

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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A Future With Hope Races to Rebuild

By Josh Kinney
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The buzz of power tools reverberated off fresh planks beneath Nan Unley's Tuckerton home. Voices shouted directions over clinking nails and grinding drills as volunteers from A Future With Hope and Race2Rebuild worked together through the sweltering heat of Saturday, August 13.

"Four years later and we're still here," Unley said, wiping sweat from her brow and resting against a new piling holding up her house. In 2012, Superstorm Sandy left Tuckerton devastated, and the work continues.

"My boss took a ride here two weeks ago and said, 'Nan, I can't believe it. So many homes still not fixed!'" Unley said. But now that has changed, at least for Unley, who in February garnered support from A Future With Hope. As the mission arm of GNJ, the organization remains one of the last standing in the field throughout New Jersey helping rebuild and restore neglected homes and lives still reeling in Sandy's wake. This summer, the organization partnered with Race2Rebuild, a nonprofit endurance sports program supporting disaster recovery by participation in rebuilding projects. Also founded in Sandy's aftermath, Race2Rebuild's national team of volunteer athletes partner with various racing events to raise funds and build awareness for families and individuals with lost or damaged homes.

This year, DelMoSports, Atlantic City Sports Commission and Race2Rebuild partnered for a Jersey Shore Hurricane Sandy rebuilding project with A Future With Hope and the St. Bernard Project (SBP) before the Atlantic City Triathlon and 5k on August 14. Volunteers of all skill levels assisted multiple projects in Monmouth and Ocean Counties to continue the recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy often ignored in the media.

"A community's recovery process following a disaster is the ultimate endurance event," said Race2Rebuild President Sarah Hartmann. "We are truly grateful to our partners the Atlantic City Sport Commission and DelMoSports, and especially our rebuilding partners SBP and A Future With Hope for their ongoing work and for providing Race2Rebuild volunteers with the opportunity to tangibly change lives, sending a message to all families struggling to come home that they are not forgotten."

Unley had felt forgotten for several years, having lived in eight different places including an RV and on family member's couches.

"My daughter is living with friends in Burlington County, and her daughter is living with me at my mom's in Tuckerton so she can continue attending Pineland's school district which is familiar with her special learning needs," Unley said.

In 2002, Unley bought her home in Tuckerton and moved from Cinnaminson out of a love for the Jersey Shore. Friends and family told her she would never be able to afford the venture but with perseverance and determination she worked hard to make it happen. Later that year, she lost her son to a seizure. His two young daughters "lived for coming to Nannies to crab and fish." Unley's son asked his mother never to move because of how much he and the family loved the Tuckerton home. Unley has held on to those words.

"So every time I was feeling like I hit rock bottom, I would remember what he said, and fight on," she stated.

"Four years after Sandy, the recovery effort has become complex for many homeowners," said Bobbie Ridgely,

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'A Future With Hope' and 'Race2Rebuild' volunteers join forces to help reconstruct the home of Nan Unley in Tuckerton. Photo by Josh Kinney



On Saturday, Aug. 13, teams from 'A Future With Hope' and 'Race2Rebuild' braved the heat to make a difference in the lives of forgotten coastal New Jersey residents still working to get back in their homes following Superstorm Sandy.

Photo by Josh Kinney

Socially Responsible Investing with Stewardship Foundation

By Josh Kinney
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When Superstorm Sandy knocked out the electricity in her home, Sue Goodman sought refuge at her church, Morrow Memorial UMC in Maplewood. The building acted as a community center for neighborhood residents affected by the storm, and for Goodman, a vital workspace managing a portfolio for AGP Asset Management, a large Dutch pension fund. She didn't know it at the time, but the safe haven she worked from would soon lead to her new role as Interim Executive Director of The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey.

With her Wall Street days behind her after her 2013 early retirement, Goodman

joined the board of The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of GNJ in 2014. She reviewed foundations across the country to take their best practices to help GNJ's foundation become best in class, keeping the commitment to grow GNJ church assets for ministry. A year later, after reviewing proposals from several asset management companies, Wespath Investment Management emerged as the best option aligned with the strategic plan



goals of GNJ from an investment return and administrative support perspective.

As the investment management division of the General Board of Pension and

Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church and the largest faith-based investor in the U.S. managing over \$20 billion, Wespath invests using United Methodist social principles in compliance with the Book of Discipline. That made the move to Wespath a natural one, as the organization does not invest in companies that produce alcohol and tobacco, operate sweat shops or give executives large bonuses while employees are laid off. Wespath has achieved competitive financial returns and is rated as a top 10 social investor in the U.S. In 2006, Wespath became the only faith-based bounding signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), which it helped co-author.

"I'm excited about laying strong ground work to build upon and grow

resources to help GNJ," said Goodman. "I see a lot of potential."

In July 2015, GNJ's Director of Stewardship and Spiritual Visioning, Rev. Dr. Rich Hendrickson, who had been developing and growing stewardship in GNJ churches for nearly a decade, assumed the role of the foundation's executive director. Under his leadership, the Foundation grew \$34 million in assets.

"I am pleased that we are investing through Wespath because I believe it will further enhance the assets of participating churches," Hendrickson said. In July, Hendrickson returned to his roots in Ocean Grove and began his new appointment as pastor of St. Paul's UMC. Goodman was appointed as the new Interim Executive Director and will be

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A Message from the Bishop



Graceful Controversy

I am intrigued when two words with different meanings are put together:

deafening silence
irregular pattern
serious joke
accurate estimate
lead from behind.

Phrases that use contradictory words cause us to think about the meaning.

The Bible uses this same technique to challenge and deepen faith and understanding.

- Whoever wants to save their life must lose it – dying to live
- We are made perfect in weakness – perfect weakness
- The first shall be last – last place winners
- You must be born again – second birth

With this article, I begin a three part series looking at what seems to be opposites as we consider what's next for The United Methodist Church.

Graceful controversy

Contemporary tradition

Generous orthodoxy

There are some who feel The United Methodist Church is on the brink of schism because of our differences concerning LGBTQ people (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer). In May 2016, General Conference voted to organize a Special Commission to identify a helpful way forward with consideration to important theological beliefs and differences concerning the ordination and marriage of gays and lesbians.

Today I want to talk with you about, graceful controversy.

Recently I wrote a letter to GNJ clergy and lay leadership about the election and consecration of Karen Oliveto to the office of Bishop in The United Methodist Church. (You may find my letter at www.gnjumc.org/news) Bishop Oliveto is a self-avowed, practicing lesbian. I have received numerous messages about my letter. Some indicate they're leaving The United Methodist Church because of the election and consecration of Bishop Oliveto, while others wonder why it has taken The United Methodist Church so long to move in this direction and if it does not change its policy, they will leave the denomination.

Humanity in general, has never been very good at controversy and rarely approaches graceful controversy. After all, controversy by its very nature is oppositional. In controversies, people try to convince each other to their way of thinking, dismiss, or even try to destroy each other. History has repeated itself over and over again. In The United Methodist Church, we have had serious conflicts with other controversies - women's ordination, slavery, segregation, and divorce are a few of them. We have even had deep controversy over whether or not there should be Methodist bishops. On this one, I am glad things worked out as they did.

People like Martin Luther King, Jr, Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt and Jesus are the people who have been graceful witnesses in the face of controversy. They did not avoid conflict or change. They engaged it. People did not always come to see things as King, Gandhi, Roosevelt or Jesus saw them, but many people, whether they agreed or disagreed, had an inner change after their engagement.

Today, as we face a controversy about homosexuality, we have leaders who will solve the problem by conducting church trials by the dozens for people who disobey the Book of Discipline. Sometimes, trials may be unavoidable, but they are painful, divisive and hurt the witness of the church. To be cavalier about trials is not graceful controversy and will not help us through this controversy.

Others have sent hate mail and made threats against people. Those who respond with hate will not help us through this challenge if they're not open to graceful controversy.

Jesus had strong views but was willing to change in the midst of controversy as in the story of the healing of a Canaanite woman's daughter (Matthew 15:21-28). At times Jesus taught obedience to the law (Matthew 5:17), and on other occasions, he healed people on the Sabbath in opposition to the law. Even God after the great flood changed and said that there would be no more great floods.

Changing church laws does not necessarily change hearts. The UMC changed its segregation policies in 1968 but today racism continues within the UMC. Sunday morning remains the most segregated hour in our church. We have not changed yet. Changing a law does not make a heart change.

Compromise is not heart change either.

Compromise on the issues facing us about homosexuality is not the answer. Compromise is like the couple who were going on vacation. One

wanted to go to Hawaii and the other to the Bahamas. What did they do? They went to Oklahoma. It is not compromising that we are called to, but a grace-filled conversation that leads to heart change. Graceful controversy is not compromising.

Our problem now is our focus on maintaining or changing the Book of Discipline. I see graceful controversy seeking a different change, a change within, a change of the heart. This change begins with our own heart first.

When I talk about heart change and embracing paradoxes people say, "the Bible says..." and others say, our Book of Discipline discriminates and causes hatred. Both of these are true. But I believe there is a greater change God seeks in our church, and I believe engaging controversies gracefully are an avenue to our future.

What does graceful controversy look like in the midst of our differences? Here are some things I have learned along the way.

1. Seek God and understanding rather than winning.
2. Understand that just because people disagree with you or your interpretation of the Bible doesn't mean they're bad or wrong.
3. Bathe the controversy in prayer and seek the Holy Spirit's discernment.
4. Seek solutions through a deeper relationship with God and with others, especially with those that do not agree with you.

I am sure you can add to this list. Grace in the midst of controversy turns fear into trust, enemies into friends, and hopelessness into possibility.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops is forming a 20-person Special Commission to look at how we will move through our differences, our paradox. I want to engage disciples across GNJ who would like to participate in a conversation that gracefully looks at our controversy and shares GNJ's input with the Special Commission. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about how you can participate.

Today the church is working through a variety of controversial matters, not only LGBTQ. In GNJ the conference seeks to support congregations in the midst of controversial conversations. I invite you to change the tenor and tone of the conversation by entering into the controversies gracefully. We have people who are ready to assist your congregation and facilitate controversial discussion. To learn more or to have a trained facilitator work with you contact Nicola Mulligan at NMulligan@gnjumc.org.

Keep the faith!

John Schol, Bishop

The October Issue Deadline is September 23, 2016

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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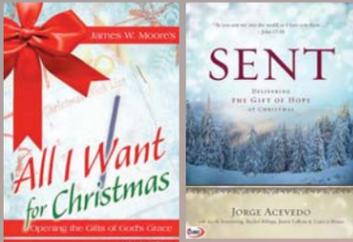
ADVENT RESOURCES FOR SMALL GROUPS

What the experts are recommending for Advent Small Groups Curriculum:

REV. BETH CAULFIELD

GNJ Director of Small Groups

All I Want for Christmas by James Moore
Sent by Jorge Acevado

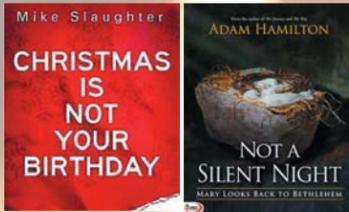


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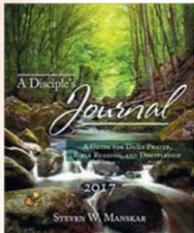


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REV. STEVE MANSKAR

Wesleyan Leadership, Discipleship Ministries

A Disciple's Journal 2017: A Guide for Daily Prayer, Bible Reading, and Discipleship
by Steve Manskar



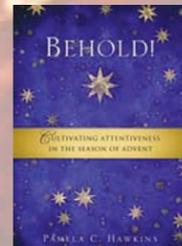
Pre-Order at: www.amazon.com

“A small group could agree to read the Scriptures appointed for each day of Advent and to intentionally practice the General Rule of Discipleship in their daily life” - Rev. Steve Manskar

MELANIE GORDON

Director, Ministry with Children, Discipleship Ministries

Behold! by Pamela Hawkins

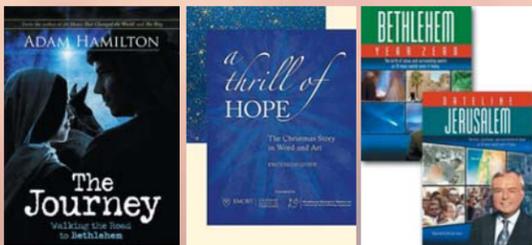


Available at: www.bookstore.upperroom.org

REV. JENNY SMITH WALZ

Trinity UMC, Hackettstown

The Journey by Adam Hamilton
A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art by Morehouse Education Resources
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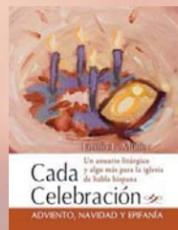


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Cada Celebración: Adviento, Navidad y Epifanía by Emilio E. Müller



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FOR ADVENT STUDY RESOURCES COMPARISONS:

<http://images.umph.org/cokesburyportals/AdventPlanningGuide.pdf>



SMALL GROUP OUTREACH IDEA DURING ADVENT FOR SMALL GROUPS:

“One of my favorite practices to prepare hearts for celebrating the coming of Christ is to take a small group Christmas caroling. My tradition is to go to the hospital, but there are plenty of other sites that your group’s heart may be tugged toward: local nursing homes, malls, jails, soup kitchens. As the group sings about Christ’s past coming, they can muse about preparing their hearts for Christ’s future coming as they bring Christ to others in the present through the caroling.” -Beth Caulfield, Director of Small Groups

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT CONTACT:

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Derek Minor's 'Empire' to Invade IGNITE 2016

By Josh Kinney
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A surprise guest is set to infiltrate the IGNITE youth conference this fall in Wildwood. American Christian hip hop artist, record producer, entrepreneur, actor, and screenwriter Derek Minor is the latest act to join the lineup of nationally renowned artists and speakers at the annual gathering on Sept. 30 – Oct. 2. Over 1,000 students grades 6-12 will meet to fellowship, connect, worship and grow in their relationship with God.

Thirty one-year-old Derek Johnson, known by his stage name 'Derek Minor,' is a founding member of the hip-hop group R.M.G. on Reflection, and is also a member of the Reach hip-hop collective 116 Clique. The artists are an American Southern hip hop cooperative from Dallas signed to Reach Records and named after the Bible verse Romans 1:16. His second album, *Redemption*, charted at No. 8 on the Billboard 200, No. 1 on the Top Christian chart, No. 2 on the Gospel Albums chart, No. 7 on the Top Independent Albums chart, and No. 11 on the Top Rap chart.

A native of Pontiac, Michigan, Minor decided to enroll in a music program at Middle Tennessee State University after visiting at age 15. "Music was my journal," he said, crediting his mother for inspiring and encouraging his musical endeavors. During college, Minor was in a rap duo, graduating in 2006 with a BA in Recording Industry Management. He rebelled against his strict home environment, pursuing money, and music until what Minor described as a "season of death" shook up his life. Within a short time span, Minor lost his grandfather, grandmother and godmother. The loss sparked a realization of the fleeting nature of life, and it was then Minor decided to dedicate his life and talents to God. Since then his journey has led to an exciting and challenging adventure connecting with people on a heart level, which he considers "paramount in creating music deeper than the surface." Minor produced five studio albums and six mixtapes as a solo artist including one studio album each with the groups R.M.G. on Reflection and 116 Clique. Minor's film and

television work has included a three-part web series "Dying to Live" and the short documentary films "Redemption" and "Welcome to the Family Documentary." Johnson was also featured as the title character in the video game "Altered Pro" released under Reach Records.

In October 2014 at the Dove Awards, Minor announced that his fifth album would be titled *Empire*, which was released in January 2015 through RMG and Entertainment One. The concept of the album addressed how people build their own empires vs. taking part in building God's.

"Empire is a search for meaning and grace amid the false gods and temptations of a fallen world," said Steve Hayes of Cross Rhythms. Kevin Hoskins from Jesus Freak Hideout stated in a review of *Empire*, "The beats are amazing, the rapping flows wonderfully, and there's an abundance of great guest spots. All rap fans need to grab this album."

Having performed at several youth conferences, retreats and festivals over the years, Minor loves most seeing churches invested in their kids and getting to play a personal role in that investment.



Christian hip-hop artist Derek Minor will hit the stage at IGNITE 2016 on Oct. 1 in Wildwood. Photo provided



Derek Minor loves seeing churches invest in their youth and is excited to play a role in that investment at IGNITE 2016. Photo provided

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"Laughing and smiling is a ministry in itself," he said. "My goal is always to put on the best show possible." Among the many hits from his *Empire* album, Minor plans to share some of his new songs with the IGNITE conference including a song called "Change the world."

"Some of the lyrics go like this," Minor said, lunging into show mode and rapping, "We are the brightness, we won't succumb to the darkness." The song expresses humanity created in God's image and the small and subtle ways the world can be changed.

"It could be as simple as seeing someone crying and going out of your way to ask and see if they're okay," Minor said. He continued, "Or maybe it's seeing someone broken down on the side of the

road and calling AAA for them."

"Greatness" is another song Minor will be performing for IGNITE which speaks to being made for a purpose.

Minor encourages youth leaders in GNJ to invest in their kids. "There's an opportunity here to invest timeless knowledge and entertainment," he said. "IGNITE is an investment for these kids' future."

Minor's new album, *Reflection*, is set for release on October 14, just one week after IGNITE. The youth conference will have a chance to hear an exclusive performance from the upcoming record. For more information about Derek Minor and to hear his music, go to www.derekminor.com

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Blanca Brings Energy, Passion to IGNITE

By Josh Kinney
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As a little girl standing before a mirror wielding a hairbrush as a microphone, Blanca Elaine Callahan, known to us today as the superstar Blanca, didn't know what was going to come of her passion for music. Growing up with divorced parents, with issues of insecurity and a lack of confidence cast doubt upon her dreams. It wasn't until her dad came back into her life asking for forgiveness as a newfound follower of Christ that her life began to change.

"My dad's testimony was huge," Blanca said. "God was in every detail." Her father became a Christian salsa singer and spurred her musical ambitions. At 17, Blanca began a relationship with God and started singing professionally at Disney World in her home city of Orlando before joining a small group of musicians at her church. She became the founding member of the band 'Group 1 Crew' with Manwell Reyes and Pablo Villatoro, performing as the lead singer for almost ten years. During that time, she met and married Ben Callahan, the former Group 1 Crew drummer. The couple's son, London, was born in 2013. That same year, Blanca stepped out in faith to begin her solo career.



to so we don't have to be insecure. At the end of the day, we're His, and we're fearfully and wonderfully made.

Relay: What do you hope both youth and leaders take away from your performance and the IGNITE weekend as whole?

Blanca: *Aside from owning who they are in Christ, I hope everyone leaves with a fresh understanding of who God is, knowing He is in all the details and how much He truly loves us. I remember being like 16 or 17-years-old with this misconception that God was up in heaven looking down pointing out flaws. I felt like I was a screw up trying and wanting to be perfect, but I really hope these young people leave with a new understanding of God's love for them and with a new inspiration and fire to seek Him out and what He has in store for their lives.*

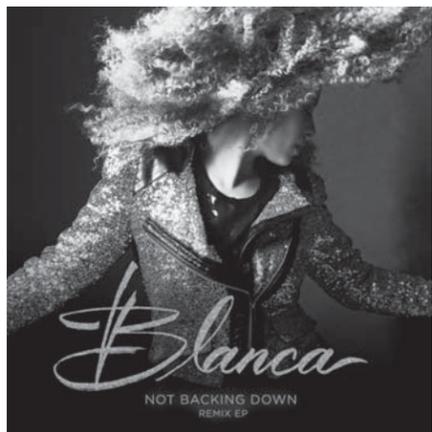
Relay: There's probably a few youth group leaders on the fence about signing their students up for IGNITE. Why should they step out and take their groups?

Blanca: *Bring them out for kids like me, who were on a hard journey who needed to have their souls refreshed. I wish I would have had these opportunities when I was younger. The community my church brought into my life made a huge impact on me when I did come to know God. I encourage them to bring their kids and allow them to have an amazing time getting filled up and fired up for what God has for them, especially kids that need that extra push and that need community and time together to really grasp who God is.*

Relay: What's in store Blanca's future?

Blanca: *Right now I'm working on my second album and I'm ready for the next chapter. I'm taking it one step at a time and I really hope that people continue to be touched by my songs and feel like they can connect. I hope to add a new sense of vulnerability and rawness so listeners can get a glimpse into who I am. I'm going to trust God and ride the waves as long as He has me doing it.*

Blanca has launched a new social media campaign, the #RealTrueYou challenge, inspiring fans, friends, followers, and other artists to participate. Join her by posting the #RealTrueYou on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and be sure your church's youth group gets a chance to catch her performance at IGNITE 2016 in Wildwood.



Blanca has quickly become a standout solo artist with the debut of her self-titled album, Blanca. She's entered the Top 10 on Billboard's Christian Albums chart, with her single, "Who I am," reaching No. 1 on Billboard's Christian Hot AC/CHR chart. The video was filmed live in front of 15,000 fans at Winter Jam Spectacular 2015 in Orlando, Florida. The lyrics are an authentic portrayal of who Blanca has become during this new and exciting chapter of her life and career. On September 30 through Oct. 2, Blanca will perform for over 1,000 students grades 6-12 at the IGNITE youth conference in Wildwood. The Relay staff had a chance to speak with her about her upcoming performance.

Relay: Are you excited about IGNITE?
Blanca: *I am SO excited about IGNITE!*

Relay: Give us a glimpse into what you'll be sharing during your performance.

Blanca: *Well, first of all, expect some high energy and fun dancing. I just want to be real, to encourage kids to be themselves and be everything God has made them to be. I felt like I had to try super hard to be accepted and had such a fear of letting my guard down when I was young. These last few years God has brought me through owning who I am and who He's made me to be.*

Relay: What's one song you'll be performing and what does it mean to you?

Blanca: *"Who I am" is a song about knowing who we are and who we belong*



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"I didn't know what to expect as it was my first time coming with a new congregation. What I found were speakers who were radically honest about themselves, their walk with Jesus and top notch musicians praising God."

"Ignite tremendously encouraged me as a youth leader and inspired our youth. The speakers brought such a depth of experience to the event; they were absolutely terrific. Keep up the great work, as we witness God move through our youth!"



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Pastors Reap Benefits of PaCE Groups

By Rev. Jessica Stenstrom
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With the challenges of ministry, burn-out can be real. Now entering its second year, PaCE groups, a resource initiated by Greater New Jersey to provide clergy with peer learning opportunities, allow clergy a time away from the church to learn, pray and play with colleagues.

"It can be hard working in a small church as a solo pastor," said Rev. Kyle Cuperwich, pastor of Califon UMC. "My PaCE group gave me a time to connect with my 'co-workers,' develop ideas for ministry and simply have some much-needed fellowship. It was a blessing."

Enrollment for the upcoming season of PaCE groups is currently ongoing with groups slated to begin this October. Pastors can choose from the following pre-selected topics: "Fishing in New Frontiers: Missional Practice in the New Mission Field," facilitated by Director of Mission and Multi-Cultural Missions Nicole Caldwell-Gross. "Designing Sermon Series," facilitated by Director of Worship Eric Drew, or "Effective Time Management as a Spiritual Discipline," facilitated by Director of Small Groups Ministry, Rev. Beth Caulfield. Another option is for pastors to form their own PaCE group by drafting a purpose and curriculum, which an assigned facilitator will help navigate through.

With a new season of PaCE groups set to begin, Trey Wince, Director of New Disciples will be overseeing the program. "I have two hopes; that pastors would not feel alone and that we would continue to strive for excellence," said Wince. "If ministry is worth doing; it is worth doing well."

Each PaCE group has a curriculum focus for continued learning with and from peers in as pastors strive for continuing excellence personally and as pastoral leaders. Wince said he hopes it will become the norm and expectation



Left to right: PaCE Group consisting of Jessica Naulty, Jessica Stenstrom, Iraida Ruiz, Lakesha Groover, Jessica Campbell, Erica Munoz with Braelon on a visit to Lake Tahoe for the "Elevation" worship workshop retreat thanks to a generous grant. Photo provided

for pastors to be part of a PaCE group. Groups will be added each year and a bank of curricula is being developed that can be used by the group.

Wince compared PaCE groups to the small group ministry model of local churches. He said that while it's likely that pastors will be part of small groups in their ministry setting, they often are not able to fully be present and vulnerable because of their role as pastor. Wince said PaCE gives pastors an opportunity

to be in a small group with colleagues.

"Being part of a PaCE group allows much needed time away from the busy-ness of the church to focus on the gifts and graces we have been blessed with as individuals, leaders, and as people called by God. It's where we come together to explore creative and imaginative ways in which we can put these gifts to use for the spiritual development of the church as a whole," said Rev. Iraida

Ruiz, pastor of Christ UMC in Lakewood.

"PaCE groups also have the option of applying for grants, up to \$2,500 per year, to allow the group to attend a conference or workshop together," added Wince. Grant deadlines are Oct. 1, 2016 and Feb. 15, 2017 with a requirement that a group has been meeting for four months.

For additional information about PaCE groups, call Trey Wince at (732)359-1046 or email him at twince@gnjumc.org.

Socially Responsible Investing with Stewardship Foundation

Continued from page 1

expanding the business model and using the foundation as a platform to actively serve GNJ churches.

A graduate of Marquette University with an MBA from Rutgers, Goodman grew up in Washington, D.C. She interned on Capitol Hill and quickly realized her interest lied not in politics but in numbers.

After college, Goodman worked in a bank's controllers department before getting into credit analysis and approving companies for loans. For five years she worked for MetLife in their fixed income bond group and then the derivative market. From there, Goodman received an offer to work for a bond rating agency, specializing in corporate debt and serving as a senior director for over five years. In 2000, the Dutch pension fund APG hired Goodman to analyze bonds in a wide range of industries including paper and forest products, metals and mining, retail, consumer products, and automotive. Years of experience equipped Goodman with the confidence to accept a new challenge with AGP as a portfolio manager to build and manage a timberland portfolio of \$1 billion. This position led to extensive globetrotting to places such as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mozambique and Vietnam.

Now Goodman begins a new enterprise, taking her experience from Wall Street and around the world to serve the church in Greater New Jersey.

"The foundation doesn't just offer the investment management side of things, we want to work with member churches on stewardship education, managing existing resources well, and being good stewards of what we already have," Goodman said. She added, "We want

to work with churches on financial management education as well as financial literacy education for their community members."

"The Stewardship Foundation currently serves more than 55 churches with their long-term investments," said Goodman. "Those investments offer good returns and are managed so that the money is invested in full compliance with the socially responsible principles of the conference." Additionally, Wespath has already invested in New Jersey through loans to a charter school in Newark and an affordable housing project in Merchantville.

The Foundation provides churches with the opportunity to invest with lower fees and low margins through Wespath. They seek to provide a safe place for churches to invest that's true to Methodist principles. To date, 17 Methodist foundations are invested with Wespath.

Greater New Jersey churches are embracing the new direction of the Foundation. In April, Mount Pleasant UMC in Millville suffered a catastrophic fire and have since invested their insurance proceeds with Wespath. In July, Island Heights UMC invested \$200,000 with the Stewardship Foundation. Most recently, the Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society have also moved their investments to Wespath through the Foundation.

For more information about how your congregation can invest through the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey, strengthen your congregation's stewardship, or to attend a regional meeting to hear the Wespath story, contact Sue Goodman at sgoodman@gnjumc.org



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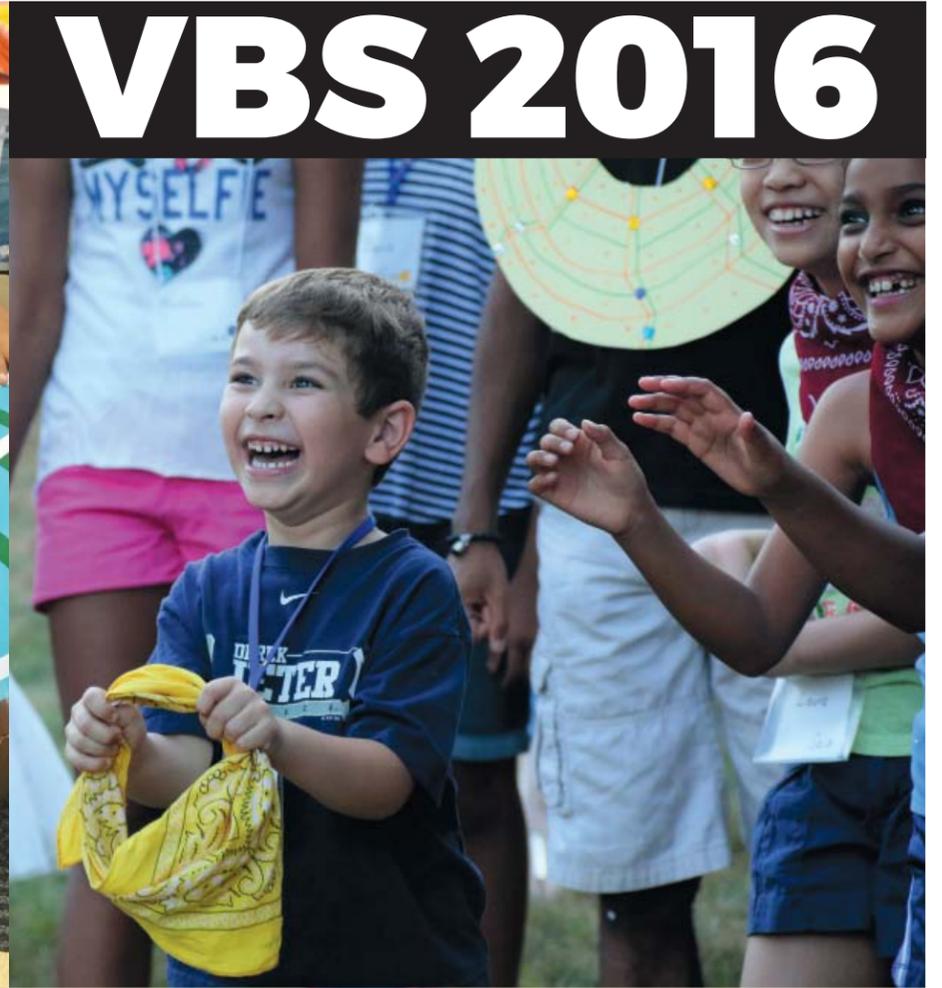
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VBS 2016



Clockwise from top left, youths at Bergen Highlands UMC stayed cool during their VBS' summer heat wave by "catching the wave of God's amazing love." Attendees of Centenary UMC's VBS in Metuchen enjoyed evening games on the church lawn. Carlos Ortega captured a "selfie" of his "family" prior to the VBS closing celebration. Kids smile with handmade sunglasses at Chatham UMC's Surf Shake VBS. Christ UMC in Jersey City featured a VBS of talented teachers and youth enjoying crafts and stories. Bottom: Smiling children from Central UMC in Linwood's "deep sea discovery" VBS.

The Relay staff thanks all of the churches that sent in photos. Due to the high volume received, not all photos were able to be used.





Clockwise from top left, Church of the Good Shepherd UMC in Bergenfield took a dive into a "deep sea discovery" VBS. Next we have a scene from the Hamilton UMC VBS in Neptune. Check out the story on page 10. Kids sing in the pews at The UMC of Mantua's VBS. Saint Andrews UMC in Toms River hosted a "Weird Animal VBS." Sporting their blue shirts, a fun time was had by all at Malaga UMC's VBS. 'The Salon' was one of many shops and craft stops for participants of Centenary UMC's VBS in Metuchen where "Shopkeeper" Nicole Tierno applied her trade. Finally, an "Amen" from Stratford UMC's VBS!



Hamilton UMC Shares Key to Successful VBS

By Denise Herschel
Nj6pack@yahoo.com

Every summer for the past four decades, children have gathered at the small, quaint church on a hill to celebrate faith, fun and friendship for one week in July. Neptune Township's Hamilton UMC has welcomed generations of families including children and grandchildren to participate in its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) program in what has now become an important summer tradition for many in the community.

Church members pride themselves on many of their long-standing youth programs but perhaps one of the most -seasoned and well-received is the VBS program. It is one of the Monmouth County area's oldest summer faith-based programs for children and local families can't seem to imagine a summer without it.

"We see so many regulars each year and many of our regulars turn into families who attend church every Sunday," said Nicole Barron, VBS Director. "I was introduced to the church through the very VBS program that I am now the director of! Talk about full circle. I am directing along with my best friend Renee Rochelle who has been a member for more than ten years as well and has been attending the church since she was young."

The VBS program is geared to those at preschool age up to those entering fifth grade. In years past, the church's VBS program had approximately 200 children participating, and the enthusiasm continues to remain strong among church and community members.

Hamilton UMC Pastor, Rev. Jessica Campbell believes that the success has been sustainable throughout the decades at Hamilton UMC due to the mission component.

"I think collecting supplies or food items from the kids helps them remember what is at the heart of Wesleyan theology - we need to develop personal holiness, but we also need to develop our social holiness."

Campbell believes the key to a truly successful VBS program is those who contribute to its every aspect although she said: "every church is in a different context so every congregation needs to do VBS in a way that works for their setting."

"Because the leaders really make or break the program, if you don't have the 'right' people then find them. Are there Boy or Girl Scouts or area teachers that people know can help? People really want their kids to have good, positive experiences and people who love kids will step up to change lives for the better," she said.

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Faith in the Future

Basketball Ministry a Slam Dunk at Hightstown

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org

What began in the summer of 1995 with six kids dribbling a basketball in the Hightstown UMC parking lot has grown over the last 22 consecutive years to nearly 100 kids coming to the church each summer to shoot hoops. For children and adults of this small town in Mercer County, the summer evening basketball program plays a prominent role in the local community.

More than two decades ago, church members Jim Chamberlain and Paul Follansbee seized upon an opportunity to transform their church's parking lot into a basketball court for neighborhood kids, specifically those living in a public housing complex across the street administered by Hightstown Housing Authority. With a lifelong love of basketball, Chamberlain found both the game and team concept rewarding and decided to team up with Follansbee to play out his

kid and now cheers on her children as they shoot hoops from the sidelines of the same parking lot that taught her the game. Randolph went on to play basketball for Hightstown High School.

For five weeks every summer on Monday and Wednesday nights, about 14 adult volunteers from the church and community work with children to provide friendship, mentoring and games of basketball. A new contest is held each night earning winners trophies and mini basketballs to boost self-esteem. Regulars receive a "Methodist Madness" T-shirt. Themed nights feature guest appearances from community and church members who use their gifts and careers to benefit the ministry. From a dental hygienist giving away toothbrushes and paste to "library night" emphasizing the importance of reading, studying, and using the local library, the outreach has sought to meet a variety of needs.

"Everyone coming to the table with new ideas and concepts over the years



Hightstown resident Shalyn Randolph stands with her two sons Jaqueann and Quann'mir Coleman at the "Methodist Madness" family picnic and awards ceremony night on Aug. 10. Photo by Josh Kinney



At least 100 children gathered every Monday and Wednesday night for five weeks this summer to attend Hightstown UMC's annual "Methodist Madness" basketball outreach. Photo by Josh Kinney



Trophies were awarded to children of the "Methodist Madness" basketball outreach at the program's final picnic night on Aug. 10. Photo by Josh Kinney



Children dribble basketballs across the Hightstown UMC parking lot which has become a place many in the community have learned to play the game. Photo by Josh Kinney

vision, dubbed "Methodist Madness." Endorsed by then pastor Rev. James Davis, the baskets were donated by the United Methodist Men and Women and the program took off. From scholarship awards, vision screenings, craft nights, and other activities accompanying basketball, the self-sustaining community-wide endeavor has instilled hope for multiple generations of Hightstown's young people. One of those is Shalyn Randolph, who participated in the program as a

has been a moving experience for me," said Chamberlain. "Everyone takes ownership of their ideas and we've just been so blessed with people in different fields with different gifts who see a need and bring it to the program and work to make it happen."

For 20 years Chamberlain ran the program with the help and support of committed, likeminded church members who have shared the vision of keeping the dream alive. Two years ago,

Chamberlain turned over leadership of the program to Steve Lee, Ted Koerner and Bill Fish.

"One of our church members noticed some of the kids didn't have proper shoes," said Lee. "So a shoe donation program began." Knowing several children participated in a food program through their schools which did not extend into the summer months, the idea of providing nutrition bags was implemented several years ago.

"Picnic night was another concept to bring the families out and provide dinner and an awards ceremony," said Lee, who has coined this year's program slogan "Believe to Achieve." Suggestions for each year's slogan such as "Court of Dreams" have come from many different members of the Methodist Madness team over the years.

Fundraising for "Methodist Madness" has always been separate and exclusive from the church "with no impact on the church budget" said Chamberlain. More than 80 percent of the program's cost is met by the church's annual flea market which is held on the town's yard sale day. Months before the flea, flyers are posted throughout the town soliciting used furniture and other household donations which are collected and stored in the church basement and made available for purchase on yard sale day.

"It's gotten a whole lot more efficient over the years, but it's a heck of a lot of work over the course of the year to pull it off," said Lee. "By spring, it's an all hands on deck situation, but it's always worth it, and it's been incredibly rewarding."

Realizing the importance of the summer program, the Hightstown Housing Authority voted the outreach a \$1,000 annual grant. In 2005, a scholarship program with an anonymous gift of \$10,000 opened doors of opportunity to several program participants. Chris de LaHoz attended Mercer Community College and completed a degree at Rider University in Trenton with scholarship aid.

During the 2016 Methodist Madness season, Lee reported a total of 171 youths attending at least one night's activities and averaging 100 each week with 73 new participants. This year 100 T-shirts and 100 pairs of sneakers were given out. Chamberlain commended the church's various pastors who have contributed to the program's success by use of their own unique gifts and ideas. Hightstown UMC pastor, Rev. Sammy Arroyo beamed, "This has been a tremendous summer. We are so blessed." Arroyo opened up his garage to store an overflow of used furniture for the church's flea market and transformed his backyard into "BBQ Alley" for the program's family picnic and awards ceremony night.

From the volunteers, guest speakers, and administrative supporters to the bathroom attendant, "All are involved and engaged in some sort of ministry for the program," stated Arroyo.

"Over the years, it's not just the kids growing and maturing," said Lee, "but the parents and caretakers are enjoying the program and taking on bigger roles. We're building relationships."

MARCHA Elects GNJ Pastor as New President

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org

From Puerto Rico to Camden, Lakewood to Rockaway, Rev. Lyssette N. Perez has lived out her calling. If there is one Methodist who has faithfully and dutifully served to campaign for Hispanic and Latino Americans in the church, it's Perez, whose passion and achievement have led her to become president of MARCHA (Methodists Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans), the Hispanic/Latino caucus within the denomination.

The 45th assembly for MARCHA met Aug. 4-7 in San Juan with a theme of "Embracing New Horizons." More than 200 members in attendance passed resolutions calling on members to vote in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, calling for an end to discrimination against LGBTQ people in the church, and electing their new president, Perez.

Perez beamed, "I now have the opportunity to sit at the Connectional Table to discuss the program [MARCHA] to the denomination and to advocate for all ethnic groups, not just Hispanics and Latinos." Perez brings a lifetime of experience to that table as she has lived her call, exemplifying advocacy through years of service.

As president of MARCHA, Perez is "confident and excited" to advocate for Hispanic and Latino ministries and communities both in and outside the church. "We need to fight against racism and oppression and welcome the stranger with a willingness to make people whole,"



In August, Rev. Lyssette N. Perez was elected president of MARCHA.

Photo provided

Perez stated.

With a commitment to work in an ethnic environment, Perez's leadership style is collaborative with an emphasis on motivating others to be a part of what she considers the MARCHA movement. "It's a movement of inclusion," she said, using the phrases, "I am MARCHA" and "We are MARCHA" to spur inspiration.

"GNJ has a great opportunity to reach out to the Hispanic and Latino communities in both rural and urban areas

because there's no one place in New Jersey you can't find us," said Perez. "We need to pay attention to them and incorporate them."

"Many Hispanics and Latinos are bilingual, so you don't necessarily have to speak Spanish to reach out," Perez stated, stressing that New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the U.S. "Just speak the language of love and provide opportunities for children and young people," she added.

Through her church in Rockaway, Perez hopes to create a living example of a vision that can be duplicated by others. Two years ago the church began a Hispanic / Latino ministry and before that provided a backpack ministry program for low-income families for six years. Over the last two years, the church has hosted a bilingual contemporary service open to the whole community.

In both her pastoral position and as president of MARCHA, Perez's vision is consistent. "The key is to reach out to all people," she said. "In the midst of our diversity, we gather to praise God and build community. That's what we celebrate; growing together as a community by taking risks and expanding and embracing, accepting and including." To Perez, this is the biggest challenge yet at the same time, the prime opportunity to live out being the church.

Born in Puerto Rico, Perez came to the U.S. in 1985 where she lived in Camden working as pastor of an African-American, Hispanic and Latino church. She became a United Methodist in the late 1980s, involving herself in what was then the Southern New Jersey Hispanic Committee at the conference level. Perez was a GNJ delegate to General Conference in 1992. In her 22 years of ministry, Perez has served the church in Camden, Jersey City, Lakewood, and now Rockaway where she pastors a multi-cultural reconciling church. From community organizing, interfaith bridge-building and ministry team coordinating, Perez has experienced a variety of ministry on the local, regional and global level.

A Future With Hope Races to Rebuild The Shore

Continued from page 1

Executive Director of A Future With Hope. "People are struggling with government resources, fraudulent contractors and delayed insurance payouts. Their options are narrowing. A Future With Hope and United Methodists are committed to being a place where they can turn for help. Working with organizations like Race2Rebuild allows us to spread renewed awareness of the ongoing plight of Sandy survivors, and to bring home those families who are still rebuilding."

In 2014, Unley was laid off from a nursing job at a pediatric medical daycare in Atlantic City but was fortunate enough to quickly find work at another medical daycare. She described the panicked experience of job hunting without a place to call home as stress-filled and taxing.

Four years after Sandy, much work remains, and people like Unley are still displaced. "I think we should fly banners down the beaches where there are thousands of people every day and get the real numbers out there of the people

still homeless," Unley said. She added, "Word of mouth helps, too. I talk to people who have no idea what is still going on."

Since 2012, A Future With Hope has rebuilt 242 homes with the help of 11,401 volunteers from 44 states, DC and Canada. Using skilled volunteer labor and professional tradesmen, the organization has offered homeowners construction solutions that help stretch dollars further. It's estimated that approximately 5,000 families' homes are still in need of repair from damage caused by Sandy. Today, A Future With Hope has active rebuilding projects underway in Atlantic City, Beach Haven, Brigantine, Highlands, Keansburg, Lanoka Harbor, Little Egg Harbor, Long Branch, Longport, Neptune, Ocean City, Toms River, Union Beach, and Unley's home in Tuckerton. A Future With Hope has received grants from UMCOR, Robin Hood Foundation, the American Red Cross, Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund, and the people of the United Methodist Church.

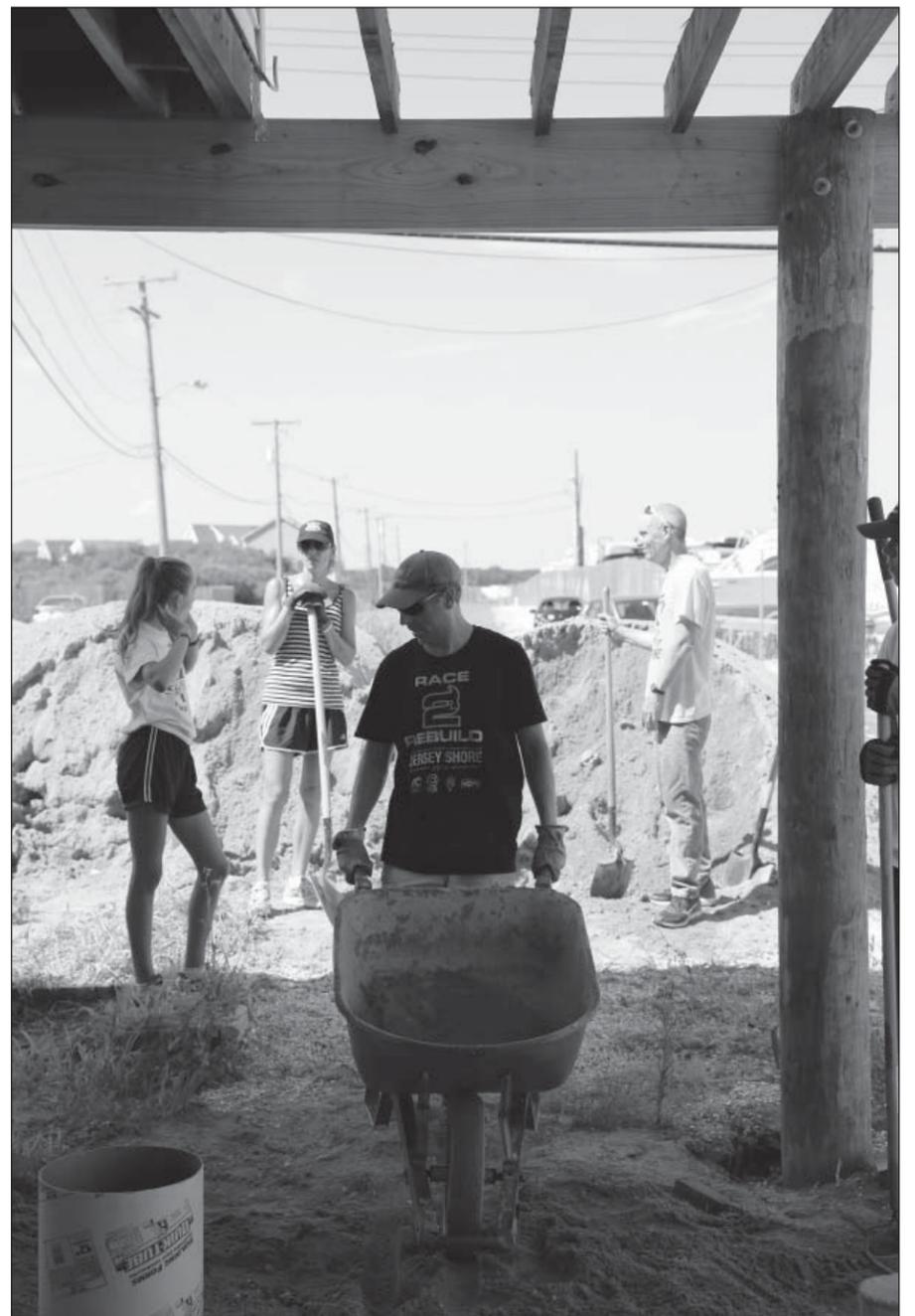
"I have met so many helpful and won-

derful people," Unley said. "Thank you 'A Future With Hope' and all the volunteers.

I never realized how important you are, and I will forever be grateful!"



It's estimated that approximately 5,000 families' homes are still in need of repair from damage caused by Sandy. Photo by Josh Kinney



Volunteers of all skill levels assisted multiple projects in Monmouth and Ocean Counties to continue the recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy often ignored in the media. Photo by Josh Kinney

Deborah Walsh Appointed Executive Director of United Methodist Communities' HomeWorks

By Jan M. Carrato
jcarrato@UMCommunities.org

OCEAN GROVE, N.J. — United Methodist Communities (UMC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Deborah Walsh to the position of executive director of HomeWorks, a licensed Health Care Services Firm. The recently launched division of the senior living and care organization, HomeWorks offers in-home personal care and case management for seniors. In this role, Ms. Walsh will assume management of the operations and staff of HomeWorks.

A graduate of Saint Clare's School of Nursing, Ms. Walsh brings over 20 years' experience in nursing, rehabilitation, home care, and family services. In addition to Registered Nurse licensure in New York and New Jersey, she holds

a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College and a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management from Long Island University.

"My proven ability to manage programs, drive strategic and organizational goals, interface financial and clinical information, ensure legal compliance, and take a leadership role, are a good fit for this position," reflects Ms. Walsh, a resident of Ocean.

Ms. Walsh's broad administrative experience includes positions as an intake



supervisor, director of patient services, quality director, strategic planning, and marketing director. Prior to joining UMC, Ms. Walsh was chief strategy officer for Four Seasons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Cindy Jacques, vice president of housing and community initiatives, remarks, "Deborah's experience with in-home care for seniors will help to align HomeWorks as the premier provider of personal care in the state. With her leadership, we will further enrich the services that United Methodist Communities delivers to older adults in New Jersey."

HomeWorks operates at 54 Olin Street in Ocean Grove and currently serves Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex counties. For information about HomeWorks or to schedule a free consultation call 732-838-1950 or visit UMCommunities.org/HomeWorks.

GNJ Job Opportunities

Front Desk Administrative Assistant: Are you a people-person with a heart for serving others? GNJ is seeking a Front Desk Administrative Assistant to provide radical hospitality to all who call or enter the Mission and Resource Center and to provide organized administrative support.

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Go to www.gnjumc.org/about-us/ and click on "Career Opportunities" to find out more about these positions.

GNJ Finance and Administration News

New Name for General Board of Pension and Health

As of July 2016, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits officially changed their name to Wespeth Benefits and Investments. Moving forward, participants enrolled in plans, and local churches and agencies sponsoring clergy and laity plans will receive correspondence with the new name. Aside from the name change, Wespeth Benefits and Investments will continue to provide the same quality of care and service as an administrative agency of The United Methodist Church. Discover more at www.wespeth.org/name

2017 Health Insurance Church Premiums

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) has set the health insurance premium rates for local churches, effective January 1, 2017. As communicated over the past three years, it was the goal of the CBOPHB in consultation with the Appointment Cabinet, to develop a "blended" premium rate for all health plans types, so that health

insurance cost does not play a role in determining clergy appointments.

The CBOPHB is hopeful that over the next few years, and with increased member participation in HealthFlex wellness programs such as Virgin Pulse, the Blueprint for Wellness, the Health Quotient and use of Health Coaches, we will see a positive movement in our claims experience so that the premium increases are kept to a minimum.

2016 HealthQuotient (HQ) Reminder

HealthFlex participants and enrolled spouses must take the HQ (Health Quotient) online now through Sept. 30 at wespeth.org to avoid paying a higher 2017 deductible. You can also improve your well-being, explore health coaching, and other wellness resources. HQ information is provided to HealthFlex in aggregate only. Your privacy is ensured, as Health Coaches with access to HQ information are bound by federal HIPAA laws. Email Barbara Gruezke with questions at bgruezke@gnjumc.org



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Sponsored by the Northern Region Resource Team of GNJ

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Drew Theological School | Madison, NJ



Come hear leading voices on small group ministry as we discuss emerging trends, the varied theological and practical approaches and opportunities in small group ministry.

INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Rev. Dr. David Watson,
United Theological Seminary, author of Covenant Discipleship: Covenant Groups
- Rev. Arisbel Luna Gallardo, *Methodist Church of Cuba*
- Rev. Dr. Frank Fowler, *Trinity Hackettstown*
- Rev. Dr. Timothy Myung-Hoon Ahn, *Arcola*
- Rev. Jenny Smith-Walz, *Trinity Hackettstown*
- Rev. Beth Caulfield, *Dir. Small Groups, GNJ*

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Symposium to Explore Approaches, Address Challenges

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org

Some of the most innovative leaders in small groups from Greater New Jersey and beyond will join the Small Group Symposium sponsored by the Northern Region Resource Team of GNJ and GNJ Director of Small Groups, Rev. Beth Caulfield on Oct. 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Drew Theological School in Madison. This specially targeted symposium is geared for clergy and seminary students interested in exploring what's next for small group ministry in their churches.

The Symposium is set up with both panel discussions and more specific breakout sessions so that clergy and seminary students can go deeper into small group discussion.

"This is a time for folks to connect with each other and discover resources around small groups ministry," said Beth Caulfield, Director of Small Groups for Greater New Jersey who is helping organize the event. "There's a variety of ways we can meet Christ and develop as disciples in small groups," she said.

Invited speakers include:
Rev. Dr. David Watson of the United Theological Seminary who authored the book "Covenant Discipleship: Covenant Groups," is a premier expert on covenant group models which draw from the Wesleyan heritage of bringing people together.

Rev. Arisbel Luna Gallardo of the United Methodist Church of Cuba will lead a discussion on house churches and how they relate to small groups.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Myung-Hoon Ahn

of Arcola UMC in Paramus will speak on cell groups, a small group model that has become popular in Korean churches with newfound exploration by African American and Anglo congregations.

Rev. Dr. Frank Fowler of Trinity UMC in Hackettstown will discuss the foundation of how small groups develop disciples.

Rev. Jenny Smith-Walz of Trinity UMC in Hackettstown will explore inter-n small groups and online communities.

Joining the symposium from Cuba,

Beth Caulfield, Director of Small Groups will speak on new sincerity or affinity groups, sharing new ways of attracting people by building small groups around specific niche interests such as biking, bowling, or painting.

The cost is \$30, and registration is now open at GNJUMC.org. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enrich your congregation, learn new techniques, connect with experts and grow disciples of Jesus.

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Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick

DOXOLOGY
A WORSHIP CONFERENCE

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SMALL GROUPS

THE CONNECTION
A blog on the 5 markers of vitality by the Connectional Ministries Team

GNJUMC.ORG/CONNECTION

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CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Congregational Development Grant Applications

GNJ is committed to resourcing congregations on their path to vitality. Congregational Development Grant Applications are now being taken for 2017. The deadline is Oct. 5. For more information visit www.gnjumc.org/grants-for-ministry or email Ginny Kaiser at gkaiser@gnjumc.org

Meals From Stop Hunger Now Have Shipped

Meals from the Stop Hunger Now packaging event at Annual Conference have been shipped in a container totaling 278,208 meals from the organization's Philadelphia warehouse. Your meals have gone to impact thousands across the world. Find out more about how you support Stop Hunger Now and continue the fight against hunger by visiting www.stophungernow.org

Update on West Virginia Flood Relief

After devastating floods destroyed towns and communities in West Virginia, GNJ responded, coming to the aid of the West Virginia Conference as they did for us following Superstorm Sandy. To date, we have received over \$40,000 in WV flood relief donations. Thank you for your powerful prayers and generous gifts, helping to bear the burdens of our family in Christ.



Kayla Torres, Marisa Torres, Scott Pfifferle, Alexis Phillips, Alexandra Phillips and Dominic Torres and chaperones Danica Meade and Lesley Shaw on their summer mission trip with Vincent UMC. Photo provided

Vincent UMC Youth Mission Trip

Six youth and two adults from Vincent UMC spent one week in July on a mission trip to the Corning, NY area. The RISE Service Project helps youth put their faith in action by arranging mission sites for groups to work on the homes of the poor, elderly, or handicapped in the Steuben County area of New York, one of the poorest in the state.



Cape May UMC's "Communion at the Cove" service. Photo by Michael Duvall

Cape May UMC Launches New Summer Beach Service

"Communion at the Cove" is a new service of morning prayer and communion which began this summer at the south end of Beach Avenue underneath a pavilion overlooking the Atlantic ocean and Cape May Light House. Through a GNJUMC ministries grant, the congregation was able to provide sound equipment and instruments to take worship outside the church building. City Mayor Edward Mahaney waived the fee for use of the pavilion and provided advertising space in the city's visitor's guide and website.



Kemble UMC's first Summer Music Camp. Photo provided

Kemble UMC Summer Music Camp

"Our God is a Great Big God" was the theme for the first Summer Music Camp for grades 2-8 held at Kemble UMC. With 30 campers registered, the camp created an opportunity to introduce several new families to the church and its ministries. Everyone had a great time making a joyful noise unto the Lord.



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OBITUARIES

Eleanor C. Robbins, spouse of retired pastor Rev. John Robbins, died on August 18. A celebration of life service was hosted at the Rev. Paul Pedrick Memorial Tabernacle at Malaga Camp Meeting on August 23.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to the WJGA - Malaga Camp Dining Hall at 4488 Arbutus Ave., Newfield, NJ 08344.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. John Robbins at 1765 Maple Street, Newfield, NJ 08344.

Edward B. Cheney, retired full elder, died on Monday, August 1. Visitation is scheduled for 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 18 at St. Peter's UMC in Ocean City. A celebration of life service is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to the United Methodist Communities Foundation at 3311 State Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Lynn Cheney at P.O. Box 562, South Seaville, NJ 08246.

Marianne M. Smith, spouse of retired Elder Rev. Kenneth L. Smith, died on August 23. A celebration of life took place on Saturday, August 27.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Doctors Without Borders, 333 7th Ave., New York, NY 10001-5004.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Kenneth L. Smith, 28 South Maple Ave, Park Ridge, NJ 07656.

Perfecto Romero, retired Full Elder, died on August 27. A celebration of life took place on August 30 at Miami Memorial Park in Miami, FL.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, 110 East 42nd Street, 16th floor, New York, NY 10017.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Enoch M. Garcia, 21923 Rivergate Ct., Richmond, TX 77469.

ORGANIST AND CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Position now open at Trinity UMC in Hackettstown.



The successful applicant will play the organ for one weekly worship service, and will rehearse and lead the adult Chancel Choir in singing anthems for that service. The position calls for approximately 10 hours per week.

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