

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR August 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.

EAST DISTRICT OVERNIGHT GATHERING, JAN. 20–21 FOR CONVERSATION ON RACE RELATIONS

This upcoming year of 2017, there is no Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat planned. Instead, the East District will host an **Overnight Gathering for Conversation on Race Relations, Friday, January 20 through Saturday, January 21** for East District clergy and laity. A retreat site has not yet been confirmed, but we are negotiating for a location that is not too distant from the East District with comfortable sleeping accommodations. **We need your commitment to attend and participate as we move forward with plans.** Please email the East District Office (cakrall@epaumc.org) with your commitment to participate so that we can move forward with the best negotiated venue.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We have received word that **Mrs. Marie Tyson**, mother of **District Superintendent H. Joe Tyson** (Northwest District) and former District Superintendent of Anna Howard Shaw District, has entered into life eternal. A funeral is planned for Friday in Oklahoma. Please keep Joe and Leslie in your prayers as they travel to Oklahoma. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Tyson at 110 Autumn Trail, Coatesville, PA 19320.

We have received notice that **The Rev. Dale Norris Cowan** passed away on July 25. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Linda Cowan, and sons, Scott T. Cowan and Kevin W. Cowan. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Linda Cowan at 417 Main Street, Apt. 312, Niantic, CT 06357. A service will be held at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on August 11 at 11 am with a procession forming at Kreamer-Lum Funeral Home, 5 Campmeeting Road, Jonestown PA at 10:30 am. Emmanuel Church in Indiantown Gap will be providing a luncheon afterward. Rev. Cowan served the following until his retirement as a full member in 2004: Levittown: Emilie; Division of Chaplains, USA; Nuremberg: Bethany; Ringtown: Aurand Memorial; Zion Grove: Davis Chapel; and Indiantown Gap: Emmanuel.

CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY IS AUGUST 21

The Eastern PA Conference **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry** invites congregations to celebrate **Campus Ministry Sunday on Aug. 21** by highlighting the importance of church and campus ministries that involve and impact college and university students. The Board works with campus ministers primarily at four schools within its bounds: Drexel, Millersville, Lebanon Valley College, and Albright College. However, it is exploring relationships with other institutions as well. **Please plan to receive a Campus Ministry Sunday special offering on or near Aug. 21 and remit at least half of it to the Conference Treasurer's Office to help in our supportive outreach to college and university students.**

LAITY RETREAT ON SEPTEMBER 17 AT JARRETTOWN UMC

Registration is now open for the 2017 Laity Retreat, scheduled from **9 am-1:30 pm** at **Jarrettown UMC**, Fellowship Hall, 1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher 19025 on **Saturday, September 17. Registration is \$25** and includes retreat materials and

meals. Theme for the day is **Perceiving, Believing and Receiving our Blessedness...A Beatitudes Reflection**. A registration link is provided at <https://epaumc.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/35737> or a registration form (with mailing and payment instructions) is attached for your convenience. Email Suzette James at suezyq@earthlink.net with inquiries.

NEWS

CHURCH NAME CHANGE

Solid Rock United Methodist Church, the East District One-Church-At-A-Time Mission Project has changed its name to **St. James United Methodist Church**. The church is located at 199 E. Tabor Road in the Olney section of Philadelphia.

FORMER EAST DISTRICT PASTOR JULIA SINGLETON SHARES COMMISSIONING EXPERIENCE



The Rev. Julia Singleton, a local pastor at Christ UMC in Middletown, was commissioned a Provisional Elder on July 17, during Annual Conference. She shares what that life-changing experience was like from the inside out. "I was reminded that I am a beloved child of God. The affirmation I felt was so amazingly overwhelming, all I could do was weep," she writes, recalling that she felt the church weeping as well, in the midst of its collective pain. "In those tears were my joy and grieving, affirmation and pain, nerves and excitement....So I wept with abandon. It was my prayer to God." [Learn more...](#)

KOREAN CHURCHES TRAVEL TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Pastors and members of **Lighthouse Korean** (in Glenside) and **Bensalem Korean UMCs** joined a New Jersey Korean church in May on a first-time mission trip to the burgeoning city of Santiago, in the Dominican Republic, to share their faith and fellowship with some of the half-million Haitians living there. They visited churches, taught Bible school, provided acupuncture, engaged in prayer, testimonies, and Christian studies with their hosts, despite language barriers, and helped break ground on a new, much-needed church.

Korean Churches' mission trip to Santiago, Dominican Republic
(Photo courtesy of Rev. Byung Cho)

RE-ENVISIONING CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"What can we do to create an environment where making transformative disciples becomes our priority and our passion, true to our Wesleyan DNA?" asks Congregational Development Coordinator the Rev. Gordon Hendrickson, writing about our conference's new leadership initiative, SLI (Spiritual Leadership, Inc.). "Churches, as well as conference and district leaders, must go back to abiding in Christ by spending time in spiritual formation. Unless we are spending a huge amount of time growing together in the Spirit of Christ we will never develop the environment to make the adaptive changes and develop the MAPs needed to grow." [Learn more...](#)



A WHOLE LOT OF LEARNIN' GOIN' ON

Click [here](#) to read about workshops being offered around the Conference.

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