UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT

17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901



July/August 2013



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GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2013 Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Here is the official GNJAC overview of this year's Annual Conference gathering of United Methodists across the New Jersey region!

United Methodists have been conferencing since 1784 as a way to discern God's calling and ministry for the church. The annual conference session sets the direction for Greater New Jersey and its congregations to continue *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Annual Conference Moves to Wildwood

This year, the annual conference session came home to within the bounds of the Greater New Jersey Conference. The move to the Wildwoods Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ, not only provided a venue for inspiring conferencing but also affirmed our commitment to providing relief and recovery to those impacted by Superstorm Sandy through our **A Future with Hope** ministry.

Vision and Mission Set

The conference adopted three pieces of legislation that will shape our future together:

- 1. **Strategic Ministry Plan.** The Strategic Ministry Plan will **revitalize**, grow and more effectively resource local congregations in an effort to reverse the declining attendance, baptism and membership trends in Greater New Jersey. The plan provides a roadmap to help our ministries transform from a 14% **vitality** rate to having 41% of our congregations highly **vital** by 2018. The plan will focus on the key characteristics of highly **vital** congregations as outlined on the website umc.org/**vital**: making disciples, becoming more engaged in missions around the world, **connecting** with our communities, developing small groups, and strengthening **leadership** at all levels. Celebrating the approval of the plan, Rev. Bobbie Rambach, Co-Chair of the Strategic Ministry Task Force, said: "The plan is all about resourcing congregations for mission, vitality and making disciples. We look forward to supporting the ministries that will be relevant and will transform lives in our communities and globally."
- 2. **A Future With Hope Mission Fund Campaign.** We will raise \$12 million an ambitious goal to be used among 3 ministries:
- a. \$7 million will be used for Sandy Recovery through A Future with Hope, Inc.
- b. \$2 million will help eliminate deaths by malaria in Africa through support of Imagine No Malaria, and
- c. \$3 million will **connect** local churches with their communities through missions. Local churches will have the opportunity to keep 25% of all funds they raise for the mission fund to help engage in local missions. Additional details on how churches can get involved will be provided this summer. The campaign will kick-off in the fall of 2013.
- Rich Hendrickson, Co-Chair of the Campaign and Stewardship Coordinator for the Greater New Jersey Conference, looks forward to the great ministries and lives that will be changed through support of the mission fund. "I'm excited for the significant financial resources that will be made available to create life-changing ministries in our local communities, Sandy recovery and Imagine No Malaria in Africa."
- 3. **New Conference Center**. As local ministries and congregations grow, the conference office will need to move **beyond** its current capacity to a new conference center. The building will be purchased or built and will help meet the needs of supporting our local congregations. The costs (both capital and operational) will not increase shared ministries because it will be more energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Rev. Lou Strugala, President of the Conference Board of Trustees, is "excited about the new possibilities of a mission and ministry center capable of serving the current and future needs and providing resources to help grow vital congregations in the Greater New Jersey Conference."

Celebrations

This Annual Conference we celebrated all that God is doing through Greater New Jersey United Methodists. We celebrated in worship, in prayer, at meals and in our sessions.

Among the many celebrations, we highlight three:

1. A Future with Hope, a Sandy relief and recovery ministry. Superstorm Sandy devastated our community. More than 260,000 households and 113 churches sustained damage. In addition, five churches and seven parsonages were left uninhabitable. In the face of the storm, United Methodists joined together to provide basic human needs, comfort, shelter, and support to our communities.

In the last 7 months, Greater New Jersey United Methodists have:

- **a.** Provided relief and support for more than 80,000 people immediately after the storm,
- **b.** Begun repair work on five homes,
- c. Welcomed more than 3,000 volunteers, and,
- **d.** Raised \$7 million toward our \$21.8 million goal.

As we move into the recovery stage we are committed to repairing 300-500 homes, coordinating the efforts



of 15,000-20,000 volunteers, providing case management for those affected, and raising \$21.8 million to support the ministry. Bobbie Ridgley, Director of A Future with Hope, Inc., is looking forward to the great things ahead: "It is a great opportunity for churches to connect with local communities and make a difference in the lives of people in need. I'm excited for the work ahead and to connect with our local churches." With God's help and through your and others' generosity, we will exceed our goals.

- 2. Newly Ordained and Commissioned Celebrated. Eight clergy and their paths to ministry were celebrated as they were ordained, seven into the Order of Elders and one into the Order of Deacons of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Shawn Callender Hogan, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, celebrates "that God continues to powerfully speak in our midst and that by grace, these wonderful children of God have responded. This is a day of joy!" The service also celebrated the commissioning of six provisional clergy. God brought each one on a unique path to accept their calling into ministry: becoming a second generation pastor, celebrating a new life in a new country, serving in the military, overcoming disabilities, and serving others while being displaced personally during Superstorm Sandy. Rev. Lin Smallwood, Registrar for provisional candidates, is "thrilled to see the composition of the new candidates; the youth and diversity are a great representation of Greater New Jersey." Each of the newly ordained and commissioned possesses great leadership skills and will help build hope in and connect with our local communities through their ministries.
- 3. Wings of the Morning Plane Blessed by Bishop Schol. Over the last several years, the churches of the Greater New Jersey Conference, including our church, has supported the Wings of the Morning Aviation ministry through prayer and financial contributions. Last year, the hope of a new plane moved beyond a dream to a reality when a refurbished plane was purchased to help transport vital supplies to remote areas of the Congo. We raised \$250,000 for the Wings of the Morning Plane. Pilot Gaston Ntambo is overwhelmed by the generosity of Greater New Jersey and other conferences who have supported the ministry, "These are 'wings of hope' for so many. I cannot count how many lives have been saved. They're not just people they are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, whole

villages. These are people who are hopeless and helpless but they know that they can come to the United Methodists to find the hope and help they need." On Friday, Bishop Schol blessed the plane, as it flew past the Wildwoods Convention Center and a crowd of cheering United Methodists at the conference. What a special moment to be able to experience the fruits of our support for this important **mission**.

State of the Church Address and Leadership Report. There were two key addresses during the annual conference session: the State of the Church Address given by Bishop Schol and the Leadership Report presented by six elected leaders. Both reports celebrated all God is doing through the Greater New Jersey Conference and identified the challenges we face.

- 1. **Leadership Address**. "It's time for a courageous change." As the world is changing and the church faces a decline, it's time to step out in faith and work in new ways, allowing the Spirit to lead us **beyond** the hard times and into a future with **hope**. Projections show we will have 123 less congregations in 18 years unless we make major changes. We are called to go beyond our current mission ministries and dream bigger, to be more imaginative, relational and transformative in our missional approach. The leaders indicated that the Strategic Ministry Plan would shape the ministry of the conference. The plan will help guide us in making the necessary changes to make disciples and grow more vital congregations. Bishop Schol committed that the strategic plan would be implemented and not "sit on a shelf."
- 2. **Episcopal/State of the Church Address**. Greater New Jersey United Methodists have shown great courage, determination and **hope** throughout the last year. Despite experiencing one of the most devastating storms in New Jersey history, United Methodists have pulled together to support one another and their communities. During his Episcopal Address, Bishop Schol celebrated the resilient relief and recovery efforts and highlighted some of the inspiring ministries happening in our churches such as: a new Hispanic ministry, multiple second church campuses, large confirmation classes, feeding programs, ministry with the poor, growing worship services, relevant youth and young adult programs, successful small groups, and engagement in global missions. These ministries show great **leadership** by moving **beyond** the challenges we face in Greater New Jersey and toward the goal of growing more **vital** congregations. Bishop Schol challenged us to reshape our ministry for strong spiritual **leadership**, relevance in our community, **mission**, diversity, inclusion and making new disciples.

Throughout the Conference, Bishop John Schol challenged congregations to reshape ministry for strong spiritual leadership, relevance in our community, engagement in mission, diverse and inclusive ministries, and making new disciples.



Now, It's Wednesday!

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Each week we gather on Wednesday for intergenerational music and activities. Throughout this recent season we received suggestions from many families for how to organize and schedule the events in a way that meets family needs and availability; these suggestions have been very helpful, thank you!

This fall, when "Wow! It's Wednesday!" resumes on October 9th, our weekly pattern will be:

4:30 pm: All gather for **snacks** in the kitchen

4:40 pm: Wesley Choir (younger children learning child-friendly music) rehearse in

the Chapel with Ms. Prussak, while older children do their homework in

the Conference Room with Drew.

5:00 pm: All kids gather in the Chapel for a time of **devotions**

5:15 pm: Singing Believers (older children learning more complex music) rehearse

in the Chapel with Ms. Prussak, while younger children meet for activities

in the Green Room with Drew.

6:00 pm: All **adjourn** and head home

(On Wednesdays, adults are always welcome to join in "Wednesday Conversations": a time of thoughtful reflection with Pastor Hogan, from 5 – 6 pm).

Please note: If you and your child wish to arrive prior to 4:30, please spend your time in the Conference Room. While parents/caregivers are encouraged to join their children, Drew Sperry will be available to offer oversight as of 3:30 pm. There will be no scheduled activities before 4:30, as this is a great time for catching up with personal homework or other reading.



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If you aren't involved in the Wednesday program but would like to be of help, we invite you to donate snacks (just leave them in the pizza oven in the kitchen) so that weekly munchies will be available for our hungry kids!

See you in the fall!



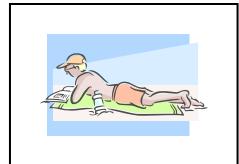
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Summer Education Article

Just because the church is taking a break over these summer months does not

mean that your or your child's Christian education has to too. There are many ways to continue your education. You can pick up an inspirational book from our library to read for the summer or maybe follow the church Facebook page that provides snippets of informational learning for us. You may also choose to join the





warrior **Bible** prayer Wednesday study one afternoon. Additionally,

if you would like any resources for your children to use you can reach out to Drew Sperry help.

Christian education is a big part of what we do here at UMC of Summit and so we hope that it is a big part of what you do too. Have a great summer and always keep learning.

Wow It's Wednesday | Sunday School



Beginning again on October 9th!

Keep alert for the New things coming this year to WOW!

+Children (Pre-K-3rd) 10:45 [2nd floor] +T'weens (4th-7th) 9:30 [3rd floor] +Sr High (8th-12th) 9:30 [3rdfloor]



Parents' Night Out



Resumes on October 18th In the Green Room Suggested \$10 donation \$5 for every child after the first



The Nursery is available for use during the summer worship hour, however our staff will be on break until September 22nd.

CHILDREN'S

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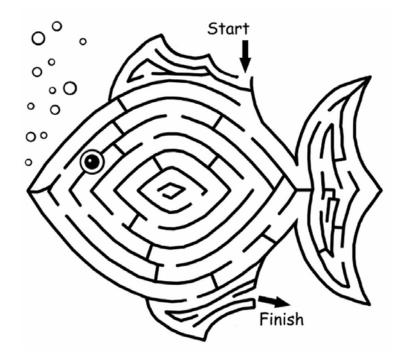
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CHILDREN'S

Name _____

I like to follow Jesus!



From now on, you will fish for people. Luke 5:10b

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SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Worship at 10am
Coffee hour at 11am

While we do not provide a nursery care provider during these months, the nursery is available for all to use



BE A SUMMER SOLOIST

during worship

rehearsals at 6:30pm on Wednesdays
and 9:15am on Sundays

Please see Joanne for more details

USHERS and GREETERS

We are always in need of persons willing to serve as ushers and greeters for the Sunday worship service. Here is what each task involves:

<u>Greeters</u>: Arrive 15-20 minutes early, offer a warm smile and welcoming handshake to all who enter the church, and hand them a bulletin. Having a greeter at both doors (Social Hall side and narthex side) of the church is especially helpful! To be a greeter, call the church office.

<u>Ushers</u>: Arrive 15-20 minutes early, stand at the back of the church and offer to escort persons to their pew, if they wish. (If they have not received a bulletin, please hand one to them.) Assist the head usher with gathering up the offering and guiding the congregation to receive Holy Communion (first Sunday of each month). Be especially alert to any visitors, helping them get acclimated. To be an usher, call the church office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

MAD HATTER HIGH TEA 2013

United Methodist Church of Summit held its second annual Mad Hatter High Tea on Saturday, May 18, 2013 and a fun time was had by all who attended. We were pleased to see that quite a number of people into the prints of the second annual Mad

who attended got into the spirit of the event and wore their hats. We sold about 56 tickets and though we fell a tad short of our goal of 70, we were quite pleased (hey, the ant <u>did</u>

move the rubber tree plant – so high hopes). We had a good mixture of congregation and members of the community in attendance. Serving tea to those who attended were men from our congregation - Adrian, Neil, Will, James, Alf, Ryan and Oliver. Entertainment for the afternoon was provided by students from Miss Debbi's School of Dance and Joanne Teubner Prussak and the Singing Believers (Kayla and James Goldman, Will and Maddie Johnson).



A special **THANK YOU** to *Mike Stewart, Polly del Campo, Kim Goldman, Shela Waldron, Debbi Picorale, Melissa Tassé and Adrian Phillips* for their help in transforming the Social Hall and to *Wendi Barry* for the flowers and plants

used to complete the transformation, the clean-up crew, Kim Goldman who provided the confections, *Lucy Lord and Jillian Talbot* for the delicious scones and everyone else who pitched in where needed.

If you have any ideas for a **FUNdraiser** or a FUN event please contact the church office and Polly will pass it on to *Debbi Picorale*, *Shela Waldron or Faye Cunningham*.

~The Hospitality and Evangelism Committees

The Next Mad Hatter High Tea is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014

LET'S READ A BOOK TOGETHER!

The Book Club will be meeting on **Friday**, **July 12**, **2013**, at 11:30 in the Fellowship Room, and will discuss the book "Love Anthony" by Lisa Genova. All are welcome!

Future meetings for the Book Club will vary in date and time and book selection—if you would like to be a part of this endeavor feel free to contact Susan Daniel, or call the Church Office (908-277-1700) or email us at umcsummit@verizon.net.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:



The Rummage Sale is **Friday, October 4** and **Saturday, October 5**The United Methodist Women are currently excepting donations.

Please place clothing donations on the 3rd floor (in the classroom at the end of the hall) and all other items behind the curtain in the Social Hall. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Social Hall.

Please, no furniture donations yet.



READING SCRIPTURE

Would you be interested in **reading scripture** in the Sunday worship service?

How wonderful it is when we involve many voices in our weekly worship service!

If you would like to read scripture, you would always be informed by mid-week as to what passage is selected, so you would have plenty of time to become familiar with it.

If you are interested in participating in skits or other readings, as occasional opportunities come up that fit with the worship theme, you would work with others well in advance.

If you have interest, or questions, please be in touch with Pastor Hogan.

BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries in:

BIRTIE A THURS WE THE						
July	1	Fritz Dorninger	13	Johanna Aguilera		
		Diane Van Patten		Don Wernsing		
	3	Megan Champney	21	Jayme & Emily LaJeunesse		
	6	Ryan Wilkins	25	Parker LaJeunesse		
	9	Elwood Cornog		Cliff & Laura Wilkins		
		Charles Lord	30	Julia Dunnder		
	10	Sam Quashie	31	Ellen Dunnder		
	11	Leslie <mark>& Susan Will</mark> iams		Jayme LaJeunesse		
	12	Jesse R <mark>e</mark> yes	1.11	George & Sarah Shuttleworth		
August	5	Susan Daniel	18	Bob & Denise Florindi		
0	7	Mary Ellen DeJohn	22	Bob Reed		
		James Somers	24	Lisa Burns		
	8	Andrew Aird	28	Doug DeMartin		
	9	Jim Schaefer		Melissa Tassé		
	11	John Blossom		Andie Vida		
	14	Craig & Lisa Burns	31	Sam Russell		
	16	Alf Edwards				



Help your church...help others
Help your church...help others

- Join the Book Club 7/12
- Young Adults' Gathering
 7/23 and 8/13 @ 7pm (Social Hall)
- Be a summer soloist
- Read Scripture during worship
- Be an usher or greeter
- Have a great summer!