BELIEVE

Bridgefest

Musical Artists:
PHIL WICKHAM
AND CITIZENS & SAINTS
With Special Guest Speaker
GREG LAURIE

Continuing Education

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>June 27 & 28 • 7:00-8:30pm
Dr. Tim Kimmel
Monday: <i>Grace, Discipline
and Strong Willed Kids</i>
Tuesday: <i>Grace Filled Sex</i>
Being held at the Bishop Janes Tabernacle</p> |  <p>August 8 & 9
7:00-8:30pm
Jay Seegert
Monday: <i>Creation vs. Evolution</i>
<i>The Case for Science</i>
Tuesday: <i>Faith is not a Four-letter word</i>
Being held at the Bishop Janes Tabernacle</p> |  <p>August 22-26
10:30am - noon
Dr. James W. Fleming
<i>Miracle Stories of the Bible</i>
In this study, we will examine various ways scholars have interpreted ancient texts which seem miraculous. Certainly some of them must remain as mysteries. For us, living in a different time and very different place from the origin of the stories, knowledge of the settings of the stories can help in their interpretation. In all these stories we will discuss the human need, the presence of God, and a sense of wonder. Being held in the Community Room. Ticket price is \$125.00 (+\$1.50 service charge)</p> |
|  <p>July 5, 12, 19 & 26 • 7:00-8:00pm
Bible Study on the beach
with David Cotton
Tuesday evening Bible Study, "Four Voices - One Story," explores the four Gospel accounts and the unique "voice" of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as they tell the story of Jesus. Held on the Ocean Grove beach just south of the Beach Office at Embury Ave.</p> |  <p>August 11 & 12
9:30am-5:30pm
Global Leadership Summit
<i>Live Simulcast</i>
The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day, world-class leadership event, and is telecast LIVE from Willow Creek's campus near Chicago. This event is crafted to infuse vision, skill development and inspiration to those attending. Join us by calling 732-775-0035 ext. 100 for discount code and registration information. Being held in the Youth Temple.</p> |  <p>September 17
9:00am - 4:15pm
Beth Moore
<i>Live Simulcast</i> - Beth founded Living Proof Ministries in 1994 with the purpose of teaching how to love and live on God's Word. Beth Moore is devoted to investing in the Spiritual lives of people of every color and denomination through sound Biblical teaching and uplifting praise and worship. Don't miss your chance to attend this special event. Register early (before Aug. 17) and pay only \$20.00 (+\$1.50 service charge). After Aug. 17 ticket price is \$25.00 (+\$1.50 service charge). Seating is limited so call today. Being held in the Youth Temple.</p> |
|  <p>July 11, 18, 25 & Aug. 8 & 15
7:00pm
Ladies, Join Us
Under The Umbrella
Bring your own beach chair and a friend and look for the pink striped umbrellas on Main Avenue Beach for a relaxing time of fun, friendship and a focus on God! Small group discussions open to all women. May also be held at The Hub courtyard. Rain location is at the Bishop Janes Tabernacle.</p> | | |

OBITUARIES

Donna Tittle, lay member conference delegate from Butler UMC died Feb. 5. A memorial service was held on February 20.

Memorial Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Butler United Methodist Church at 5 Bartholdi Avenue, Butler, NJ 07405.

Helen K. Carlisle, widow of deceased Elder Edmund H. Carlisle, died on March 25. A memorial service was held on April 3, 2016 at The Shores at Wesley Manor in Ocean City.

Memorial Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Macedonia United Methodist Church at 951 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, NJ 08226 or St. Peter's United Methodist Church at 501 East 8th Street, Ocean City, NJ 08226.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Rocap Shannon Memorial Funeral Home guest book at www.rocapshannon.com.

Anne R. Layton, spouse of former retired Elder Rev. Warren Layton, died on Sunday, February 7. A Memorial Service was held on February 16 at the First UMC of Farmingdale.

Memorial Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to First UMC of Farmingdale at 8 Main Street, Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Terry Van Benthuisen at 610 Academy Road, Pt. Pleasant, NJ 08742.

Rev. LaGretta Bjorn, Full Elder, died on Friday, April 8. A Memorial Service was held on April 16 at Good Shepherd UMC.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Akil Bjorn at 265 Limestone Place, Union City, GA 30291.

Rev. Carl Farrell Sr., retired Elder, died on Tuesday April 5. A service was held on April 11 at Weekstown Community Church.

Memorial Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Child Evangelism Fellowship, CEF at 16 Evergreen Road, New Egypt, NJ 08533.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Darlene Farrell c/o Carl Farrell Jr. at 206 Linwood Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

ATTENTION PASTORS!

Do you have students going to Rutgers this fall?
Would they benefit from a friendly face during their time at college?

LET US HELP!



Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway seeks to show Christ's love to Rutgers students. We would love contact information for students willing to share their walk with a vibrant faith community during their time away from home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:

cumc.campusministry@gmail.com

WHAT FOOTPRINTS DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE?



After a life of service, retirement should be simple, peaceful and fulfilling. For more than 25 years, Clergy Retirement Advisors has worked with ministers to create effective retirement plans. We will review all your retirement options which may include pensions, social security, property and other investments, and create a personalized plan designed to maximize your monthly payments to help provide a secure financial future for you and your family.

For years you have dedicated yourself to the service of others. Now, let Clergy Retirement Advisors help you secure a thorough financial plan, so you can focus on the things you love.

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801 Asbury Ave, Suite 650 | Ocean City, NJ 08226
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CLERGYRETIREMENT
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Faith in the Future

CIRCLES OF HOPE

Together, United Methodists with other partners have cut the death rate from malaria in half and rebuilt more than 200 homes following Superstorm Sandy.

This is made possible through generous contributions to the Mission Fund.

We thank our congregations that have been generous in their giving.

These circles of giving represent those leading the way.

HOPE

Average Giving

Above \$300 or more per worshiper

Wenonah UMC: \$600.75

Drakestown UMC
in Hackettstown: \$492.84

Vincent UMC
in Nutley: \$460.43

RENEWING

Average Giving

\$100 and above per worshiper

UMC in Absecon: \$111.71

Chatham UMC: \$127.31

Kemble Memorial
UMC: \$102.18

REBUILDING

Average Giving

\$200 and above per worshiper

Middletown UMC: \$280.46

UMC in Madison: \$254.49

UMC in Union: \$200.25

REPAIRING

Average Giving

\$50 and above per worshiper

Butler UMC: \$95.35

First Korean UMC
in Cherry Hill: \$76.06

First UMC in
Toms River: \$98.46

*See inside for a list of
participating churches.*

Share in the special offering at Annual Conference that will move us closer to our \$12 million goal. You may make a direct contribution by going to the link below or encouraging your church to take a special offering and contribute in Wildwood.

www.gnjumc.org/themissionfundcampaign