

EAST DISTRICT

E-ALERT FOR

August 31, 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE EAST DISTRICT

Bishop Peggy Johnson will be praying for the East District the week of September 3-9. Email prayer requests to her at pjohnson@epaumc.org.

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 for more information.

PICKUP SERVICE AVAILABLE FROM LANSDALE STATION FOR DISTRICT CELEBRATION

Persons planning to travel by Septa Regional Rail from Philadelphia to the Lansdale station for the **East District Celebration at Sanctuary UMC in North Wales on Tuesday, September 12th** are invited to make arrangements to be picked up at the Lansdale station. The 16-passenger bus belonging to Christ UMC in Lansdale will be available for travel between the train station and Sanctuary UMC. To inquire about arrangements, email Chad Hussein at chadhussein@gmail.com.

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

ACADEMY FOR CHURCH FINANCE – REGISTER NOW!

Does your congregation need to grow in church finance administration and generosity development? The Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation is offering a team-based "academy" approach for a select number of congregational teams (pastor plus 3-4 leaders) in the 3-conference mid-Atlantic area. The *Academy for Church Finance* offers 4 one-day training events over 18 months with an Action Plan created by your team, trained guides, and video conference calls between events. The end result is your team's making significant positive change in your church.

Choose the site convenient for you: Baltimore-Washington Conference Center, Fulton MD (Oct. 7) or Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington DE (Oct. 14).

Click on <http://midatlanticfoundation.org/> and choose either Zone 1 or Zone 2 for information.

Send your Registration and \$200 deposit by **September 22**.

- A Promotional Video [is available here](#).
- Brochure is attached
- A one page promotion sheet is attached

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 30th at Hopewell UMC in Downingtown PA. After viewing the video message, detailed information about this 14th 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 30th when prayers *for the City* will be raised and the possibilities of *putting up paradise* in our communities will be imagined.

UPDATED MISSION CONNEXION GRID

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

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, 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/>.