

# **EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR February 17, 2016**

## **Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:**

**Check this out – have you really read this paragraph lately? Do you realize that the East District now has a website?** 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/>), 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.

## **EAST DISTRICT NEWS**

### **EAST DISTRICT MISSION PROJECT LAUNCHING**

Greetings East District!

The last time we were gathered together as an East District Clergy/Pastor Ministerium, we talked about the opportunity to visit one of our urban churches as a place where we can be engaged in mission work. This is an opportunity to live out our connectionalism by coming together to ensure that the mission of the Church is carried out in places that reach people beyond our time and space constraints.

**Solid Rock UMC** (the former St. James UMC building) is located in the **Olney section of Philadelphia at 199 E. Tabor Road**. Like many of our urban buildings, this one is aged, requiring regular and expensive maintenance and incurring huge utility costs. The congregation is small (less than 20), but the community is thriving with hard working families and a growing population of children under 14 years of age. The church is surviving because of the current leasing contract with the School District of Philadelphia. Over 300 elementary school children are in and out of the church building on any given weekday.

Though small in membership, the church has been involved in various ministries, including an emergency food bank and clothing ministry. The church feeds 30-40 families each month, with the number reaching 80 during the winter.

There is a plan of revitalization which includes developing ministries around community needs; coalition and partnership building; staffing; revamping worship, musicians and music programs; and creating a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere.

From the East District, **we are seeking painters, plumbers, electricians, cleaning volunteers, lawn care help, and volunteers for other various tasks**. The date of **Sunday, March 6, 2016, between 2 pm and 5 pm**, has been set for East District churches to send representatives from their congregations or mission groups to visit Solid Rock, scout the property, and take pictures to help develop a plan of action. Any group desiring to scout the area prior to that date is welcome to do so by contacting the church directly at 215-329-2851.

A date of **Tuesday, March 1, 12:30 pm**, at the **District Office**, has been set for a meeting with pastors and representatives of work teams to meet with me prior to the assessment gathering on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the mission site. Please email the District Office at [cakrall@epaumc.org](mailto:cakrall@epaumc.org) if you are able to meet with me or to send a representative from your church.

Blessings,

Tracy Bass

(The Rev. Tracy L. Bass)

East District Superintendent

## FAITH-SHARING WITH ROMAL TUNE

District Superintendent Bass requests that you send him via email to [cakrall@epaumc.org](mailto:cakrall@epaumc.org) the number of persons from your church who you are expecting to be attending the Faith-Sharing event with Romal Tune on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm at New Hanover UMC, 2211 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville PA 19525. Attached is a flyer about the event, or use this link: [http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/public\\_html/news-events/events/2016/RomalTune-4thFaithSharing.pdf](http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/public_html/news-events/events/2016/RomalTune-4thFaithSharing.pdf). Also attached is a registration form, or use this link: <http://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016FaithSharing-registration.pdf>.

OR, for your convenience, click [here](#) to register online. *Don't forget to let DS Bass know how many you expect to be attending from your church!*

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

**Deadline Extended: Nominations for Annual Conference Positions.** This is the year the Conference Nominating Committee must find the best leadership to serve this conference for the next four years. **Between now and March 1, 2016**, the Eastern PA Annual Conference will accept Interest Forms from all persons in every district throughout the Conference who are interested in serving on a Conference Committee, Board or Ministry — **laity and clergy**. The EPC Nominations Committee will review and evaluate the Interest Forms and submit a slate of nominees (new chairpersons and members) to the 2016 Annual Conference. The Annual Conference will elect the leadership team for the 2016-2020 quadrennium in June 2016. The newly elected conference leaders will begin their four-year term of service on July 1, 2016. For complete information, a brochure, the Nomination Form, and descriptions of the committees and agencies, please [click here](#). Nominations may also be [submitted online](#).

## NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION NEWS

### ADVERTISE YOUR MINISTRY IN THE NEJ SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET

A professionally printed **souvenir program booklet** is being created for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference taking place from July 11-15 in Lancaster PA. It will include greetings from public officials, the meeting agenda, organizational information, and appropriate advertisements in various sizes to promote ministries, services, and products. Your church and/or ministry is invited to consider purchasing space for a greeting or an ad.

The advertisement space is being sold to help fund two United Methodist mission causes and to help cover conference costs. One cause is the Imagine No Malaria campaign, the denomination's effort to eradicate a disease that has taken countless lives, especially among children in Africa. The other cause is LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner-City Alliance), a local ministry which provides individuals and families with basic necessities, after-school instruction, business clothing for job-seekers, and support for youth to participate in summer camp.

Souvenir book submission forms with details and advertisement specifications are available from the East District office. The deadline to receive all submissions is **April 30, 2016**.

If you or someone you know would like to receive this information, please request the information by email to ([ckrall@epaumc.org](mailto:ckrall@epaumc.org)).

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