

EAST DISTRICT

E-ALERT FOR

November 4, 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 ASKS THAT THE PASTORS AND LAITY OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE LIFT UP THE ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN PRAYER BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14TH. PRAY FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE AS WE CONSIDER OUR BUDGET AND ELECT 2016 GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATES.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lift the Rev. Sharon L. Vandegrift (Extension Ministry with Bridge-the-Gap Life Coaching Services, LLC) and family in prayer on the unexpected death of her son, **Douglass**. A memorial service was held on October 31 in Media. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Vandegrift at 424 W. State St., Media PA 19063.

Hold the Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks III (UMC of West Chester) and his family in prayer in the death of his mother, **Erma Brooks**. A service was held on October 30. Condolences may be mailed to Rev. Brooks at 335 Price St., West Chester PA 19380.

Remember **District Superintendent Tracy Bass** and his family as they mourn the loss of his aunt, **Marion Thomasine Jones**. Rev. Bass was in Virginia with family during last week and is back in the District Office this week.

Remember the family of former East District Lay Equalizing Delegate and member of Somerton UMC, **Mr. Jay Hogeland**, who died on October 21. A celebration of life service is planned for Saturday, November 21 at the Chapel of Garden Spot Village (433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland, PA 17557), beginning at 11 am. A calling time is scheduled for 10 am. A luncheon will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the Benevolent Fund Garden Spot Village. Cards can be sent to his widow, Marion Hogeland, at 433 South Kinzey Avenue, Apt. 157 VSA, New Holland PA 17557.

UPCOMING DATES

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR INMATES PROJECT DRAWING TO A CLOSE

This is a reminder that there is only one week left for the Christmas cards for inmates in Eastern Pennsylvania project of the Conference Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team (<http://www.epaumc.org/ministry/prison/christmas-cards-for-inmates-project-2015/>). **The deadline for receiving the completed cards in the District Office (3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley PA 19006) is next Monday, November 9.** If you have completed cards and are unable to get

them to the District Office, Felicia Anderson in the Conference office (930 Madison Ave., Norristown PA 19403) is receiving them as an alternate drop off location.

ADJOURNED SESSION IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT THE MACUNGIE CAMPUS OF BETHANY UMC

Adjourned Session of Annual Conference is **Saturday, November 14** at the Macungie Campus of Bethany UMC, 3801 Brookside Road, Macungie PA 18062. Onsite registration for delegates who are not preregistered begins at 8 am. There will be prayer time at 8:30 am and opening worship at 9:30 am, followed by Holy Conferencing to handle unfinished conference business and elections. Voting instructions for the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences has been posted on the Conference web site (<http://www.epaumc.org/home-feature/2015/10/electronic-voting-for-general-jurisdictional-conference-delegates/>) and added to the NewSpirit. Attached to this E-News is the same information in two different formats (pdf and Powerpoint). **If you are a delegate and you have not yet registered, and you intend to attend the Adjourned Session and vote, you will need to register as a walk-in and can do so now at <http://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/2015-adjourned-session-of-annual-conference/>.**

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

2016 DIGITAL ADVERTISING GRANTS FOR EASTER & OTHER RESOURCES

Grant applications are now being accepted by The Rethink Church Grants Team for its 2016 Easter Digital Advertising Grants. This grant is for local churches who want to raise awareness of their church in the community by means of online digital advertising during the Easter season. These ads will link directly to the church website and will be geo-targeted to each church's community.

The grant provides pre-designed static banners that display a seasonal Rethink Church message, the Rethink Church logo, the UMC brand promise and the local church logo. If a church does not have a logo, the Team can create a brand standard logo for the grant-receiving church. The ads will run for two months (February-March 2016). A church may see its ads on websites as large as CNN and The Weather Channel as well as on local news websites. The Team also provides a follow-up report on click through rates and site visits to each church from the advertising period. Attached to this E-News email are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that should help answer questions about the digital grant process.

For more information, visit the Team website [HERE](#) to learn more about grant selection criteria and to apply. The **deadline to apply is January 7, 2016!**

Grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Churches can only be awarded one grant type of any kind once per year.

Just a reminder that Rethink Church has many resources available for Advent:

- Rethink Church is running National Advertising and can customize the Advent [TV spots](#) for your church at no cost for a digital file (**only available in English**).
- Rethink Church has [outreach resources](#) to invite your community during the Advent season for English and Spanish speaking congregations that include low-cost direct mail postcards and 100 free customized door hangers and invitation cards (**order deadline is December 1**).
- Rethink Church has free downloadable [worship resources](#) that include bulletin covers, worship graphics, and much more!

NEWS

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

For information about ongoing 2015-2016 appointment announcements by district, visit the Conference website at <http://www.epaumc.org/news-events/appointments-retirements/>.

BISHOP'S BLOG

Have you checked out Bishop Peggy A. Johnson's BLOG recently? Go to <http://bishopeggyjohnson.blogspot.com/> to read about many topics, including her most recent "An All Saints Prayer." Other recent blogs include "Walk to Emmaus," "Being true 'Christ-bearers' in search of peace," (a thought on Columbus day), "Visitor from the Vatican and his Words of Wisdom," "Healing Communities: A Journey into Prison Ministry," and "Life Abundant," where she shares personal and denominational views about life—abortion and the death penalty—in a compelling Bishop's Blog reflection that attracted widespread attention from the UM News Service and others.