

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR April 7, 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.

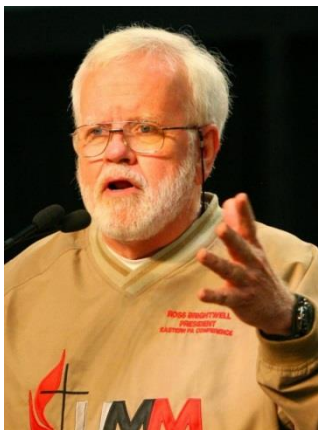
The E-Alert is sent to Pastors and Church Offices on the East District and to lay people who have requested being added to the distribution list. Feel free to clip or copy any article for your church's bulletin or newsletter unless permission has specifically been granted to the East District for publication, 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Remember in prayer the family of **Mr. Jorge L. Ortiz**, former lay pastor of **Phila.: El Mesias** from 2002-2011 who died yesterday, April 6, after an illness. A viewing is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 10, from 3 pm to 5 pm at Ora L. Wooster Funeral Home, 51 Park Boulevard, Clementon NJ 08021. A second viewing is scheduled for Monday morning, April 11, from 10:15 am to 10:45 am at Laurel Hill Bible Church, 1260 Blackwood –Clementon Road, Clementon NJ 08021. A funeral service will follow the viewing. Condolences may be sent to Mr. Ortiz's widow, Mrs. Nilda Ortiz at 38 Peoria Lane, Sicklerville NJ 08081.

ROSS BRIGHTWELL MEMORIALIZED IN TRIBUTE

The General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) posted a [memorial tribute](#) to **Ross Brightwell**, former president of the Eastern PA Conference UM Men from 2007 to 2015, on its website. Brightwell, 69, died from illness on March 27. He was a prominent layman in the conference who organized numerous annual gatherings--from men's softball tournaments to United Methodist Day at Philadelphia Phillies and 76ers games and at the Philadelphia Zoo and Dorney Park. His goals always were to bring public visibility to his denomination, stimulate fellowship among its members and raise funds for UM Men. He also led the men at Annual Conference each year in distributing bags of gleaned potatoes donated for the poor by the Society of St. Andrew.



The GCUMM tribute honors Brightwell, a former vice president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men, for his leadership in the National Association of Conference UMM Presidents and his support for his beloved alma mater Indiana University of Pennsylvania's marching band. The tribute also tells the interesting story of how he became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

The Eastern PA Conference UM Men plans to honor its former president with scholarships to help children and youth from low-income families and troubled neighborhoods participate in Carson-Simpson Farm's summer camp and "Peace Ministries" program for older youth.

A Memorial Service is planned for friends and family on Saturday, April 30 at 2 pm at Jarretstown UMC (1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher PA 19025). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jarretstown UMC Memorial Fund.

EAST DISTRICT NEWS

REV. YVETTE DAVIS PRESENTS AT EAST DISTRICT BREAKFAST WITH THE DS

Rev. Yvette Davis returns to the East District for the Breakfast with the DS on **Tuesday, April 12** from **9 am-10:30 am** at **Bensalem Korean UMC** (2820 Mechanicsville Road, Bensalem 19020). She will be sharing an overview on grant writing and information about a foundation grant that awards grants for funding technology for churches. Bring cash to pay for your breakfast. And, to help the host church prepare, **if you have not done so already**, please your intention regarding attendance to cakrall@epaumc.org as soon as possible.

UPCOMING EAST DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING WITH BISHOP JOHNSON

This is to remind you of the upcoming Town Hall Meeting with Bishop Peggy A. Johnson's on the East District on **Tuesday, April 19th** at **7 pm** at **UMC of Huntingdon Valley** (3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley 19006) to discuss possible structural changes and re-districting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Click [here](#) to read more. **All voting members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference are urged to attend – Elders, Local Pastors, Lay Members, and Equalizing Members.**

2004 CHEVY 10-PASSENGER CHURCH VAN FOR SALE

Willow Grove UMC (34 N. York Rd., Willow Grove PA 19090) has a **2004 Chevrolet 3500 Express 10-passenger van with 26,600 miles** on it for sale. The van has new tires and is mechanically sound. For more information and/or interest, contact Andrew Johnson at andrewjohnsoproductions@gmail.com or at 267-251-8542. The Kelly Blue Book value is listed as \$10,000 and the church trustees will prayerfully consider offers. Photos on a flyer are attached to this E-Alert email.

SEEKING PART-TIME COMMUNITY DEVELOPER COORDINATOR

Casa del Pueblo, a Latino Ministry of Lehman Memorial UMC in Hatboro, is in the process of opening a Community Center and has an immediate part-time position available for a bi-lingual (Spanish-English) Community Developer Coordinator. The salary is \$20,000 per year. For more information, call Pastor Luky Cotto at 215-470-2229 or the church office at 215-347-1020. If interested, send your resume to Anawim Project, 300 South York Road, Hatboro PA 19040. The application process closes on April 15, 2016.

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 **training workshops** on **May 12, 2016** and **September 8, 2016** 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 Rev. Speer at 215-943-2343 or lspeer3@comcast.net.

FALLSINGTON UMC RECOGNIZED: LIVING NATIVITY IS A WINNER IN THE "BEST IN BUCKS COUNTY"

The 2016 **"Everything Bucks" Outdoor Event WINNER** is **The Living Nativity at Fallsington UMC**, beating out other finalists in the Outdoor category – McConkey's Market (Washington Crossing), Washington Crossing Brewfest by Friends of Washington Crossing Park, Southampton Days by Southampton Days Committee, Inc., Middletown Grange Fair...see more at <http://bucks.happeningmag.com/happeninglist/outdoor-event-2016/#sthash.sQh8cEvQ.dpuf>. There will be a **2016 Bucks Happening List Red Carpet Bash** on **April 21st**. Tickets for the bash are on sale now and will sell out. Click [here](#) to learn more and to reserve tickets.

CONFERENCE NEWS

DELEGATES TO HEAR MEMBERS' GENERAL CONFERENCE CONCERNS

The Eastern PA Conference delegation to General and Jurisdictional conferences is sponsoring **four Listening and Discernment Sessions** this month--three of them face-to-face and one by telephone. Delegates will not speak but instead will listen to annual conference members' concerns about important aspects of proposed legislation coming before the global legislative gathering.

The schedule for the listening sessions is:

- **Mon., April 11**, from **7 to 9 pm**, at **Wesley UMC**, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem PA 18017.
- **Sat., April 16**, from **10 am to Noon**, at **Simpson House**, 2101 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131.
- **Wed., April 20**, from **7 to 8:30 pm**, at **UMC of the Good Shepherd**, 1500 Quentin Rd., Lebanon PA 17042.
- **Sat., April 23**, from **9 to 10:30 am**, in which the delegation will conduct a telephone outreach session to hear members' views. They will call a dozen persons who sign up online in advance to request phone calls so they

may offer their comments. Each call should last about five (5) minutes or less, with short breaks in-between, allowing the delegation to complete about 12 calls in the 90-minute session. Once again, they will only listen to comments for their discernment; they will not respond.

"The objective is to just listen, which will be very difficult," said Judy Ehninger, delegation co-leader. "This new telephone listening session demonstrates our desire to give all an opportunity to be heard."

Persons who wish to receive a telephone outreach call from the delegation on Saturday, April 23, from 9 to 10:30 am, should use [this link](#) on our new SetMore.com call scheduling service to reserve a time for a call. If anyone needs help signing up, they may e-mail the [Conference Communications Office](#) or call [484-762-8215](tel:484-762-8215).

"We look forward to all these April listening sessions, as they will provide us opportunities to hear from our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Conference," said the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, delegation co-leader. "Those who attend are welcome to speak or to just sit and listen to the conversation. All that we do will be done in a spirit of Holy Conferencing."

For information on General Conference issues the delegates will address, review this story, "[Delegates prepare for General, NEJ conferences.](#)"

NORTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET BEING CREATED FOR NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

On **July 11-15** more than 300 leaders of the Northeastern Jurisdiction will gather within the confines of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Northeastern Jurisdiction includes nearly two million members, thousands of local churches, and three of the denomination's major theological seminaries and comprises ten annual conferences stretching from Maine to West Virginia, organized into nine episcopal areas, each led by an assigned resident bishop. This Jurisdiction, which is one of five United Methodist areas across the United States gave birth to our global denomination more than two centuries ago.

A souvenir program booklet is being created for this significant event. This professionally printed booklet will include greetings from public officials, the Conference agenda and organizational information, and appropriate ads in various sizes to promote vendors' ministries, service, and products. You are invited to consider purchasing space for a greeting or an advertisement. For more information about placing an ad, refer to the Souvenir Booklet attachment to the email from which this E-Alert was sent.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

AN INSURANCE E-BOOK RESOURCE FOR CONGREGATIONS

United Methodist Insurance (UMI), the insurance company for the denomination's local churches, provides a free, easy-to-use resource for local churches that briefly explains insurance concepts to be considered when reviewing church insurance policies. The **Safety and Insurance Handbook for Churches** is the newly released e-book that explains property and liability insurance in clear language and helps church leaders to protect assets. It includes a safety checklist, an index and a glossary of terms. To receive the free e-book, [click here](#). Also accessible from our conference [Website's Trustees Page](#).

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