

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## Welcome Newly Commissioned and Ordained!

By Josh Kinney  
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From South Korea to Peru, Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, Long Island and California, GNJ's newly commissioned and ordained testify to God's spirit in the eyes of the homeless living on the streets of London, friends in the islands of The Philippines, and rich Christian community at the University of Delaware.

In pursuit of authentic faith and through deep, probing and personal conversations with God; some filled with pain, grief, confusion, anguish, and inexpressible joy, they have bravely embraced the call that's before them. Despite their vastly different stories and experiences, these disciples are bound by a common thread: the transformative power of Christ.

From working-class roots to globetrotting journeys, overcoming violence and abuse to finding faith that's personal, they bear stories of family and friends committing to them in prayer, boldly asking of God and working through their deepest fears to become the women and men they are now. For some it was in soup kitchens, prisons and hospitals where they found Christ and discovered God's call on their life. For others it was during retreats they would have never gone on otherwise, through people who took the time to invest in them, and life-altering experiences that can't be expressed in any other way but divine. They set out on a new journey and the next chapter in their life of faith. Get to know them here:

### Alison Van Buskirk Philip – Elder in Full Connection

• Alison grew up in suburban Philly and didn't step into church until college. Although sports-centered as a teenager, she was drawn to purpose and spirituality as she grew and during college decided to pursue them. As an English major at the University of Delaware, she started to read early church writings and explored several different churches. Meanwhile she became connected with Wesley Foundation and through that rich community, she experienced Jesus. In 2007 she was baptized on Pentecost, and now 11 years later she was ordained on Pentecost at the 2018 Annual Conference. She worked for faith-based nonprofits in New York but kept feeling a pull to ministry and



GNJ's newly ordained and commissioned stand together on stage at the 2018 Annual Conference in Wildwood last May.  
Photo by Shari DeAngelo

ended up at Princeton Seminary. She has been appointed to Franklin Lakes UMC in Franklin Lakes since 2015.

### Daeil Min – Elder in Full Connection

• Born in Korea, Daeil spent his teenage years and early 20s engaged in a secular lifestyle, living in the world. But it was during a time when he was in the Philippines where God's peace came over him and drew him into ministry and birthed in him a heart to share God's love. He credits the love and acceptance he received from his parents as a major life influence as well. He has been appointed to Browns Mills UMC in Browns Mills.

### Dianna Stone – Provisional Elder

• Violence was at the center of Dianna's home life growing up. She and her family were considered "white trash" by their community and grew up through abuse, hunger and homelessness. After a traumatic experience giving birth to her daughter, Diana decided she needed to raise her child in a church community. She recognized God was there throughout her whole life and had been calling

her. She approached her pastor and asked, "How do you know if you're crazy or you're called?" The pastor replied, "I've been waiting for you to come to me."

She has been appointed to Whitehouse UMC in Whitehouse.

### Erik "Skitch" Matson – Provisional Elder

• Skitch grew up in a Christian home in California and was heavily influenced by the lead pastor of the church he was serving in San Diego. Seldon Dee Kelley III is the most non-anxious, God-trusting person Skitch has ever encountered and it was through him that he saw the character of God and the man he wanted to become.

He has been appointed to Princeton UMC in Princeton.

### Hyun Hui Kim – Provisional Elder

• Born and raised in Korea, Kim loved to spend her time at church even early on in her youth. She came from a working-class family that lacked economic abundance but enjoyed the abundant life in God's grace. Whenever she experienced

lacking is when she more easily experienced God's grace and decided she needed to share it.

She has been appointed to West Grove UMC in Neptune and Memorial UMC in Neptune City.

### Joshua Mularski – Provisional Elder

• Joshua grew up in a Christian home outside Pittsburgh. His faith was anything but personal, but during his early adolescence he agreed to go on a youth retreat. He believed his mom must have prayed for him, because deciding to go was not something he would typically do. He felt the call to ministry and during his time serving St. John's UMC in South Jersey, and from there felt called to pursue ordained ministry.

He has been appointed to First UMC in Williamstown.

### June Tamburro – Deacon in Full Connection

• June was raised in a working-class family with generous parents who truly lived out their faith outside the walls of

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## Aldersgate UMC Young Adult Crowned "Best Bowler in the Nation" at Special Olympics

By Erica Munoz  
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EAST BRUNSWICK - Justin Malfitano, 22, from Aldersgate UMC of East Brunswick recently finished his bowling competition at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle on July 1-6. He beat the national favorite in the Men's High-Performance division to be named the best bowler in the nation taking home a gold medal, also earning him a front-page article in The Seattle Times Sports section. Malfitano also received a gold medal for the Men's Double division and finally captured a silver medal for the Team competition.

During the team match play, Justin missed a perfect game by throwing two 9



Justin Malfitano, 22, of New Jersey bowled a 598 to place first in the men's high-performance (singles) at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle on July 2. Photo courtesy of Joanne Malfitano

pin spares and rolling a 268. While bowling in the team event, he was filmed by an ESPN film crew and was later featured in a spot with his father during the day's daily recap.

"To see him out there doing what he loves doing, I can't ask for anything more," said Justin's father, who was inspired by the comradery and emphasized teamwork.

Malfitano, whose winning score was a 178-188-232, did not even know that he had placed first. His father and his stepmother decided to let him find out once he was given the gold at the event's medal ceremony. His stepmother, Joanne Malfitano, said that Justin was never really in it to win, but to have fun with his teammates and with his competitors.

## "More Than Just a Once a Year Jesus Shot in the Arm"

- Rachel Billups on IGNITE

By Kayla Harrison  
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WILDWOOD - As a young girl with an inquisitive mind, Rachel Billups sought answers to questions ranging from how the universe works to why people die. While growing up in a Christian home, she yearned to know more about God and God's plans for her life. Through her explorations, she found her faith and gave her life to Jesus. She knew early on that she was called to a life of service to God.

Since the role of being a female pastor seemed out of reach, Billups dreamed of becoming a missionary, a chemistry

*Continued on page 7*

# A Message from the Bishop



## Three Types of Leadership

Kay, the chairperson of the staff parish relations committee called Charlie, the chairperson of the finance committee with a twinge of doubt about how the conversation would go. A team had been interviewing for a new worship/music director for the congregation. It would be the first full-time worship/music director in the congregation's history. Already the finance committee had allocated a salary and benefits that would be hard

to finance. Kay said to Charlie, "we believe we have the right person and I know the budget we set was pushing how much the church could afford, but we need another \$4,000 to make the package work for our top candidate. Is there any way we can add another \$4,000 to the package?" Charlie shot back, "Sure Kay. If this is the right person, then our job is to raise or find the money to enhance our ministry." Charlie was a transformational leader.

For the past two months, I have shared about leadership – the five expectations GNJ has of leaders and the five temptations of a leader. Today I want to talk with you about the three types of leaders we seek to recruit and develop in GNJ – fruitful, transformational and apostolic.

**Fruitful leaders grow people, congregations and mission.** Under their leadership, worship attendance, the amount of money and the number of new disciples, disciples in small groups and disciples in hands-on mission increase. They understand that to grow disciples, congregations and ministry, you must grow the congregation and its people deeper and wider. People must go deeper in their faith and convictions and wider in their understanding and commitments to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations for the transformation of the world.

As it turned out, Mike, the new worship/music leader was a fruitful leader. Under his leadership, the high school choir went from 11 choir members to over 30, the bell choir was revitalized and had 15 members, a contemporary worship team was established and the children and adult choirs grew. Why? Because Mike was a teacher who taught people about music, worship and God. He deepened the music, set high standards, developed challenging goals and courageously led people to the worship experience. Mike had a great personality and an upbeat spirit, but this isn't what attracted people. It was quality, achieving higher standards and growing relationships that grew the worship ministry of the congregation. Fruitful leaders understand they are to grow people, congregations and ministry.

**Transformational leaders change hearts, culture and direction.** Charlie was a transformational leader. Many finance committees see themselves as protectors of the church's resources. They focus on managing money rather than growing people and resources; preserving limited resources rather than recognizing God and people's generosity. They live out of a scarcity culture rather than an abundance mindset.

Charlie knew that the finance committee was organized to serve the mission and to grow and make resources available to expand the mission. He worked with the committee to change their hearts about the role money plays in advancing God's agenda and the role they played in growing the financial resources for the mission. He did it by starting small, demonstrating that if the purpose was right and it would enhance the ministry, additional money should be put into a project. Once people saw the benefit, he moved to larger and larger projects including a \$4 million dollar building endeavor when experts said the church should only undertake half that much. What was Charlie changing and building confidence in? He was changing hearts and building confidence in a new culture that said the finance committee is here to serve the mission, not manage money, and that people were very generous when presented with the right mission and purpose of the church.

**Apostolic leaders make a way when it does not seem possible.** Peter, Paul and Francis Asbury were apostolic leaders. Junia (Romans 16:7) and Rosa Parks were apostolic leaders. Each made a way when there didn't seem to be a way. God works through these leaders to make something occur where it did not previously

exist. Rosa Parks gave new birth to the civil rights movement, Francis Asbury gave birth to a new denomination known today as The United Methodist Church, and Paul birthed new congregations.

Apostolic leaders literally means 'sent for a mission' particularly a new mission. These leaders are rare among leaders. I believe this is so because apostolic leaders need particular gifts and strengths to make a way when a way does not seem possible. They need two sets of gifts that can be seen as contrary. One set includes creativity, vision, imagination, developing relationships and passion. The second includes grit/perseverance, courage, confidence, initiative, drive and focus.

Junia, identified by Paul as an apostolic leader in Romans 16:7 faced many challenges as an apostle. In fact, some scribes and translators masculinized her name to Junias. Apostolic leaders will face doubt, bias, persecution, ridicule, obstacles and what seem like insurmountable challenges. Yet like all the apostolic leaders mentioned above, they persisted for the sake of God and the mission.

Organizations can also be leaders. GNJ is becoming a fruitful, transformational and apostolic leader organization through the many leaders and disciples of GNJ.

**GNJ is a fruitful leader** because we has steadily worked toward deepening leadership, faith and congregations as evidenced by our growth in worship attendance, disciples participating in small groups, disciples engaged in hands-on mission and giving to mission. Each of these grew in 2017.

**GNJ is a transformational leader** as we continue to shift the culture

- From relationships to relationships and results
- From providing leaders information to developing leaders through application
- From good enough to excellence
- From honoring diversity to having a diverse leadership and including diversity
- From waiting for people to come to us to going out and engaging with people

GNJ is an apostolic leader because we make a way when it does not seem possible. After Superstorm Sandy we created one of the most robust relief and recovery efforts in the state. We have started more than 30 new faith communities in the last two years and are changing how we call, equip, send and support leadership. We see buildings as assets that can be repurposed for greater mission and ministry. We have reduced how much we apportion churches while at the same time grew our foundation from \$4 million to more than \$44 million.

While there are other conferences and organizations doing better than GNJ, we have made steady progress through the many fruitful, transformational and apostolic leaders within GNJ. Thank you!

Keep the faith!

John Schol  
Bishop  
United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

## PEACEMAKING: RESOLVING THE HEART OF CONFLICT

# BISHOP'S CLERGY CONVOCATION

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2018

If we have a heart at peace, we see others as people - with hopes, needs, cares, and fears that are as real to them as ours are to us. If we have a heart at war, we see others as objects - obstacles to our goals, or even irrelevant.

At the 2018 Bishop's Clergy Convocation, we will explore in depth how as leaders we can effectively engage and facilitate peacemaking in times of uncertainty, and lead through change in a diverse mission field as presented in *The Anatomy of Peace* by the Arbinger Institute.

Save the date and look for the registration information in September at:

INSPIRING WORSHIP

REST & RENEWAL

FELLOWSHIP

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

- Matthew 5:9

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



WE'RE ON



Check out a video resource archive of GNJ produced videos!

[YOUTUBE.COM/GNJUMC](https://www.youtube.com/gnjumc)

The September 2018 issue deadline is August 16, 2018

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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### FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT

Josh Kinney, [jkinney@gnjumc.org](mailto:jkinney@gnjumc.org)

# Welcome Back! Children's Ministry

Summer is quickly passing by and fall is fast approaching.  
What do your children's ministry plans look like? Are you ready?

## Reach Out

Invite children,  
mail cards,  
make phone calls,  
hang banners.

## Clean Up

Let it go! Declutter.  
Throw things out.  
Make it sparkle - scrub  
floors and walls.  
Bathrooms too!

## Design Space

Transform your children's areas into a place  
where they will create, and learn about  
God. Ask families and individuals to 'adopt  
a room' to facilitate this renovation, giving  
people an opportunity to share their gifts  
and be part of this ministry  
to children.

## Permission Slips

Make sure you have up to date forms for all  
minors. This includes contact information,  
medical consent, and photo consent forms.  
Keep in a secure yet accessible area in case  
of emergency. Permission slips can be  
accessed and downloaded at:  
[www.gnjumc.org/safe-sanctuaries](http://www.gnjumc.org/safe-sanctuaries)

## Supplies

Set up a closet or cabinet with  
essential supplies you'll need to  
teach. Find a volunteer who will  
coordinate the collection of  
supplies to assure materials  
are ready for teachers.

## Training

Plan time to interact with  
volunteers, share vision, break  
down responsibilities, unpack  
curriculum, encourage and  
build your team.

## Ensure Safe Sanctuary Policies

Make sure Safe Sanctuary  
policies are in place and  
shared with all children's  
volunteers. Visit:  
[gnjumc.org/safe-sanctuaries](http://gnjumc.org/safe-sanctuaries)

## Create Excitement

Host a special opening event,  
welcome dinner, children's  
carnival, or backpack blessings.  
Consider combining a mission  
activity with your kick-off.

## Share

Share your exiting ideas.  
Take pictures and post on  
social media, in your church  
bulletin and or newsletters.

## Looking for more ideas?

Join a conference call on Wednesday, August 15  
at 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry leaders from across  
GNJ will be sharing their fall kick-off ideas.

## Need more info?

Contact Gina Yeske, Director of  
Small Groups at: [gyeske@gnjumc.org](mailto:gyeske@gnjumc.org)

# Go Deeper and Wider at the Laity Leadership Academy

By Josh Kinney  
jkinney@gnjumc.org

NEPTUNE – How can United Methodists in Greater New Jersey minister across racial and cultural boundaries? The cultural landscape of the U.S. is changing with increased diversity in communities across the country. The 2018 Laity Leadership Academy will provide five tracks for laity to explore the answers.

Held at the Mission and Resource Center in Neptune on October 6, the academy will feature Rev. Dr. Grace Pak, Director of Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Leadership of the General Commission on Religion and Race who will explore questions with laity such as: *What does the Bible say about diversity? What is culture? What is my cultural location? How can I minister across the racial and cultural lines?*

George Lagos, Director of Lay Servant Ministries will join Debbie Bruce in leading a track called "Digital Strategy for Salvation" featuring a session on a church's brand and social media channels, providing guidance on how to determine a powerful church brand through sharing a church's unique story.

"We will reveal the seven 'must haves' to ensure the time spent on social media provides engagement with both existing and new church members," said Lagos. "It seems that there's a distinct awareness that by not making social media a priority, churches could ultimately lose members and fail to attract new members."

An afternoon session will feature a church website building track designed to help congregations and their leaders

understand the critical decisions for the look, feel and navigation of a church's website.

This year's day-long academy for GNJ laity will feature a total of five tracks including the differences between generosity and funding, vital ministries with older adults and helping churches create environments more conducive to going deeper in faith.

"You could actually feel the excitement in the air," exclaimed GNJ Lay leader Rosa Williams after last year's academy. "All of the laity were eager, excited, and engaged in learning with delightful energy and a spirit of hope."

The academy provides tools and skills for leaders facing the challenges of the 21st century with tracks that help laity and their churches go deeper spiritual, go wider in their communities, grow older with grace and support, and go farther with generosity and sharing the Good News with excellence.

Churches are encouraged to send a team of congregational leaders to develop an action plan to implement a new ministry in their church. Attendees will be able to apply for seed grants to enact these ministries in their churches. Certified Lay Servants who successfully complete the Laity Leadership Academy and implement the action plans will receive re-certification recognition. Registration is \$50 and the deadline to sign up is September 7.

Visit [gnjumc.org/2018-laity-leadership-academy](http://gnjumc.org/2018-laity-leadership-academy) to learn more and register today or click the link in GNJ's weekly e-newsletter, *The Digest*.



## 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  
732-988-3191

## 2018 LAITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018

The Mission and Resource Center | 205 Jumping Brook Rd. | Neptune NJ



The 2018 Laity Leadership Academy provides tools and skills for leaders facing the challenges of the 21st century. Tracks will help laity and their churches go deeper spiritually, go wider in the community, grow older with grace and support, go farther with generosity and share the Good News with excellence.

Churches are encouraged to send a team of congregational leaders to develop an action plan to implement a new ministry in their church. Attendees will be able to apply for seed grants to enact these ministries in their churches. Certified Lay Servants who successfully complete the Laity Leadership Academy and implement the action plan will receive re-certification recognition.

FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER AT:  
[www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org)



### LAITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TRACKS:

#### Track 1: A Closer Walk

Betty Quackenboss, Rev. Erica Munoz and a team from Aldersgate UMC

This workshop will engage participants to improve the spiritual tone in our churches; by helping to create an environment more conducive to going deeper in faith.

#### Track 2: Building up the Beloved Community of God

Rev. Dr. Grace Pak, Director of Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Leadership, General Commission on Religion and Race

This track will explore how we can build up the beloved community of God as we seek ways to minister across racial and cultural boundaries.

#### Track 3: Vital Ministries with Older Adults

Helen Hunter & Arthur Harrell

This track provides an overview of the aging process, including physical, mental, and social changes. Learn strategies to engage in the support for elderly parishioners and families.

#### Track 4: Generosity Vs. Funding

Helen Hunter & Arthur Harrell

Help your church better understand the importance of "generosity" and not just fundraising. This track will discuss taking the 4-point starter stance to get it right from the start.

#### Track 5: Digital Strategy for Salvation

George Lagos, Director of Lay Servant Ministries and Debbie Bruce

Morning Session: This track provides guidance on how to determine a powerful church brand through sharing your "Unique Church Story."

Afternoon Session: This website building track is designed to help your congregation and their leaders understand the critical decisions for the church website.

## Small Church Makes Big Impact in Memory of Beloved Missionary

By Denise Herschel  
nj6pack@yahoo.com

ASBURY PARK - As an active 28-year member of the Ballard United Methodist Church in Asbury Park, Margaret Barton was a dedicated woman who listened and answered God's calling at a young age. Her vision as a servant of her strong faith was to become a missionary and she was later sent to Liberia where she taught young girls a variety of skills. Although her father was not pleased with her decision to embark on such a long journey across the sea, leaving her friends and family behind, Barton knew it was God's will and set forth to serve others.

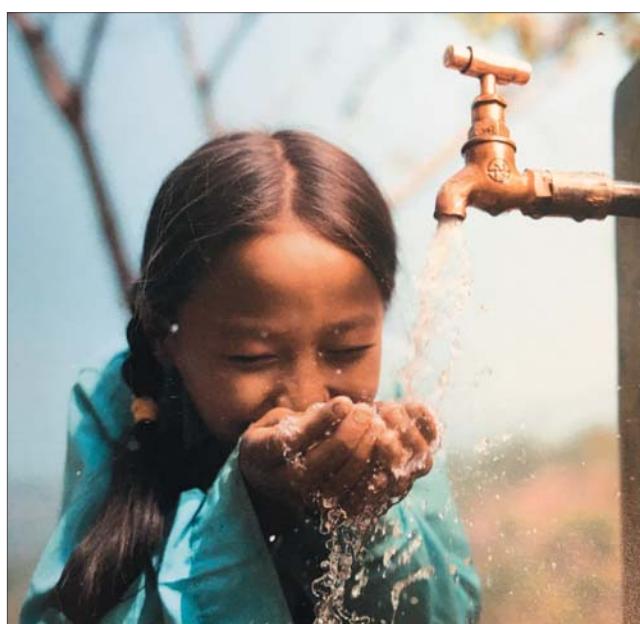
When Barton passed away in April 2014, her beloved church knew they wanted to "do something special" in memory of their dear friend and treasured church member. As a result, Ballard UMC embarked upon their own journey to build a well in memory of Barton. They partnered with Charity Water, a non-profit organization which brings clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations, realizing that there are 663 million people on this planet who don't have clean water.

"After Margaret's death we thought what better tribute to her than to build

a well which would provide pure, safe water so essential to life for an entire village in Africa, continuing her missionary work of serving God and serving others," Virginia Richart, a 65-year Ballard UMC member and President of their United Methodist Women (UMW) group, said. "We had heard about building wells from Farmingdale UMC President Donna Jordon when she spoke at one of our meetings prior to Margaret's passing. We decided that it would be a great way to remember Margaret since she served as a missionary in Liberia."

It has taken over three years to reach the church's goal of \$8,000.

The well-building process has already begun and will be located in Malawi, Southeast Africa, providing fresh, clean water to over 200 people. According to Richart, Charity Water will keep the church informed as work progresses and upon the well's completion the church

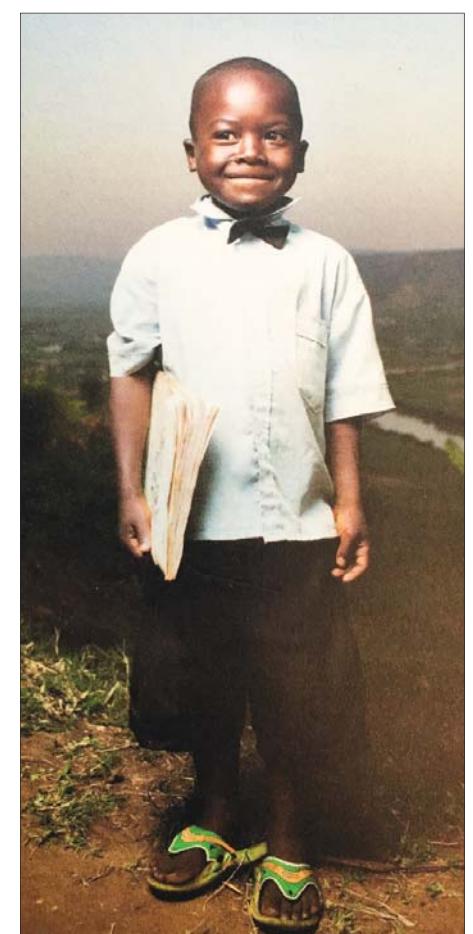


A young girl drinks from a newly installed well similar to the one Ballard UMC has raised funds for to create a miracle for the people of Malawi in Southeast Africa.

*Photo provided by Ballard UMC.*

hopes to hold a celebration.

"After her time in Liberia, Margaret returned to the U.S. and worked for the Board of Global Ministries in New York and continued to devote her life to the betterment of others," said Richart. "While employed by the United Method-



**Ballard UMC in Asbury Park, a congregation of approximately 20 people, rallied together to create a miraculous impact on an entire community and its future.** Photo provided by Ballard UMC.

ist Homes of New Jersey, her ministry continued as she traveled throughout the state helping people find and make their transition to another way of life. She was compassionate and devoted to studying the Bible."

Richart said she and Barton were close friends and prayer partners. She called Barton "straight as an arrow" who knew "the rules were the rules."

"She was in her 80's when she passed away but lived her life following the Ten Commandments to the letter. Although she was small in stature, she stood tall for the downtrodden. She was so gentle, kind and full of compassion. She loved butterflies and when anyone saw a butterfly we always thought of Margaret," she added.

Richart said that the task of the well project was a bit daunting at times but church members knew God would see them through it.

"There were times when we wondered what we were thinking for such a small group to take on such a huge task. But when that happened we knew that God would provide and give us the courage to keep on keeping on," she said. "Building a well to provide fresh, clean water means children can attend school instead of walking miles."

Richart believes that building a well is a unique way to remember Barton's life because her calling was to help people "who had nothing."

Richart continued, "She felt called to help the women and the children in Liberia. She did all she could while there. Building this well in her memory is a distinctive way of extending her work beyond her life. I am sure Margaret is smiling right now."

*Ballard UMC is located at 1515 4th Avenue in Asbury Park. For more information about Charity Water visit their website at charitywater.org*

## Miracles Everywhere

### Download resources, graphics, inserts, sermon series, and much more!

Your congregation is invited to experience a miracle. Miracles Everywhere will raise \$3,197,000 for Next Gen ministries to focus on faith formation for youth and young adults, \$1,000,000 for A Future With Hope to develop 100 Hope Centers, \$500,000 for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, and Cuba and \$500,000 for Tanzanian pastors and congregations to make new disciples for the transformation of the world.

Campaign Guidebooks are available for planning your 2019 Miracles Everywhere campaign to raise funds for Next Gen ministries, Hope Centers, partnerships with Tanzania and Puerto Rico and hurricane recovery.

Download a copy of the guidebook and access graphics and materials for your fall campaign planning.

**All of the materials your church needs to run their Miracles Everywhere Campaigns can be found at:**

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





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**FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER AT:**

[www.IGNITENJ.org](http://www.IGNITENJ.org)

# Mr. TalkBox Talks Music, Faith and IGNITE

By Laura Wise  
Laurakwise@gmail.com

**WILDWOOD** - Do you play any instruments? The guitar, flute, and the piano are traditionally popular musical options, however, while many of us spent our younger years learning and practicing Bach for elementary school piano recitals, Byron "Mr. Talkbox" Chambers was using a unique instrument - the talkbox - to build his career as a Christian hip hop and R&B artist. Having worked with gospel artists from Jonathan Butler, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Toby Mac, Group 1 Crew, Nathan East, Marvin Sapp and Erica Campbell of Mary Mary, to touring with pop band N'SYNC, Chambers has taken his unique sound around the world and into the hearts of fans alike.

The talk box directs sound from the instrument into the musician's mouth by means of a plastic tube adjacent to their vocal microphone. The musician controls the modification of the instrument's sound by changing the shape of the mouth, "vocalizing" the instrument's output into a microphone. In recent, popular music, the sound is featured in Bruno Mars' 24K Magic. It can also be heard in top hits such as 2Pac's 'Califor-

nia Love,' Zapp's 'Computer Love,' and Bon Jovi's 'It's My Life.'

Growing up in the church, Chambers was immersed in gospel music from an early age, starting his musical career as the drummer for his parent's gospel group at age six. When recalling the beginning of his faith journey and musical career, Chambers identified his faith in Christ as "everything." He attributes all his accomplishments to this growing faith.

"I grew up in the church learning about faith through the word of God; I always wanted to 'see' what faith could actually do in my life. So I decided to follow Christ at an early age," he said. "After I gave my life to him, my life changed, and I quickly learned what faith was. Everything that I've been able to accomplish in my life and career came through me trusting in the Lord with all of my heart."

Growing up in a musical household Chambers was introduced to various genres of music. He listened to everything from Gospel to Jazz but first fell in love with the talk box when he heard it used by platinum selling R&B artist Roger Troutman of the Zapp band. He knew immediately that he wanted to bring the sound to the gospel arena. A true servant

leader, the best part about performing for Chambers is introducing people to his beloved instrument.

"I love the effect that it has on people when they see and hear it for the first time," said Chambers. "I look forward to always being able to bring a message of encouragement and hope to all that hear my music. I also look forward to having a big 'ole dance party!"

And with that, it's no wonder that Chambers is featured in the lineup for IGNITE 2018.

The IGNITE conference was started five years ago as a place for students from grades 6-12 from around the region to gather and feed their 'Divine Spark' within. This year's theme is 'World Changers' because when a person claim the 'Divine Spark' and places their identity in Christ, the world changes.

"It's about not hiding who God has called each of us to be, but about claiming our identity and God's purpose for our lives," said Eric Drew, Director of Worship and IGNITE leader.

Chambers says he ready for the big event.

"The message that I will bring to the students at IGNITE is simple, and that message is that God is real and that we all need to let our light shine," he said. "In the Bible, it says in Matthew 5:16, 'In the same way, let your light shine so that men may see our good works and that God be glorified.' I want to encourage people to be who God has called them to be; don't try to be anyone else. God



has made us all unique so we should let our light shine, or let our lights 'IGNITE'!"

If you know that you've got the power to change the world by being exactly who you are called to be in Christ, you won't want to miss IGNITE 2018 taking place September 28-30 in Wildwood, NJ. Chambers is excited about the upcoming gathering and has a message for everyone who is coming or is considering coming.

"Pastors, youth leaders, and church members should come to IGNITE because it will be fun! It's a wonderful way to enhance your walk with Christ through what you'll see and learn at this event. IGNITE has the heart to be a blessing and to encourage the hearts of all who attend. Not only will it encourage you but it will give you sufficient tools to go out and be effective for the kingdom. You don't want to miss it!"

*Did you know you can register for IGNITE without knowing who will sign up? Reserve spaces for your youth ahead of time and save. The last price break for the IGNITE youth conference ends on Aug. 31. Don't miss out on the best possible deal! Visit ignitenj.org to register.*

## "More Than Just a Once a Year Jesus Shot in the Arm"

- Rachel Billups on IGNITE

*Continued from page 1*

professor in India, or someday becoming a pastor's wife. Yet, none of these called her name.

"Through my young adult life and some of my adult life it's always been an ebb and flow of, 'Are you sure this is it, God?'" Billups added. But through active prayer and encouragement from fellow Christians, she knew God was calling her to become a pastor.

Billups is currently serving as Ginghamsburg UMC Tipp City Campus pastor and as Executive Pastor for the church's Next Generation Ministries. Not only is she responsible for caring for the megachurch campus in Ohio, but she takes direct responsibility in shepherding and visioning for the next generation. She works on reaching them and leading them to Jesus.

Billups has become disciplined and intentional with her time and efforts, engaging in a prayer each morning followed by a time of working on her latest book; an autobiography about real-life obstacles told through the lens of Biblical characters.

"What does it mean to be fierce in the midst of that?" Billups asks. "I want people to look at life and say, 'All of this can fuel me into the future.' It's about letting God shape us into the people that God called us to be."

Along with working on her book, Billups is preparing her messages for Greater New Jersey's IGNITE youth conference this September in Wildwood.

"I think experiences like IGNITE are opportunities for us to experience a real taste of the kingdom of God," says Billups. "Those moments can be life-altering. If you only see IGNITE as a way to get spiritually high, it's not good. It should be more than just a once a year Jesus shot in the arm."

Spending time daily in prayer and God's word allows her to continually grow in her faith and connect more with God. Leading up to the conference, she is using these moments to prepare her heart and ask God for the words to speak to the younger generation.

"With the Holy Spirit," she explains, "I can partner with God to be a part of someone's life story. I realize at the end of the day, the power of these experiences don't come from me, so it's not about me. It's helpful to maintain that perspective when preparing for these things."



Rachel Billups

Getting to know her audience is a key factor in her preparation. Just as Paul was able to relate to his audiences in the Bible, she wants to relate to hers.

"I grew up in a rural Ohio with 50 people in a service. Not everyone is going to relate to my folksy country stories," says Billups. "So, it's important for me to understand the group that I'm speaking to."

In order to connect with the youth, she wants her messages to be "real and authentic."

"I think I'll meet students where they are. I'll tell the truth about myself," Billups explains. "I'm not a spiritual superhero, I'm like everyone else."

This year's IGNITE theme is World Changers, centering on the scripture of Matthew 5:14 about being the light of the world.

"When we say yes to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is alive within us," says Billups. "There's a divine spark inside of us, a flame."

Just as Billups followed her own curiosity and deepened her faith, she will explore questions with the youth that they may not have thought to ask or known how to answer.

"How do we see the divine light that God sees within us? How do we be public with our faith? What does that mean?" Billups proposes. "Not just with our lips, but with our lives. What does it mean to be a faithful person?"

Her underlying message, however, is to let the youth know they are loved.

"Not only by God, but by people around them. I also want them to understand that they should love themselves."

*Rachel Billups will be speaking at IGNITE 2018, Sept. 28-30 in Wildwood, NJ. Register your youth before Aug. 31 to receive the last discounted price. Visit [www.ignitenj.org](http://www.ignitenj.org)*

## WE ARE HIRING

**Organist | Pianist | Accompanist**

St. Paul United Methodist Church in Willingboro is currently searching for a part-time person to provide organ and piano music for worship services and other church events. \$12,250 annually.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide organ and piano music in a professional manner for all worship and special services.
- Have right of first refusal to provide organ and piano music for weddings, funerals and permission to receive additional compensation from parties involved.
- Enhance spiritual life of the congregation through execution of hymns, liturgy and genres of sacred music.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Committed to the church's vision, mission, leadership and people.
- Must be able to read music.
- Available to participate in all rehearsals for church events and some holidays.
- Extensive experience and/or related degree in organ or piano performance preferred.

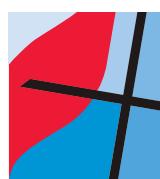
**Instruments:** Allen Digital 2 manual organ, Boston 5'4" baby grand piano, and a Yamaha Clavinova keyboard.

**Mail resume and cover letter to:**

Nina D. Bonner - St. Paul UMC | 201 Levitt Pkwy  
Willingboro, NJ, 08046

**Or email to:** [stpumc@verizon.net](mailto:stpumc@verizon.net)

*St. Paul United Methodist Church is an intentionally diverse faith community committed to the way of Jesus Christ.*



**UNITED METHODISTS**  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

## GNJ 2018 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry  
has announced the 2018 scholarship recipients.

### CONFERENCE TRUST SCHOLARSHIP



**James Bronico**  
Belvidere UMC  
*NJ Institute of Technology*



**Madison Bara**  
Sayreville UMC  
*Middlesex County College*



**Katherine Lattig**  
Harmony Hill UMC, Newton  
*West Chester University*



**Faith Stewart**  
Frankford Plains UMC, Augusta  
*Rowan University*



**Julie Sanders**  
St. John's UMC, Bridgeton  
*Rutgers University*



**Kyle Sanders**  
New Dover UMC, Edison  
*Montclair State University*



**Kenneth Wright**  
Mt. Zion UMC, Lawnside  
*Rutgers University*



**Charis Makar Cruz**  
Trinity UMC, Rahway  
*Rutgers University*



**Anuroop Alberts**  
Christ UMC, Jersey City  
*Lehigh University*



**Gabriel Wehrle**  
Leonia UMC  
*Taylor University*



**Elliot Wehrle**  
Leonia UMC  
*Fordham University*



**Hannah Hubbard**  
Navesink UMC, Atlantic Highlands  
*University of New Haven*



**Taylor Jackson**  
Wayside UMC, Ocean  
*Springfield College*



**Jane Ahn**  
Morganville UMC  
*Vassar College*



**Shayne Zigich**  
Farmingdale UMC  
*Brookdale Community College*



**Rebecca Goold**  
Island Heights UMC  
*Rowan University*

### FRANCES NELSON SCHOLARSHIP



**Ebenezer Shim**  
Wall UMC, Spring Lake Heights  
*TBD*



**Meredythe Elliot**  
Dobbins Memorial UMC, Delanco  
*Southeastern University*



**Holly Paul**  
UMC at New Brunswick  
*Drew University*



**David Geller**  
St. Andrew UMC, Toms River  
*Ocean County College*

### REV. RALPH A. KAPPLER SCHOLARSHIP



**Mackenzie Cauda**  
Grace UMC, Wyckoff  
*TBD*



**Wynnum Sabile**  
Congers UMC  
*The City University of NY*

You can access, view, and share the 2018 scholarship recipient announcements at [www.gnjumc.org/news](http://www.gnjumc.org/news).

### ETHEL SNYDER BOOK/INEZ R. IRONS SCHOLARSHIP



**Daniel Yang**  
St. Paul's UMC, Bay Head  
*Swarthmore College*

## St. Andrews UMC Invites Churches and Groups to Cardboard Box City

By Erik Hall  
erikhall@gmail.com

TOMS RIVER - On September 21, St. Andrew UMC in Toms River will host an exciting awareness-building and fundraising event called: Cardboard Box City. During this evening and overnight event, youth groups, scouts, school and sports teams, families, congregations, and corporate teams spend one night in a cardboard box. Participants bring the box, design it, and sleep in it, hoping it protects them from the elements.

"It's a powerful experience for everyone that really drives home the need to support homeless families in our community," said Erik Hall. "This is a great event for youth groups and church groups in the area."

Interfaith Hospitality Network (the Northern Ocean County affiliate of Family Promise) works tirelessly all year long to provide housing support, meals, and

assistance for homeless families. St. Andrew UMC is part of this vital network.

"There are homeless families all over northern Ocean County. They are difficult to spot, they look just like you and me: hardworking, raising children, and trying to build the best life they can for their family," says Hall. "Unlike you and me, they face daily insecurity when it comes to housing. They don't have a roof over their head. They don't have a safe and secure place to call home."

Participants are asked to bring at least \$100 each in pledges as their 'rent' for the night in Cardboard Box City. There will be a soup dinner, games and activities, guest speakers, and more to pass the night. The event ends Saturday morning, September 22, with donuts and coffee to go.

*Download a complete packet and information from [www.standrewtr.org/missions](http://www.standrewtr.org/missions) or call the Interfaith Hospitality Network office at 732-736-1550*

## 2018 SPRING PACE GROUP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.



Clergy will meet monthly for a period of 8-10 months to support excellence by building relationships, exploring ideas, expanding horizons, creating synergy, unlocking the imagination and engaging conversation.

Grants of up to \$2,500/annually will allow PaCE groups to engage in extended learning in a retreat format or in intensive learning with outside expertise.



Take the HQ Now!

Deadline—September 30

### HQ At-a-Glance

**WHO**  
Participants and spouses in HealthFlex

**WHAT**  
HQ online health assessment (administered by WebMD)

**WHEN**  
August 1 – September 30, 2018

**WHY**  
Avoid paying extra; improve your well-being; explore health coaching and other wellness resources

**HOW**  
Take the HQ by computer, tablet or smartphone

**WHERE**  
[wespeth.org](http://wespeth.org)—log in to "HealthFlex/WebMD" to get started, or use WebMD's "Wellness at Your Side" mobile app

**MORE DETAILS**  
Read the [2018 Incentives FAQs](#) on the HealthFlex/WebMD webpage.

Participation in HealthFlex wellness programs is voluntary.

### Better Well-Being

The HQ online health assessment identifies common concerns like high cholesterol, prediabetes and stress. After completing the HQ, you'll be eligible for health coaching—to help improve your well-being. Health coaching is provided by WebMD at no extra cost to you.

### Savings

Take the HQ and avoid paying extra on next year's Healthflex deductible.

- Individual deductible—**avoid paying \$250 extra**
- Family deductible—**avoid paying \$500 extra**

You and your spouse (if in HealthFlex) must *both* complete the HQ to avoid paying extra

### Quick—Easy—Confidential!

Complete the HQ in 15 minutes or less. If you did the Blueprint for Wellness biometric screening earlier this year, your health data is uploaded automatically into your HQ—for faster, more accurate data entry. If you missed Blueprint for Wellness, you can manually enter your information for the HQ.

HQ is confidential! Your church, annual conference, employer and HealthFlex cannot see your HQ and other health information, and WebMD and their health coaches are bound by federal HIPAA laws on patient privacy.

4256/072318

## WE ARE HIRING

### Director of Music | Organist | Part Time

Galilee UMC in Englewood is seeking an experienced musician to serve as Director of Music and Organist, beginning the first Sunday in September. The Director will lead music ministry using traditional hymns, praise songs and contemporary music to enhance worship and strengthen the church community.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful candidate will be creative, energetic, and have a background evidencing strong musical interest and ability, experienced in choral programs for adults and children and be able to produce 2 concerts - one in late spring and one in late fall. The Director of Music will be a strategic partner working with the pastor in developing and expanding music ministry. Candidates must be comfortable reaching into the community, overseeing volunteers, coordinating with staff, engaging youth and adults alike, and thinking outside the box.

#### INSTRUMENTS:

An electric Allen organ of two manuals, 32 pedals and approximately 25 stops; one set of drums; two upright pianos - one in the sanctuary, the other in the choir room.

#### Mail resume and cover letter to:

Pastor Elouise Hill-Challenger | [galileeumc@verizon.net](mailto:galileeumc@verizon.net)

Deadline to apply is August 10, 2018



## Did you know coaching is available to clergy in GNJ?

A coach will assist in achieving leadership goals and action plans over an eight month period and can be comprised of eight one hour sessions, or sixteen half hour sessions.

## Don't miss out. Registration for coaching is now open!

Visit [gnjumc.org/clergy-coaching](http://gnjumc.org/clergy-coaching) or contact Diana Picurro at:  
732-359-1064 | [dpicurro@gnumc.org](mailto:dpicurro@gnumc.org)

The September 2018 issue deadline is August 16, 2018

# Youth Orchestra Spreads Gospel, Grows Faith

**By Denise Herschel**  
NJ6pack@yahoo.com

LEONIA - They range in age from 13 to 29 and play the flute, clarinet, percussion, cello, violin and viola. Although they only have been performing together for the past year, the Young Chamber Orchestra of Grace-Bethel United Methodist Church of Leonia have demonstrated musical talent well beyond their years.

Founded in July 2017 with the assistance of the church's Senior Pastor Hark Bum Chang, the orchestra provides an opportunity for young people to connect with the church and the church to move out into the community in new and innovative ways.

"I have been the pastor of Grace Korean UMC in Westwood since 2005. In 2017, our church moved and merged with Bethel UMC and since then the Young Chamber Orchestra started to activate the younger generation of our church," he said. "Our church hired Music Director Jinsil Lee, a composer and a conductor. Currently, we have ten players in the orchestra - two flutists, two clarinetists, two percussionists, and four string players."

He added that all of the members are from the church's youth and young adults groups. Currently the college students and post-college young adults help the youth play in the orchestra.

"The older members encourage the younger members to practice and prepare for the rehearsals. Our youngest member is a 13-year-old boy who plays the percussion. Our oldest member is a 29-year-old woman who plays the flute. The older members always encourage the younger members. I believe the

orchestra will end up consisting of youth only in the future when we get more youth players," he said.

According to Chang, the church has about 120 worshippers every Sunday. Almost every church member is rooted in Korean tradition and genealogy. The orchestra plays at the church but are also arranging various activities outside the church.

"Right now our orchestra plays with the adult choir the first Sunday of each month when the church has joint worship with all generations and they partake in Holy Communion. Our orchestra has been asked to play at town events and to perform at Carnegie Hall on September 23 with a choir of clergy and their spouses at the Global Choir Concert hosted by CBSN Broadcasting Companies." Chang said.

The Global Choir Concert will be a fundraiser for the disabled, the homeless, and those in need residing in New York and New Jersey. Last year this concert raised and donated \$30,000.

As he has helped to initiate the orchestra a little more than a year ago, Chang reflected on its growing membership.

"Many of our young fellows have great musical talent and have received private lessons for years. The quality of their performance has been great enough to play in the church services. This is why I encouraged them to play as a chamber group. We are blessed to have a great music director who provides the lessons and practice every Sunday."

He continued, "We are designing our first anniversary concert, the first project of the Seed Mission, with famous songs



"To play for the glory of God and for others who need the touch of God through music" is what the Grace-Bethel Youth Orchestra sees as their purpose. Using their talents to reach and inspire people, the orchestra seeks to expand with new members. Photo provided



Ranging in age from 13 to 29, the Youth Chamber Orchestra of Grace-Bethel UMC of Leonia have demonstrated musical talent well beyond their years. Orchestra members are pictured above posing with their instruments. Photo provided

from different films. The Seed Mission is a project where the orchestra will invite the people of the community to their concert. We will include short video clips and messages about the Gospel into our concert program so that non-Christians can learn while enjoying the performance. We believe that it is a great chance to spread the Gospel."

Chang said that the purpose of the orchestra is first and foremost to "play for the Glory of God" and secondly "for others who need the touch of God through music."

"I hope that the orchestra will use their musical talents to praise God as well as to bring the young fellowship to come to church and have faith in God," he said.

Change believes the orchestra can assist in bringing more youth back to the church.

"There is not enough cultural contents

in the church for young people. We need to know what the younger generation needs and provide them with the Gospel. Music can be a strong method to get them interested in coming back to the church," he added.

Although the orchestra is ten members strong, the church is still looking for new members to join.

"Even though we started in the church, we would like to expand by inviting more and more musically gifted youth," said Chang. "We hope the community recognizes our youth and the youth will grow. Through learning and playing in the church, they experience the joy of praising God and the spreading of the Gospel."

To learn more about the Young Chamber Youth Orchestra email Jinsil Lee at [youngchamberorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:youngchamberorchestra@gmail.com) or visit [gbkumc.org](http://gbkumc.org). Grace-Bethel UMC is located at 396 Broad Ave, Leonia, NJ.

## Welcome Newly Commissioned and Ordained!

*Continued from page 1*

their church. With limited means they never hesitated to give and help those in need. This deeply impacted June but she wrestled with her faith during her 20s, even rejecting the idea of God altogether despite being active in social justice issues. She worked in soup kitchens, prisons, and hospitals, and it was there, outside the walls of the church, where she found Christ and felt God's call on her life. She previously served at East Millstone UMC and has been appointed as an Associate Pastor at Bridgewater UMC.

**Lakesha Groover – Provisional Elder**  
• Lakesha grew up pursuing the fashion industry only to find her heart wasn't in it. From there she became a social worker, ended up at Drew Theological School and made a deal with God that she would go, but it would be part time. It became full time, and she believes God kept bringing her along to where she is today, always sensing that God was working through her fears.

She has been appointed to Covenant UMC in Plainfield.

**Tae Youl "Leo" Park – Elder in Full Connection**

• Leo didn't know it at the time, but when he was dating the woman who would become his wife, her mother would become the most influential person to bring

about his life's greatest change. He was 24 when his would-be mother-in-law told him he needed to believe in Jesus if he wanted to marry her daughter. So she signed him up for a Christian retreat, and it was there on July 7, 1995, that he met Jesus and his life was forever changed. He has been appointed to Korean United Methodist Church of South Jersey in Egg Harbor City.

### Michael Reed – Provisional Elder

• A pastor's kid in a Baptist family, Michael wrestled with the idea of being a pastor despite feeling called to do so since he was young. His personal journey sought faith that was authentic while his literal journey led him to live in different parts of the world, gaining new experiences in new places with a variety of people. He has been appointed to Trenton to start a new, asset-based faith community known as The Maker's Place modeled similarly off of The Church of All People in Columbus, OH, where Michael spent time working.

### Miso Park – Provisional Elder

• Miso grew up in South Korea and came to the U.S. 12 years ago. When she was young she left the church because she didn't feel welcome, but came back when she was a late teenager. It was there that she met Jesus, her life forever changed, and she felt a call to introduce others to Christ.

She has been appointed to Bergen Highlands UMC in Upper Saddle River.

### Nancy Robinson – Associate Member

• She wasn't brought up in the church though she went through all the customs and traditions, living out a consumeristic type of faith. In 1990, her father was diagnosed with lung cancer, her mother died of a heart attack and her third child was born. It was then she started to have different conversations with God, asking questions with anger and confusion. That is when she recognized the gift of love and hope offered by God, and began an amazing journey of grace. She studied at Wesley Seminary, served several churches, and felt the call to full time ministry and associate membership. She has been appointed to the UMC in Branchville.

### Richard Romero – Elder in Full Connection

Richard grew up in Lima, Peru. He served in his local church since age 15 and went to missions serving poor children for two years. When he moved to the U.S. Richard served his local church in youth and young adult ministries. Such service confirmed his call to ministry. While completing his Masters of Divinity studies he served at the Communities of Shalom Center as a community organizer. He has been appointed to St. Luke's UMC in Long Branch.

### Sung Woo Lee – Provisional Elder

• Before he was born, Lee's parents dedicated him to God. He grew up in a Christian home in Korea where his father served as the church building manager and his mother cooked meals for the congregation. For 23 years he resisted the call to ministry but never missed a Sunday service. During his time serving in the Korean army he heard a sermon that moved him to surrender his life to God.

He started a youth ministry and student center in the U.S. and through this ministry realized he wanted to take it further. He has been appointed to Evangelical UMC in Clarksboro.

### Wil Wilson – Elder in Full Connection

• During high school, Wil's best friend was a retired Methodist minister named Dan who mentored him. Dan was inspiring, supportive, and discerning throughout the formative years of his youth. During college, Rev. Dan wrote him a weekly letter sharing stories and lessons from his personal life, all of which Wil has saved and treasures. God worked through Dan's love and support, inspiring Wil to ministry. He has been appointed to First UMC in Freehold.

Please pray for our newly ordained and commissioned as they continue their journey's faith and serve their communities for Christ.

# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

## Order Annual Conference Journals by Aug. 15

2018 Annual Conference Journals will be available for download on the GNJ website in the Fall. All retired clergy may receive a hard copy for free upon request. Hard copies are available for a fee of \$20. Visit [gnjumc.org/2018-annual-conference](http://gnjumc.org/2018-annual-conference) to buy.

## Hit the Road with Team Vital!

Will you take the 18 month journey toward vitality? Enable your church to evaluate its current position and identify a way to develop relevant, effective plans that will achieve a God-given vision for the future. If your congregation is ready to hit the road with team Vital, visit [gnjumc.org/team-vital](http://gnjumc.org/team-vital) and sign up before Aug. 31.

## Moving Expenses

The December 2017 tax law changed the way clergy moving expenses are recorded and taxed. Moving expense payments are now considered plan compensation for certain Wespath Benefit Plans. A moving expense submission form is required for local churches to complete in order to advise GNJ of the moving expense payment made out to clergy. Visit [gnjumc.org/pension-retirement](http://gnjumc.org/pension-retirement) for further details of the tax law change, Q&A's for clergy and plan sponsors, and obtain the moving expense form.

## Church Conference Season Begins

As GNJ enters into the next season of church conferences, you will find many redesigned resources and instructions available to help you complete your reports and improve overall user experience. To view your district's conference schedule, a checklist of required reports, and detailed info, visit [gnjumc.org/2018churchconference](http://gnjumc.org/2018churchconference). Arena login info was emailed July 2 to church leadership. Contact your Regional Administrator with any questions.

## Church Health Insurance Rates for 2019

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) has set the health insurance premium rates for local churches, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Visit [gnjumc.org/health-insurance](http://gnjumc.org/health-insurance) for more info.

## Church Racial/Ethnic Ministries Grant

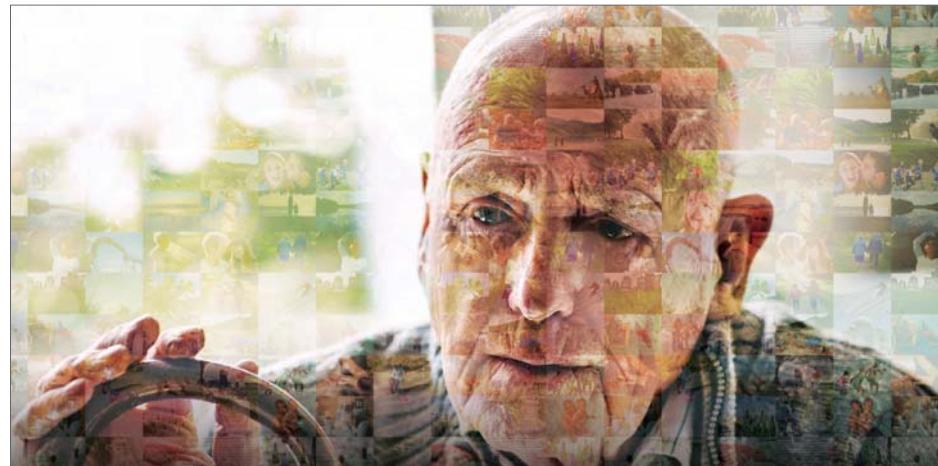
Applications for Discipleship Ministries grants up to \$10,000 to help local United Methodist churches build ministries that strengthen and support racial and ethnic church concerns are due on **Sept. 1**. Visit [ypm-umc.fluidreview.com/](http://ypm-umc.fluidreview.com/) to learn more and apply.

## Grants, Scholarships and Internships

The 2019 scholarship recipient to attend Bossey, the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Institute is actively being sought. This person should be attending a seminary and be in process of vocational ordination (either as a deacon or elder). The Bossey program is a 5-month experience in Geneva at the Ecumenical Institute with Christians from across the world, who gather to study global Christian unity. The recipient should be on the ordination track and be under 30 years of age. The deadline is **September 14**.

Applications for Local Initiative Grants are also now being accepted. The COB gives three grants every year to groups within annual conferences who are doing excellent ecumenical and/or interreligious ministries within annual conferences. Each grant is for \$1,000 US. Priority is given to ministries that are ecumenical/interreligious both in focus/invitation and scope/goals. The deadline is **September 14**.

The 2019/2020 UMET: Ecumenical and Interreligious Plunge is now being planned. It will begin in July of 2019, and more information will be coming to you soon. This is



## Tapestries Memory Support

**Woven together with compassion and creativity**

United Methodist Communities' memory support philosophy weaves together a person-directed practice and a focus on fostering an abundant life. Tapestries, located in modern and secure Assisted Living neighborhoods, offer comforting environments centered on the unique qualities of each person.

To us, older adults are truly a tapestry of their own with colorful stories and rich life experiences. We nurture these qualities every day as the foundation for inspired dementia living.

To learn more about Tapestries contact:

**Bristol Glen**  
[UMCommunities.org/BristolGlen](http://UMCommunities.org/BristolGlen)  
Newton | 973-300-5788

**Collingswood**  
[UMCommunities.org/Collingswood](http://UMCommunities.org/Collingswood)  
Collingswood | 856-854-4331

**Pitman**  
[UMCommunities.org/Pitman](http://UMCommunities.org/Pitman)  
Pitman | 856-589-7800

**The Shores**  
[UMCommunities.org/TheShores](http://UMCommunities.org/TheShores)  
Ocean City | 609-399-8505

 **United Methodist  
Communities**

Independent Living | Residential Living | Assisted Living | Memory Support | Respite  
Rehabilitation | Long-Term Care | Hospice & Palliative Care | Affordable Senior Living | Home Care



the in-depth training for which you sponsor one person from your annual conference. The cost to you is \$4,000, and you get to select your recipient. It is an excellent opportunity to begin training our young adults in the Ecumenical Movement.

Finally, scholarships to attend the Parliament of the World's Religions have already been granted. However, if you have persons in your annual conferences who are planning on attending (the event is being held in Toronto **November 1-7**). For all of these opportunities, questions can be directed to Rev. Dr. Jean Hawhurst at [jhawhurst@umc-cob.org](mailto:jhawhurst@umc-cob.org)

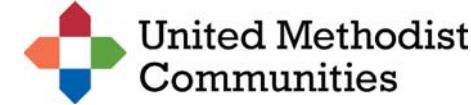
## Newly Registered Historic Sites in GNJ

The General Commission on Archives & History has processed GNJ's most recently approved sites submitted to their offices and added them to the list of official Historic Sites of The United Methodist Church. They are Evangelical UMC in Clarksboro, Kingwood UMC in Stockton and Emanuel UMC, Union City.



## Director of Development

Applications for the position of Director of Development for the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey are being sought. The position 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. See the position description and application at [gnjumc.org](http://gnjumc.org)



## Job Opportunities for Puerto Rico Evacuees

United Methodist Communities are looking for candidates with experience in caregiving and/or health care or those who are willing to be trained to support Puerto Rican evacuees. Interested? Contact Cindy Jacques (732) 922-9802 x2105.

## Share Your VBS Photos

Submit your VBS photos for publication in The Relay and GNJ social media. Be sure to include your church's name and a brief description. All pictures need to have signed parental consent forms. Submit photos to Josh Kinney, Editorial Manager at [jkinney@gnjumc.org](mailto:jkinney@gnjumc.org) by **Aug. 20**.

## Ocean Grove Files Lawsuit Against N.J. Church

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association has filed a lawsuit against a New Jersey United Methodist Church which would require the church to vacate the property immediately and claims the Camp Meeting Association's right to the property citing deeds going back as far as 1885. The church, First United Methodist Church of Bradley Beach, was one of the congregations that suffered after Superstorm Sandy. Since then, they hosted Mosaic Ministries and initiated a feeding program for the poor in the community until concerns about building maintenance and safety arose. The trustees were surprised and alarmed by the filing, and sent a letter of response asking to meet with the Camp Meeting Association to discuss and resolve their concerns and avoid a costly and hurtful legal proceeding. The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association ignored the letter and instead filed another document with the court advising the Bradley Beach Board of Trustees that the church would be liable for any continued renovations to the property. The Camp Meeting Association claims the deeds indicate that the property is to revert to the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting if it is no longer going to be used as a worship space. The Bradley Beach Board of Trustees plan to continue to use the building for worship and develop other portions of the property. Visit [gnjumc.org/news](http://gnjumc.org/news) to read the letter from First United Methodist Church of Bradley Beach.

## OBITUARIES

**Rev. Daniel F. Cline**, died on July 13. A Memorial Service was held on July 18 at Perinchief Chapels in Mt. Holly, NJ. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Joan Cline at 18 Fernbrook Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060.

**William E. Drane**, spouse of Retired Deacon Joanne L. Drane, died on July 10. A Memorial Service was held on July 21 at Central UMC in Linwood, NJ. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent in Memory of William E. Drane to Central UMC, 5 Marvin Ave., Linwood, NJ 08221. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Dr. Joanne L. Drane, 7085 English Creek Ave., Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234.

**Rev. John D. Painter**, Retired Elder, died on May 26. A viewing was held at Peace UMC in Orlando, FL on June 3. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent in Memory of Rev. John D. Painter to Peace UMC Endowment Fund, 13502 Town Loop Blvd., Orlando, FL 32837. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Tina Painter at 1948 Crosshair Circle, Orlando, FL 32837.

## ADVERTISE IN THE RELAY

REACH MORE THAN 7,000 MONTHLY READERS



Published 12x a year, over 90,000 issues printed annually. The Relay is mailed free of charge every month to all clergy, lay leaders, and committee leaders in over 550 United Methodist congregations throughout the Greater New Jersey region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: [gnjumc.org/the-relay](http://gnjumc.org/the-relay)

Or contact: Josh Kinney at 732.359.1047 | [jkinney@gnjumc.org](mailto:jkinney@gnjumc.org)



# JOIN US IN PRAYER

We are preparing Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery for young people from across GNJ to join us for camp for the first time in three years.

Join us in prayer for the miracle of changed lives as they go deeper in faith on their journey with God.

**BE THE MIRACLE. JOIN THE CAMPAIGN.**

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