

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## GNJ Launches Global Partnership with Tanzania Pastors School

By Rev. Héctor A. Burgos  
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**DAR ES SALAAM** - The room was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as 150 clergy and lay leaders prayed for each other as they prepared to leave the pastor's school and put into practice some of their new learnings.

The school is the first initiative of a new partnership between the United Methodists of Tanzania and Greater New Jersey. The United Methodist Church of Tanzania is a young church started by missionaries from the Congo in 1989. Today it is growing, but a significant challenge is training pastors and lay leadership to lead the church into the future. Only a few of the pastors are college educated but they are eager to learn and deeply committed to serving Christ and the church.

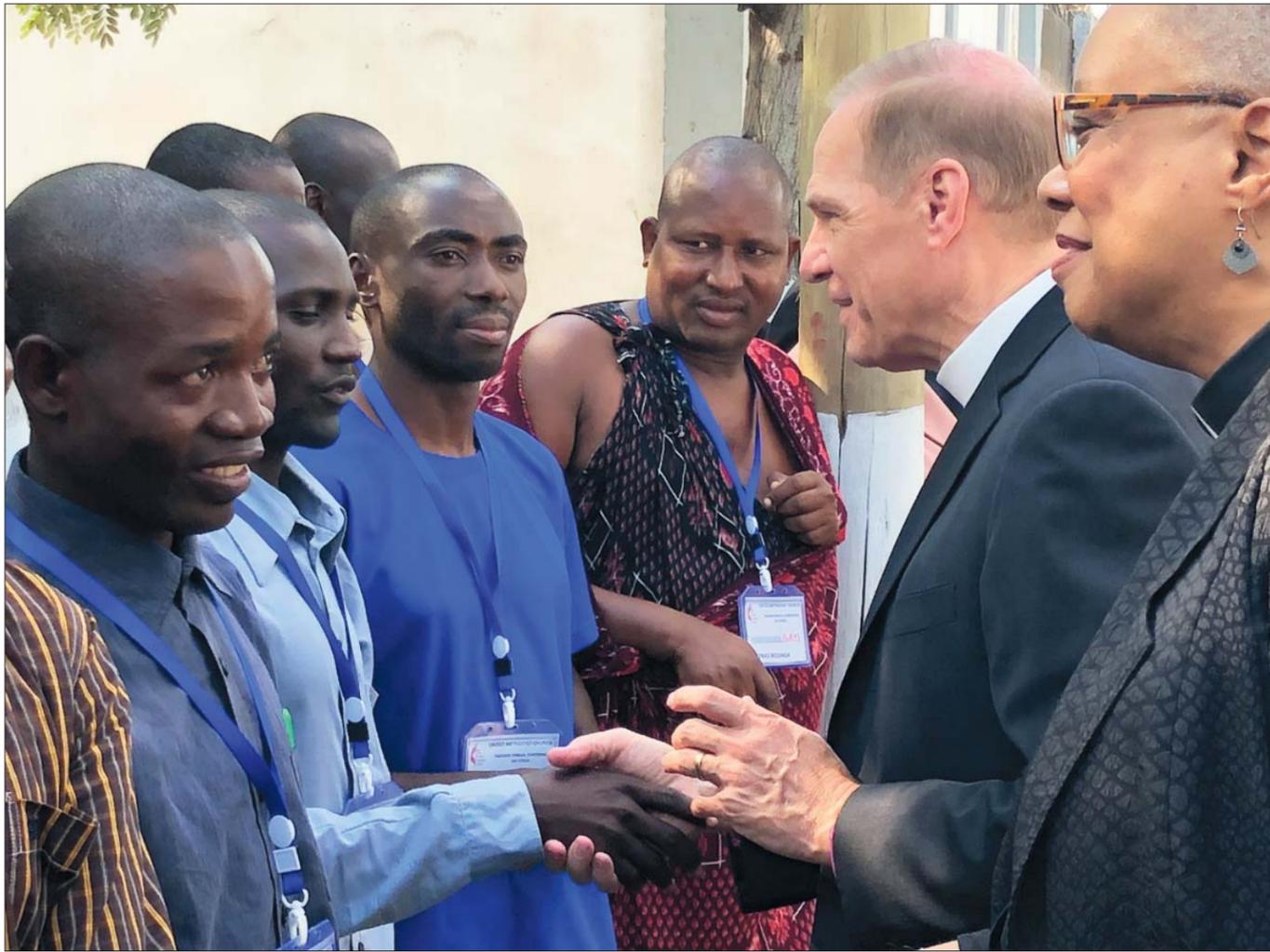
A delegation of six clergy and one lay person from GNJ traveled to Tanzania to facilitate the first Tanzania Pastors' Leadership Development School, dedicate a new congregation and its building, break ground for a new elementary school, cut the ribbon on a new guest house and view new and emerging Hope Centers.

The GNJ team included Rev. Lakesha Grover, Rev. Shelley Smith, Rev. Sung Ahn, Ashley Wilson, Executive Assistant to the DCM, Rev. Steve Bechtold, Skylands Superintendent, Rev. Héctor A. Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, and Bishop John Schol.

The Pastors School, a longstanding dream of Bishop Mande Muyombo, resident bishop of the North Katanga Episcopal Area of the Tanzania Annual Conference, launched the new missional partnership between GNJ and Tanzania, approved at the 2018 Annual Conference session in May in Wildwood.

During his opening remarks at the school, Muyombo celebrated the new missional partnership.

"It is a new day for the United Method-



**Bishop Schol and Rev. Shelley Smith are greeted by leaders of the Tanzania Annual Conference in Dar es Salaam as part of a delegation of six clergy and one lay person from GNJ who traveled to the country to facilitate the first Tanzania Pastors' Leadership Development School.** Photo by Rev. Hector Burgos

ist Church of Tanzania," he said. "This partnership with GNJ will allow us to better equip our pastors and leaders for transformational ministry, to start one new faith community a year, support ten pastors' salaries, support new and emerging Hope Centers and providing to expand health, educational and employ-

ment ministries in the community."

GNJ is raising sufficient funds to support these ministries for 25 years through its Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

The pastors' school opened with a powerful worship service at First UMC Dar es Salaam. The congregation joined the church choirs and musicians to praise

God through song and dance. Bishop Schol preached an inspiring message and challenged all to follow God's call to love our neighbors and to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

"The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident, joy was contagious and hope

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**On April 28, confirmands from across GNJ gathered at the Mission and Resource Center in Neptune to connect, worship, fellowship and go deeper in faith.** Photo by Biho Chung

## Confirmands Celebrated at Mission and Resource Center

By Josh Kinney  
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**NEPTUNE** - On April 28 GNJ confirmation classes were invited for a gathering at the Mission and Resource Center to meet Bishop Schol, enjoy, fellowship, worship, and learn together about what it means to be the next generation of Greater New Jersey United Methodists.

"I had five of my eight confirmands there along with five of their leaders," said Wes Ellis, Associate Pastor of First UMC of Toms River. "It was a meaningful time for our youth, not only because they got

to see the Mission and Resource Center and meet Bishop Schol, but also because they got the opportunity to connect with other young people from other congregations who are going through a similar journey. To think about Confirmation in that context, reflecting on the big picture of what's at stake in confirming what God has said about them in their baptism, is a profound opportunity and we were grateful for the invitation."

Sonia Butler, one of the leaders from First UMC, admired what she considered Bishop Schol's bravery in opening the floor for questions.

"The maturity and sophistication of the questions and the wisdom in the answers was inspiring," she said.

For Desirae Ferrara, a First UMC confirmand, the best part of the day was meeting and seeing all of the other young people her age on the same journey of faith in GNJ.

"It was great to be with kids who were also excited to be confirmed in their church and really start their religious journey," she said. "It was inspiring and comforting. In 2018, less people go to church, so being in a room with kids like me who

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## Dinner Church Sizzling at First Passaic UMC



**First Passaic UMC's Dinner Church is becoming a community hit, putting a fresh spin on worship and creating a new community of its own.** Photo provided

By Karen Sinclair  
karenswall@gmail.com

**PASSAIC** - First Passaic United Methodist Church is doing a new thing. They're holding worship services over dinner. Putting a fresh spin on their worship, the congregation is breaking bread with the community on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. at the church on Paulson Ave.

Started in January of 2018, the Dinner Church has been an immediate success and brought a cross-section of the

*Continued on page 6*

# A Message from the Bishop



## Choosing Well - The Five Temptations of a Leader

(Adapted from Patrick Lencioni's 5 Temptations of a CEO)

Leaders are faced with choices every day. The choices generally have a common question. Will this choice further the mission or will it help the leader? When we read the Gospel, every decision Jesus made had a common thread; it furthered the

mission of God. Generally, they were the harder choices, the harder roads to travel and did not elevate Jesus' status.

Every leader faces five temptations when making a decision. The temptations make it easier for the leader. To succumb to just one of the temptations affects the ability of the leader to achieve great results for God.

### Temptation 1 – Being Career Focused

What is your most significant accomplishment as a leader? The day you were ordained? The day you were promoted to supervisor or manager? The day you received an award for being an outstanding servant of the church? The day you became the chairperson of the board of trustees? Each of these accomplishments recognize your career or role putting the emphasis on your status rather than what you accomplished or how God demonstrated fruitfulness through you. I know a church leader who when asked about what she thought was her most important accomplishment said, *"The ten new churches started under my leadership."* In other words, her accomplishment was a missional result and focused on how God worked through her leadership.

When faced with a decision, leaders are tempted to choose actions that will not jeopardize their role or ones which advance their position. Putting career or leadership attainment over results and fruitfulness is tempting and has become part of the culture of the church. We value roles, titles, degrees and status. We mark these achievements with symbols to denote accomplishment – when I became a bishop I was given a pin to wear that noted I was a bishop. When a clergy person is ordained, they are given a stole indicating she is ordained.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, God continually reminded the people that to be chosen was not a status or privilege but a responsibility. God chose people not for a role but to further the work and ministry of God on earth. Instead of focusing on career or position attainment, why not ask yourself this question monthly: *"What is different because of my leadership?"* The answer will focus you on being faithful to your calling and the mission.

### Temptation 2 – Seeking Happiness or the Need to be Liked

Leaders are tempted to choose happiness over accountability. Would you rather people you work with like you or respect you? People who want to be liked, rarely or barely keep people accountable to the mission, goals and expectations. Keep in mind accountability is to have people account for their ability. The leader's role is to hold and support people to be accountable to achieve God's mission and goals.

Accountability is hard work and it can make people feel uncomfortable. Accountability is not being mean, demanding, controlling, or directive but clear, forthright and principled. If someone turned in work that did not meet the expectations for the ministry or mission, which would you rather the leader say, *"Thank you John for turning in your work for the project."* or *"John, I have seen you do better than this and the mission and I need you to do better work. Was there a miscommunication or didn't you understand what was expected of you for this project?"*

Leaders might want to give the first response because it is the path of least resistance and does not make the other person uncomfortable or unhappy. That is the temptation. The second response, holding someone accountable, may save the person's career, role in the church or the opportunity for receiving more important projects. Accountability is hard work and the mission moves forward when we all expect people's best for God. Jesus was constantly holding his closest friends and

disciples accountable for their thinking and actions.

### Temptation 3 – Being Correct

We all like to be right. Nobody wants to be wrong. But what happens when the desire to have the right, accurate, correct answer gets in the way of moving forward? I have invited United Methodists in GNJ to start 100 Hope Centers, five in every county. We have 21 counties in GNJ so five in every county doesn't add up. I am not even sure five per county is the right number. Maybe it is more, maybe less. While I do not know what the "right" number is, I do know the church needs to be centers of hope, to connect with the community, particularly with children and youth in ways that are transformational, which is something a Hope Center can do. Within a year we have eight Hope Centers and seven under development. We are moving forward.

Sometimes we over research. We try to so hard to be accurate and arrive at the perfect way to go about something that we second guess or worse, take all the energy and excitement of trying something new. I believe we would not have one Hope Center if we worried about what is the right number.

Leaders need to be directional rather than precise, to plan for direction rather than exactness. They need to recognize we will gain clarity as we move forward rather than trying to have everything just right from the outset. Precise and accurate is very important for engineering but not for ministry. Shaping lives is very different than shaping steel. Choose clarity and direction over being correct when planning and organizing for people's lives. Let the people make mid-course corrections along the way. Point to the destination and have clear desired outcomes that allow people and the Spirit to work together for God's ultimate perfection. There is a difference between excellence and perfection. Excellence is excelling at what you do. Choose excellence over perfectionism and accuracy.

### Temptation 4 – Being Harmonious

While a team working in harmony is desired, it cannot avoid conflict. Avoiding conflict to maintain harmony is not leadership. Leaders who seek harmony and avoid conflict stunt the growth of both people and ministry. Conflict is necessary for growth and development. Conflict is two ideas vying for the same space. It is neither bad nor good, it is only two ideas that seem to be different. Everything, whether mechanical, human or organizational, moves forward with friction and tension. Leaders who create false harmony by pushing conflict below the surface or ignoring it, create unhealthy tension that slows and even halts progress. There are congregations that would rather be happy and dying than challenged and growing. They seek to avoid conflict at the expense of the future of the church.

A healthy leader allows conflict to emerge and skillfully leads a group through the conflict. Conflict and differences sharpen ideas, clarify issues and when engaged in well, grow missional unity and commitment. Healthy leaders become curious when they encounter conflict – *"Tell me more about what you're thinking (feeling). How did you come to that conclusion? How will your idea help us move the mission forward? What do others think about this idea?"* When people see the leader is not anxious about the issue, and is non-defensive and even comfortable in exploring the conflict, the group's tension often lowers to a place where people can engage well. Denying the conflict or wanting everyone to "get along" hurts progress. Jesus welcomed conflict and told parables about conflict so that people would grow in their relationship with God and one another.

### Temptation 5 – Being Guarded, Safe

When was the last time you heard a leader say, *"I was wrong"* or *"I don't know"*? Leaders tend to think people want them to always be confident, never in doubt or wrong. People don't want a leader who is often wrong and they don't want a leader who is always right. They do want a leader who can admit when he is wrong. Vulnerability is healthy. When a leader becomes vulnerable, it allows the group to go deeper in truth telling and searching the depths of an issue. Leaders who are guarded, who need to be seen as right or always play it safe are leaders who are obeyed but not always followed. People value a leader who is human. For the leader, it is a tricky balance of being among the people and yet remaining the leader. The guarded leader, who seeks safety by keeping distance, is not a connecting leader. People want to know the leader is real and understands and experiences their challenges, yet is objective enough to lead them through their challenges.

I invite you to resist the five temptations and choose healthy leadership that while harder and less comfortable, is best for the church. Today's transformational leaders embrace what is best for the mission rather than choosing what is best for themselves.

## THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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# Church Dramas Tell Community's History

By Denise Herschel  
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WEST BERLIN - St. John's United Methodist Church member Virgil Williams has belonged to the West Berlin based church since 1977 - more than 41 years. She purchased a house in the town and was thrilled that her church was within walking distance to her home. She quickly became an active member, joining the gospel choir, "The Hearts of Joy" and became involved in many of the church's activities.

Over the years, Williams started to create historical plays for the congregation.

One of her most recent and detailed plays to date has been the presentation of St. John's United Methodist Church's history through folk stories which began when the church's historian Beatrice White asked Williams to work with her on a celebration of the church's anniversary.

"She put me in charge of the program aspect and since it was an anniversary, I thought we would do a presentation of the church's history," she said.

Williams walked the neighborhood around the church community in West Berlin, searching for a glimpse of St. John's UMC history, interviewing many senior citizens who talked at great length about the 'good ole' days.'

"I listened and took notes and the result was I had my church's history through the folk stories of its seasoned members. These results were amazing. I took those precious memories and produced a play about how St. John's UMC began," she said.

Williams says she wanted the program to be more than just reading the history.

"I wanted it to be something that people would remember. Folks get excited about plays and tend to be interactive. The audience did not know beforehand that the history would be presented as a play. It was well-received," she said.

Williams described her written program as a historical play about St. John's simply entitled, 'St. John's History.' The play was incorporated with dialogue and music; the actors all members of the church. Although Williams is responsible for writing the play, she did have assistance with other elements of production including music and early history lessons of the church's beginnings.

"Our church's minister of music, Michael Troutman, worked with me to coordinate the music. He had been there since he was a young boy and had a natural talent for music and remembered songs during the 1960s so he was very helpful with the placement of songs," Williams said. She continued, "The early history was provided by the writing of the pastor, Rev. Calvin Woods, during that time. After I had interviewed the seasoned church members, the history took on life. There was something very poignant and tangible that touched my heart. Hearing those stories and taking my notes, suddenly it was not just history as one would read in a book. It became images, sounds and music!"

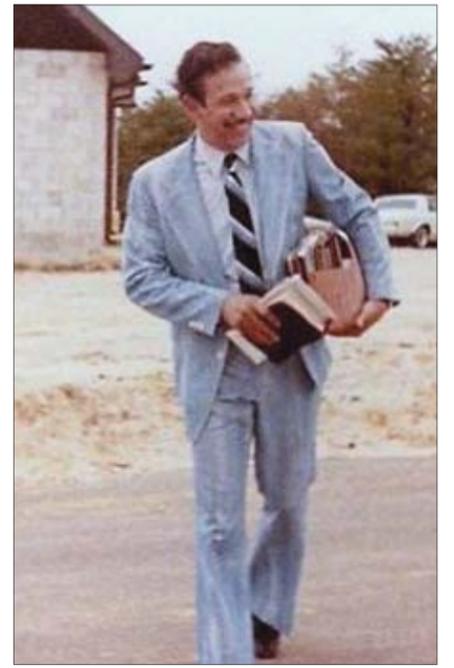
According to Williams' notes, St. John's UMC came to be in September 1922. It was there at the top of the hill in a small, black community called East Berlin

where the tiny country church rested on cinder blocks to keep termites away. Except for the wooden church bulletin planted in the ground outside, it had the appearance of a one-room school house. A pot-bellied stove heated the sanctuary.

Williams said her desire to write and produce the play was due to her "love of history."

"I produced it in play form so that the congregants would enjoy and remember simple facts about the church's history," said Williams. "I wanted to present it in a way that was interesting and not boring. I am inspired with the interaction and learning from others. What surprised me most from the people I interviewed was their willingness to talk to me. They were eager. I learned much more from them than the facts and statistics that are recorded. Their stories brought the church to life."

St. John's United Methodist Church is located at 409 Fairview Avenue in West Berlin, N.J. For more information contact the church office at 856-767-8951 or email [calvinwoods@snip.net](mailto:calvinwoods@snip.net)



Rev. Calvin Woods of St. John's UMC in West Berlin, circa 1985. Woods provided the early history of the church which inspire dramas written by church member Virgil Williams. Photo provided

## Third Water Well for Liberia from Hope, N.J.



Liberians gather around a new well in their community funded by the generosity and determination of St. John's UMC in Hope, NJ. Photo provided

By Lawrence Costantino  
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HOPE TOWNSHIP - When the Spirit calls, we listen", says Pastor Carla Costantino.

For the third time, St. John's UMC in Hope, N.J., answered the call to raise the funds needed for a well to be dug in Liberia. They had been inspired by Katherine Court-Manning, who, several years ago, had gone to the Camphor Mission in Liberia to help improve their education programs. What she experienced there touched her heart deeply. She came back and spoke to St. John's about her time, mentioning the extremely poor water quality in most villages, the low cost (to Americans) of a well and that most villages typically lost four to five babies a year due to water being used for baby formula.

This touched the hearts of folks at St. John's and a mission campaign was started to raise the \$2,000 needed for a well. The first well was dug in Mayesville,

a village near the Camphor Mission.

Reflecting on the generational impact this well would have on the lives in that village, St. John's felt moved to raise funds for a second well. The second well was dug in the Borzohn Community, in Grand Bassa County, Liberia.

St. John's mission team, at that point, felt they had 'done enough' in Liberia but it seemed the Holy Spirit wasn't done with them yet.

As their mission team was in prayer and conversation as to what mission to focus on next, the only comments repeatedly stated were about the babies that would be saved and the lives that would be improved by the wells that had been dug. So, taking this as a sign, a third campaign was started and is now complete. St. John's has raised the necessary funds for a third well to be dug in Liberia. At this time, the church doesn't know exactly where it will be dug but feels blessed to be a blessing to their brothers and sisters in Liberia.

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# Matt's 18:20 Coffee House Begins Second Summer

By Robert & Bonnie Bakley  
 bonnie08243@gmail.com

SEA ISLE CITY – Abby Waid, a junior at Stockton University and member of Sea Isle City UMC had an idea of providing activities for young people, ages 14 through 20, and a place for them to hang out that would be safe and free from the temptations of alcohol and drugs.

The island of Sea Isle City lies just south of the resort town of Ocean City and is a sleepy beach town with a year-round population of a little more than 2,000. During the summer the population swells to nearly twenty times its year-round population, with many young people enjoying the beaches during the day with limited activities after dusk.

Waid shared her vision with her parents, Pastor Melissa Doyle Waid and Travis Waid and together they drew up plans to take two of the unused nursery

school rooms at Sea Isle City United Methodist Church and recycle them into a Coffee House Ministry called Matt's 18:20, based scripture from the book of Matthew which reads: "For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

Waid made an eye-opening presentation to the administrative council on March 19, 2017 complete with graphics and expense projections. The council voted unanimously in support for this new and exciting community ministry. At the end of the meeting, donations such as furniture, materials and finances were promised for startup. Most of the hands-on work was provided by Waid, her friends, brother Micah and sister Gabby under the guidance of her father.

While the Coffee House was being rehabbed Pastor Melissa and her daughter met with the Chamber of Commerce where the vision for Matt's



Teenage musicians sing and perform at Sea Isle City UMC's summer coffee house known as Matt's 18:20 based off the 20th scripture verse in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. With the combined help of the church and the beach town, the new faith community was spearheaded by Abby Waid, a junior at Stockton University and member of the church, who had a vision to create a safe, fun-loving space for young people ages 14-20 to get together during the evenings in the summer months. Photo provided



Church members and participants involved in the production of Sea Isle City UMC's Matt's 18:20 Coffee House stand out front of their church with a banner advertising their endeavor. Photo provided

18:20 was presented. Not only did the Chamber unanimously lend their support but many donated money, furniture, coffee and espresso machines and other restaurant supplies. On June 15, 2017, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the soft opening of Matt 18:20 and was attended by congregants, Sea Isle City Mayor Lenny Desiderio, and members of the local police force. On June 27, the mayor and city council recognized Waid's coffee house ministry and awarded her a commendation.

This year, Waid has expanded Matt's 18:20 to include a game room with the addition of another renovated room equipped with a pool table, ping pong table, air hockey game and a snack machine- all donated. Waid plans to expand

even further with the help of future Eagle Scout, Troop 76, Jacob Bryan who will be redesigning the area from a nursery playground into a young adult's fresh air game room.

Pastor Melissa has added a new Saturday evening outdoor worship on the front lawn of the church; the busiest road in the heart of the city. This "out of the box" contemporary worship features a wide variety of artists talented in dance, theater and music.

SICUMC's regular Sunday worship is held at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, and the congregation invites the community and summer vacationers to come in, introduce themselves and enjoy a "cup of Joe" with a tour of Matt's 18:20.

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# Paying it Forward at CUMAC's Pathways to Work

By Adrian Diaz  
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PATERSON - Eileen Marrero started with CUMAC's Pathways to Work program a couple of years ago when she was going through a rough time in her life. The program, designed to provide critical job skills and resume boosting opportunities to help participants move on to employment, was Marrero's hope to finding new work. After 20 years of working in administration, she lost her job and struggled to find a new one. With a five-year-old at home, all Marrero wanted was to go back to work to provide for her family.

While Marrero sharpened her job skills and searched for work, bills started to pile up and she eventually lost her home. With no options in sight, she spoke with Isaiah, CUMAC's Case Manager.

"I was contacting shelters trying to get in and nobody had room. Isaiah got on the phone and started making calls. It was urgent because I needed somewhere to go that night. I had nowhere to go" said Marrero. "He ended up getting me in a shelter that same night. Thank God for him that I didn't have to spend a day in the street with my son, because that's what would've happened."

Marrero stayed in the shelter for a couple of months and bounced around for awhile after that, finding different



places to stay while she got back on her feet. She remembers walking on the highway to get to interviews, regularly asking for rides, and often taking several buses to get where she needed to go. It was one of the scariest times of her life. She had always been able to take care of her family but suddenly at 40 her whole world turned upside down.

Fortunately, Marrero never lost hope, and thanks to CUMAC she never had to deal with her struggles alone. CUMAC was there to provide food, support, and guidance through it all with invaluable services.

"The fact that you have people here that care and they're willing to listen, that really makes a big difference," she said.

Marrero kept applying for jobs with no luck, but through it all she stayed positive, worked hard and learned as much as possible. CUMAC staff took notice and when a position became available in their office several months later, Marrero was immediately recommended by several team members.

"I'm going to give you 150%" Marrero



**Eileen Marrero is proud to serve CUMAC in Paterson; the organization which helped turn her life around.**

*Photo provided*

said in her interview. Since being hired, she's been doing just that, quickly becoming an asset to the CUMAC team, assisting with everything from deliveries and scheduling to data entry and programs. With many Pathways participants facing unemployment, hunger and other difficulties, Marrero is also using her experience to help support others around the building.

"They know they can talk to me" she

said.

Reflecting on the last few years and the journey she's faced, Marrero is happy to be in a good place in her life again. When asked about Pathways, and if there's anything her time with CUMAC has taught her, she smiles. "I learned that there are still people that truly care and want to help" she said. "For a long time the doors were just slamming in my face, or at least it felt that way. Me being here made me realize that there are still people that care, because so many people here have helped me along the way. It's a good feeling to be around people who really care. Now me being part of the team, I can pay it forward."

With Marrero's assistance, CUMAC is enhancing the Pathways to Work program to provide additional opportunities for participants to learn critical job skills needed to build a brighter future. In addition to hands-on learning opportunities, participants will receive access to workshops on resume writing, job interviewing, computer literacy and accessing social services in addition to onsite tutoring for college readiness and GED programs. The staff is also working hard to ensure that all participants have the support they need at all times through CUMAC's programs and different community resources.

To find out more about CUMAC and Pathways to Work visit [cumac.org](http://cumac.org)

## Dinner Church Sizzling at First Passaic UMC

*Continued from page 1*

community together in worship including people with no religious affiliation, families, pastors of other churches and believers from other faiths.

"I visited Dinner Church earlier this month and had never been to this church before. Everyone was friendly and not before long I felt like I belonged and fit right in. My favorite thing about Dinner Church is that we all got to contribute, listen to one another, and nobody feels sidelined," said Eddie Kahler of his recent experience.

The Dinner Church is a 'love feast' held in the fellowship hall of the church. The evenings program is informal beginning with opening prayer and singing. There is Gospel readings and then discussions based on focused questions about the passages. Everyone is encouraged to participate in small groups and at the end the groups share their thoughts and ideas freely.

Although food dominates the table, the essence of the Dinner Church is not the food. As Pastor Brendon Galvin puts it, "The dinner guides the service and the service guides the dinner."

First Passaic Dinner Church is committed to maintaining an atmosphere guided by four key values: simplicity, honesty, hospitality and respect. People

relish the opportunity to join in fellowship, are excited by the discussion and open dialogue and once motivated, return with friends.

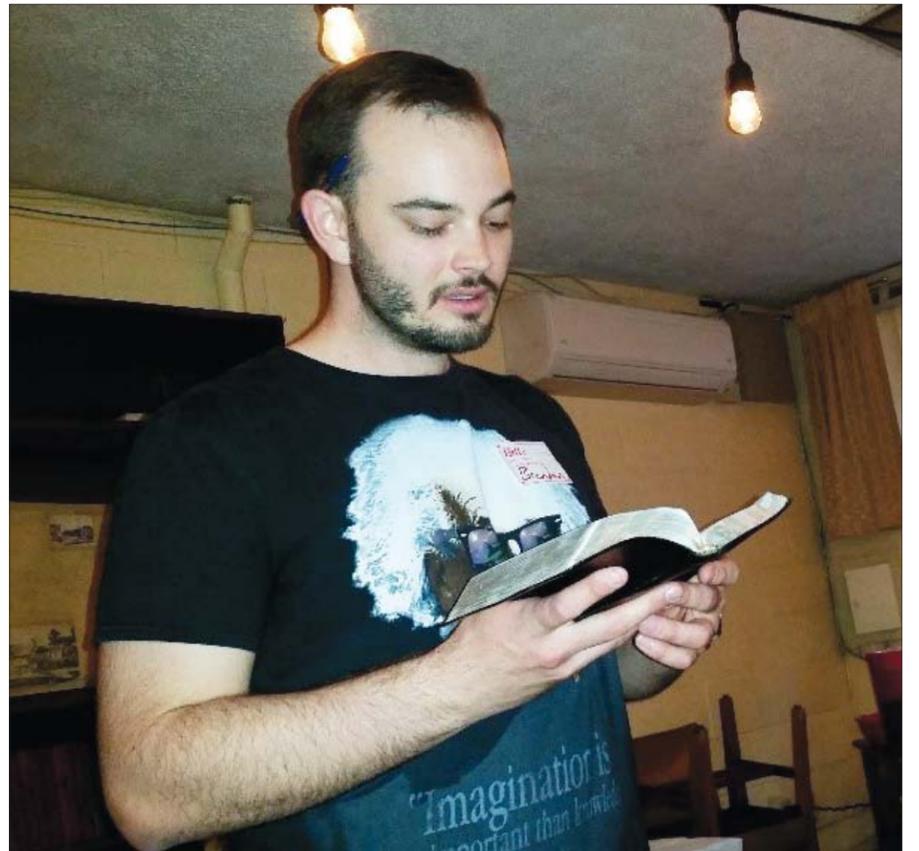
A Facebook page and a MeetUp group keeps the community and congregation informed. A stack of invitation cards is strategically placed at the entrance of the dinner for visitors to spread the word.

The event is supported entirely by donations from members, a few local businesses and a tip jar. They usually have

One Dinner Church reading was from Psalm 139.

Focus questions were:

1. Who knows you best and who do you know best?
2. How does the thought that God is with you everywhere, all the time, make you feel?
3. What about you do you think God loves?



**Pastor Brendan Galvin of First Passaic UMC reads a verse of scripture at a recent Dinner Church session before breaking out in small groups and sharing a meal as a community.** *Photo provided*

more food than they need and menus range from soup and pasta to steak and potatoes.

Galvin advises that churches starting such a program should identify a core team of five to ten members. He sees the pastoral role not as one of control, but of nurturing others so they respond to the Holy Spirit. He recommends churches should take the plunge when they believe the time is right, without trying to plan the perfect dinner.

"Don't be discouraged if the first event is not perfect," said Galvin. "Improvement is possible each time by remaining open-minded, flexible and inspired." He warns that success and attendance may fluctuate for reasons beyond the program itself. "The team needs to discern when to stay the course and when to adjust."

Dinner service is not new. As a love feast, it has origins in the early church and was first introduced into Methodism

by John Wesley circa 1737.

Although Dinner Church at First Passaic UMC has a life of its own, independent of regular Sunday services, Galvin observed some "cross flow" where two or three visitors excited about the dinner services now attend Sunday service. Also, in small numbers, formerly inactive members have since become active as attendees of the Dinner Church.

First Passaic UMC is not new to innovative worship. They were founded as "Holy rascals" who worshipped in a local tap house about 175 years ago. The church again broke new ground when they hired the first woman theologian in the 1860s. Today, the church continues as multi-cultural, centered on Jesus and shaped by Methodist heritage to reveal the active presence of God.

For more about the Dinner Church and current schedules, visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/passaicdinner](https://facebook.com/passaicdinner)



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**THE GNJ DIGEST**  
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# Camp YDP Receives Sherwin-Williams Grant

By Kamelia Ani  
Kameliaaniphoto@gmail.com

PATERSON - Camp YDP in Paterson has gotten a much needed facelift right before the summer season with a generous grant from Sherwin-Williams through the Rebuilding Together organization. Under the guidance of Executive Director Gretchen Viggiano, Rebuilding Together is a national organization aimed at making impacts on neighborhoods in need by picking a neighborhood or block and focusing on helping improve it in any way they can.

"I first spoke to Gretchen a few days after I started working at camp. She is so passionate about helping and kept trying to find ways to partner with us. When she was presented with the grant from Sherwin-Williams this year, she immediately thought of YDP," says Camp YDP Director Bria Pierre.



Camp YDP staff, volunteers and Sherwin-Williams representatives are pictured at camp headquarters in Paterson after a day of painting the building both inside and out. Photo provided

Camp YDP, which serves children from age two and a half to 13 years old, has various programs including a full

day preschool program, after school program and summer camp. In a city that is vastly underserved and ridden with all sorts of problems, Camp YDP strives to provide resources and broad sense of relief to the community. When the United Methodist Church partnered with Camp YDP in 2016, they dedicated themselves to helping them achieve this goal. Through donations, volunteering, and partnerships with outside organizations such as Rebuilding Together, they stay a beehive of activity and a beacon of hope for the community.

The Sherwin-Williams grant was perfect for the building, which is undergoing changes as Camp YDP continues to expand and improve, according to Pierre.

"Sherwin-Williams did everything. All we had to do was tell them what paint colors we wanted. They came in and assessed the needs of the building, and

then came back with everything. And I mean everything. They arrived with the paints, supplies, and 40 volunteers!



Thanks to a generous grant from Sherwin-Williams, Camp YDP received a new paint job in an effort to help improve the community. Photo provided

They painted the entire building in one day, and even did our exterior doors and picnic tables outside. It was unbelievable. And when they were done they said we should call if we ever needed anything else. They were truly excited to hear about the work we were doing."

Pierre says the children were very excited with the changes. This has provided them with a fresh, clean space to thrive in. Volunteers were thrilled to see the looks of delight on the children's faces when they walked in on July 2, the first day of the summer camp program. Enrollment for this summer is an estimated 100 children and Pierre says there will continue to be changes and improvements made to the building to provide these children with the best experience they can have.

## Mary Boutin Scholarship Fund

Camp YDP is always looking for volunteers and donations to help with operations. Currently they are accepting donations towards the Mary Boutin Scholarship

Fund. The late Mary Boutin was a devoted volunteer and board member at CAMP YDP until her sudden passing in 2016. She worked tirelessly with the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood and Citizens for Swimming to assure that campers had access to swimming lesson each summer at the Graydon Pool. CAMP YDP is committed to continuing her legacy by providing opportunities for the children of Paterson. To that end, they established the Mary Boutin Scholarship to help pay for various summer programs which will expose underprivileged youth to a wide array of special events and activities. The children will be participating in everything from wilderness survival at Lorrimer Sanctuary to STEAM classes (science, technology, arts, engineering and mathematics). The scholarships go to children who would otherwise be unable to afford these programs.

For more information or to donate, please visit [www.campydp.org](http://www.campydp.org) or call (973) 790-0887

# GNJ Launches Global Partnership with Tanzania Pastors School

Continued from page 1

abound during the opening celebration," said Rev. Lakisha Groover.

More than 150 pastors and lay members traveled from all corners of Tanzania for the three-day pastors school. During the event, participants learned about the Gospel of John, elements of Wesleyan worship and worship planning, Wesleyan theology of mission and laity engagement, cultural competence, congregational vitality and asset based mission.

The GNJ team was inspired by the faith of the participants, humbled by their questions, deeply moved by their spirituality and blessed by the friendships that were formed.

"The Tanzanian pastors are eager to learn and display a deep spirituality and love for the people they serve," celebrated Superintendent Bechtold. "They were open to share their faith, discuss their ministry context and to learn more about Methodist polity and doctrine and Wesleyan theology," he added.

"Tanzania pastors possess a natural entrepreneurial spirit," commented Rev. Shelley Smith, lead pastor at Ferry Avenue in Camden, who facilitated the learning on asset based community development. "The concepts they learned during the pastor school provide them with a framework to begin shaping their outreach efforts based on what is already going well in their ministries and leverage the assets already present in their communities."

The pastors' school concluded with a joyful celebration where all participants received a certificate of completion and handmade crosses.

"I give thanks for Bishop Muyombo's leadership and vision for the Tanzania UMC and the pastors' school. GNJ will collaborate with him and his team to offer the school every year so that Tanzanian pastors continue developing their leadership for vital and transformational ministry in the community," said Rev. Ahn.



The power of the Holy Spirit filled a room of 150 clergy and lay leaders who prayed for each other as they prepared to leave a pastor's school and put into practice their new learnings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo by Rev. Hector Burgos

The GNJ team also had the opportunity to visit the Tanzania Hope Center project being built in a village outside of Dar es Salaam.

All in attendance celebrated the completion of the first phase of the construction. Schol and Muyombo consecrated the new guest house that will be used to host mission teams in years to come to help build other parts of the Hope Center. When completed, the complex will include a health clinic, orphanage with primary and secondary schools, a new church plant and a resource center for the community.

"Seeing firsthand the progress already being made in the Hope Center, and the vision for the future, inspires me to go back and rally the congregations in

the Skylands District to be part of the Miracles Everywhere campaign. This is our connectional system at its best - we truly can do more when we work together," said Rev. Steve Bechtold, Skylands Superintendent.

Before returning to New Jersey, the GNJ team participated in the Tanzania Annual Conference session, held in the newly built Amazing Grace UMC, in the town of Bunju. Bishop Schol was the guest preacher at the opening worship service where he shared a prophetic message. This also marked the first time a bishop from the U.S. participated in an Annual Conference Session in Tanzania. Schol encouraged Tanzanian United Methodists to honor all people as being made in the image of God and continue to

lift up the contributions and leadership of women at all levels in church and society.

"When we mistreat women, and deny them of equal opportunities for ministry, we fail to live up to God's vision for the church. In Christ, there is no difference between men and women. We are all gifted and called to servant leadership," Schol proclaimed.

On the second day of work, Tanzanian delegates overwhelmingly (69-1) ratified the revised Constitutional Amendment I, which affirms that girls and women are of equal value in the eyes of God, laments discrimination against women and girls, and calls the church to address issues of discrimination to women and girls. After the vote, the room erupted in shouts of

Continued on page 10

# Mission Restaurant Serves Up Feast and Funds

By Denise Herschel  
Nj6pack@yahoo.com

LINWOOD - Transforming a 100-year-old church hall into a four-star dining experience is no easy feat. But that's exactly what church members and volunteers from Central United Methodist Church in Linwood did recently when they held their bi-annual mission dinner in the church's Adams Hall.

Special lighting illuminated the hall and Fica trees adorned the dining area. Ten-piece silverware settings complete with sparkling cider flutes on beautiful table clothes, helped the local chefs make the seven-course dinner memorable for the 120 people in attendance.

For James Murphy, Central UMC member and co-founder of the "gourmet dinner," it has been more than five years since the vision for such a dinner came to him one Sunday after church.

"I was looking at the kitchen and the space and God said to me, 'why don't you do a sit-down dinner and give the proceeds to the church's mission?' But the vision did not come to life until I volunteered to serve God. I helped cook at our chicken barbeque event and ran into our pastor. Little did I know that he would mention my name three months later for a church consecration luncheon," said Murphy. "I met four people at a meeting for the luncheon and mentioned that it was God who brought me to this meeting and told them my vision for the gourmet dinner. It was there I met Sal DeRose and he, John Pozza, Bob Palamaro, Terrie Moore and Gary McGuire started the dinner with me."

That was five years ago and now thirteen dinners later, Central UMC has helped raise more than \$40,000 for local charities. Their most recent gourmet dinner at 'Missions Restaurant' raised \$6,230 for charities including The Community Food Bank of New Jersey, The Church Scholarship Program, Kitchen Improvements, Habitat for Humanity and the Murica family who lost everything to a house fire. All of the proceeds from the dinners go to select charities. In years past other charities who have benefited include The Rescue Mission, Red Bird Mission, Missionaries in Uganda, Sister Jean's Kitchen and the Special Olympics.

"This is a special event for us because we serve amazing food for the price with exceptional service," said Murphy. "We get to give back to our community. It helps reach beyond the church's walls and the local community has heard about our gourmet dinners. The church is an active partner in giving back to many charities in our community."

More than 87 people helped to make this last mission dinner a huge success. Preparation begins three months in advance and the dinner itself takes about two full days to prepare, according to Murphy.

"It also takes two days to transform Adams Hall into a gourmet dinner setting and 87 people volunteered to help set up, prep, cook, wash dishes, polish silverware, run the dinner and clean up," he said. "We have eight chefs in the church congregation and ten chefs in the kitchen, fifteen servers, a maître d' and six beverage servers. My role is in



Central UMC in Lindwood transforms into a four-star dining experience raising funds for mission in the community and becoming a staple of the neighborhood.

Photo provided

helping plan the menu with John Pozza, coordinate, secure donations of food, staffing, prep, plate, cook, talk to guests and help wherever is needed."

The mission dinner is a hot ticket in town, typically selling out all 120 seats in 30 minutes on a Sunday after church services. The cost for the dinner is \$45.00 per person and anyone can attend. The food for the evening is donated and provided by over 20 local businesses and restaurants.

Included in the seven-course meal were Classic Shrimp Cocktail, Wild Blueberry Mousse, Beef Wellington wrapped in a puff pastry, Stuffed Atlantic Flounder with Crabmeat Stuffing, Chicken Cordon Bleu, and Classic Peach Melba.

Murphy, who is a chef and a graduate of Johnson and Wales in Providence, Rhode Island, added that the event's continual success for the past five years means more than words can express.

"The purpose of our dinner is to serve gourmet food and raise money for God's Kingdom. We started out with this purpose and goal but what came out of it was more than I could have imagined. The fellowship from these dinners is amazing," he said. "This is the true glory of God working to build relationships. God has glorified this event. Without God it would not be what it is."

For more information about the Central UMC in Linwood contact the church at 609-927-4882.

## Confirmands Celebrated at Mission and Resource Center

Continued from page 1

love their faith made me feel good and like I was truly on the right path."

Ferrara was encouraged by Bishop Schol answering difficult questions.

"We bring our children into the body of Christ through days like these," said Ryan Clements, Next Generation Ministries Coordinator. "This day allowed young Christian teens from all different parts of New Jersey to realize that when they commit themselves to the body of Christ through Confirmation, they aren't just committing to the local church they're a part of, they are committing themselves to a much larger body."

For many confirmands, it's hard to get a sense of that body unless they have the chance to meet and interact with kids from other churches and church leaders. The day provided space for that interaction and gave GNJ youth a sense of what it means.

During a Next Generations Ministries workshop for youth ministry leaders, leaders from different churches took time to share of the joys and challenges experienced in Confirmation this year.

"As leaders shared, common themes

began to emerge and they began to smile as they realized that they all had similar experiences despite their diverse contexts," said Clements. "I couldn't help smiling as well because if we have similar joys and challenges, then it means we can work together, learn from each other, and be in ministry together."

A small group of churches in the Skylands District has already started collaborating for their Confirmation program and has expressed blessings that have come because of it.

Next Generation Ministries is working to facilitate sharing and collaborating through camps and retreats, student programs, workshops for youth ministry leaders and a network of college campus ministers.

"Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs, showing that we minister better when we minister together," said Clements. "I was glad and excited to see this collaborative spirit emerge as we shared in our workshop."

For more information about GNJ's Next Generation Ministry, visit [www.gnjnextgen.org](http://www.gnjnextgen.org)



Bishop Schol offered a question and answer session for GNJ's confirmands at the Mission and Resource Center on April 28 where youth had a chance to tour the facility and meet other confirmands. Photo by Biho Chung



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# Goodness Now Celebrates 30,000th Meal

By Denise Herschel  
nj6pack@yahoo.com

MIDDLETOWN - They have just finished delivering their 30,000th meal and would never have guessed how much goodness could come from a program that was launched a little over four years ago. What began as a small project in the living room of Andrew Denton and his sister Maddy in 2013 has grown today into a full community- service undertaking and they could not be more proud. For this brother and sister team who have spearheaded the Goodness Now program at Middletown United Methodist Church, continual faith has proved to be the constant cornerstone.

The Denton siblings started Goodness Now when they were in high school. Their church wanted to begin a three year

program supporting three causes called '3 Miracles.' Middletown UMC Pastor Derrick Doherty solicited ideas from the congregation.

"We had seen how much devastation Superstorm Sandy caused in our area," said Andrew. "One of the stories that struck my sister and I was how important it was to get the schools open because so many children depend on free or reduced lunch programs for daily nutrition."

In New Jersey, over 400,000 children depend on the program for their daily meals. The siblings talked about the program with Doherty and shared their desire to do something local in the Monmouth County area. The church selected the program as one of its '3 Miracles.' Work began in finding a school, partnering with the community, choosing a name, researching and gathering



The Goodness Now program at Middletown UMC finished delivering their 30,000th meal. Photo provided

the resources to initiate the project with the mission to provide food-challenged families in the local community with six meals each weekend.

The Denton family stepped up to initiate a backpack delivery program with the church as Andrew and Maddy's father Steve dubbed the program "Goodness Now" because of what he considered the immense amount of goodness occurring in their midst and through their initiative.

Goodness Now is similar to Blessings in a Backpack, a national organization that provides backpacks and meals to kids on reduced or free lunch programs. However, Middletown UMC replicated this in the local community, adopting Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Middletown.

"We deliver between 36 to 50 backpacks on a weekly basis during the school year and the number of backpacks is dependent upon the number of families identified by the school nurse," said Steve. "The number of families is determined at the beginning of each semester, and it's hard to say how many families we've helped over the past four years but we just delivered our 30,000th meal."

He added that although Goodness Now is similar to Blessings in a Backpack in delivering backpacks with meals to a school, programs like Blessings can't cover all of the needs that exist.

"We decided to do this on our own for a couple of reasons," said Steve. "First, it allowed us to get hyper-local in our own community. Second, it allowed us to get people to our church involved in shopping, packing, fundraising, and delivering and third, we are packing meals in our backpacks for families vs. just trying to feed one child."

The group's research showed over four people in a household were dependent on backpacks. They decided to focus on delivering more food and wanted 100% of funds to go toward purchasing meals without administrative costs.

"Our program allowed us to do just that," added Steve.

Currently the program is limited to the school year but Denton seeks to expand to year-round.

"It's amazing how fast these four years have gone by," Andrew said. "I remember personally packing the second backpack we ever did. My sister did the first one in our living room. Now we have a whole team of people helping with the program."

A steady group of 20 to 30 church members and friends help with Goodness Now on a regular basis.

"The main jobs involve deal-hunting and shopping. We have a group of four awesome shoppers who spend a ton of time at our local grocery stores," said Andrew. "Then there is a group managing inventory, staging and meal-planning for the backpacks. Our church has dedicated a room for the program and it looks like a mini food bank. The youth group alternates with congregants who pack the meals. Finally, our church's Women's group delivers the backpacks each week to the school. Over the years, we have also received help from various Girl Scouts and other community based groups to pack meals and donate groceries. It really is a community effort for our church and without the time these friends have so graciously given, we would not be able to run the program."

The program is supported by a combination of Middletown UMC grants awarded over the years, individual donors, online funding campaigns and food donations from groups, companies and friends. The food is non-perishable and each backpack has two breakfast, two lunch and two dinner meals. Also, weight is considered because there are six to nine-year-olds bringing these bags home. The food is typically pastas, cereals, rice, vegetables and soups.

"Goodness Now is helping our church community and the Bayshore area of Monmouth County by providing nutritious meals to families in need," said Dougherty. "Our partners in the local school identified the families in need and we are honored to partner with them. Many people have been blessed through this ministry and many have been encouraged to help and serve their neighbor right next to them as a result it. There is a whole lot of goodness happening!"

As Andrew reflects upon the importance of Goodness Now and the value it has had within the local community, he said he continues to be amazed at how much they did not know when they first started the program.

"We stepped out in faith with our family and the church when we agreed to support 25 families for one year back in 2013," he said. "Since then we have expanded the program to 50 families and deliver 300 meals each week during the school year. And now we celebrate our 30,000th meal. I never would have guessed how much goodness we would still be doing four years later."

For more information about the Goodness Now program at Middletown UMC contact the church at 732-671-0707 or visit [shopforgoodness.com](http://shopforgoodness.com) and connect at [facebook.com/goodnessnow](https://www.facebook.com/goodnessnow)

## Local Church

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The August 2018 issue deadline is July 16, 2018

## Broadway UMC Blesses Red Bird Mission in K.Y.



Broadway UMC in Warren County decided to be a blessing to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY by providing air conditioning unit condensers. Photo provided

By Carolyn Walters  
Roadwarrior2@rcn.com

WARREN CO. - In 2017, the Broadway UMC (BUMC) in rural Warren County installed a new heating system which was to include air conditioning. Unfortunately, infrastructure issues prevented the church from completing the project, leaving the congregation with three condensers that could not be used.

"This presented an opportunity of mutual blessing allowing BUMC to understand stewardship in a deeper way," said Carolyn Walters, BUMC Church Council Chair and Lay Rep to Annual Conference.

Instead of the condensers sitting unused, the church donated them to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY, "thereby sharing the goodness which God has poured out on us," said Walters. Red Bird Mission, Inc. is a United Methodist mission providing ministries in the rural Appalachian Mountains region since 1921, seeking to meet the needs of chronic poverty, unemployment and housing.

Like many small churches, BUMC often struggles in wondering how they can impact the Kingdom of God. With this donation, the church was reminded that

even the smallest offerings have ripples beyond our imaginations.

"We continue to proclaim 'God is good! All the time,'" said Rev. Gabrielle Martone, then pastor of Broadway UMC.

In May, Robert Pohli and Tonya Asher drove the Red Bird truck approximately 700 miles to pick up the condensers. The two units will be used in the work camp dining hall as the units they have currently are overwhelmed.

With the new units installed, Red Bird Mission volunteers will be able to share meals in comfort. The area will also be used as gathering and witnessing space and for nightly devotions.

Red Bird Mission has year-round work opportunity for volunteers in mission and service-minded groups. The work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Last year, a delegation included members of Broadway UMC and nearby Port Colden UMC sent a mission team to Red Bird to help with community home repair and improvement and other mission activities.

For further information about the Red Bird Mission visit [www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

## GNJ Launches Global Partnership with Tanzania Pastors School

Continued from page 7

celebration and all women in attendance joined in joyful singing and dancing to thank God for this historic moment in the life of the Conference, and the United Methodist Church.

On the last day of the Annual Conference session, Muyombo and Schol affirmed the missional agreement signed during the 2018 GNJ Annual Conference session last May.

"Our best days are in front of us," Muyombo joyfully shouted after delegates ratified the missional agreement.

The Tanzania UMC partnership is part of the Miracles Everywhere mission campaign. Over the next three years, GNJ will raise more than \$5 million to

expand GNJ Next Generation Ministries, develop 100 Hope Centers, provide relief to communities in Puerto Rico impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria and support the mission of the Tanzania UMC.

Rev. Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi, the first missionary from the Congo said, "My heart is filled with joy for the new partnership that will continue the vision of a strong United Methodist Church in Tanzania." Mutwale has been serving now in Tanzania for 26 years. "God has a future with hope for the United Methodist Church in Tanzania," he added.

Visit [gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere](http://gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere) to learn more about how your congregation can be a part of Miracles Everywhere.



Through the Miracles Everywhere Campaign launched at GNJ's 2018 Annual Conference session in May, GNJ's new partnership with Tanzania will allow pastors and leaders in the country to be equipped for transformational ministry.

Photo by Rev. Hector Burgos

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6 DE AGOSTO - 10 DE AGOSTO

AUGUST 6 - AUGUST 10

Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery

801 Mt. Misery Rd. | Brown Mills, NJ 08015

Durante esta semana en Niños y Jovenes para Cristo vamos a ser genuinos "Get Real" mientras a través del amor de Jesucristo podemos tener un encuentro con Dios. Adoraremos juntos; cantaremos coritos haciendo uso de nuestro ritmo Latino. Vamos a jugar y aprender acerca de Dios mientras gozamos de la naturaleza que El creó. Mientras nadamos, o tenemos caminatas por ejemplo, podremos experimentar e incluso descubrir que Dios siempre está con nosotros. Además al co-habitar con la naturaleza y los demás vamos a descubrir y explorar lo que creemos acerca de quién Dios es, quien somos nosotros y a que somos llamados a ser. No te pierdas esta increíble oportunidad de ser genuino "Get Real" y poder descubrir quien verdaderamente eres en Jesús.

During this week at Niños y Jovenes para Cristo we will Get Real as we encounter God through the love of Jesus Christ. We will worship together; sing Spanish coritos while making use of our Latino rhythms. We will play and learn together as we experience God through the nature God created. As we swim or hike, we can experience or even discover that God is always with us. As we co-inhabit with nature and others, we will discover and explore what we believe about who God is and who we are and are called to be. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to Get Real and be able to find your true self in Jesus.

Registrarse en: [www.gnjnextgen.org](http://www.gnjnextgen.org)

Register at: [www.gnjnextgen.org](http://www.gnjnextgen.org)



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# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

## Order 2018 Annual Conference Journals

2018 Annual Conference Journals will be available for download on the website in the Fall. All retired clergy may receive a hard copy of the 2018 Annual Conference Journal for free upon request. Hard copies are available for a fee of \$20. Visit GNJ's website to buy.

## Director of Development Sought

GNJ is thankful for Brian Mickle who has served as the Director of the Development for the Stewardship Foundation for the last year. As he steps down from this position to move forward in his professional journey we are now taking applications for the position which will further the mission and ministry of GNJ by organizing and leading fundraising campaigns, cultivating and raising large gifts, and planning, and encouraging congregational investment in the Stewardship Foundation. To see the position description and to apply, visit [gnjumc.org/news](http://gnjumc.org/news)

## Laity Leadership Academy Registration Open

Registration is now open for the 2018 Laity Leadership Academy, held on Oct. 6 at the Mission and Resource Center in Neptune. Learn the tools and skills for leaders facing the challenges of the 21st century. Visit GNJ's website to register.

## Blueprint for Wellness – Save Money and Get Healthy

Blueprint for Wellness screenings are available to GNJ employees at local Quest Labs now through July 31. Blueprint for Wellness provides opportunity to learn about your health, earn \$100 PulseCash and up to 120 Wellness points as well as personal data on 30 health factors. Visit [webmdhealth.com/gbophb/](http://webmdhealth.com/gbophb/) to sign up.

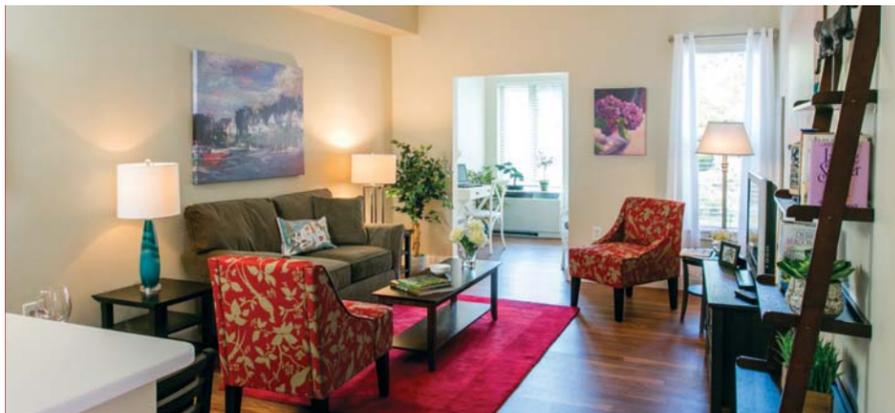


## Safety Inspection Checklist Resource

Accidents, fires, thefts -- so many of the tragedies that occur at worship centers can be avoided with a few simple precautions. Church Mutual, GNJ's insurance provider, offers a safety inspection checklist resources for churches on their website – [churchmutual.com](http://churchmutual.com)

## VBS Safety Planning and Safe Sanctuaries

The first step to planning a successful VBS program is to ensure your staff and supervisors are carefully selected and trained. Church Mutual has tools on their website - [churchmutual.com](http://churchmutual.com) where you can learn more about VBS safety planning and allergy wristbands that help keep kids safe. Visit GNJ's website to learn more about UMC's Safe Sanctuary policy and make sure your VBS program is in compliance.



## LIFESTYLE. LUXURY. LOCATION. YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL AT BRISTOL GLEN.

Looking to enjoy an active lifestyle in a picturesque location? Then you owe it to yourself to take a personal tour of Bristol Glen, a boutique retirement living community nestled in the hills of Sussex County and experience what we call "an abundant lifestyle." It's all here. Friendly people. Spacious apartments. Wellness programs. Gourmet menus and more.

**Schedule your visit  
by calling Mike at 973-300-5788.**



200 Bristol Glen Drive, Newton, NJ 07860  
[UMCommunities.org/BristolGlen](http://UMCommunities.org/BristolGlen)  
973-300-5788



# Have Questions? We're Here to Help

Let the Mission and Resource Center in Neptune, NJ serve you. Have a question about ministry, registrations, forms or events? The first place to start is with your Regional Administrator.

- For the **Northern Region**: *Gateway North, Palisades, Skylands*, email Krystina Michalopoulos: [kmichalopoulos@gnjumc.org](mailto:kmichalopoulos@gnjumc.org) or call 732-359-1075
- For the **Central Region**, *Capital, Northern Shore, Raritan Valley*, email Megan McKay: [mmckay@gnjumc.org](mailto:mmckay@gnjumc.org) or call 732-359-1070
- For the **Southern Region**, *Gateway South, Delaware Bay, Cape Atlantic*, email Jen Creran: [jceran@gnjumc.org](mailto:jceran@gnjumc.org) or call 732-359-1080



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## Share Your VBS Photos

It's that time again! As VBS goes into full-swing across GNJ, we encourage you to submit your photos for publication in The Relay and GNJ social media. Be sure to include church name and a brief description. All pictures of children submitted to GNJ need to have signed parental consent forms. Send your photos to Josh Kinney, Editorial Manager at [jkinney@gnjumc.org](mailto:jkinney@gnjumc.org)

## Share Your Stories

Calling all IGNITE youth! Who has changed your world? Have you changed the world of someone else? Have you witnessed a world changer? We want to hear from you! Visit [ignitenj.org](http://ignitenj.org) to submit your stories and let your voice be heard as we lead up to IGNITE 2018!

## Young Adults Sought for Life Changing Opportunity

Are you or someone you know a young adult, 18-25? Want to volunteer and grow in faith and fellowship? Seize the chance to do exactly that and change the lives of youth for Christ. Join the 2018 IGNITE Squad. Visit [ignitenj.org](http://ignitenj.org) to learn more and join!



## Many of Marcia's Melodies will be for sale again at The Hub in Ocean Grove this summer.

Several new devotional songs and choruses have been added to the collection. You can see the new anthems, "**Keep Your Ear Tuned for the Trumpet**" with the fabulous trumpet obligato. Also, the hymn "**When We All Get to Heaven**" has been developed into a fun, easy and familiar anthem with a surprising Ocean Grove ending.

## Purchase music from the Hub in Ocean Grove

Three notebooks filled with anthems, solos, duets, ladies trios, men's quartets, choruses, hymns, devotional songs and service music have been prepared for you!

Special order forms for larger orders are available. Free catalogs give you needed information about each song. Choose the catalogs which interest you.

## C.D.'s from Marcia's concerts and C.D.'s from artists who sing her music are for sale!

**The Hub**  
27 Pilgrim Pathway  
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756  
732-774-9262

**Marcia's Melodies**  
61 Pilgrim Pathway,  
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756  
[marciahendron@gmail.com](mailto:marciahendron@gmail.com)  
732-988-3191



# Making Miracles. Building Hope.

Through the Miracles Everywhere Campaign,  
GNJ's global partnership in Tanzania supports:

## Miracles Everywhere

-  Starting new congregations.
-  Supporting clergy salaries.
-  Conducting an annual pastor school.
-  Collaborating with the General Board of Global Ministries to build a Hope Center with a health clinic, school and mission hosting facility.

Find out more about the  
Miracles Everywhere  
Campaign at:

[gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere](http://gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere)

