

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR December 15, 2016

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Generally, articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east>). Or, if you are on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website (<http://www.epaumc.org>), there is a link to the East District website at the bottom of any page. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

This 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.

Through December 17, 2016, Bishop Peggy Johnson is praying for the East District. Joys and concerns can be sent to her at pjohnson@epaumc.org.

WALKING WITH: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

What: East District Conversation on Race Relations
When: Friday, January 20th and Saturday, January 21st in 2017
Time: 6 pm (Friday evening with dinner; recess at 9 pm)
8 am (Saturday morning; adjourn at 3 pm)
Where: Washington Crossing United Methodist Church
1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing PA 18977
Who: East District clergy and laity
Theme: **WALKING WITH: The African American Experience**
Cost: \$35 per person (includes dinner, breakfast, and lunch)
Registration deadline: December 21, 2016 (earlier is best!)

District Superintendent Bass considers this to be one of three REQUIRED District events that appointed clergy must attend. The conversation will begin at 6 pm. The cost to register is \$35 per person and includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. To register, send your name, mailing address, email address, and the name of your church, with a check payable to "**East District Superintendency Clergy Fund**" and mail to East District Office, c/o Clarita Krall, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley PA 19006. The memo line should read "**Conversations on Race Relations.**" Registration deadline is December 21, 2016.

EASTERN PA TO HELP LAUNCH UMC PRAYER VIGIL IN 2017

By John W. Coleman

The Eastern PA Conference will help lead off a more than yearlong United Methodist prayer vigil in 2017 by being the second conference to gather daily, even hourly, in many places for a full week of prayer together. Our urgent cause for prayer could be the very future of the denomination.

January 8-14, 2017 is Eastern PA's week to participate in the Council of Bishops' **Praying Our Way Forward** Initiative. We are asked to pray for "the church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward." Click [here](#) to read more or [here](#) to sign up and commitment to a day and time to pray.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 is designated as **East District Day Apart** and will be a time centered on prayer. Location is the UMC of Huntingdon Valley (3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley PA 19006). Stay tuned for more details in upcoming issues.

PREMARITAL/MARITAL COUNSELING TRAINING

Prepare-Enrich premarital/marital counseling materials were developed by Dr. David Olson at the University of Minnesota. Almost 3 million couples have benefitted from their use. Couples take an online assessment, and are then guided by a trained facilitator to gain experience in communication skills, conflict resolution, stress management, financial decision-making, and a host of other potential marital issues. To administer the materials, persons must attend an 8-hour workshop. Rev. Lloyd Speer will be conducting several training workshops in 2017. The next workshop will be **February 23** at **Christ UMC**, 501 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills PA 19030. To register, go to www.prepare-enrich.com to fill out and mail a printable registration form. The cost is \$220, and includes certification, lunch and materials. For more information, contact Lloyd Speer at 215-943-2343 or lfsppeer3@comcast.net.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rev. Sharon Kaye Paul passed away on December 8. Rev. Paul a Local Pastor who retired in 2015. A memorial service was held on today at West Chester UMC. Rev. Paul served Landenberg, Middletown: Christ, and Nantmeal UMCs.

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