

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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\$100K UMCOR Grant and GNJ Volunteers Restores Brick Community

By Kamelia Ani and Josh Kinney

BRICK - When an unexpected summer flood in Ocean County left many low-income seniors homeless, the disaster relief team at GNJ went right to work.

Led by Tom O'Hearn, GNJ's Disaster Relief Coordinator, United Methodist volunteers started working with Jersey Shore United throughout the fall. O'Hearn quickly realized more help was needed.

"A couple families seemed totally distraught, in a daze, and didn't know what to do," said O'Hearn who along with members of St. Paul's UMC in Brick, attended a session for families affected by the flooding two days after the storm.

Working with Andrea Wren Hardin, a Hope Center Developer for A Future With Hope, he applied for and received a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for GNJ to help Greenbriar survivors with the repair and winterization of their homes.

The disaster began on Monday morning, August 13, 2018 when a severe summer storm hit the New Jersey township of Brick and dumped eight inches of rain in a matter of hours. While storms happen often enough, this amount of rain is rare and the area does not normally experience flash flooding, so most were unprepared. Rainwaters and runoff from nearby creeks flooded the streets and by midday the governor had ordered the evacuation of more than 100 seniors from the Greenbriar senior community. The roads were under so much water that Brick police were only able to reach people by boat to get them to safety.

When the waters receded and evacuees were able to return to their homes, they were greeted by destruction and wreckage. Floodwaters had gotten into more than 100 homes in the area, leaving them uninhabitable. Garages were completely flooded out and sheds had been

washed away only to be found blocks over. Interior damage to the homes left walls damp and moldy, electrical systems compromised and floors and furniture destroyed beyond repair. Some homes suffered from sewage backups. Even more devastating was the loss of family photos and mementos, items of sentimental value which no money could replace.

In an area that doesn't experience flooding, most Greenbriar homes did not have flood insurance of any kind. Requests sent to FEMA were denied and many were left wondering how their lives were ever going to go back to normal again.

"We're working on 15 homes, hoping to get these families back by the holidays with at least their heat and kitchens," said O'Hearn.

The \$100,000 UMCOR grant covers building materials, appliances, and funds for licensed contractors to winterize 15 homes, including the cost of winterization supplies (baseboard heating units,



Volunteers welcome home a resident of the Greenbriar neighborhood in Brick after devastating flooding. Photo provided by Tom O'Hearn



GNJ volunteers install new drywall in damaged homes in Brick, coming to meet the needs of a flood damaged neighborhood. Photo provided by Tom O'Hearn

Words of Wisdom from the Global Young People's Convocation

By Laura Wise

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One of the beauties of The United Methodist Church lies in its embrace of young people. Children, teens, and young adults are the growing leaders of the denomination, therefore, creating opportunities for young people to engage in the work of the church at every level is critical. One young leader from Greater New Jersey, Moselle Jules from Haddonfield UMC, knows firsthand the importance of being engaged in the work of the church, both locally and internationally, as she recently returned from the 2018 Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in July. Jules shares a bit of background on the convocation, who is involved, what she learned, and some words of wisdom for the church that can be taken to heart.

Global Young People's Convocation 2018

The Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC) is a quadrennial gathering of United Methodist young people from around the globe. Structured similarly to General Conference, and likely modeled after it, every four years young people



Moselle Jules of Haddonfield UMC returned from South Africa where she attended The Global Young People's Convocation of The UMC. Photo provided

come together to engage in fellowship, community, and worship while learning valuable lessons about leadership and the church. Like General Conference, GYPC holds a legislative forum where young adults come together to discuss issues they care about and are relevant in the church. The outcome from these conversations often result in statements, resolutions, and calls to action -- many of which will be sent to the next UMC General Conference for consideration. When asked to explain what GYPC is for those who aren't familiar, Jules shared a bit about her personal experience from this summer's conference:

"It's basically like General Conference but for youth all over the world," she said. "We create legislation that gets passes

Continued on page 8

Team Vital Action Plan Engages Community

By Josh Kinney

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WARETOWN - As part of their Team Vital ministry action plan, Waretown UMC held their first SOS (Sunday of Service) on September 16 with a vision to have a Sunday in which people would gather at church for worship and then leave, dispersing to engage with the community through mission work.

"Our day was beautiful and sunny and began with a light breakfast and a meaningful short worship service," said Pastor Dawn Corlew.

Volunteers received and wore red



Waretown UMC took their Team Vital Action Plan to the streets and used their church service to transform their community. Photo provided

exterior doors, HVAC materials, electrical panels and bathroom vanities and fixtures as needed), appliances include hot water heaters, electric stoves, and refrigerators, as well as labor costs for licensed electricians and plumbers.

Many GNJ congregations, including St. Paul's in Brick have volunteered to help and are working with Jersey Shore United who is coordinating most of the non-profit construction efforts at Greenbriar. On their first day of reconstruction, Jersey Shore United documented more than 280 volunteer hours and over \$7000 in free labor.

Karen Jarmusz from the Atlantic Highlands Navesink UMC, who volunteered with Jersey Shore United, had praise for the project.

"We found it to be a great ministry,

Continued on page 7

t-shirts with the church's vision statement: 'We are a neighborhood church faithfully serving God and the community with love and hope.'

"We achieved our goal to have 150 volunteers from the church and the community," stated Corlew.

All ages served while some volunteers stayed at the church to make cards for military personnel, nearly 250 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, and packing backpacks filled with toiletries, slippers and other necessities for the homeless. Others went outside the church in the

Continued on page 5

A Message from the Bishop



APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP THAT EXCELS FOR GOD'S MISSION

ADAPTED FROM JIM COLLINS WRITING, *GOOD TO GREAT* COLLINS CALLS APOSTOLIC LEADERS LEVEL 5 LEADERS

Within the church we want all leaders to be *fruitful leaders* who lead congregations or ministries to grow in the five markers of vitality, *transformational leaders* who lead congregations through change and transition and **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** who lead congregations to become something greater through innovation and multiplying people, gifts and resources.

APOSTOLIC LEADERS exemplify and embody five types of leadership:

1. **Pastoral and/or Prophetic Leader** - *Capacity and ability to lead well.* This leader focuses on caring and/or justice for others. This type of leadership can be fruitful, especially in smaller congregations/ministries/ organizations by caring about others and growing the five markers of vitality (more worshipers, disciples, small groups, people doing mission and giving).
2. **Team Leader** - *Works in and through teams.* A team leader is collaborative and supportive of congregational leadership and their ministry. This type of leadership can be fruitful and transformational by enhancing others' ministry and creating the change necessary to grow and develop in the five markers of vitality.
3. **Managerial Leader** - *Manages well.* A managerial leader who excels at administration and the organizational life of a congregation. This type of leader can be fruitful and transformational.
4. **Charismatic Leader** - *Charismatic and visionary.* A charismatic leader attracts people through their personality and strong preaching. While this leader can have rapid growth, of the five leadership types, it is the hardest to sustain without the other types of leadership. This type of leadership can be fruitful.
5. **APOSTOLIC LEADER** – *Leads congregations to innovate and multiply disciples.* A highly effective pastor who is resolute and even tenacious to make the congregation/ministry/organization great for the world. This leader grows the people around them, demonstrates sustained effort on plans and strategies and is humble by genuinely giving the team the credit and recognizing he or she is part of a larger team. **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** demonstrate exceptional leadership that is fruitful, transformational and apostolic. The leader creates and develops a better congregation/ministry/organization that is sustainable, innovative, regenerating (for disciples and leaders) and growing in the five markers of vitality.

APOSTOLIC LEADERS possess the qualities of the other four types of leaders but also have an "extra dimension", a paradoxical blend of personal humility ("I never stopped trying to become qualified for the job") and grit or determination to achieve the best progress and results. They are somewhat modest individuals who deflect praise, yet have a determined resolve to do what it takes to make the congregation/ministry/ organization great for the world. They channel their ego needs away from themselves and into the larger goal of building a great congregation/ministry/organization. It's not that **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** have no ego or self-interest. Indeed, they are incredibly ambitious—but their ambition is first and foremost for Christ, the congregation/ ministry/organization and its greatness, not for themselves.

APOSTOLIC LEADERS build clocks, they just don't tell time. They build congregations/ministries/ organizations, they just don't lead what they have. They are comfortable with the idea that their congregation/ministry/ organization will tick on without them, reaching even greater heights due to the foundations they laid down. The fact that most people will not know that the roots of that success trace back to them is not an overriding concern. As one **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP** put it, "I want to look out and see one of the great congregations and be able to think, I used to serve there."

LOOKING FOR APOSTOLIC LEADERS - TWO SIDES OF THE APOSTOLIC LEADER

APOSTOLIC LEADERS recruit, nominate, hire, appoint, develop **APOSTOLIC LEADERS**, individuals with the best and most enduring results. To do otherwise is to sacrifice long-term effectiveness for short-term expedience, which is tantamount to an act of irresponsibility on behalf of the people and institution they serve. To be clear, **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP** is not the only requirement for taking a congregation/ministry/ organization from good to great and for sustaining greatness, but it does appear to be essential.

So, how are **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** identified? The key step is to stop looking for oversized personalities and egocentric people, and instead to *scrutinize for results*. Look for leaders with extraordinary results and who are not looking for credit for those results.

There are two sides of an **APOSTOLIC LEADER**:

On the one hand... creates and is a catalyst in creating exemplary progress. Yet *on the other hand*, demonstrates a compelling modesty, shunning public adulation and never boastful.

On the one hand... demonstrates an unwavering resolve to produce the best long-term progress and results, no matter how difficult. Yet, *on the other hand*, acts with quiet, calm determination and relies principally on inspired standards—not an inspiring personality—to motivate.

On the one hand... sets the standard of building an enduring great church and will settle for nothing less. Yet *on the other hand*, channels ambition into the organization and its work, not themselves, setting up successors for even greater success in the next generation.

On the one hand... looks in the mirror, not out the window, to apportion responsibility for poor results, never blaming other people, external factors or bad luck. Yet *on the other hand*, looks out the window, not in the mirror, to apportion credit for the success of the organization/ministry/congregation to God, other people, external factors and faith.

There is not a shortage of **APOSTOLIC LEADERS**. No, the problem lies in the fact that our culture and church have fallen in love with the idea of the charismatic leader, fast results that are difficult to sustain. The church and organizations keep putting people into positions of power who lack the inclination to develop **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP**, and that is one key reason why so few congregations/ministries/ organizations ever make a sustained and verifiable shift from good to great for God and the world.

SUMMARY

APOSTOLIC LEADERS

- Exemplify the best of all five types of leadership
- Build the congregation/ministry/organization and don't just lead what they have
- Surround themselves with **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** and they develop the leaders around them to be **APOSTOLIC LEADERS**
- Are humble as well as resolute in developing and building a great congregation that is sustainable long after they leave
- Grow the five markers of vitality, lead through change, and develop/build a great congregation/ministry/organization. They are fruitful and transformational by being apostolic.

GOING DEEPER - GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, describe an **APOSTOLIC LEADER** you know. Focus on the attributes of humility, multiplication, innovative for progress, and built a congregation/ministry/ organization.
2. While an **APOSTOLIC LEADER** has the best of the qualities of all the leadership types, sometimes a leader blends two or more of the qualities. Of the five types of leaders, what type of leader are you? What are specific examples of when you demonstrated the different types of leadership?
3. While there are five types of leadership, there is progression within each type of leadership. On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the weakest and 5 being the strongest, how do you rate your leadership in each category? Why? For example, if you are a *Team Leader* type, would you rate your leadership 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 with 1 being the weakest and 5 being the strongest.
4. What gets in the way of your progress? What do you need to do to move more fully towards or live into **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP**?

GOING EVEN DEEPER - GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. If you are or have been progressing toward **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP**, what experiences and activities helped you make progress?
2. How are **APOSTOLIC LEADERS** shaped? What are the activities and experiences that shape **APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP**?
3. Who are three people you work with in your ministry that have the greatest potential to be **APOSTOLIC LEADERS**?
4. What will you do to further shape the leadership of the three people you identified?

Keep the faith!

Bishop John Schol
The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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FOR ADVERTISING RATES, INFORMATION and PLACEMENT

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LEADING INTO 2019

Things to plan for this January that will bless your leaders all year!

DEDICATE CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS DURING A WORSHIP SERVICE

Give thanks to God by recognizing and praying for these servant leaders. It is important for both them and the congregation.

REVIEW THE CHURCH'S MISSION & VISION AT EACH GATHERING

Begin this practice at the start of the year so that each ministry team remains focused on their "why."

PRAY

Each week, invite the congregation to join you in praying by name for members of a committee or ministry team.

SCHEDULE SOME FUN WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP EVERY FEW MONTHS

Plan a pot luck dinner, a night of bowling, a day of mission, or a weekend conference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, CONTACT:

Juel Nelson
Director of Leadership Development
jnelson@gnjumc.org | 732.359.1059

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

INVITE EACH COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THEIR JOB DESCRIPTION

Ensure members understand their purpose and responsibilities. This allows committees move forward in the same direction.

SCHEDULE ONE-ON-ONES WITH KEY LEADERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Learn who your leaders are, the goals they have, and how you can best lead alongside them.

MAKE A LIST

Make a list of folks that your church desires to connect with in the next year and get started!

PRACTICE SAYING "THANK YOU" OFTEN

Make it a habit of thanking your leaders by email, personal note, phone call or lunch. Gratitude is a gift!



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

Eric Drew to Lead Next Gen Ministries

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org



NEPTUNE - Next Generation Ministries has selected Eric Drew, GNJ's Director of Worship, to serve as the Executive Director. Drew has served as GNJ's Director of Worship since 2015 and has championed IGNITE youth conference, was an integral part of the relaunching of the camping programs and initiated the annual IGNITE Youth Leaders Day resourcing program.

The hiring committee, which included members of the Next Generation Board and GNJ staff leaders, conducted a national search and considered several highly qualified candidates. Drew stood out for his experience, vision and enthusiasm for the mission of the organization

which is charged with building a pathway for the next generation of disciples.

"I'm so excited to step into the role of Executive Director for Next Generation Ministries," said Drew. "Since Annual Conference 2017 approved the Next Generation Ministries strategic plan, I've seen us take important steps forward. I celebrate that this summer we had three weeks of camp at the Pinelands Center in Mt. Misery. I celebrate three campus ministry partnerships and others that are emerging. I celebrate IGNITE's continued growth in number of students, leaders and churches. And I celebrate that through our Miracles Everywhere Campaign, we are making all of this possible. In GNJ, God is truly doing something new and exciting in the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ."

Next Generation Ministries is a Vital Mission Partner of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. A separate 501c3 organizations, Next Gen has a



After serving as GNJ's Director of Worship, Eric Drew is taking on a new role as Executive Director of Next Generation Ministries. Photo by Josh Kinney

mission of cultivating and catalyzing new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ that connect, engage, and lead in their congregations and communities to transform the world.

In 2017, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey approved a bold Next Generations Strategic Ministry Plan which included folding all young people's initiatives under the same umbrella including IGNITE Youth conference, IGNITE Leader's Day, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, the Councils of Youth and Young Adults, and camping and retreat ministries at Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery and Aldersgate. The plan will be implemented through 2020.

Next Generation Ministries is a focus of GNJ's newly launched Miracles Everywhere Campaign. The \$5.2 million cam-

paign will invest \$3.2 million in ministries for young people in the next three years.

"Next Generation Ministries has laid a strong foundation for future work and growth," stated Drew. "I'm inspired by the Miracles Everywhere campaign which will invest significantly in the next generation of disciples here in GNJ. Partnership with Miracles Everywhere, GNJ leadership and local churches will continue to provide the next generation of disciples in our midst the opportunity to connect with our local churches, growth in their faith, and lead the church into the future. We serve the church in an important time for our nation and denomination; I believe that the next generation of disciples will lead the way as we work toward the future of the church and great opportunity which lies ahead."

Looking for a Retreat?

The Search experience is a 3-day faith journey for Senior High youth. A great opportunity to build or broaden one's faith with like minded individuals.

What is Search?

The Search for Christian Maturity is a retreat for youth, by youth. Youth and young adults take the lead in guiding candidates through 11 talks that assist each retreat goer in experiencing a closer walk with Christ.

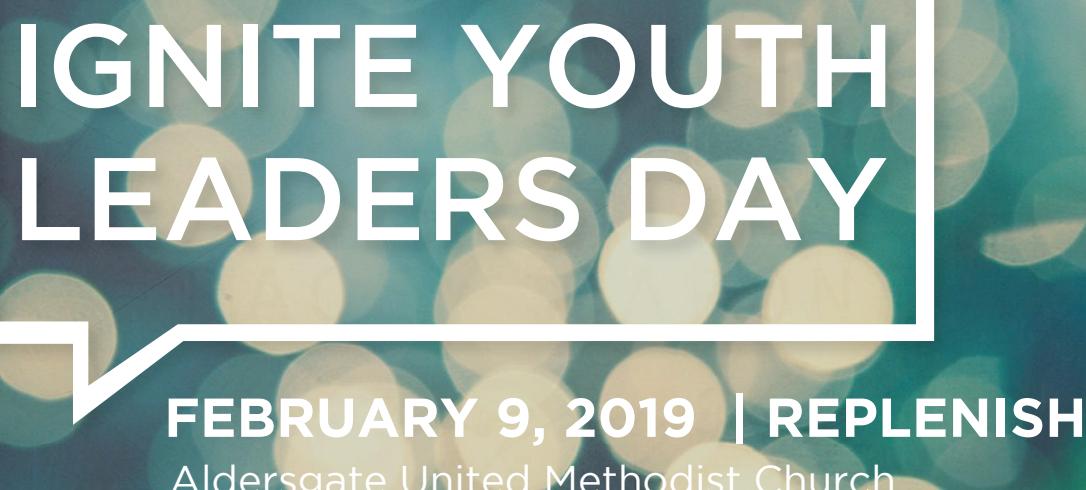
When is it?

The Search retreat will take place January 4-6, 2019

Where is it held?

Kiddie Keepwell Center
35 Roosevelt Drive, Edison NJ 08837

For more information
or to register
visit www.searchretreat.org



REPLENISH YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY AT IGNITE LEADERS DAY

Join church staff and volunteers from around Greater New Jersey to pray, learn and recharge for the next season of ministry. Featuring Aqueelah Ligonde from Ministry Architects, Princeton Seminary Professor Dr. Erin Rafferty and GNJ clergy engaged in vital youth programs.



FIND OUT MORE AT: WWW.IGNITENJ.ORG

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Main Speaker
Aqueelah Ligonde, GenOn Ministries



Dr. Erin Rafferty, Princeton Seminary



Catherine Jordan-Latham
Simply Grace UMC in Bloomsbury



Wes Ellis, First UMC in Toms River

State Supreme Court Affirms GNJ Property Rights



By Josh Kinney
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ALPINE – The New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed the December 2017 ruling of the Appellate Decision of the New Jersey Superior Court that local church property is subject to governance by United Methodists of Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the trust clauses of The Book of Discipline.

The case settles a series of actions stemming back to 2015 when some members of the Board of Trustees of the Alpine Community United Methodist Church disputed the property rights of

the GNJ Annual Conference. The Alpine Community United Methodist Church is one of the earliest churches of the Methodist movement and has been operating as a Methodist Church since 1843. The congregation sought to remove itself from the denomination while seeking to maintain property rights of the buildings.

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled to affirm that the Alpine Community Church is a member of and subject to the governance of The GNJ Annual Conference and The Book of Discipline, and consequently the church's real and personal property was held in trust for the benefit of GNJ.

VITALITY II

EXPEDITION

Team Vital is designed to be a rich and rewarding journey that will empower a congregation to engage and achieve its call for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

EXCURSION

Team Vital will send you out to experience first-hand the neighborhood surrounding your church. Step out of your comfort zone and into relationship with your community.

NAVIGATE

Team Vital will provide tools and resources for vitality to:

- Inspire worship
- Reach new disciples
- Engage small groups
- Immerse in missions
- Encourage generosity

EXPLORATION

The journey to vitality will begin with discerning the assets and strengths God has given your congregation. What are your gifts and specialties? Leverage what makes your congregation unique and build from that.

DISCOVER

Will you realize your potential for ministry? A vision inspires a congregation to dream God-sized dreams. Be a part of Miracle Making in your community by living into what's envisioned.

TEAM VITAL PREPARED YOUR CHURCH FOR BEST PRACTICES IN REACHING YOUR GOALS

Vitality II will increase your impact and move you to the next step. We are accepting a limited number of churches who have completed Team Vital and are ready for what's next.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL JANUARY 14.

Contact Team Vital coordinator Gina Yeske at: 732.359.1042 | gyeske@gnjumc.org

Find out more at: www.gnjumc.org/team-vital

Navigating Special Sessions and Way Forward

In February, at a Special Session of the General Conference, United Methodists throughout the world will come together to discern how our denomination will move forward concerning issues of human sexuality in the church. GNJ has developed:

- Resources for your congregation
- A Prayer Ministry
- FAQs
- Delegate Messages
- News Articles

Visit gnjumc.org/the-way-forward

Save The Dates:

- **Delegate Discussion and Listening Sessions** – January 3, 13, and 30, 2019. Register online at GNJUMC.ORG
- **Special Clergy Session of GNJ** – January 24, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. All clergy from GNJ are expected to attend. Location TBA. More info will be announced.
- **Special Session of GNJ Clergy and Laity** – March 16, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. An official letter will be sent in January. This Special Session of GNJ will be a little more than two weeks after the Special Session of the General Conference and will be a time to hear reports from GNJ's General Conference delegates and Bishop Schol to discern how GNJ will move forward together.

Team Vital Action Plan Engages Community



Waretown UMC's first SOS (Sunday of Service) dispersed volunteers and church members across the community to serve and spread God's love. Photo provided

Continued from page 1

community cleaning up and helping out at Family Promise, Barnegat Lighthouse Center, the Barnegat Historical Society, Dunfee Elementary School and Potter's Pantry in Bayville. The church's choir sang, conducted a short service, brought homemade lap blankets and provided snacks at the Barnegat Nursing Home. By the end of the day, 12 organizations and eight individuals were served.

Corlew traveled to each site throughout the day to help and provide encouragement. At noon, volunteers returned to the church for fellowship, lunch and sharing about their experiences.

"The feeling in the room was uplifting," said Corlew. "Many stories were shared and they all had one thing in common – love for our community."

One mother who participated was grateful for her whole family having the opportunity to serve together.

Another volunteer said, "It feels good to help with a group and to contribute to the community by going out and being a help."

As part of the church's Team Vital Action Plan, the S.O.S. event was the beginning of an initiative to involve more people in service and mission. Their Team Vital grant issued by GNJ helped purchase supplies needed for the day.

"It was definitely a day we will add to our yearly calendar and encourage other churches to try it," said Corlew.

Find out more about Team Vital at www.gnjumc.org.

GENERAL & JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

GNJ is electing delegates for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church during the Annual Conference in Wildwood on May 19-21, 2019.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years.

The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

The 2020 General Conference will be held in Minneapolis, MN., May 5-15, 2020. Four clergy and four laity from Greater New Jersey will be elected to serve as delegates to General Conference. They will also serve the Jurisdictional Conference, which also meets every four years to elect new bishops and select members of general boards and agencies.

The Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 13-17, 2020 in Hunt Valley, MD. Four additional clergy and four additional laity will be elected to serve as delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. The first two lay and clergy delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference will also serve as reserve delegates to the General Conference. Three lay and three clergy reserve delegates will be elected for the Jurisdictional Conference.

It is an honor and responsibility to serve as a delegate. It provides the opportunity to be involved in the denomination and work with United Methodists throughout the nation and world, praying, worshipping together and deciding legislation.

The nomination process will be open from Dec. 15 through Feb. 15.

To find out more about the role of delegates, nomination process, and to access laity and clergy nomination forms, visit www.gnjumc.org.



**UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY**

Mission Math at Whiting UMC

By Mary Jacobus
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WHITING - When does 160 equal 500+1450+5+8+14+112+2? When you are a member of the Whiting United Methodist Church, you understand the numbers. These numbers represent the mission projects completed by the 160 members of the congregation since July.

In July, "Undie Sundie" collected 500 pieces of new underwear were collected for the Code Blue emergency shelter run by Haven/Beat the Street nonprofit which houses the homeless during extra cold days. Each new person coming to the shelter is given a new set of underwear, a warm blanket and cot, food and unconditional love by a staff of volunteers.

Also, in July, eight church members went to dinner at the JBJ Soul Kitchen in Toms River. Funded by the Jon Bon Jovi Foundation, and other companies, people can enjoy a meal and pay what they want; usually around \$20 for a three course meal. When someone comes for a meal and is unable to pay, they are invited to work to earn their meal. Food is served in such a way that people are unaware of who has paid and who has not. Participants can also pay it forward and add another \$20 to pay for another family.

August was 'back to school' month, and the congregation collected 1,450 school supply items from back packs to pencils and stuffed 26 of the back packs with items. On the 28th, five members set out in the heat to make a delivery to The Neighborhood Center in Camden; one of GNJ's Hope Centers. The team enjoyed seeing the children participate in fun games. Volunteers from the center's

"Pop-up Library" read to children each week all summer, and this was their culminating activity.

"It was a joy to see the children laughing and having a great time," said one church member.

In addition to other projects, the congregation brought food each month for their community food pantry. The items were delivered monthly by two women in the church.

On September 8 and 9, 14 congregants took part in the Caravan of Hope project initiated by Trinity UMC of Hackettstown. The Whiting congregation delivered 112 meals to their local community. Recipients included men in a group home, women in an addiction recovery program and shut-ins in the community.

Five congregants delivered 60 meals to a church which serves a free meal once a month. They helped serve the meal, then distributed the box meals to folks to take home.

"What a blessing Trinity Church was to all these people and to us as well," said Mary Jacobus, Missions Chairman of Whiting UMC. "The seed has been planted, and much fruit will follow."

So how does the math add up? Jacobus answered, "Because the 160 have hearts overflowing with love and compassion. There is no number to measure the depth of love our congregation has for mission work. We are blessed beyond numbers and words."

Whiting UMC's mission work is an example of how GNJ leaders are living out the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan By 2023, churches are striving to move from serving their own members to a mission that connects with the people in the community through relevant ministries.

\$100K UMCOR Grant and GNJ Volunteers Restores Brick Community

Continued from page 1

and we are hopeful to return with others," she said. "This is a very inspiring Christ centered group and a joy to be with."

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. Their three-pronged mission is to provide humanitarian relief / disaster response, sustainable development, and global health. Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of Methodists, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing. They distribute grants to provide funding and related expertise for effective and efficient disaster readiness, relief and recovery projects on behalf of The UMC.

"It's been a collaborative effort," said O'Hearn. Along with St. Paul's in Brick, Sparta UMC, Jackson UMC, St. Andrew's in Toms River, Hamilton UMC, and Atlantic Highlands Navesink UMC have brought teams to help bring families home.

GNJ disaster response is presently on the ground and repairing homes in the Greenbriar neighborhood of Brick. Volunteers are needed. To sign up (both individuals and teams), email Disaster Response Coordinator Tom O'Hearn at toohearn@aol.com or visit gnjumc.org/disasterresponse

We are God's Miracle

A Series on Miracles in our Midst



said Reid.

Reid's classmate placed her hands on her shoulders and prophesized over her. The two women cried together and prayed together.

Reid returned to class and her head cleared. Her chest and throat as well. By the end of the class her fever broke and her respiratory illness was healed.

"That night I slept 15 hours straight and without coughing or wheezing for the first time in two weeks," said Reid.

A few months after her healing at school, Reid had her annual checkup. Reid had a history of health issues that included tumors and cysts. After reviewing the tests, the doctor shared some stunning news. All her tests were normal.

"I started laughing" said Reid. The doctor was just as stunned. The tumor and cyst were gone. Her endometriosis was gone. Her blood tests were all normal. "My entire body was healed," she said.

Reid had a close relationship with her doctor and shared how she had been prayed over and healed by one of her classmates. He listened closely and his own faith allowed him to believe.

"My prayer is that all people would begin to believe and see God's miracles in their own lives and share their stories too," said Reid. "Truly God is in the business of miracles and we are those miracles. They are happening everywhere."



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SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHERN REGION DAY OF LEARNING

Clergy and laity are invited to a day of learning.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019 | 2 - 6 p.m.

Pitman United Methodist Church
758 N. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071

Look for more information in the district newsletters,
GNJ Digest and at www.gnjumc.org in January.

The January 2019 issue deadline is December 16, 2018

Words of Wisdom from the Global Young People's Convocation

Continued from page 1

and it goes to a vote; they can either add it or say no. I was a non-voting member but I still got to be a part of everything. And since it was held in Johannesburg, they allowed us to not only think about the current topics and issues that are affecting the church now but also allowed us to explore the local culture. I got the privilege to go to the Apartheid Museum which was very eye-opening. It really makes you think, especially when the people who suffered such atrocities look like you."

The legislative sessions are some of the most important sessions at GYPC because they give young people a voice on issues and conversations happening in and around the church. With the Commission on a Way Forward approaching early next year, racism and the LGBTQ community were popular topics at this year's conference.

"We were broken up into groups and mine specifically spoke about racism and the LGBTQ community," said Jules. "Because the Commission on a Way Forward is coming up soon, we had two representatives from their group there to talk with us. Everyone expected it to be heated, but no one was yelling or shouting."

Although the conversation got heavy at times, Jules noted that her group dynamic was most important. It's on trips like these that members of the church – The United Methodist global church with various cultures, traditions, and customs – can come together and spark true friendship based in the love of Christ.

"I was very happy with our group," she said. "We all told individual testimonies, but our group leader's resonated with me most. We were also pretty open with each other which I think can be hard to find, especially now because everyone can be so uptight. My small group was pretty amazing."



The Global Young People's Convocation of The United Methodist Church, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, inspired young adults like Moselle Jules (right) of Haddonfield UMC, challenged perspectives, and left a lasting impression. Photo provided

Jules grew up in South Harrison, N.J. where she attended Haddonfield UMC. Since 6th grade she has embarked on mission trips annually. Last year she went to Cuba with Mission of Peace (MOP), a yearly journey of discovery and Shalom to nations in the global community. She also went to the Bahamas with her youth group, working at the Bahamas Methodist Habitat. Jules, who is very active in her church, describes being a part of Christ's body as something that defines her.

"It's something I'd never trade in or give up," she declared.

Lasting Impressions

Jules' spirits were high throughout the

duration of the conference, and when asked about her favorite part of the gathering, she responded simply, "wearing my translation device." Seeing that there were so many people from around the world present, the translation devices allowed everyone to follow along in real time in their native tongue.

"We're all so different but we're all the same, and language can connect us all," she said. "I just think it's amazing how global our church is because I only really ever see things from a local level. It's pretty amazing to see how worldwide our church is and to understand that youth and young adults who are my age care

just as much about these issues; we care about the same things."

Jules expressed gratitude for being selected to attend the convocation, and for all the support she received on her trip. When asked if she had any advice for the church as a whole based on her experiences at GYPC, she simply shared, "That it's okay to have hard conversations. I know it's easy to judge people, but if you get through that conversation, and at least try to understand where that person is coming from before coming up with a resolution or solution, then things could be better."



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Register by January 15, 2019



Pet Blessing Event Invites and Unites Brick Community

By Ivy Kim
ivykirk@aol.com

BRICK - God's charge to care for the animals of the earth is taken very seriously by the members of St. Paul's UMC in Brick. Each year they set aside a day to offer a community outreach family event celebrating the relationship between pets and their owners.

Saturday, October 20 was the church's 7th annual Blessing of the Animals, Pet Adoption Day & Pet Fair attracting a crowd of several hundred pet lovers throughout the community. Over 125 pets, large and small -- dogs, cats, a hamster, two turtles and a chicken were presented to Pastor Alan Darby and Youth Director Hector Mezza, to receive an individual blessing and a prayer square as a memento of the day. Darby also blessed a number of pets over the telephone whose illnesses prevented them from attending.

As part of the blessing ceremony, the event emcee for the last five years, Christopher Lytle, of ONPOINT Celebrations, created and produced a Pet Memorial Tribute Montage of pets who have passed away but will forever live in owners' hearts. This year's montage entitled, "Welcome Home" included sound clips of Lytle's grandfather, who was a Methodist minister, leading the Lord's Prayer interspersed with photos and the song "I Can Only Imagine" by Christian rock band Mercy Me. As photos of beloved pets displayed on the screen, the experience was aptly described as both "spiritual" and "full of hope."

St. Paul's family of vendors, many who have been attending for the past five years, offered numerous items to pamper pets as well as their owners.

Over ten local shelters/rescues were in attendance with their "adorable adoptable's" hoping to find their "furever" homes. Several adoptions took place at the event and many others were finalized during the week after a "meet and greet"



The community of Brick came out to have their pets blessed at St. Paul's UMC during a special event that also served as an outreach. Photo provided

at the event.

One of the event's highlights is the Law Enforcement K9 Officer's and their four-legged partners. Officer Casullo from the Ocean County Sheriff Department brought her bomb dog, Bear, who demonstrated his skills at locating "black powder." Sgt. Stryker of the NJDOC, demonstrated with his K9 partner how suspects are apprehended. Officer Prenderville and Officer Smith from the Brick Township Police K9 unit further demonstrated how canines are used to keep people safe.

The church youth group's pumpkin patch offered the purchase and decorating of pumpkins, face painters, and several "selfie" opportunities.



The pet blessing event offered a unique opportunity to connect church with community through relevant ministry and under a unifying banner of the love of pets. Photo provided

A food court was manned by the United Methodist Men (UMM) while the United Methodist Women (UMW) offered their bake sale treats.

God's presence was felt throughout this community outreach event celebrating all God's creatures," said Ivy Kim, who attended the event.

The Blessing of the Animals, Pet Adoption Day and Pet Fair is a part of St. Paul's commitment to mission, ministry and outreach that connects with people in the community through relevant ministries. St. Paul's in Brick took their pet blessing tradition outside and invited their community to take part.



Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History seeks church histories for the annual Local Church History Contest.

Church Histories may be submitted under one of three categories:

The Steelman Methodist History Award (For best local church history)

The John C. Goodwin Multi-Media Church History Award (For electronic or PowerPoint history)

The Morris L. Smith Ethnic Church History Award (For a GNJC ethnic church history)

All histories must conform to the guidelines and be received by January 18, 2019.

Submission guidelines may be found at:

www.gnjumc.org/our-history-and-values

For more information, contact:
Don DeGroat, Vice-chair | dfdegroat4@aol.com or 570-646-9298

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: gnjumc.org/the-relay

Or contact: Josh Kinney at 732.359.1047 | jkinnny@gnjumc.org



GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 7, 2019

LOOKING FOR THIS GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS!

The Global Mission Fellows Program is looking for young adults 20-30 who are ready to answer God's call to Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God. With opportunities in the US and abroad, Fellows come alongside community organizations to work on a variety of issues such as poverty alleviation, migration, education, public health, and more!

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Conference Happenings

Diaper Drive at The Maker's Place in Trenton

The Maker's Place in Trenton, a new mission initiative in the Central Region, has started a diaper drive to support families in Trenton. The Maker's Place plans on being the next Hope Center. Visit gnjumc.org/afwh to find out how you can support the diaper drive for Advent.

Shared Ministry and Conference Billing Deadline

Shared ministry is at the foundation of United Methodism. All churches should submit their shared ministry and conference billing payments for 2018 by Jan. 16, 2019. Visit gnjumc.org/finance-administration for more information.

Lay Recognition Nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for Lay Ministry Recognition is Feb. 15, 2019. Contact Rosa Williams, GNJ Lay Leader, for more information at rwilliams@gnjumc.org

2019 Certified Minister Course

A Certified Lay Minister (CLM) is a qualified United Methodist lay person called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under supervision of a clergy person, but who often serves the church in many different ways. Visit gnjumc.org/lay-servant-ministries to learn more and register.

Church Conference Evaluation

Did you attend Church Conference this fall? If so, please complete a brief evaluation so we can measure effectiveness and make progress on resourcing for you and your congregation at gnjumc.org/program-surveys

N.J. Paid Sick Leave Notice

The N.J. Department of Labor Workforce Development recently released the N.J. Earned Sick Leave Notice of Employee Rights for the Paid Sick and Safe Leave Law which went into effect on Oct. 29. Visit gnjumc.org for more info.

New Homes Sought for Stained Glass Memorial Windows

New homes are being sought for seven leaded stained glass memorial windows by either providing storage or available to a church or churches who would be interested in any or all of the windows. The windows depict Biblical figures and were originally commissioned in 1949. For more info please reach out to Pete Q. Rich, Treasurer of First UMC in Toms River at 732-330-8968.



Indian Mills UMC Spreads Holiday Cheer Through Food Drive

Harold Abrams, Donna Abrams, Cindy Atkins (Youth Coordinator) and Dawn Abrams (Food Pantry Coordinator) along with hundreds of volunteer scouts, scout leaders, Indian Mills UMC members and community leaders helped collect, sort and store food in the church's newly refurbished food pantry with thousands of canned and packaged foods and about 20 food baskets to assist families during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Job Opportunities

- Director of Worship – GNJ
- Executive Director - A Future With Hope
- Worship and Ministry Coordinator – GNJ
- Director of Preschool and After School Programming at Camp YDP - A Future With Hope

*To view all job descriptions and apply,
visit gnjumc.org/job-opportunities*

The January 2019 issue deadline is December 16, 2018



"Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

- Calvin Coolidge 1880-1954

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PART TIME ORGANIST WANTED

Christ United Methodist Church | Piscataway, NJ



This is a rewarding opportunity to work with our Director of Music and enhance the church's musical arts programs.

Responsibilities Include:

- Leading congregational singing
- Accompanying church choirs
- Supporting worship service with musical offerings
- Organ: Allen Renaissance 3 manual/80 stops
- Piano: BB Mason Hamlin
- Provide music for two Sundays a month for services at 8:00 and 10:30 am (flexible)
- Available for additional services during Lent & Advent
- Support rehearsals with the choir/soloists

Qualifications Include:

- Knowledge and familiarity with various styles of sacred and classical music
- Accomplished at organ and piano – including skill in organ registration and sight reading
- Education in organ and piano performance
- Ability to accompany a choral group, soloists, and handbell choir as part of the service

Submit Resumes:

Christ United Methodist Church
485 Hoes Ln, Piscataway Township, NJ 08854
Attn: Lynne Stallworth, Music Director

For Questions, Please Contact:

Lynne at lynne@csaol.com



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Summer of Exploration

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND CHURCHES!

Churches who apply and are chosen to participate in the *Cultivate: Summer of Exploration* will be responsible for recruiting and choosing their own student intern.

Funds for Cultivate have been made possible by a grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) to cultivate young people for ministry. The grant supports initiatives committed to encourage, recruit and train Christian leaders from ages 16-30.

Next Generation Ministry encourages students to *try on* ministry leadership so that they can continue their path of discipleship and explore a call to ministry. You can support our young people on their journey through the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Work with their church for 20-25 hours per week for 8 weeks and earn a \$2,000 stipend
- Participate and lead in worship, children's church, small groups and bible study
- Learn church administration and attend committee meetings
- Join congregational care/pastoral visitations
- Explore conflict resolution
- Assist the pastor with funeral and wedding services when possible

CHURCHES WILL:

- Identify a student interested in ministry
- Create a welcoming environment for learning and development
- Designate a supervisor who is a church leader or pastor
- Plan 20-25 hours per week of ministry engagement
- Commit \$500 towards the student's \$2,000 stipend

The Miracles Everywhere Campaign will raise \$3.2 million for Next Generation Ministries to strengthen youth programs in 250 congregations in Greater New Jersey.



FIND OUT MORE AT: www.gnjnextgen.org