

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR March 23, 2017

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.

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

The East District has been aware of the availability of grant money for an initial kit for the new **Covenant Bible Study**, a publication of Abingdon Press. **Covenant** is a 24-week, in-depth group Bible Study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God – and others – better. Emphasizing the Biblical concept of covenant as a pattern throughout the entire Bible, the study underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with God's people. Covering both Testaments, the program is broken up into three eight-week modules, each dealing with a different aspect of what covenant means: Creating, Living, Trusting. Visit www.CovenantBibleStudy.com for resources to help start and lead a group. While there, hear from people about how Covenant is already changing their groups and churches. If you are interested in receiving a grant for an initial kit, email the East District office at cakrall@epaumc.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date of **Sunday, May 21** for the East District Conference in the afternoon. The exact time and location is still to be determined. *Stay tuned for more information.*

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE WEBSITE FOR YOUR CHURCH

A message to Pastors and Church Communicators:

"If you build it they will come..."

Eastern PA Conference Communications will partner with United Methodist Communications (UMCom) to offer a **6-hour workshop in building church websites in WordPress on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6.**

We will offer this training twice, if we can draw enough registrants, on Friday and Saturday, from **8:30 am to 3 pm**. At this time, the training locations are still being arranged. However, only **up to 30 people** for each intensive session can be accommodated; so space is limited. All who are interested should **REGISTER ONLINE** as soon as possible. **The absolute deadline to register is April 3.** Sorry, but registrants after that date cannot be accepted due to advance preparations needed for the training event. **The cost is \$30 per person, which must be paid in advance.**

This workshop is for lay and clergy members, preferably in teams, who have the important responsibility or desire to build and manage their church websites, including those who want to create new and improved church websites.

A congregation with a quality website can reach beyond its front door to **inform** its community and the world about its life and faith, ministries and concerns. It can also **inspire** others to come visit and get **involved**. Indeed, your church's website is its virtual front door, allowing you to **invite** people from near and far to peek inside and then come get a closer look.

UMCom will also offer participating churches **free services** for one year through Website Development Grants:

- **Free website hosting and free online support for one year.**
- **Free domain-name registration for one year.**
- **Free WordPress online training through UMCom.**
- **Free pre-designed templates for easy development of your new website**

Want to know more? Go to the event registration pages, or take a look at the event brochure. Please share the brochure with others who may be interested:

Building Effective Church Websites

[Registration for Friday, May 5](#)

[Registration for Saturday, May 6](#)

[Brochure](#)

SHARON KATZ AND THE PEACE TRAIN

- **FILM, DISCUSSION, AND CONCERT**
- **Saturday, April 22 -- 6 pm to 9:15 pm**
- **Sanctuary of First UMC of Germantown** (6001 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia 19144)
- **\$20 per person**

The evening will begin with a screening and Q&A discussion of the award-winning documentary film, *When Voices Meet*. From a nation torn apart by Apartheid, children of many races led by Sharon Katz, sang their way into the hearts and souls of the people of South Africa to heal a nation. The project was called, **"The Peace Train."** *When Voices Meet* documents the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those musician activists and young choir members. They performed together for seven years and then reunited 20 years later to tell their stories and reflect upon **The Peace Train's** impact. It's a joyful, inspiring story of hope and determination despite tremendous obstacles, including lessons that apply to American issues today. After a brief intermission, **Sharon Katz and The Peach Train** will perform a concert. **Purchase tickets at <https://sharonkatzfumcog.eventbrite.com>.** For more answers to questions, email LisaNChapman@comcast.net. A flyer about this event is attached to this E-Alert email and may be downloaded for distribution.



WELLSPRING MARCH/APRIL 2017

The regularly scheduled newsletter of the Health & Healing Council of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is attached to this E-Alert email. To view the newsletter online, go to <https://www.epaumc.org/?s=wellspring>. Please distribute it to your parishioners and others interested in health and healing. If your church has not joined the 10,000 Church Challenge to find Abundant

Health, members of the Council hope your church will join the challenge soon. More information on this challenge is in the Wellspring newsletter.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL FAITH AND SPIRITUAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES: ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services, Faith and Spiritual Affairs, The Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission, and Behavioral Health Training Education Network are pleased to sponsor the 11th annual Faith and Spiritual Affairs Conference Empowering Families and Communities: **Addressing the Opioid Epidemic** on **Friday, April 28** from **8 am to 4 pm** at the **Pennsylvania Convention Center**, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia 19107.

Conference Purpose:

It is estimated that 23.5 million Americans are addicted to alcohol or drugs and approximately 20% of all Americans smoke cigarettes. The consequences of addiction are numerous; it results in a number of health problems, disrupts families and other relationships, and can leave individuals isolated, depressed, and even suicidal. Addictions can lead to vulnerability to behavioral health challenges. Despite all of these difficulties, countless individuals confront and overcome their addictions every year, often with the help of their faith, family, community, healthcare professionals, and treatment programs.

The conference will provide workshops and poster presentations from some of the foremost authorities in the addiction field. Topics will include evidence-based treatments, inclusion of spirituality as part of treatment, medication management, and family empowerment.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

EAST DISTRICT TOOLS for MINISTRY

Saturday, April 29, 2017

LOCATION: Bensalem UMC, 4300 Hulmeville Rd., Bensalem PA 19020

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register now to get your first choice workshops.

Online registration now available for East District Tools for Ministry:

Click [TOOLS](#) to register online.

Registration fee includes Plenary, 2 Workshops, & Food

- Standard registration is \$20
- Group registration is \$15 per person with 5+ registrants
- Late registration is \$25 after April 21st and walk-ins

Schedule

8 am-9am Sign-in and Breakfast Foods available

9 am-9:45 am Worship, Offering received, Plenary

10 am-11:45 am Workshop Session #1

Noon - 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 pm-2:15 pm Workshop Session #2

2:15 pm Adjourn

A 2+ page paper brochure is attached to this email. Online registrations are encouraged.

EAST DISTRICT ANNUAL PASTORAL INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

This year's (2017) pastoral interviews for pastors who will be on the newly forming East District, effective July 1, 2017, are **ALL** calendared **to take place prior to the 2017 Annual Conference** (June 18-20). **Attached to this email E-Alert is the current schedule.**

Pastors who have been serving on the current East District will be meeting with District Superintendent Bass in cluster groups. If you believe your interview is erroneously placed within a particular cluster, please notify Clarita Krall (cakrall@epaumc.org or [215-914-2130](tel:215-914-2130)).

Pastors who have been serving on the current Central and Northeast Districts, but who will be on the newly forming East District, will be meeting individually with Rev. Bass. Some interviews will take place in various church locations and some will take place at the Central District Office at Simpson House.

Deacons working out of the Conference area and extension ministers have telephone call appointments. The schedule shows the telephone number to use when calling in at the appointed time.

Also **attached is the 2017 Clergy Profile**. Be sure to complete it and return it 2 weeks prior to your interview to cakrall@epaumc.org.

If you have not done so already, please check the schedule now to be sure you know when and where your interview is scheduled to take place, and **then please confirm your interview date and time via email to cakrall@epaumc.org.**

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 May 4, 2017** 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. The **registration deadline is April 14, 2017**. For more information, contact Lloyd Speer at 215-943-2343, or lfsppeer3@comcast.net.

MINISTER OF VISITATION

Christ UMC in Fairless Hills is looking for a part-time Minister of Visitation. For more information, or to submit an application, call the church office at 215-943-2343.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold the family of **the Rev. Merrill E. Graves**, 93, a retired full Elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in prayer. Rev. Graves passed away on March 11. He resided in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Patricia Seifert Graves. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her address, P.O. Box 1262, Roebuck, SC 29376-1262. Rev. Graves served Geigertown: St. Paul's, Honeybrook, Harmony, Radnor, Thorndale, Bensalem, Elam, and Readers. Click [here](#) to read his obituary.

Please hold **Mr. Jim Cruickshank** and his family in prayer during this time of grieving for his mother who passed away on Wednesday, March 8. Mr. Cruickshank is the Executive Director of Administrative Ministries and Treasurer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Condolences may be sent to him at PO Box 820, Valley Forge PA 19482-0820.