

# **EAST DISTRICT**

E-ALERT FOR

**August 24, 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.

## **ACADEMY FOR CHURCH FINANCE**

### **Breathe New Life into Your Stewardship**

#### **A Program that Guides Laity & Clergy to Make it Happen**

This new program builds upon the highly successful Financial Leadership Academy. In this new program, clergy and laity will work side by side to develop a comprehensive stewardship plan. The tuition can be paid over three years.

Some keys to this program:

- The very successful Academy Model
- It is a team approach of Pastor and 2-4 Laity attending
- 4 Saturdays over 18 months
- Lunch
- Books
- Videos
- Each Church accomplishes its own Individual action plan
- Guide/Facilitator to assist in between sessions

For more information, visit the [website](#) (for Wilmington location), read the [brochure](#), or e-mail the MAUMF's Frank Robert at [frankrobert.mafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:frankrobert.mafoundation@gmail.com).

## **HEEDING GOD'S CALL NORTHEAST PHILLY WORKING GROUP**

The Rev. David (Dave) W. Brown, Chair of Heeding God's Call Northeast Philly, has called a planning meeting for **Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** at the Medical Mission Sisters Admin. Building (8400 Pine Road, Philadelphia 19111). Beginning at 6:30 pm with a shared meal, checking in and catching up, a structured meeting will follow promptly at 7 pm, the goal of which will be to determine next steps in the campaign to stop straw purchasing and ending gun violence. If you are interested in joining this group, please email Dave at [pastdave81@gmail.com](mailto:pastdave81@gmail.com) for more information.

## **PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY UNITED METHODIST ALUMNI REUNION**

Eastern Baptist/Palmer Theological Seminary alumni are invited to a reunion on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 4 pm at Eastern University (1300 Eagle Road, St. Davids 19087). Cost is \$25 per person.

Register at [www.alumni.eastern.edu](http://www.alumni.eastern.edu). Highlights of the day include a session with Bishop Peggy Johnson, buffet lunch, gathering to reminisce with classmates and friends, guest speakers, and worship. Rev. Bron Yocum reports the Bishop Violet Fisher is also planning to attend.

A full schedule is posted online. For more information or answers to questions, contact Rev. Yocum at [bronyocum@gmail.com](mailto:bronyocum@gmail.com) or Laura Manger '98, Coordinator of Alumni Events & Special Projects at [lmanger@eastern.edu](mailto:lmanger@eastern.edu) or 610-341-1712. A flyer is attached to this E-Alert email.

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERO DASH 5K & FUN RUN**

On **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, **Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center** hosts its annual Hero Dash and Fun Run. The **Hero Dash** is a 5K road/trail hybrid course showing off the best views of Pocono Plateau. It is a professionally timed race with age group winners (19 & under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 plus). The **Fun Run** is a flat one-mile out and back course that is perfect for walkers and strollers. The race **fee is \$20** (through September 9) and **\$25** (from September 10-23). **Bling:** A short-sleeved tech shirt is guaranteed for all participants who sign up by September 9). Register to run at <http://tinyurl.com/herodash2017>. Participants may RUN or WALK any event! Click [here](#) to read more.

#### **PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH 2017**

**When: Saturday, September 30, 2017 – 11:30 to 5:30 pm**

**Where: Hopewell UMC, 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown PA 19335**

**Theme: Pray for the City**

The keynote speaker at this year's Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth event has a message that can be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/229896724>. This can be downloaded and shared with your congregations, or the link can be forwarded, so that no one misses this great opportunity on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Hopewell UMC in Downingtown PA. After viewing the video message, detailed information about this 14<sup>th</sup> annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth event, *Pray for the City*, including ministry workshop descriptions, schedule, and registration can be found at <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds>. Or, go directly to the registration page at <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds-registration>. Don't delay in registering. Seating and workshop slots are limited. The Hopewell Planting Seeds Ministry Team looks forward to seeing participants on September 30<sup>th</sup> when prayers *for the City* will be raised and the possibilities of *putting up paradise* in our communities will be imagined.

#### **UNITED METHODIST SEMINAR PROGRAM**

As your local church begins planning for 2018, consider taking a group to Washington DC for a General Board of Church and Society Seminar, where social advocacy and engagement intersects with faith and scripture. Whether it's poverty, immigration, or the challenges of racism and prejudice, Church and Society seminars can instruct, equip, and empower United Methodists to do justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. A pdf with more information is attached to the E-Alert email.

#### **UPDATED MISSION CONNEXION GRID**

The District Office is continually updating the District Mission ConneXion. Attached is the most recent update.

#### **EAST DISTRICT CELEBRATION**

Clergy are requested to encourage Laity of your church to attend the 5:30 pm Dinner with Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Laity Session afterwards. **Clergy are required to attend the 4 pm Session with Bishop Johnson.** Registration is open now. Click [here](#) to register by September 5.

**Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017** *(Note the change of location from what was previously announced.)*

**Location: Sanctuary United Methodist Church, 1346 E. Prospect Ave., North Wales PA 19454**

**Agenda:**

4 pm Clergy Session with Bishop Johnson

Devotions – Bishop Johnson

Presentation on Leadership – Bishop Johnson

Every clergy will receive a copy of Grace to Lead

Report from Director of Connectional Ministries, Dr. Anita A. Powell

Report from Mrs. Jo Fielding, Executive Director of Pension and Health Benefits & Director of Administrative Ministries

Report from *new* Conference Treasurer

Announcements from District Superintendent Tracy Bass

5:30 pm Clergy and Laity Buffet DINNER with Bishop Johnson for \$10 per person

Hot Roast Beef; Sausage, Onion & Peppers; Baked Chicken

Cold meats and cheeses: ham, roast beef, turkey breast, corned beef, Genoa salami, American & Swiss cheeses

Salads: potato, macaroni, cole slaw, pickles, tomatoes

Rolls & rye bread

Desserts

6:30 pm Laity Session with Bishop Johnson

Worship – District Lay Leader Mrs. Karen Fisher, DS Bass, and Conference Lay Leader Mr. David Koch

Devotions – Bishop Johnson

Presentation on Leadership – Bishop Johnson

Conference Lay Leader Report – Mr. Koch

Report from Director of Connectional Ministries, Dr. Anita A. Powell

Report from Mrs. Jo Fielding, Executive Director of Pension and Health Benefits & Director of Administrative Ministries

Report from *new* Conference Treasurer

Announcements from District Superintendent Tracy Bass

**CHARGE CONFERENCE FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ON CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

Charge Conference forms are now posted on the Conference website. Click [here](#) to access and download. **All forms except the Church Budget and Fund Balance report are due two weeks before your charge conference.** Completed forms may be emailed as attachments to the East District Office at [cakrall@epaumc.org](mailto:cakrall@epaumc.org), mailed (East District Office, Simpson House, Suite 1, 2101 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131), or hand-delivered to the District Office.

Pay close attention to the [2017 Church Forms Schedule](#). This is the “on year” for submitting the “**Safety and Accessibility Inspection**” form. The **Action Plan** does not have to be submitted. All Safe Sanctuary policies should be updated according to the Resolution 2016-09. **The Accountability Agreement between the EPA UMC and the BSA** was introduced in 2016 and must be completed every three years. Therefore this must only be completed this year:

- if it was not completed in 2016
- if there is a new BSA troop at your church
- if there has been a change in scout leadership

District Superintendent Tracy L. Bass will be conducting all the charge conferences for the churches that have recently become part of the *new* East District. Churches that have been under the supervision of District Superintendent Bass as part of the previous East District will participate in

cluster charge conferences with an elder officiating. Information about dates, times, and facilitators is available in two formats: click [here](#) for the alphabetical format by church “location: name” or [here](#) for the calendar format.

### **LAITY RETREAT 2017**

*Responding to the Nearness of God.... ....and the message of the Prophet Isaiah*

**When: Saturday, September 9**

**Time: 9 am to 1:30 pm**

**Where: 490 West Boot Road, West Chester PA 19380**

**Registration fee is \$35 and includes meals and retreat materials.**

Attached to this E-Alert email is a registration form. To register on-line or for more information, visit the Conference website at <https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/2017-laity-retreat/>.