

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR August 12, 2015

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

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/>; see article below), 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

We have received word that **Mrs. Laura Hathaway**, 88, passed away on March 22, 2015. She was the surviving spouse of The Rev. John A. Hathaway, who preceded her in death in 1993. She is survived by her son, John A. Hathaway, and three grandchildren: Lauren, Evan, and Caroline Hathaway. The Rev. John A. Hathaway served the following churches: Georgetown-Mount Pleasant, Bethesda, Pottsville: Evangelical, and Shamokin: St. John's. Mrs. Hathaway's obituary is available at the [Reynolds Funeral home website](#).

Mrs. Barbara M. (Osborn) Ness, 80, of Fawn Grove PA, died Saturday, August 1. She was the wife of the Rev. John Ness Jr., a retired elder in the Eastern PA Conference. Mrs. Ness was a bank teller for many years, retiring from Wells Fargo in Sea Girt NJ. She is survived by her husband, three children, and five grandchildren. Services, handled by J.J. Hartenstein Mortuary in Stewartstown PA, were private, as requested by the family. Rev. John Ness served the following churches: Orwigsburg: Salem, Landingville: Welcome, Cedarville, and Lebanon: Covenant. He also served in Extension Ministry to the General Board of Global Ministries.

NEWS

Charge Conference Forms are now available to download from the Conference website. Click [here](#) for Charge Conference information. Be sure to check out the first two forms on the page: *Instructions* and *Church Forms Schedule*, which will give various due dates for receiving the forms in the District Office. **The first deadline is August 31st for 4 of the reports!!**

THE CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN THANKS YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Thanks to supporters of The Center for Grieving Children, many more persons have been impacted. In the past year, 1,323 children have been served through grief support groups and post-crisis interventions --

- 289 children through in school [Community-Based grief groups](#)
- 145 children through [Center-Based groups](#)
- 889 children and 28 professionals in 8 post-crisis interventions
- 158 parents and caregivers served through grief support groups

- 252 professionals and caregivers reached through 9 training sessions, including the Center's **FIRST training in Spanish!**

The Center thanks all for everything done to support grieving children and families throughout Philadelphia. While this past year had been the most impactful in The Center's history, there is still much more to do. The Center encourages your partnership as it continues to make Philadelphia stronger, one child at a time.

Upcoming Center dates:

- **Friday, October 9:** Dr. Robert Neimeyer, PhD, will present Continuing Education event, "*Reconstructing the Continuing Bond: Accessing the Back Story of the Relationship.*" The event will take place at **The Falls Center Auditorium** (3300 Henry Ave., Philadelphia) from **8:30 am to 4:30 pm**. For more information, contact Lauren DeMarco, Director of Community-Based Programming, at lauren@grievingchildren.org or 267-437-3123.
- **Thursday, November 9:** 5th Annual Fall Fest – November may seem like a long way away, but it will be here sooner than you think! The Center's 5th Annual Fall Fest will take place on Children's Grief Awareness Day (November 9) at Vie (600 N. Broad St., Philadelphia 19130). If you are interested in sponsoring, volunteering, or attending Fall Fest, contact Austin Egan, Director of Development & Communications at Austin@grievingchildren.org or 267-437-3123, extension 4.

EPA CONFERENCE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Eastern PA Conference's long-awaited new Website is here and available for use at www.epaumc.org. Offering more content, more colorful imagery, and more convenience for users, the new site includes:

- conference, district and denominational news, views and events;
- resources for church leaders; and
- multiple, informative pages for ministry program areas, communications media and administrative services.

New features include: an Archives and History page; a Giving opportunities page; a staff directory; a church search module and one for appointed pastors still being developed. Other new features include two blogs--titled "NEWSpirit Blog" and "From Pulpit & Pew"--and three strategic content sections, titled "Inform," "Inspire" and "Involve."

Visit the new site today and often. There's much to read, quality photography to appreciate, and new content added weekly. Also, please respond to a short, nine-question [feedback survey](#). Your answers may help in further development and refining of this new communication and engagement tool to better serve you and the needs of the conference.

IN 1954, METHODISTS TOOK TO THE TUBE

Throughout the 75-year history of United Methodist Communications and its predecessor agencies, newly developing media tools have shaped how the church communicates faith. As the countdown to the anniversary date of **October 1st** continues, check out the story [here](#).

NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS: COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE WORLD

- **United Methodist Communications leads global training with user-centered design** – United Methodist Communications is a game changer in Communications technology. By ramping up its trainings in Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Philippines, it is working with local leadership in areas impacted by new technology to teach and collaborate on the newest technologies on the ground. [Read more.](#)
- **Redefining ministry through communications technology** – Through emerging technology, The United Methodist Church is redefining what it means to be in ministry with the world. In 2015, the number of unique mobile phone users around the world passed 50 percent of the world's total population. Mobile phone access has saved the lives of many who do not have access to the conveniences of modern medicine and timely communication. [Read more.](#)
- **Game Changers Summit** – Register today for the Game Changers Summit, beginning **September 17th** and **concluding September 19th** to learn from renowned leaders how to use communications technologies to improve lives and communities around the world. [Register now.](#)

UMCMarket.org GETS UPGRADE

Nashville, TN – The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) announced that the online shopping portal, UMCMarket, was relaunched on July 13th using more advanced technology and faster delivery of donations. Working with Tribute, Inc. the **relaunched** UMCMarket provides an enhanced user experience, quicker access to status reports, regular distribution of micro-donations, and the addition of hundreds of savings offers for participants.

Doug Spear, Tribute President, said “We are very excited to support GCFA’s vision for church members to have the ability to make micro-donations that benefit United Methodist church ministries. Tribute’s product platform is ideally suited to enable and enhance UMCmarket.org, and we look forward to providing a program that benefits the ministry of local churches.”

Moses Kumar, top executive for GCFA said, “When we launched UMCMarket in 2012, we were confident that the people of the Church who shop online would support and utilize it as an innovative way to raise funds for the ministries of local United Methodist churches. We have collaboratively worked with Tribute on this program that will help local churches make a difference in their communities with the funds that are raised.”

The look of the new site for micro-donations has changed, but the foundational functionality and benefits remain the same – United Methodists who shop the thousands of retailers available can generate donations to support their churches. Existing users will sign up to establish an account with the new provider and designate the ministry they choose to support. All users will be able to watch an overview video and review frequently asked questions prior to signing up. An online marketing toolkit is provided to help participating churches communicate the opportunity to their ministries, which includes how-to videos, PowerPoint slides, and bulletin inserts.

For more information, contact the Shared Services Department at GCFA: sharedservices@gcfa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration deadline for *Safe and Healthy Churches Training for Ending Family Violence* is this Friday, August 15th.

The training will take place on **October 23rd and 24th** in **King of Prussia** and is sponsored by [FaithTrust Institute](#). Even churches which sent teams to the June 6th training can send another team. Click [here](#) for registration information.

Deaconess Sharon Hachtman, RN, says, “*I have experienced their training in ways that have changed my understanding of the nature of domestic violence and equipped me for informed response in Christian love.*” She urges churches to send a team to this free training, offering a wonderful opportunity to come together and learn how to create safe places for victims and survivors by ensuring that our churches are places of refuge and informed support. She is willing to speak with you further if you have more questions. Call her at 570-460-7301 or email her at shhooma@live.com.

Sunday, August 23rd is Campus Ministry Sunday in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Has your church considered how to engage with the young people in your congregation as they prepare to head back to college shortly? Consider using **Campus Ministry Sunday** to invite a young adult or a campus chaplain to speak about personal experiences and needs – and remember to plan for a special offering to support campus ministry in this region. For more information, go to <http://www.epaumc.org/ministry/campus/> or contact the Rev. Jason Perkowski, Chair, Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry at jbperkowski@gmail.com. To download a flyer for **Campus Ministry Sunday**, click [here](#). To link to the Facebook page of the Conference’s Young Adult Ministry, go to <https://www.facebook.com/EPACCYAM?pnref=story>.

Prospectville: First Korean UMC (1049 Davis Grove Rd., Ambler) is hosting an **Exhibition of Traditional Korean Art by Jae-Lea Kim** from **Sunday, Aug. 30 to Saturday, Sept. 12** (*Tuesday to Sunday, 5 pm-7 pm*). The OPENING RECEPTION is scheduled for August 30th at 5 pm. All donations go the Haiti Mission Trip fundraising campaign. A flyer is attached to this E-News email.

“**Only Four Things Grow Your Church**” Workshop is **Saturday, September 19** from **9 am to 4 pm** at St. Matthew’s UMC (600 Walker Rd., Wayne PA 19087). Cost is \$75. Register [here](#) now!

A 2nd Annual Hero Dash 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run to benefit Pocono Plateau is scheduled to begin at **10 am** on **Saturday, September 19th** to benefit Pocono Plateau’s **Pathway to Our Future** initiative. All participants are asked to raise \$50 in donations. Register to run at www.tinyurl.com/herodash. For more information, or donor sponsor sheets, click [here](#).

Pocono Plateau is a ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Healing Communities Training Event is **Saturday, October 10** from **9 am to 4 pm** at St. Matthew's UMC (600 Walker Rd., Wayne PA 19087). The vision for this training is building relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration. Cost is \$25. For more information, click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE OF OCTOBER 14 for Bishop Peggy Johnson's DAY ON THE EAST DISTRICT! Stay tuned for details.

RE-ELECTION OF 2016 GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES (click [here](#) to learn more) will take place at the **Adjourned Session**, scheduled for **Saturday, November 14** with registration beginning at 8 am. The location has been changed to the Macungie campus of **Bethany UMC**, 3801 Brookside Rd, Macungie PA 18062. Irregularities in the reports generated by use of the voting devices are the cause for the re-election. **All lay members of Annual Conference and all clergy** (part time and full Local Pastors, provisional Elders and Deacons, and full Elders and Deacons) **are expected to attend.**

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FOR AC 2016 NOW!

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is trying to gain favor at the Lancaster Marriott for the 2016 Annual Conference, and you may be able to help. The Conference really needs members who plan to attend Annual Conference to start making room reservations now for the **June 16-18** session. As more early reservations are made, the Conference can get more leverage with the hotel staff for its meeting and hospitality needs. So if you can, please reserve your rooms now at the Lancaster Marriott, Penn Square, 25 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 ([717-239-1500](tel:717-239-1500)). The online [room registrations](#) rate is \$129/day. Discounted parking in the garage is \$7/day. Please, please [book your hotel room now](#).



PRESSING ON TO THE GOAL IN OUR RACE TO END MALARIA

Be sure to read Bishop Peggy Johnson's recent [Bishop's Blog appeal](#) for Eastern PA Conference churches to help The UMC reach its goal to raise \$75 million in the Imagine No Malaria campaign by 2016. That achievement may effectively wipe out the deadly disease that has taken so many lives, mostly in Africa.

"The Eastern PA Conference has given much toward this effort in the last 8 years," she writes, recalling that the original Nothing But Nets campaign launched in early 2007 was inspired by the efforts of a 6-year-old member of Hopewell UMC. So far we have raised \$66 million. "We are getting close," writes the bishop, citing many life-saving benefits so far, including distributing 2 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets, training 11,600 volunteers and reducing the infection rate by half. "And it seems only right that we here in the Eastern PA Conference should finish what we started.

"We will launch our new campaign this summer, and we ask that you and your church join us in fervent prayer," she urges. "We want full participation from all our districts, churches and mission connexions. Our conference can play a big role in helping our entire church push this effort across the finish line. Please give generously and think creatively about how you can raise the needed funds." [Learn more...](#)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Bishop Johnson urges churches to honor the 25-year old ADA law

July marks 25 years since the **Americans with Disabilities Act** became U.S. law in 1990. In her July 21st Bishop's Blog essay, Bishop Peggy Johnson recalls some major improvements the law brought to Deaf people during her pastorate at Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore. "The ADA Law set Deaf people free," she writes. "One of the most important parts of the law was equal access to communication."

The bishop, whose passionate advocacy for people with disabilities is well known, celebrates the historic law's provision of accessibility for people with hearing, visual and mobility challenges, including more access to education, recreation, employment, and transportation.

"I urge you to find new ways every year to improve your church's accessibility--be it physical or attitudinal," she writes. "Your church can sign onto the new [Faith Community Proclamation](#) in honor of the 25th anniversary of the ADA law. The ADA website is a good place to make a commitment to continue the work of accessibility and advocacy; but there are additional resources available as well. The address is <http://www.adaanniversary.org>. [Read more of her Bishop's Blog essay...](#)

RESOURCES

Opportunities to Grow at Drew Theological School include the following Fall programming:

- Through its [Spiritual Leadership Today](#) series, Drew offers one Friday and one Saturday seminar each month for September, October, and November. Topics range from pastoral care, small group ministry, worship planning, pastoral leadership, and Bible study. The cost is very affordable: \$25/workshop and \$35 per CEU (3 workshops = 1 CEU). drew.edu/SLT
- An upcoming webinar, "[Technology and Christian Values](#)" explores the ethical issues related to technological changes such as Twitter activism, crowd source funding, and technology and sexuality. Offered September 16, 23, 30, and October 7 from 2-3:30p EST. Just \$20/session. drew.edu/techvalues
- October 13-14: Drew's annual [Tipple-Vosburgh Lectures](#) titled "The Future of Global Christianities and Mission: 130 Years After the Appenzellers" will honor the legacy of Henry Appenzeller and push participants to think about how the past influences the present and future of global mission. drew.edu/tipple
- October 29th: [Dr. John Dominic Crossan](#) will deliver Drew' 2015 Halstead Lecture at 7:30 pm in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts. This is *free and open to the public*. Registration is requested. drew.edu/halstead.