

# **EAST DISTRICT**

E-ALERT FOR

**September 7, 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 is praying for the East District this week (through September 9). Email prayer requests to her at [pjohnson@epaumc.org](mailto:pjohnson@epaumc.org).

## **BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON: Call to prayer for the Dreamers**

Elimination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) federal policy is being considered, and a decision to end it may be announced by the Trump Administration on Tuesday, September 5. I ask that we as the people called United Methodist, and others, pray for our country and for the fate of nearly one million anxious young people who, as immigrants, are part of our American family.

Please pray that the ten state attorneys general who have threatened to sue the administration over DACA will end their threats and instead support the U.S. Congress' Dream Act of 2017. The bill, which is still pending in Congress, would provide a path to citizenship for the undocumented young people who were brought here by their parents as children.

Our United Methodist Social Principles affirm the rights of immigrant people: "We urge the church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children; and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families."

These are tense and difficult times for young people who have never known anything but a life in this country. Please pray, speak, and work for people who need your voice.

As difficult and divisive immigration issues loom large in the halls of power, many lives hang in the balance, especially the lives of young people who had no say in coming here to live but who now contribute to our culture and society as vital threads in the rich, diverse fabric of our nation. Let their dreams be our dreams.

I invite you to pray this benediction from Bishop Woodie White and to know that no matter the outcome, our burning thirst, our quest for justice, mercy, and righteousness, in the name of Jesus Christ, must not end: *And now, may the Lord torment you. May the Lord keep before you the faces of the hungry, the lonely, the rejected and the despised. May the Lord afflict you with pain for the hurt, the wounded, the oppressed, the abused, the victims of violence. May God grace you with agony, a burning thirst for justice and righteousness.*

*May the Lord give you courage and strength and compassion to make ours a better world, to make your community a better community, to make your church a better church. May you do your best to make it so; and after you have done your best, may the Lord grant you peace.*

**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson**

**NOTE: This statement also appears in the [Bishop's Blog](#)**

## **UPDATED MISSION CONNEXION GRID**

The District Office is continually updating the District Mission ConneXion. Attached is the most recent update, updated again this past week!

## **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/>.

## **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 12<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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

### **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.

### **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**

In just a few short weeks, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth will be happening! Together, participants will explore ways for congregations to become increasingly engaged in local communities. The jumping-off point of this exploration at Planting Seeds will be the keynote address by Rev. Scott Chrostek, pastor of Resurrection Downtown, Kansas City. Under Scott’s leadership, RezDowntown has grown from 9 to nearly 1,000 persons in weekly worship in its first six years. Scott will share the vision, the questions, the ups-and-downs, and the miracles that he and this new Christian community experienced along the way in planting RezDowntown. Click [here](#) for a message from Scott.

This can be downloaded and shared with your congregation, 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.

In addition to the timely message of the keynote address, six breakout sessions, two prior to the keynote address and four afterwards, will provide transformative leadership training for lay and clergy:

- The Way of the Labyrinth
- Children's Ministries-Building a Firm Foundation
- God's Misfit Mission: Meeting People Where They Are
- Singing Strong: Getting the Most from the Voices in our Choirs
- It is Well: What's Happening in Downingtown?
- Rich Church, Poor Church

Detailed information about these breakout sessions, as well as the entire Planting Seeds event, is available at [www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds](http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds).

If you have been praying for renewed vitality and effectiveness in your church, this event is for you, your church leaders, and your future church leaders.

To register: [www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds-registration](http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds-registration).

### **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.

### **HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations, Oct. 21**

**HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations happens Oct. 21**, from 9 AM to 3 PM, at **Lighthouse Fellowship UMC**, 137 North Easton Road, Glenside, PA. Be inspired as speakers from small congregations doing great ministries share how God is moving and imparting hope to and through them.

Gain a new perspective. Ask questions. Connect. Be refreshed. Get hope! Join us for this live-streamed, TED talks-style event sponsored by Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet. ASL Interpretation and Handicapped Accessibility will be provided. Registration is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door (includes breakfast and lunch). To register online, click [here](#). A flyer is attached for posting and distribution at your church.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Mrs. Doris H. Schroeder**, 91, passed away on August 22. She was the widow of the late Rev. Hans W. Schroeder, a clergy member of the Eastern PA Conference. Rev. Schroeder served the Montgomery Square UMC from 1960 to 1992, when he retired. He passed away in 1994. Doris Schroeder was a longtime member of First UMC in Lansdale.

Survivors include her three adult children: Karen L. Dixon (and husband Glen), John W. Schroeder (and wife Fawn), and Sheri L. Moyer (and husband Richard), plus two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mrs. Schroeder's memory to Dock Woods Benevolent Fund, 275 Dock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446.