

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR October 15, 2015

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Because of the recent launch of a redesigned Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Website (<http://www.epaumc.org/>) which has a link, at the bottom of the Home Page, to a new East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east/>; see article below), articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the District web site. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

The E-Alert is sent to Pastors and Church Offices on the East District and to lay people who have requested being added to the distribution list. Feel free to clip or copy any article for your church's bulletin or newsletter unless permission has specifically been granted to the East District for publication, in which case, request permission from the source. The District Office requests that pastors forward the E-Alert to church leaders and congregants who might find the E-Alert helpful and informative.

BISHOP JOHNSON IS PRAYING FOR THE EAST DISTRICT THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-24. JOYS AND CONCERNS CAN BE SENT TO pjohnson@epaumc.org.

2016 HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Mark your calendar now for the East District Open Enrollment meeting on **Wednesday, November 4 at 2 pm** at **Bensalem Korean UMC**, 2820 Mechanicsville Road, Bensalem, where a presentation to explain 2016 health insurance coverage plans to participating clergy and church employees will take place. All enrollments must be completed online. If you are a participant in active (not retired) status in the conference group health insurance, **make every effort** to attend this important session.

IMPORTANT – This is NOT a passive enrollment. Members will need to enroll in a specific plan or they will have no coverage.

This meeting will not only provide information about the plans, but afford an opportunity to sit with the consultant and receive assistance in signing up for coverage. The presentation will take 1½ hours. There will be one hour following the presentation for individual assistance signing up.

For more information on open enrollment sessions in other districts, refer to the Conference website [page](#).

2016 MIDWINTER RETREAT

Willow Valley DoubleTree Resort in Lancaster PA is the site for the **January 12-14 Midwinter Retreat 2016**. Chaplain (Brigadier General, retired) Charles R. Bailey is the keynote speaker. Son of a United Methodist minister in the Nebraska Conference, Chaplain Bailey will be sharing with clergy and their spouses on ways to reach outside our walls to share the Good News! The offering this year is for Imagine No Malaria.

Online registration is now open and can be accomplished quite easily by clicking [here](#) and following the prompts. Registration is \$270 for a single person prior to November 16 registration (\$280 after November 16); \$240 per person for double registration prior to November 16 (\$250 after per person after November 16); \$480 per couple; and \$150 for commuter (limited availability for only first 20 who register). Additional nights are available at \$95 per night, per room for January 11th or 14th.

SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 19, 2015

Mark your personal and church calendars **NOW** with the date of **Saturday, March 19, 2016** for the 4th Annual, EPA Conference-sponsored **Faith-Sharing Seminar**, to take place at **New Hanover UMC** (2211 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville PA) from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Rev. **Romal Tune**, the compelling, sought-after young international speaker, will address the gathering. Rev. Tune is the award-winning author of *God's Graffiti: Inspiring Stories for Teens* and an esteemed graduate of Howard University and Duke University Divinity School. He is a visionary organizer who draws strength and wisdom from his own traumatic upbringing amid poverty, violence, neglect, and gang-life in inner-city Los Angeles. He openly shares his painful but redemptive story, a sojourn from struggle to survival.

District Superintendent Bass is looking for a large showing from East District pastors and laity for this unique opportunity to hear a captivating presenter who voices his passion, intellect, and faith in fresh ways, and who challenges listeners to see a new intersection of faith and public life. **If you are unable to attend this event, please be in touch with the District Office now [\(215-914-2130\)](tel:215-914-2130) or cakrall@epaumc.org.**

A flyer is attached for your use in beginning to promote this exciting opportunity for you and your church members. Or, you can refer people to this website to view the flyer online: http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/public_html/news-events/events/2016/RomalTune-4thFaithSharing.pdf.

Registration information will be forthcoming in January.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 21—MARCH AND RALLY FOR SAFETY ON CAMPUS

In response to the Umpqua Community College Massacre and threats to Philly universities and high school, the **Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence** organization, in cooperation with activists and students from Masterman Middle/High School and Philadelphia Community College, has organized a Rally for Safety on Campus taking place at **3:30 pm on October 21st at 17th & Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia**. The Rally will begin with a brief blessing, followed by a March for 7 blocks down Spring Garden Street to North Percy Street at the proposed site for a new gun store. Both of these educational facilities were locked down last week due to threats of gun violence. You are invited to join in this demonstration and share these plans with other interested parties. For more information, call 267-519-5302 or email infoheedinggodscall@gmail.com.

12TH ANNUAL PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH

On **Saturday, November 7th, Hopewell UMC** (852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown PA 19335) presents **Mike Slaughter**, lead pastor of Ginghamburg Church, as the keynote speaker. The address begins at **2 pm**. Click [here](#) to view Mike's personal invitation to attend this event.

Since Mike Slaughter's appointment in 1979, Ginghamburg Church has increased average worship attendance from 90 to nearly 5,000. A leading figure in the missional church movement, his Sudan Project Initiative has invested over \$6.1 million in Darfur since 2005. Author of numerous books, including **RENEGADE GOSPEL – THE REBEL JESUS**, Mike uses his "gift of irritation" to equip ministry leaders to maximize mission in the world. Mike's call to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted will challenge every attendee at **Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth**.

Other special presenters are **Warren Cooper** and **Rhonda Burnett-Bletsch, Ph.D.** Mr. Cooper is a musician, composer, performer, producer, broadcaster, and trend-setting pioneer within the genres of jazz worship and sacred jazz music. Dr. Burnette-Bletsch is Professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University, author of **Studying the Old Testament: A Companion**, and expert on reception of biblical tradition in film. Learning and discussion sessions take place from 3:15 pm to 4:45 pm, after which is a time of fellowship and refreshments. Closing worship begins at 5:25 pm and concludes at 7 pm.

An Advanced Course and certification training for Christ Servant Ministers with Dr. Burnette-Bletsch will be offered in partnership with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

To register, click [here](#). Email inquiries to boyd@hopewellumc.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Retired Local Pastor the Rev. Donald Wesley Anderson is seeking a healthy kidney donor with Blood Type O.

Remember Conference Lay Leader, **Mr. David Koch**, and his family as they plan arrangements following the death of his father on Monday night, October 5. Mr. Koch writes, "Dad had a peaceful passing last night...I'm thankful my father is at peace with no pain and reunited with my mother." Services will be held in Missouri.

Remember the family of **The Rev. Russell E. Walters**, who passed away on September 22. He was a full clergy member of the Eastern PA Annual Conference who retired in 1996. Rev. Walters' pastoral service record includes Orwigsburg: Salem, Coaldale, Tamaqua: Salem, Wiconisco, Phila.: Grace, Allentown: Salem, Pocono Union, Paradise: St. John's, Swiftwater, and Paradise Valley: Keokee Chapel. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary L. Walters, and four adult children: Donna Beech, Diane Peters, David Walters, and Debra Fulmer. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Walters at 350 Lake Road, Canadensis, PA 18324. Memorial contributions may be sent to Faith UMC, 1160 Clause Drive, Stroudsburg PA 18360 where Rev. Walters had been a part of the church family for the past several years.

Continue in prayer for the family of **Dr. Weslia Hynicka**, spouse of the Rev. Robin Hynicka, Senior Pastor of Arch Street United Methodist Church (ASUMC) in Philadelphia, who passed away on August 30. A memorial service celebrating Dr. Hynicka's life was held at ASUMC (55 N. Broad St., Philadelphia) on September 19. It was Dr. Hynicka's wish that memorial gifts be used to support the daily activity of ASUMC – living the love of Jesus by welcoming the oppressed, befriending the lonely, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick. For more information, contact the church office at secretary@archstreetumc.org or 215-498-3718. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Hynicka at 4231 Paul Street, Philadelphia PA 19124 or secretary@archstreetumc.org or robin@archstreetumc.org.

Pray for continued recovery from surgery on Sept. 17 for **Pastor Barry Trout** (Pomeroy UMC, SE District). Cards may be sent to him at 371 Hill Road, Honey Brook PA 19344.

Thank God for answered prayer of a kidney donation and successful transplantation on September 17 for **the Rev. David Eckert**. Rev. Eckert thanks everyone who has been a friend, listened to him, prayed for him or thought of him once in a while! A "Care Bridge" (www.caringbridge.org) page has been established where he and his wife Amy have posted updates and where anyone can leave a message of continued encouragement during his continued recovery. (Search for "David's New Kidney.")

Continue in prayer for **the Rev. David Davis**, pastor of Olivet UMC, Coatesville, and his wife, Naomi, as they continue to mourn the loss of their eldest son, **Prashanth Davis**, who died unexpectedly on Sept. 16. Your prayers will provide deep comfort to the family at this time. Condolences may be sent to The Rev. and Mrs. David Davis, 103 Milbury Road, Coatesville PA 19320.

Continue in prayer for the family of **the Rev. Jere R. Martin**, 80, of Mount Joy, who died on September 15. Rev. Martin retired after 49½ years in the ministry and formerly served in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Rev. Martin is survived by his wife of 56 years, Beverly J. Styer Martin, son Kevin Martin, daughter Kim Martin Lewis and her husband Michael A. Lewis, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a brother, Richard Martin. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eastern PA Conference Treasurer for the Pre-1982 Pension Liability Fund. (Please note "Pre-1982 Pension Fund in memory of Jere Martin" on the check memo line, and mail to Eastern PA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge PA 19482-0820. Memorial contributions may also be made to the Salvation Army or other preferred charities. Rev. Martin served the following churches: Elizabethtown, Royaltown, Lancaster: Community, Annville, Swarthmore, and after retirement, Morgantown. Click [here](#) to read his obituary.

Continue in prayer for the family of **Mr. Daniel E. Shirey**, husband of **the Rev. Dr. Judy M. Kehler Shirey**, who passed away on Sept. 10. A funeral service was held at Cornwall Manor Retirement community. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Shirey at Cornwall Manor-Laurel Place 325, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall PA 17016. Memorial contributions may be designated to Crossroad Walk to Emmaus to sponsor scholarships and can be mailed to Dave Cappuccio, Treasurer, 103 Leisure Court, Wyomissing PA 19610. Rev. Shirey has served Saylorsburg: St. Peter's, Phila.: Church of the Redeemer, Douglassville: Hope, Emerald: St. Peter's, and Slatedale: Salem.

Continue in prayer for the family of the **Rev. Annette B. Bolds**, clergy member of the Western PA Conference and former Eastern PA Conference member, who died on September 3. She was married to the Rev. Stanley Bolds, retired from Honorable Location in the Eastern PA Conference: Bethany, former Phila.: Bickley Memorial, Chester: Siloam, Chester: former Providence Avenue, Phila.: Falls, Pence since 2007. Condolences may be sent to the Bolds' address at 44 S. Starr Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15202. While a member in Eastern Pennsylvania, Rev. Bolds served Belmont Hills: Ashland Avenue, Wescosville: Advocate-St. Stephen's, Phila.: Wissinoming, Springfield: C.C. Hancock, and in extension ministry at Philadelphia University as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Liberal Arts. Rev. Stanley Bolds served Phila.:

Mount Zion, Phila.: Emmanuel, Chester: Siloam, Chester: former Providence Avenue, Phila.: Falls, Phila.: Advocate-St. Stephen's, and, Phila.: Mount Carmel.

Continue in prayer for the family of **Mrs. Gladys Fernsler**, 66, wife of Mr. Howard Fernsler, Lay Supply Pastor at Minersville UMC, who passed away on September 5. Click [here](#) to read her obituary.

Remember also, in prayer, the family of **the Rev. Richard C. Mark**, of Leola, a retired Eastern PA Conference pastor on Honorable Location, passed away on August 24. He served the following five churches: Cokesbury of Marcus Hook, Highville, Washington Boro, East Bangor, and Bellegrove. Most recently, he worked for Stauffers of Kissel Hill. He was a member of the Worship Center, Lancaster, and was active in the Faith that Works Ministry. Surviving him are his wife, Jane Keener Mark; a son, Randall (husband of Shawn Phelps Mark); a granddaughter; a sister; and two brothers. He was preceded in death by another brother and sister. A memorial service was held on August 29 at the Worship Center. Memorial contributions may be made to The Gathering Place, 2394 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. An online obituary can be found at http://lancasteronline.com/obituaries/richard-c-mark/article_e2e02681-4ce0-5b57-a486-b746585825c0.html.