

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## Rebuilding Continues Four Years After Sandy



Left to right: Monmouth County Freeholder Deputy Director Serena DiMaso, A Future With Hope Construction Manager Rev. Lou Strugala, and U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone helped mark the 4th year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy with the Capraun family in Union Beach. Photo by Josh Kinney

By Josh Kinney  
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UNION BEACH – Through tear stained eyes, Bonnie Siegel watched as her friend of over 20 years stepped foot onto her Union Beach property four years to the day after Superstorm Sandy ravaged New Jersey and left her home in ruins. Jen Capraun, a mother of two, joined volunteers and staff from A Future With Hope on a tour of her new home being completed by A Future With Hope on Saturday, October 29.



"I don't know anyone stronger than Jen," Siegel said. "The grace of God is how she did it. I don't know where she

would be without A Future With Hope. Thank God someone stepped up."

Capraun, who struggled with the loss of her father-in-law in the midst of her fight to get back home, never missed a day at her job as special education teacher.

"There's nothing we wouldn't do for Jen," Siegel's husband Larry added. "She needs all the help she can get, and we're willing to do it."

Union Beach Mayor Paul Smith and U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone gathered alongside A Future With Hope volunteers from Cranford and Haddonfield UMCs. Mission teams from the congregations had been working on the Capraun home since the early morning.

"You guys are unbelievable," said Pallone about the United Methodist Church. "Throughout the storm and after the storm, we saw you and we're really ap-

Continued on page 6

## Ministry Offers New Model to Service Churches, Nurture Youth

By Josh Kinney  
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Young pastors and small churches have much in common. They both are important to the life and future of our church and can flourish when coupled together for ministry.

Mosaic Ministry strives to do just that. The ministry pairs together two seminary students with complementing skill sets to each work 20 hours a week pastoring their appointed churches. Bright, young communicators, administrators, vision casters and leaders from seminary are sought after and recruited to expand their theological education with practical

management practice. The churches benefit with innovative leaders who can challenge congregations in new ways.

Pastor Laura Steele of East Millstone UMC and Mt. Zion UMC says the program has been an "unbelievable" experience thus far.

"God is truly at work through the students and leaders of this program," said Steele. "Not only do we have an opportunity to learn practical and valuable components to pastoral ministry, we automatically have an amazing cohort of pastoral friends and colleagues built into the Mosaic connection."

Steele's first Sunday serving was full of both excitement and anxiety. She was overwhelmed with happiness and cried tears of joy on her drive home from her second service.

"I knew that this was God's plan for me and that serving was what I was meant to do," she declared. "I couldn't feel more blessed to be a part of this growing ministry, and I look forward to discovering what the future brings through Mosaic."

In 2013, three congregations were selected to pilot a Small Church Initiative, which later became known as Mosaic Ministries. In 2015, the ministry expanded to four campuses, with a leadership staff of three campus pastors and two student interns. A shift in vision and strat-

## Chungdong First UMC, Drew and GNJ Remember Appenzeller

By Josh Kinney  
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Risk-taking ministry can transform the world. In 1885, a fire sparked inside the heart of 26-year-old Henry G. Appenzeller at the chapel of Drew Theological School's Seminary Hall and ignited a willingness to step out in faith. The result was an entire country forever transformed.

Kneeling before the chapel's altar, Appenzeller responded to his calling by making a commitment to bring the gospel to Korea, where he introduced and established a United Methodist movement. 130 years later, the very same room was packed with decedents of his Korean church plant who traveled across the globe to pay homage to his sacrifice through gratitude, commemoration and a special memorial.

On October 21, a bronze bust of Appenzeller was dedicated on the campus

of Drew Theological School as a gift from the Chungdong First UMC in Seoul, South Korea. Started in 1887 by Appenzeller, Chungdong remains vibrant as the country's largest Methodist church, many of the country's leaders including the first president having come through its doors. Appenzeller's roots can be traced back to Greater New Jersey and Drew Theological School, where he received his education, as well as Green Village UMC where he served his first pastoral appointment.

"As a sculptor, I have made many artworks, but there is something special about this one," said Chungdong Elder, Changgon Kim, who sculpted the bust of Appenzeller. "For the people who will see and appreciate this monument, I hope they will long remember the love of God and inherit Rev. Appenzeller's devotion to missions."

Leaders from Chungdong and Drew  
Continued on page 5



A bronze bust of Henry Appenzeller was dedicated on the campus of Drew Theological Seminary on Oct. 21. A Drew grad, Appenzeller established a United Methodist movement in Korea over 130 years ago. Photo by James Lee

already given by God to the congregants we serve."

Empowering lay leadership and building on the gifts of those in his church has been one of Wooten's focal points. In his brief time as a co-pastor, the church's adult Bible study, small groups, overall attendance, and youth ministries have all experienced growth.

"Most importantly, I have seen God moving powerfully in the lives of United Methodists of all ages," said Wooten. "Whether that be in our seventeen-year-old who led his own confirmation service to the members in their 80's and 90's who have a passion for witnessing in our neck of the woods, there is no denying the Holy Spirit in this community of disciples."

Becky Joslin attends First UMC of Mount Holly and has praised the ingenuity of both Wooten and co-pastor Donald Kirschner.

"These pastors seemed to have brought the place back to life," Joslin said. "Their ambition and creativity is exhilarating. Even our older folks appreciate the new life that these two breathe into the church. I think the word is getting out that we are a fun place to be. We are trying all sorts of new things to attract potential worshipers."

The goal is to respond to the pulse  
Continued on page 4



# A Message from the Bishop



**Generosity begets generosity.  
- Luke 6:38 The Message**

## Graceful Controversy - Generous Orthodoxy

AJ Jacobs decided to take the Bible literally for a year – seriously, literally. It was a project for a book he was writing. He dressed and wore the type of clothing the Bible specifies, white and non-mixed fibers (Deuteronomy 22:11 and Leviticus 19:19). He only ate foods allowed by the scriptures. No pork, no lobster, no shrimp and no fried fish (Leviticus 11). He even carried small pebbles in his biblical clothing. Think of pictures of Jesus when I say biblical clothing. Why stones in his pocket?

Because the Bible says to stone adulterers (Exodus 21:28 and Deuteronomy 22:24). When he did find a person who admitted that he was an adulterer, Jacobs took a couple of pebbles and threw them at him.

A “crackpot” you might think, but actually he was very serious. He wanted to experience what it would mean to apply the Bible literally. He lived an orthodox life for a year.

Today is part 3 in my series on Graceful Controversy. How can we have controversies that are acts of grace, particularly in light of our significant controversy about biblical understanding and homosexuality? What does it mean and look like to be generous and orthodox in our controversies?

Generous means to be liberal with your possessions and your life. Orthodox means to be conservative in holding to strict standards of tradition. Liberal conservatism or conservative liberalism are two words that just don't seem to go with each other.

In local church, conference and denominational controversies, generosity and orthodoxy seem to be at the heart of the conversation. One group of people takes a more liberal approach and the other a more orthodox. But can someone be both liberal and orthodox, generous and conservative?

Jacobs was not a religious person or believer but a self-described agnostic before he started living the Bible literally. After the year-long experiment, he didn't change his beliefs although he said he was now a reverent agnostic. He confessed that the experience was particularly challenging. His wife was not happy with the project. He took Sabbath literally which meant there were many things he did not do on Saturdays like drive a car or do housework, or any other activity considered by the Bible to be work. Keeping kosher was no picnic for the family either.

He had an interesting revelation after his year of living the Bible literally. He said it literally gave him a new appreciation for ritual and that we shouldn't disregard the irrational. He better understood sacredness and how keeping Sabbath provided greater balance to his life.

Ultimately it is experience that changes us, Jacob's explains. We do not think our way into change, but we act our way into change. We don't become more generous or orthodox by thinking about it or reading about it. We change through our experiences.

I know two brothers who grew up together separated by a couple of years in age. They had the same parents, went to the same elementary and high schools, had the same teachers, and went to the same church. One chose to work right after high school, and the other went to college. He would be the first to graduate from college in his family. The one brother worked in restaurants and construction while the other got a management position shortly after college. The one brother was deeply affected by the economy and was unemployed several times, and the other made steady progress in his career. The one brother stayed close to home, and the other lived in five different states and traveled the world for his company. This brother mostly traveled to developing countries where he encountered cultures very different from his own. The other brother felt his unemployment was a direct result of politicians and that society favored some cultures over others. The one brother drinks beer, not craft beer but beer right off the shelf and the other drinks cabernet wine. These two brothers have different views about religion, politics, race, the economy, and social issues.

By now you may have formed an opinion about these brothers. Maybe you have identified with one or the other. If you have made a judgment, it most likely is based on your own experience.

The one brother holds a literal view of the Bible and the other does not hold a literal view of the Bible. Their experiences shape their views and understandings of faith and the world.

This was also true in Jesus' day. Some disciples of John the Baptist were sent to Jesus by John to find out if he was the Messiah they were looking for. Jesus said, the blind see, the lame walk, and those with leprosy are healed (Luke 7:22). In other words, what you and others experienced verifies I am the Messiah. Experience was a valuable teacher for Jesus. His parables were all experiential. Things people could relate to because they too had a similar experience.

While very different, the two brothers mentioned earlier don't just love each other, but they respect each other. They have generous spirits rooted in their faith as different as their faiths are. The one does not believe in gay marriage and yet treats gays and lesbians like family members. He has generous orthodoxy. The other brother admires his brother's rootedness in the values of work, generosity, and faith. He has orthodox generosity.

Generous orthodoxy invites us to lean into the side of us that is not our dominate experience. For liberals, not to be dismissive but to experience and

learn from more orthodox practices. For orthodox believers: to have a more generous spirit and openness to develop relationships with people and ideas that are different.

Jesus had a particular gift for navigating conflict. He did not avoid it nor did he reject the views and experiences of others. He even changed his orthodox view of Canaanite women. He reversed his view from seeing them as unworthy of the scraps from under a table to a generous heart that offered a Canaanite woman and her family healing and redemption (Matthew 15:21-28). A very generous spirit. And Jesus created controversy. Jesus publicly invited himself to the home of Zacchaeus and offended religious people because Zacchaeus was a sinner (Luke 19: 1-10). As a result, Zacchaeus, a tax collector, offered half of what he owned to the poor.

Jesus did all of this with a generous spirit and his generosity produced generosity. Jesus had a liberal orthodoxy approach to controversy. He demonstrated generosity in his orthodoxy and orthodoxy in his generosity. This is gracious controversy.

As Jesus demonstrated and Jacobs shared, by experiencing and living into another side of ourselves or the world, we develop more fully and understand one another, just as the two brothers understand and deeply love one another.

Our denomination has formed a commission to look at how we will navigate our current impasse concerning homosexuality and identify recommendations to send to General Conference. Thirty-two people were selected to serve, and not all conferences have representation on the commission.

I want to invite laity and clergy from GNJ into a deeper conversation that models generous orthodoxy. I invite us to develop our hopes and aspirations for the future of The United Methodist Church and send them to the commission. More importantly, we have the opportunity to model graceful controversy. We will hold a gathering for GNJ members to identify how best we would like to see the church move forward and all church members and clergy are welcome to participate. Go to [www.gnjumc.org/gracefulcontroversies](http://www.gnjumc.org/gracefulcontroversies) to learn more and to sign up.

I am blessed to lead GNJ, a theologically diverse conference that is passionate about its beliefs and commitment to Jesus Christ and the church. As I travel throughout GNJ, I find people who are deeply orthodox and generous and liberals whose living is shaped by orthodoxy. In your congregation and the world, in general, I invite you to broaden your experiences, to practice generous orthodoxy and to be graceful in your controversies. Generosity begets generosity. I look forward to our continued ministry together and to our graceful controversies.

Keep the faith!

John



# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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- Nicole Caldwell-Gross



1.

### CAMP YDP

- Founded by a United Methodist Pastor over 60 years ago.
- On the brink of closing this time last year Camp has since more than doubled its student enrollment.
- Currently cares for 90 children in both preschool and after-school programs in the city of Paterson.

Go "back to school" this Advent and volunteer, donate or sponsor a child's Christmas Wish List at CAMP YDP! | [www.campydp.org](http://www.campydp.org)



2.

### A FUTURE WITH HOPE

- Has rebuilt 247 homes and has 18 more in progress.
- Four years later 50% families affected by Hurricane Sandy are still not back in their homes.
- While most Sandy recovery organizations have closed, A Future with Hope is still committed to rebuilding homes and lives.

Get out your tool box and organize a team of volunteers to bring a family home this Advent with AFWH. | [www.afuturewithhope.org](http://www.afuturewithhope.org)



3.

### RESPOND INC.

- Serves the Camden community through child and senior adult care, programs for the homeless, rental housing and home ownership, youth services, employment and economic development.
- Has provided childcare services for approximately 50,000 infants and children for the last 50 years and counting.
- Is committed to their motto of "helping people help themselves."

It's your chance: donate to Respond Inc. today and help people help themselves for the next 50 years. | [www.respondinc.com](http://www.respondinc.com)



4.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

- Has been serving children and families of the Camden community for 103 years and counting.
- Cultivates the neighborhood through an urban community farm, child learning center, community kitchen, teen elementary and senior enrichment programs.
- Implements a two generation approach to lifting families out of poverty.

Have a seat in the "community's living room" with a team of volunteers, mentors or donations this Advent. | [www.ncicamden.org](http://www.ncicamden.org)



5.

### IMAGINE NO MALARIA

- Malaria is a disease that is 100% preventable.
- Every 2 minutes a child dies in Sub-Saharan Africa from malaria.
- Through United Methodist connectional giving, malaria deaths were cut in half in the year 2015.

Cast a wider net this Advent and host an Imagine No Malaria Worship Service or giving drive. | [www.imaginenomalaria.org](http://www.imaginenomalaria.org)



6.

### CUMAC

- 1 in 7 people face hunger in the United States.
- In 2015 alone CUMAC served over 38,000 New Jersey residents.
- When the weather gets cold, there is often a "freeze" on volunteers, food and funding for organizations fighting hunger like CUMAC in Paterson.

Get in the ring! Fight against hunger and sponsor a food drive or collection in your congregation this Advent. | [www.cumac.org](http://www.cumac.org)

# Property Manager to Release Ministry Assets

By JD Watson  
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"There are always challenges," said Alex Mayer, the new Property Manager for Greater New Jersey as he spoke by phone while driving to yet another conference-owned property.

Since joining GNJ in August, Mayer has crisscrossed the state, averaging more than 1,000 miles a week on his car, visiting many of the empty buildings, former churches and abandoned cemeteries owned by the conference.

Part of his job is to create a photo library of all buildings, arrange for lawn care and snow removal, ensure that all contracts and insurance policies are up to date and in order and all oil tanks and boilers are properly maintained and in working order.

The ultimate goal is to sell the properties to benefit growing vital congregations and starting new faith communities.

Even though the properties are to be sold, Mayer still needs to maintain the appearance of each. "The property's appearance needs to look presentable," Mayer said, not only to increase the probability of selling the property but to maintain neighborly relations. "Many of these buildings are in small towns."

Bishop John Schol explained the need to sell the buildings. "It is helping us reduce property inventory. GNJ has a number of church buildings and parsonages for sale," said Schol. "Church properties are hard to sell and already Alex has helped us. This not only provides GNJ income but reduces insurance and

maintenance costs and liability."

GNJ currently has 26 properties for sale. Mayer said he had one property under contract, one in negotiation, one awaiting a letter of intent, "and one closed yesterday," Mayer said. "We have six or seven sold or in progress."

A secondary goal for Mayer is to be a resource for District Superintendents with major issues at active local churches.

Bishop Schol explained that Mayer will alleviate Superintendents from having to deal directly with property issues. Having Mayer in place will free Superintendents to "grow vital congregations and assist with starting new faith communities," Bishop Schol said.

"If there is asbestos on site, or a roof leak, I can be a resource, I can advise," Mayer continued. In the future, Mayer plans to have a list of vendors to which churches can turn when issues arise. "I'm also looking for a more consolidated way to buy fuel oil and propane."

Mayer is uniquely qualified for the position. He started in construction during his college years.

"I learned how to frame houses, read blueprints, I became the foreman," he explained.

His varied career includes owning his own limousine business and as a car sales manager.

As GNJ's Property Manager, Mayer described his goal for the future. "I want to come up with a standard protocol for when we close a church, or when there is a merger and we have to sell off a church or a parsonage. So we are not playing catch-up."



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# Revitalized CAMP YDP Reaches Paterson Youth

By Josh Kinney  
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PATERSON – Small children scurried about the playground across from the CAMP YDP building, crunching fall leaves beneath their shoes and taking rides down the sliding board. The hub of activity bustled with laughs, energy and smiles.

With enrollment up and resources expanding, the Paterson youth program founded by a Methodist minister in 1959 has undergone a progressive transformation, rapidly bouncing back from decline.

The determination of local Paterson community members coupled with a partnership with Greater New Jersey that included a \$70,000 investment, the after-school, preschool and summer day camp service was brought back from the brink of closure. Now rejuvenated and flourishing, CAMP YDP has benefited from a facilities upgrade by GNJ volunteers.

"This new partnership is a credit to the hard work and perseverance of our dedicated staff members," said CAMP YDP board member Patricia Francis. "Because of them, we can continue to go forward."

Over 60 years ago, the late Rev. Maxwell Tow along with local Paterson pastors, laity and volunteers made it their mission to become active in the community, reaching people and families in need. Camp YDP was birthed out of that movement to help and continues to remain steadfast in its mission to provide high-quality, affordable childcare to the children and families of Paterson while



A group of happy, smiling children pose for their close-up at Paterson's CAMP YDP. Photo by Josh Kinney

trips, after school enrichment programs, photography classes, a girl's empowerment club, tech, chess and book clubs, an elocution class and a time of devotion with respect to all faiths. The new curriculum is integrated across the spectrum of ages, modified and tailored to each age

had changed them," Phillips said. "Hearing that was just amazing." For Phillips, the biggest shift has come within the last few months as she's witnessed and been a part of relationship and trust building with neighborhood parents.

"Something we're doing here is defi-

nately working," said Camp YDP Director Bria Pierre, who along with Phillips, tributes the organization's growth to the help of GNJ as well as their various inclusive community events and activities. Additionally, word of mouth and Camp YDP's vastly improved online presence has stimulated progress and interest.

In November, during Camp YDP's "Camp Cares Week" preschool children packaged nutrition bags for the city's homeless.

"It's really impactful," Phillips said. "Teaching kids to give back and to live generously is so important."

Plagued by rising crime and poverty, Paterson has endured significant challenges. However, the rise of Camp YDP offers children a hopeful future in the midst of tumultuous times. The nonprofit strives to foster innovation, teamwork, and diversity through open and productive communication that ensures students work at a pace unique to their needs. The organization plans to build a second playground on the grounds and to add a community garden which would provide fresh vegetables for neighborhood residents.

For more information about Camp Y.D.P and to find out how you and your congregation can participate, go to [www.campydp.org](http://www.campydp.org)



CAMP YDP Operations Manager Susan Phillips and Director Bria Pierre celebrate at Camp's summer block party kick-off celebration. Photo by Josh Kinney

cultivating achievement through academic, social, and emotional empowerment.

Michelle Hughes has been a teacher at Camp YDP for three years and enjoys arts and crafts with the children.

"Camp is just so awesome," she exclaimed. "It's very important that we're here catering to our community." A vibrant and animated Hughes joined the children at a tiny table, carefully watching them create art. "We want to encourage our children to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers and productive members of society," she said.

Inside the building on the corner of North 1st Street, freshly painted bright colored walls and a mural exude a warm, inviting space for both children and parents. This summer, Camp YDP celebrated its gains with a "re-launch carnival" block party with music, miniature golf, a bounce house, food, and book giveaways. With a new curriculum and staff, Camp YDP now offers field

group under the unity of an overarching theme. According to Camp YDP's philosophy, the organization believes in the value and uniqueness of each child served.

"The kids can tell our staff is a family," said Susan Phillips, Camp YDP Operations Manager. "They can see it and sense it, and it's positive for them to be seeing that example of genuine community." Phillips, a Paterson native and graduate of Seton Hall University, previously worked for the American Cancer Society in New York City, Habitat for Humanity, and AmeriCorps. Her life has come full-circle, returning to serve her hometown.

Phillips was moved by a recent back to school night at Camp YDP where the organization experienced its biggest turnout yet.

"My favorite part was listening to these parents say that before, their kids wouldn't read or be social, but Camp YDP



A jovial CAMP YDP youth shouts for joy after scoring a hole-in-one at the organization's summer block party. Photo by Josh Kinney

# Rebuilding After Sandy

*Continued from page 1*

preciative of all that you do. I'm happy to be here because I want to stress the role of volunteerism and nonprofits like you."

Union Beach was one of the hardest-hit areas of New Jersey, and the Capraun home will be the 11th completed by A Future With Hope in that town. Union Beach Mayor Paul Smith wished the Capraun's the best, adding, "To A Future With Hope, we can't thank you enough."

Monmouth County Freeholder Deputy Director Serena DiMaso was also present at the anniversary event. "I'm a true believer that with everything bad something good grows out of it," DiMaso said. "Look around; you are that good."

Acknowledging that rebuilding is just one step in the recovery process, a special gift card was donated to the Capraun's to help them refurbish their home with items lost in the storm.

"Four years after Sandy, the recovery

effort has become complex for many homeowners," said Bobbie Ridgely, 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. Today we get to help Jen and her family take a step closer to recovery."

Thanks to good friends like the Siegel's, Capraun didn't bear her burdens alone.

"To us, it was just important that Jen could get up every day and be the strong person that she is," said Mrs. Siegel. "What A Future With Hope has done is outstanding."

Rev. Chris Heckert, a member of the Board of Trustees for A Future With Hope and pastor of Haddonfield UMC spoke



**Working together to rebuild homes and lives, volunteers from Cranford and Haddonfield UMC's helped with finishing work on a home in Union Beach, 4 years to the day after Superstorm Sandy made landfall over New Jersey.**

*Photo by Josh Kinney*

at the event, highlighting the work that remains years later and the more than 4,000 families who have not recovered.

"The winds and rain were quick to harness a storm four years ago, but we were quick to harness the power of hope through volunteers. But we don't need a storm to spread hope," Heckert said, adding that A Future With Hope would continue to harness the power of what it's built over the last few years to provide people with hope through Hope Centers.

"While other recovery organizations have scaled back and closed up, we're here to stay," said Heckert, explaining that the good will and energy created in response to Sandy through the organization would live on to meet needs throughout New Jersey.

The Capraun home will be the 250th rebuilt by A Future With Hope with the help of more than 11,000 volunteers. To accomplish this feat, the organization has received support from The Robin Hood

Foundation, The American Red Cross, The Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, The United Methodist Committee on Relief, as well as congregations, individuals and organizations from across the region. They work in partnership with other long-term recovery groups including The Affordable Housing Alliance, OCLTRG, SBP, The Episcopal Relief and Development and others.

A Future With Hope will continue its evolution living into its name by providing hope throughout New Jersey by means of Hope Centers that will build up communities and provide needed services. Camp YDP, a preschool, aftercare program and summer camp in Paterson will be the first Hope Center and eight other opportunities have been identified to join the movement.

"We need to continue to lift each other up and move each other forward," said DiMaso. "I hope this feeling of goodness and kindness never leaves us."



**Rev. Chris Heckert, a member of the Board of Trustees for A Future With Hope and pastor of Haddonfield UMC spoke at the 4th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy event in Union Beach, offering prayer and highlighting the work that remains years later.** *Photo by Josh Kinney*

## Chungdong First UMC, Drew and GNJ Remember Appenzeller

*Continued from page 1*

and John Huyler, a great-grandson of Appenzeller joined Bishop Schol in dedicating the statue with words, music, dance and prayer, including Chungdong senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Ki Sung Song, and Drew President Dr. MaryAnn Baenninger. The moving dedication symbolized a homecoming for Appenzeller's legacy.

"For the people of Chungdong and Methodists in Korea, it's as if Appenzeller came to Korea, gave himself up, and now 130 years later, we're expressing our deep gratitude by bringing him back," said Sehyoung Lee, Chungdong's pastor of English Ministry.

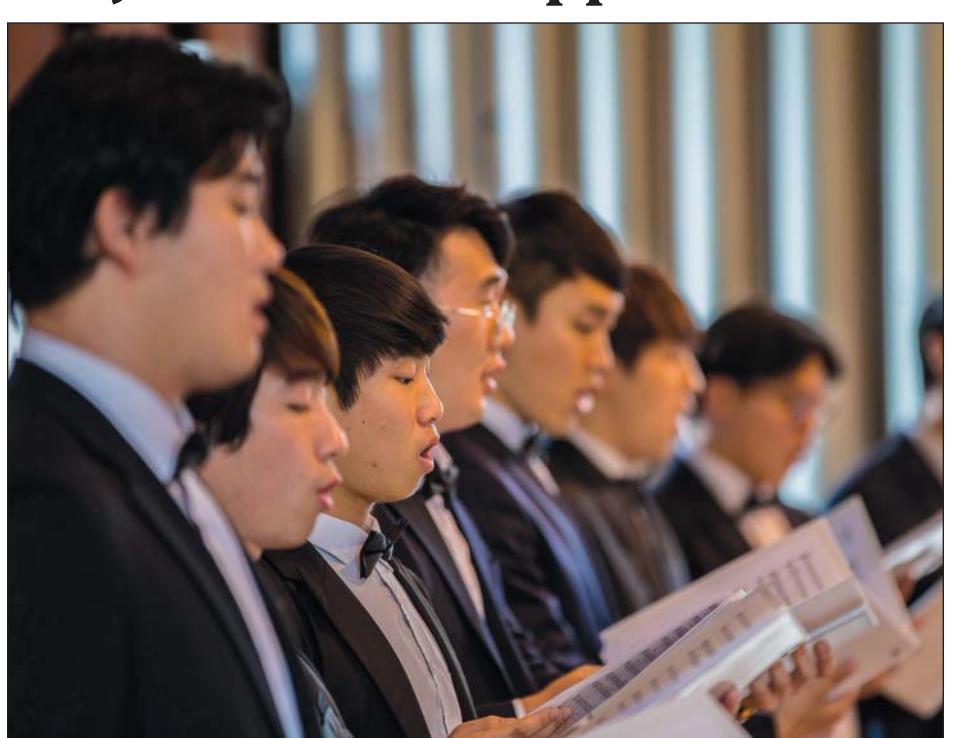
A pioneer spirit, Appenzeller arrived in a Korea shrouded with uncertainty, but with trust in God. He founded a church,

started a school, assisted in medical missions, and focused on Bible translation.

"Appenzeller was a great model of a transformational leader," said Lee. "We hope GNJ will continue to produce leaders like him to transform the world."

Rain caused the event's liturgical opening service to be held fittingly inside the chapel Appenzeller was sent forth from. However, the weather cleared, and the crowd gathered outside around the veiled bust and joined Bishop Schol in prayer.

"The face frames the soul," said Schol, after the statue was unveiled. "This pathway, this ground will forever be framed by the face of Henry Appenzeller." Schol stated that he hoped the

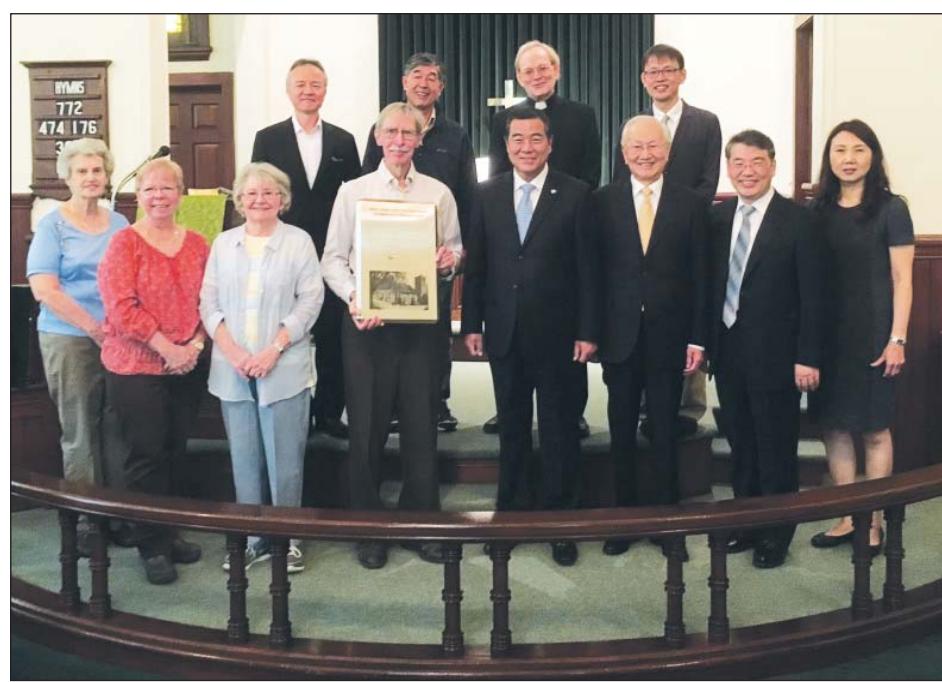


**The powerfully moving dedication ceremony to Henry Appenzeller at Drew Theological Seminary featured words, song, and dance.** *Photo by James Lee*

monument would serve to inspire others to leave the familiar for the unfamiliar to serve God with the courage to say, "Here I am, Lord." Immediately following Schol's benediction, a sudden burst of sunlight lit the statue as if on cue from the divine. Participants gasped with awe and applause at the powerfully moving moment, joining to sing "How Great Thou

Art" in Korean.

"At that moment I know we all felt a thrilling and enormous power of the Holy Spirit," Lee said. "You know the story where Jesus heals ten, and only one comes back to express gratitude? Well, this is our small gift of thanks; a thanks for giving us the church and transforming our country."



**On Oct. 19, a plaque was dedicated at Green Village UMC recognizing the church's shared history, mission and service for Christ made possible by Rev. Appenzeller who served the church prior to bringing the gospel to Korea. Chungdong First UMC Senior Pastor joined Green Village UMC pastor Rev. Frederick Boyle in celebration.** *Photo provided*

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# Demarest UMC Explores Prophetic Forum

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen  
[Melissa.hinnen@nyac-umc.com](mailto:Melissa.hinnen@nyac-umc.com)

Last year, following the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, a young American Muslim couple took a brave step to choose peace building over fear.

Mona Haydar and Sebastian Robins put signs on their car, stocked up on donuts and coffee and invited neighbors in their Cambridge, MA community to "Ask a Muslim."

Haydar explains that they wanted to replace the existing social narrative that connects Islam with terrorism. "I'm just like you," she says. "People want to equate terror with Islam. It is a fictional creation of our imagination. Terrorists comprise .004% of a faith made up of 2 billion people. The fact that Sebastian and I are out there helps change the narrative and humanizes Muslims."

Noting the extensive news coverage they received, Haydar, who is a performance poet and activist, laughs saying, "When giving away donuts and coffee makes the news, surely it is a sign that we need more love in the world."

Rev. Myung Sun Han of the UMC at Demarest invited Haydar to speak at the church's fall forum on October 16. "Every fall, we invite one or two speakers who share about relevant social issues in prophetic ways," he explains. "When I learned that Mona was a Master of Divinity Student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, it was a great opportunity for our community to engage in interfaith dialogue with her."

## Am I Affirming Life?

Weaving together stories of faith, poetic expression, womanist theology and experiences of being a Muslim American, Haydar's easy-going and open demeanor created space for respectful and enlightening conversation.

Haydar explained to the group who gathered at the UMC at Demarest that the "Ask a Muslim" initiative was a way for her family to present themselves, not as an authority of Islam, but "what it looks like to me as a practitioner. How I engage in the world in my everyday life."

She says, "I am a Muslim by way of Abraham. By way of Jesus. By way of Mary, Moses, and Noah – people who brought the same message I am trying to bring."

She shared that beyond the more overt rituals such as praying five times a day, "glorifying God and asking for God's help," her faith directs her to smile at every stranger because "A smile is charity."

At the core of who she is as a Muslim, is the question, "am I affirming life? Am I creating lasting relationships?" she asks in every aspect of her life. "A Muslim is one who submits to that call to be in relationship with other humans to know God."

When asked about the significance of wearing hijab, Haydar explains that it is a spiritual discipline. "It is a reminder that I am so much more than this physical body. I'm not a piece of meat who can be consumed by those in the world."

Noting that all Semitic traditions cover their heads, she continued, "When you sit in prayer, that channel is open. When you are in the world, you need to keep your energy sanctified."

She shared that she was recently with her young son and two men began talking violently about her, threatening to rip the scarf from her head.

Haydar is concerned stories about violence against Muslims will become normalized. The best thing allies can do is stand with the person being harassed, she suggests. As a Muslim born in the U.S. with Syrian heritage, she says, "Christianity is embedded in U.S. culture and history. We need to heal some of the serious theological God problems we



**Mona Haydar, a Muslim poet, activist, practitioner of Permaculture, and mediator spoke at the UMC at Demarest's fall forum on Oct. 16 under the banner of "Love Always."** Photo provided

have in order to heal the world."

She continues, "This is a Uni-verse... God's poem written to us. It is structured so we can know each other to know God. We were made in the image of the creator."

## About Forums at the UMC at Demarest

Several years ago, the UMC at Demarest began holding forums in the fall and during Lent. Inviting speakers from the community, GNJ, and theological school faculty, guest speakers enhance the congregations' understanding of a range of topics.

Rev. Han says that the fall forum series is focusing on "prophetic" topics including the interfaith conversation with Mona Haydar. The series opened on October 9. Rev. Dr. Vanessa Wilson, chair of the GNJ Commission on Religion and Race spoke with participants about Cultural Competency. Rev. Han is considering a "pastoral" Lent forum that will focus on grief and healing.

In his closing prayer on October 16, Rev. Han prayed, "Teach us and lead us so that we see each other not as an objective or tool. Help us see each other as fellow human beings created in Your image."

## Ministry Offers New Model to Service Churches, Nurture Youth

*Continued from page 1*

of the surrounding communities with impactful, Christ-centered ministry, programs and outreach opportunities that directly address the needs of the communities they serve.

"Small churches who may have felt neglected are getting special attention from people with a lot of energy that genuinely want to lead great ministry," said Wince.

For Wooten, Steele and the thirteen other Mosaic pastors, the responsibility of shepherding their congregations, envisioning ministry and leading the church staff and volunteers falls solely to them. Mosaic pastors build community relations and lead their church in engaging with their community through mission and meeting identified needs while increasing their church's presence and relevancy. The pastors lead their churches in making disciples through weekly worship and engaging in preaching opportunities throughout the year. Participants develop and provide a plan for leadership of small group ministries and Bible studies and lead their church in creating and or strengthening ministries to families. They participate in regularly scheduled church

council and other ministry team meetings according to their discerned needs and level of involvement while leading their churches in growing stewardship.

A major component of Mosaic Ministries is team building and mentorship. Pastors participate in regular team meetings about pastoral leadership and vision-casting as well as reflection with conference staff and leadership. With three major retreats a year including a preaching boot camp and a church finance gathering, the Mosaic team benefits from sharing personal experiences and stories; doing life together and learning from one another.

To be a part of Mosaic Ministries, a person must be between 22 and 30 years old, have a heart to serve God and a desire to explore how they can serve God and be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. The ministry seeks men and women who are emotionally, cognitively, and ideologically flexible with a willingness to pursue unconventional and innovative ideas. Patience, perseverance, a heart of service, mission-focused passion, and an open, self-starting spirit are desired traits.

## JOIN THE GNJAC WATER FILTRATION TRIP

JANUARY 7 - 14, 2017



In Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, close to 70 percent of the people do not have direct access to potable water. Waterborne illnesses, such as typhoid, cholera, and chronic diarrhea, are the cause of more than half of the deaths in the country every year.



We will be taking at least 100 water filters to Haiti where we will conduct training sessions for families who will receive them.

If possible, team members and a translator will accompany representatives of the families to their homes and ensure the filters are properly positioned and verify that proper maintenance procedures are followed.

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**The December Issue Deadline is November 23, 2016**

## TEAM VITAL

The United Methodist Church  
of Greater New Jersey

**"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps"**

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (MSG)



**"Team Vital saved us 9 months of work in our church's ministry."** - Team Vital participant Summer 2015

### WHAT IS TEAM VITAL?

Team Vital helps leaders create, expand, share, and implement a strategic ministry plan using the 5 markers of vitality. Each church receives individual technical support, monthly consulting and other resourcing opportunities. Churches regroup periodically to assess their progress and share lessons learned. Churches learn from each other, collaborate, support and hold each other accountable to pursue their ministry plans. It's all about working together. As a part of Team Vital, congregations come along side one another as they:

- assess their own communities and ministry assets
- become equipped for effective ministry
- plan future ministry
- receive technical support for putting their plans into action
- and as a result grow in their vitality

All throughout GNJ, congregations have renewed their vitality through Team Vital. Fall 2016 participating churches include:

#### NORTHERN REGION

Calvary UMC  
Caldwell UMC  
Christ UMC  
Grace UMC of Kearny  
Vincent UMC  
Roselle UMC  
UMC in Branchville  
West Side UMC  
Sussex UMC  
Vernon UMC

#### CENTRAL REGION

St. Mark UMC  
African UMC  
Bound Brook UMC  
Sergeantsville UMC  
Whitehouse UMC  
Matawan UMC  
Harvey Memorial UMC  
Asbury UMC/El Mesias  
UMC

#### SOUTHERN REGION

Emmanuel UMC (Oaklyn)  
St. Paul's UMC  
Asbury UMC  
Trinity UMC/Pennsauken  
Asbury UMC

### WHAT'S MISSING? YOU!

Renovate your congregation's vitality. Sign up today and be a part of a movement that's empowering, equipping, and connecting GNJ. To see a full list of churches that have benefited from joining the team, go to:

[www.gnjumc.org/team-vital](http://www.gnjumc.org/team-vital)

Register by Dec. 1 to be a part of Team Vital in Spring 2017!

## New Superintendent Search

The Greater New Jersey Cabinet has been working with Bishop Schol to identify a new superintendent for the Delaware Bay District. Former superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jisun Kwak, is on involuntary leave of absence.

Rev. Kwak, following a hearing with the Conference Relations Committee, was placed on involuntary leave of absence by the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. Rev. Kwak was suspended from ministry in June and when a just resolution could not be achieved, the cabinet recommended Rev. Kwak be placed on involuntary leave of absence. The complaint has

also been referred to the Council for the Church who will prepare the complaint for a trial.

In selecting a new superintendent, Bishop Schol solicited input from the Delaware Bay Superintendency Committee. He will use the more than 60 names that laity and clergy from across GNJ submitted when he was considering a new superintendent for the Palisades District which resulted in the appointment of Gina Kim.

Bishop Schol asks you to pray for Rev. Kwak. He also asks for your prayers as he and the cabinet work together to appoint a new district superintendent.

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# THE UNCOVERED DISH

The Uncovered Dish is a ministry podcast from The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. It features discussions on various topics related to ministry, faith, and community.

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

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# Ridgewood UMC Makes a Joyful Noise for Special Needs

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

"Churches are considered a refuge. We call our worship space a 'sanctuary,'" says Rev. Victor Peterson. "But traditional church does not always feel safe to everyone."

This was a reality that prompted Ridgewood UMC, where Peterson is the pastor, to start the "Make a Joyful Noise" worship service last Advent. Recognizing that there were people in the congregation who experience the world in different ways with different responses to light and sound, he began looking for an alternative service format to meet special needs.

The seed was planted in October 2014 with the church's involvement in Access Ridgewood, a program started by the mayor to support those in the community who have special needs. By April 2015, Peterson imagined how those strategies could translate to the worship setting. Working with his wife, Cindy, and church member Kim Roberts whose grandchild is on the autism spectrum, the idea was presented to the administrative council. The lay leader and administrative council chair joined the team to begin developing a new kind of worship service where children and families with special needs could worship.

## Joyful Process

Throughout the summer, the Peter-

sons hosted barbeques to hear from families and church leaders about the needs of children with developmental disabilities. They had conversations with community leaders and other churches who were doing similar work.

Peterson says this was one of the most important parts of developing Make a Joyful Noise. Considerations that he would not have thought of were brought into the strategy. "We learned that people with developmental disabilities need structure. It's important to maintain consistency and routine from the pattern of the service to where each person sits." Peterson continued, "Experience is more important than words. Using participatory music and interactive visuals help interpret the message to those on the autism spectrum."

Make a Joyful Noise worship is held in the chapel because it is a smaller space. The families sit in self-designed seats and tend to gather close together. Manipulative items such as spongy stress balls, LED flashlights and electronic tea candles help the children focus. During the songs, worshippers are offered maracas or invited to clap, and there is room for dancing.

The ministry is designed to meet not only the needs of the children but also their families and supporters. Peterson says that Roberts was uncomfortable with his grandson Luke disrupting worship, but it was important to him that they

go to church. "Even if we offer assurance, families often feel self-conscious when their child is making noise or moving around during the service," Peterson says. When the service is designed to be welcoming and inclusive, families can worship freely without the burden of societal pressure.

## Joyful Worship

A typical service is about 25 minutes, and each part has a corresponding Keynote slide projected. Peterson said that while 21st-century technology is a valuable tool, much of the worship design reflects a first-century church gathering with an ecumenical approach that welcomes everyone with minimal dogma. The children feel safe, and the parents support each other.

Each week the order and most of the songs are the same, and the goal is always to establish a sense of love and community. Rev. Peterson warmly welcomes worshippers at the door. The service opens with the gathering song, "Wa Wa Wa Emimimo" sang four times. A child lights the candles, and the congregation sings "This Little Light of Mine."

"The Story" shares the Bible lesson for the day followed by a 2-4 minute video that relates to the lesson. The congregation participates in an experience that often utilizes a parachute or other interactive props to illustrate and internalize the message.

After reciting the Lord's Prayer, the congregation is invited into a time of sharing through Holy Communion. Using square and round rice crackers because of gluten sensitivity, one child holds the paten, and another holds the cup of grape juice while each person shares in the sacrament.

## Incorporating Joyful Noise in Ministry

Peterson says that congregations who are not ready to create a separate worship service to serve members with special needs can still integrate elements to serve families.

According to Peterson, any church can make their worship more accessible. From making manipulative items available to incorporating videos that are appealing to children on the autism spectrum, to including songs with clapping, to assuring families that it is okay for their children to make a joyful noise, church leadership can be intentionally welcoming to families seeking refuge.

"The most important part of this ministry is to listen to the needs and be patient and adaptable," Peterson says.

Make a Joyful Noise offers families an opportunity to worship together in a hospitable and flexible environment. He tells the story of Emily who told him, "I finally got to go to work on Monday morning and tell my coworkers I went to church yesterday."

## GNJ United Methodist Paddles for Clean Water



Margo Pellegrino of Medford UMC stresses the need for global awareness, particularly regarding water quality issues. The ocean activist recently set off on a two-month journey padding from Chicago to New Orleans "to emphasize the importance and raise awareness of the nation's water crisis."

Citing Flint, Michigan, the Rio Grande River and ailing coastal waters, Pellegrino seeks to encourage others to be good stewards of the environment and to become more aware of issues of water quality.

Pellegrino left on August 10 from the Lincoln Park Boathouse in Chicago in her 20-foot outrigger canoe and finished her journey to New Orleans on Sept. 24. To date, Pellegrino has paddled more than 5,000 miles of the country's coast.

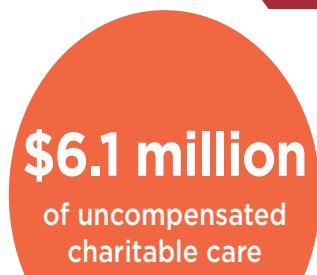
## Small Group Symposium Explores Approaches



On Oct. 20, Drew University hosted a GNJ Small Groups Symposium sponsored by the Northern Region Resource Team of GNJ and organized by Rev. Beth Caulfield, Director of Small Groups. The specially targeted event was geared for clergy and seminary students interested in exploring what's next for small group ministry in their churches. Speakers included Rev. Dr. David Watson of the United Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Timothy Myung-Hoon Ahn of Arcola UMC, Rev. Dr. Frank Fowler of Trinity UMC in Hackettstown and Rev. Jenny Smith-Walz, also of Trinity Hackettstown.

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# United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen Attains Deficiency-Free Federal Survey

United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen Attains Deficiency-Free Federal Survey

NEWTON, N.J. — United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen Administrator, Jeff Lisk proudly reports, "Achieving a deficiency-free federal survey affirms and motivates us to practice the highest standards each and every day." It all began on September 2, when a team of five qualified health professionals arrived at the bustling 235,000+ square-foot retirement community where 473 associates and residents cooperatively work and live.

Five representatives, four from the state and one from CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, came with a specific mission. CMS maintains oversight for compliance with the Medicare health and safety standards for facilities serving Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Therefore, in order to accomplish that

goal and to accurately survey and assess, visits are always unannounced, taking organizations by surprise.

Over a five-day period, the survey team had full access to every operational aspect of Bristol Glen assuring compliance with established standards, requirements and regulations. Their methodical exploration of clinical practices included reviewing medication passes, medication carts, resident charts, and observing meals for issues of quality, sanitation and resident dignity.

They scrutinized high risk residents, wound care practices and other innumerable clinical components. Individuals and groups of residents, family members, powers-of-attorney, and associates were interviewed by the five team members.

Executive Director, George Arezzo, proudly remarked "In light of the fact that generally, federal surveys rarely occur, a deficiency-free outcome is a remarkable accomplishment. I extend my congratulations to the entire Bristol Glen team."

## Open Enrollment for 2017 Health Insurance Plans

Open enrollment for the Active and Retiree Health Plan is scheduled for Nov. 2-17. Watch for the Notice of Open Enrollment being mailed to all churches.

### Active Employees

Federal Law requires that the opportunity to enroll be offered to every eligible employee, including church controlled nursery school employees. Eligible employees (30 or more house/week) - clergy and lay staff, this is the time to enroll or waive coverage for yourself, add or remove an eligible child or spouse, waive coverage for eligible dependents from your HealthFlex plan for coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

### Retirees over 65

Eligible retirees may enroll in the United HealthCare Medicare Advantage National PPO Plan if they meet the eligibility requirements in the Health Insurance Guidelines. Retirees who previously waived coverage in retirement may enroll at this time.

### 2017 FSA Salary Reduction Increase

The IRS announced that the 2017 maximum salary reduction has been

increased to \$2,600. GNJ does not offer an FSA for clergy. Entering an amount in Line 10 does not constitute an FSA plan - see Line 10 instructions below. FSA payroll deductions must be held in a qualified FSA plan offered by your local church. Detailed receipts are required for reimbursement of IRS qualified expenses.

- Line 10 - Flexible Spending Account – Reporting an amount on this form does not constitute a Flexible Spending Plan. This is an amount withheld from the pastor's salary and used by the church to reimburse medical or childcare expenses on a tax-exempt basis. The maximum allowable amount is \$2,600. Do not use this line to report medical expenses that are not reimbursed under a qualified Section 125 plan - use line 15. The church's plan must have a written Plan Document and an Enrollment Form. A Plan Form is required to change the amount withheld per IRS rules. Professional assistance is recommended to set up Section 125 Flexible Spending Plans.



## Council of Bishops Meeting

By Bishop John Schol

[bishopjohnschol@gnjumc.org](mailto:bishopjohnschol@gnjumc.org)

Earlier this month the Council of Bishops, more than 140 active and retired bishops from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, gathered for its biannual meeting. The Council gathered to pray, worship, meet in covenant groups for support and accountability, discuss important matters before the church and world, and receive updates on our progress toward growing vital congregations and our four areas of focus.

One of the most meaningful experiences for me was during the meeting when the bishops all knelt together to seek God's forgiveness and pray for the church. As bishops, we recognize we are not perfect, and as a Council, we are not always of one mind and are in need of God's forgiveness.

We also heard an update from those organizing the Special Commission for how we, The United Methodist Church, will work through our differences about homosexuality. The General Conference asked the Council of Bishops to form the Commission to review all of our policies concerning homosexuality. The United Methodist Church does not permit the ordination of gays and lesbians, clergy to marry gays and lesbians and congregations to allow their buildings to be used for same gender weddings.

The Commission is made up of 32 members including laity, clergy and bishops from around the world. Sixty conferences span the globe, and therefore more than half of the conferences do not have a person on the Commission, including GNJ. I have called for GNJ to organize an opportunity for laity and clergy to gather on March 4 to receive input for the Commission from the people of GNJ. You will hear more about this later, but I invite you to set March 4 aside so that you can participate.

The bishops also voted to call a special General Conference in early 2019 to receive and act on a report from the Commission. Some have asked why wait until 2019 to receive such an important

and critical report. The bishops are working under the constraint that The Book of Discipline requires any legislation to be presented 280 days prior to General Conference. This will give the Commission a little more than a year to do its work.

Others have asked why not just wait until 2020 for the regularly scheduled General Conference to receive the Commission's report. I believe having a special General Conference will give us the opportunity to offer our attention to this one item that will shape the future of the denomination. I will keep you informed of the developments as they occur.

The bishops also gathered all of the superintendents, lay leaders, treasurers, connectional ministries staff, communications staff and other leadership to focus on how we will continue to grow vital congregations and align the ministry of the church. GNJ was a model for the gathering. Among conferences in the U.S., GNJ has moved to number four in congregational vitality. Hector Burgos, our Director of Connectional Ministries, spoke to the more than 750 leaders gathered about our work together. He did an excellent job, and many in attendance asked him and other GNJ leaders about our progress. We have achieved our fruitfulness because of God's work through our lay and clergy leadership. Congregations throughout GNJ are making progress in their ministry.

I ask for your prayers for the healing and uniting of our church and our nation. As we work together, God will bless our witness in the world. Today I am witnessing how difficult it has become for people who have differing views to work together - to hold civil conversations and to address the challenges of poverty, injustice, and hopelessness together. In GNJ I have had a different experience. I witness genuine respect for difference and a willingness to work together in the midst of our difference. We are the light of Christ set on a hill. Let us work together so that we build up one another and the church for the witness of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

**Rev. Thomas Naglee**, Retired Elder, died on Oct. 1. A celebration of life took place on Oct. 23 at Cape May UMC in Cape May, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: The United Methodist Communities at Pitman, 535 North Oak Ave., Pitman, NJ 08071

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Margie Naglee, Pitman Manor, 535 North Oak Ave., Pitman, NJ 08071

**Rev. Majorie Eriksen**, Retired Full Elder, died on Oct. 20. A celebration of life took place on Oct. 21 at Morristown UMC in Morristown, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Morristown UMC, 50 South Park Place, Morristown, NJ 07960

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Neil Eriksen, c/o Christopher Eriksen, 50 Encampment Dr., Bedminster, NJ 07921-1828

**Rev. Linwood G. Sharp, Sr.**, Retired Local Pastor, died on Oct. 25. A celebration of life took place on Oct. 29 at Freitag Funeral Home in Bridgeton, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to Friendship-Finley UMC, 252 Centerton Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Stella C. Sharp, 262 Cornwell Dr., Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**Frances B. Ballinger**, Retired Associate Member, died on Nov. 4. A celebration of life took place on Nov. 9 at Allentown UMC in Allentown, NJ, an interment at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Pitman, NJ and a meal at Magnolia UMC in Magnolia, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to Allentown UMC, 23 Church St., Allentown, NJ 08501

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Christopher and Deanne Ballinger (son and daughter-in-law) 236 E. Washington Ave., Magnolia, NJ 08049 or to Andrew Ballinger (son) 117 NE Atlantic Ave., Magnolia, NJ 08049

## Central Region Lay and Clergy to Take Wesley Heritage Tour

Members of the Northern Shore, Capital, and Raritan Valley districts will be leaving on a nine day tour of England on July 19, 2017, to explore their roots in places associated with the life of John Wesley,

The tour has been designed to maximize opportunities for sightseeing, spiritual enrichment, and cultural learning in a group that assures a wonderful experi-

ence of fellowship and memory building.

Clergy who are taking groups from their churches have the opportunity to become tour hosts. Two units of Continuing Education credits are available as well as discounts for timely payments.

For further information and/or brochures, contact Glenn Ferguson, pastor at Fair Haven, at [gcrev@comcast.net](mailto:gcrev@comcast.net) or by calling 732-856-0699.



# #GIVINGTUESDAYGNJ

## NOVEMBER 29, 2016

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Giving Tuesday is a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, November 29, 2016, the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

### HOW CAN I JOIN?

Your congregation, your community, your family and your friends can join us in supporting the Mission Fund for Giving Tuesday.

### SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

Share what you're doing for this international day of giving on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by using hashtag #GivingTuesdayGNJ!

**GIVE TODAY AT:**  
[gnjumc.org/themissionfundcampaign/givingtuesday](http://gnjumc.org/themissionfundcampaign/givingtuesday)