

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR February 3, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING UP AT WHICH CLERGY ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED

1. This coming Monday, February 8 – BISHOP'S LENTEN DAY APART FOR ALL CLERGY (ELDERS, DEACONS, LOCAL PASTORS)

Location: Aldersgate UMC, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Schedule:

8:30 am – Coffee and Tea (*all clergy sign in at their respective district tables*)

9:00 am – Keynote Presentation

10:30 am – Worship Service and Communion

Bishop Young Jin Cho is the Keynote Speaker and Worship Service Preacher

Click [here](#) to read more about Bishop Cho.

2. Saturday, March 19 – 4th Annual Faith-Sharing Seminar

Location: New Hanover UMC, 2211 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania 19525

Time: 9 am to 3 pm (*registration and breakfast at 8:30 am*)

Cost: \$10 per person including all materials & meals

Registration deadline: March 3, 2016

[Rev. Romal Tune](#), presenter, is a compelling, sought-after young speaker who voices his passion, intellect, and faith in fresh ways, challenging listeners to see a new intersection of faith and public life. With unapologetic candor, Tune addresses the redemptive power of authentic engagement that is too often lacking in church outreach and evangelism efforts.

Download the [Information Flyer](#)

Click [here](#) to register online.

EAST DISTRICT TOOLS FOR MINISTRY IS MARCH 5 – REGISTER NOW!!

The 2016 Tools for Ministry registration form and brochure is attached! Please distribute it to your congregation via email, church website, and hard copies on Sundays beginning NOW!

Date: March 5, 2016

Location: Bensalem UMC, 4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem PA 19020

Time: 8:30 am to 3 pm

Registration Fee: \$15 per person (or \$12/person with 5 or more registrants from the same church; \$20 per person for late or walk-in registrants)

Registration deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Send registration with check, payable to “East District Superintendency Clergy Fund” to: **East District Office, United Methodist Church, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley PA 19006**. For more information, contact Clarita Krall at cakrall@epaumc.org.

Schedule:

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| 8:30 am - 9:30 am | Sign-in and Breakfast Foods available |
| 9:30 am - 10 am | Worship, Offering received, Plenary |
| 10 am – Noon | Workshop Session #1 |
| Noon – 1 pm | Lunch |
| 1 pm - 3 pm | Workshop Session #2 |
| 3 pm | Adjourn |

Looking forward to seeing you on March 5th!

A TIME FOR LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT: FOUR GENERAL CONFERENCE LISTENING SESSIONS

Every four years in preparation for General Conference, the elected General – Jurisdictional Conference Delegation schedules **Listening Sessions**, to hear from the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference the concerns and understanding regarding proposed legislation coming before the General Conference for action. Please save the following dates, choose a site, and plan to attend one of these sessions. Information regarding resolutions will be published prior to these sessions in the NEWSpirit and district newsletters. Guidelines and format for the sessions will be published closer to the dates.

- **Monday, April 11** from **7 pm to 8:30 pm** at **Wesley UMC** (2540 Center St., Bethlehem PA 18017)
- **Saturday, April 16** from **10 am to Noon** at **Simpson House** (2101 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131)
- **Wednesday, April 20** from **7 pm to 8:30 pm** at **UMC of the Good Shepherd** (1500 Quentin Rd., Lebanon PA 17042)
- **And, one Call in Session** on **Saturday, April 23, – 9 am to 10:30 am**; Call in number and instructions will be published in the NEWSpirit and District newsletters and on the epaumc.org website

Watch for more information in the NEWSpirit and District newsletters. Please encourage all to pray for the Delegation, the Listening Sessions, and General Conference.

THREE EAST DISTRICT LAITY TO BE HONORED AT CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER RECOGNITION

Two men and one woman from the East District are slated to be honored at a ceremony on **Sunday, April 17 at 3 pm** at **West Lawn UMC** (15 Woodside Ave., Reading PA 19609). **Mr. Robert Irving**, member of Newtown UMC, in Newtown; **Mr. Rick Wrisley**, member of St. Paul's UMC in Warrington; and **Ms. Susan Velez**, member of Fallsington UMC in Fallsington are among eight other persons from four other districts being recognized at the ceremony for completion of the Certified Lay Minister training offered in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Bishop Peggy A. Johnson will be preaching. The service is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

DISTRICT CHURCH IN THE NEWS



Check out the Conference website to read how one East District church is talking about race and racism. Click [here](#) to read about how First UMC of Germantown (aka FUMCOG) celebrated the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday last month with the Rev. F. Willis Johnson of Ferguson, Missouri and Black History this month with its “**Conversations on Race**” series. Rev. Johnson, pastor of Wellspring UMC and activist was the congregation’s Saturday evening guest speaker and Sunday morning preacher. (Pictured to the left, Rev. Robert G. Coombe, Pastor, First UMC of Germantown; Rev. F. Willis Johnson; and Bishop Peggy A. Johnson.

RESOURCES

FREE CLERGY TAX VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

Clergy face some distinctive tax regulations and often need guidance from tax professionals with experience working with clergy. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary has prepared a 12-minute informational video to help seminary students and clergy better understand the issues to which they and their tax preparers need to give attention. The video is used as part of Wesley Seminary’s class on Personal Finances for Religious Professionals. Click [here](#) to view it.

FREE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Ponderings of the Heart: A Mother’s Reflections

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 1:19)

A new Bible study curriculum for the season of Lent has been produced for use in any and all United Methodist churches, free of charge! *Ponderings of the Heart: A Mother's Reflections* features seven Elders from the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Each session takes participants through a New Testament scene in which Mary, the mother of Jesus, is present, and invites them to consider how Mary's example of discipleship has meaning for our lives today. The study is designed to begin after Ash Wednesday and conclude in the week following Easter.

Session 1 - Luke 2:22-35, Simeon's Blessing: Mark Moore, Thorndale UMC

Session 2 - Luke 2:41-52, The Boy Jesus in the Temple: Sara Davis-Shappell, Spiritual Renewal Ministries

Session 3 - John 2:1-12, A Wedding Feast at Cana: Dawn Taylor-Storm, Southeast District Superintendent

Session 4 - Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus' True Family: DongJin Choi, Norwood UMC

Session 5 - Mark 6:1-6, The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth: Amy Banka, Hopewell UMC

Session 6 - John 19:25-27, Mary at the Foot of the Cross: Misty Fuller, Sayers Memorial UMC, Berry-Long Memorial UMC

Session 7 - Acts 1:12-14, 15b, They Returned to Jerusalem: Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern PA Conference

To receive a free study kit which includes DVD, leader guide, and worksheets for small group study, order at

www.hopewellumc.org/lenten-bible-study; or contact Hopewell UMC at 610-269-1545 or Deb Boyd at

boyd@hopewellumc.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Rev. Robert Early Nicholson, age 89, a Retired Full Elder, passed away on January 22. He is survived by his wife, Joan Brown Nicholson, with whom he shared 57 years of marriage. A Navy veteran and a leader in the Boy Scouts, Rev. Nicholson served the following churches before retiring in 1987: Tobyhanna; Trinity, Havertown; Lima; Stonehurst, Upper Darby; Berry-Long Memorial, Philadelphia; Simpson, Philadelphia; Miller Memorial, Philadelphia; and Gradyville. He taught math for 22 years in the Lower Merion School District and was a professional fund-raiser in Lancaster County for three years after retirement. Besides his wife, Joan, Nicholson is survived by three adult children--Peter, Pamela, and Karen--and their spouses, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and his brother, Blake Nicholson Jr. His previous wife, Barbara Frye Nicholson, died in 1956. Family and friends are invited to attend his funeral celebration on Saturday, January 30 at 11 am at Covenant UMC, W. Orange and Mulberry Streets, Lancaster. A viewing will be held at 10 am and interment will be at Boehm's UMC Cemetery in Willow Street. Condolences may be send to Mrs. Joan Nicholson, 205 Pyrus Place, Lancaster, PA 17601-2673. Memorial contributions may be made to the Benevolent Care Fund, c/o Mennonite Home Communities, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. Nicholson's full obituary may be found at lancasteronline.com.

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