

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | Feb. 15, 2017

The **POWER** of We

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Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

Contact The Circuit Rider at news@mississippi-umc.org.

Mission:

The mission of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Reasons for Proper Church Insurance



Three months ago a fire destroyed Barton United Methodist Church in Byhalia, Mississippi. Now the pastor wants other United Methodist congregations to know why it is important to have proper church insurance values and square footage. In the section **Administry on page 5**, the pastor shares his story along with others from the Mississippi Conference in a video.



2016 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/28OxETH>

Purpose:

The Mississippi Annual Conference—empowered by love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship—forms spiritual leaders, faith communities and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

Our Values

The Mississippi Conference Four Core Values are love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship. For more information, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe.



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out
The **POWER** of We

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word POWER

Matthew 5:38-48

New International Version (NIV)

Eye for Eye

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ [a]**39** But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. **40** And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. **41** If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. **42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[b] and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Bishop On the Move

Feb. 26, 2017 (Sunday)

Bishop Swanson will preach closing worship at the annual conference for students, The Gathering (Feb.24-26). The event is at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Closing worship is at 8:30 a.m.

March 1 - 5, 2017 (Wednesday - Sunday)

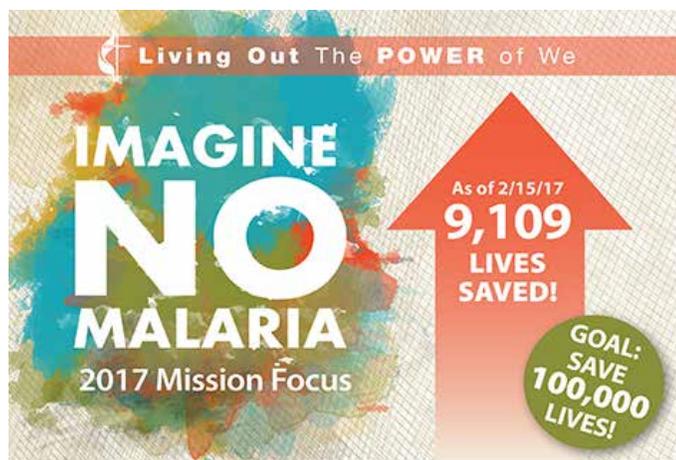
Bishop Swanson will attend spring meetings of the National Association of Conference Presidents and United Methodist Men Foundation Annual Meeting, in Nashville, Tennessee.

March 20 - April 3, 2017 (Monday - Monday)

Bishop Swanson will join the Africa University Board of Trustees for a tour of Africa University.

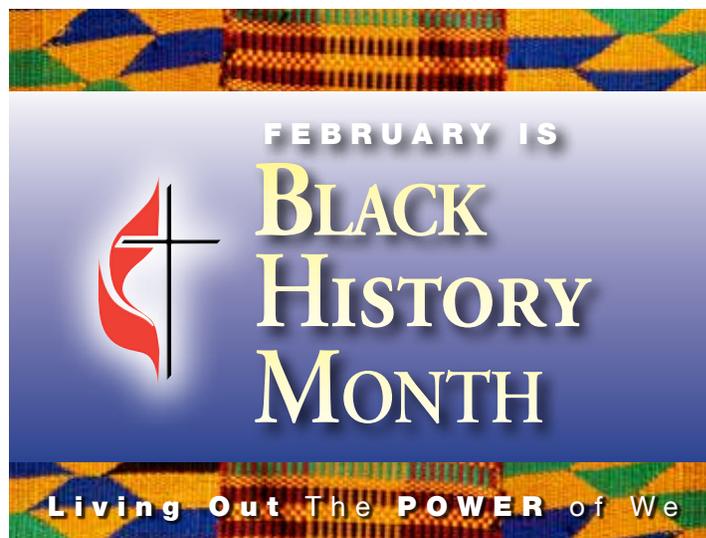


INM Update!



For more information:

www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas



The Healing Team Available to the Local Congregations

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

Members of the Mississippi Conference Healing Team have common attributes. They are good listeners and sense a call to serve on the team, according to the Rev. Larry Hilliard, who is the director of spiritual leadership for the conference supervises the Healing Team.

"They listen more than they speak. They are willing to hear your story without having to offer their story," explained Hilliard. He said the team is responsible for responding to local churches in times of brokenness.

"They are dealing with people's grief, their lowest point as a congregation. It is heavy work, so team members also have to be someone who can engage in the heaviness but not take it on. It's not always the pastor with trouble. Sometimes it is lay people. If a significant lay person in your church gets arrested, it affects the whole church," Hilliard stated.

The 20-member Healing Team, established in 2005, is trained by staff from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Hilliard recently met with members whose names are not in the story out of respect for the congregations that turn to the team. He said the individuals are clergy and laity who commit to at least four years of service.

One of the original members currently remains on the team. She said the Healing Team's role is not to provide congregations answers to why something happened, but to be present in the midst of a congregation's grief. From her experience, honest dialogue about the shame or hurt is crucial to moving forward and it doesn't matter if the incident happened a week ago or six years earlier.

"When we bring things out in the open and don't continue to hide them in the dark, we have the opportunity to heal and not continue to do damage within a community. Even though it may be scary for a congregation to reach out for support, they need to step out on faith and make the phone call if you need to. None of this is easy. I have had congregants say to me thank you so much for coming. Not all people are happy. There have been times when people have walked out, and that is okay. But, we know that being honest and upfront, and not keeping secrets, there is going to be a healthier response in the long run," she said.

Congregations that request the gifts of the Healing Team have to go through their district superintendent for assistance.

Bishop Swanson on Connection Discernment of Two Local Churches

Bishop James Swanson Sr. continues to request prayer Getwell Road UMC of the Senatobia District and The Orchard UMC of the Tupelo District. The churches are in a "period of discernment."

"I covet your prayers for Getwell Road, The Orchard, Bill Beavers, Bryan Collier, Jim Genesse, Jimmy Barnes, David Stotts and myself as we seek to hear God's voice and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit," said Swanson in a letter to the Mississippi Conference on Feb. 6.

Heather Hahn, with the United Methodist New Service, talked with both pastors and wrote why one author believes, what is happening in Mississippi, bears watching. Read her story here: <http://bit.ly/2lnZ6Qa>. Read Swanson's full statement here: <http://bit.ly/2lokrZY>.

Nearly 200 Attend Clergy Leadership Conference

By Paige Swaim-Presley, Director of the Center for Ministry, Millsaps College

Photo right: The 2017 Clergy Leadership Conference was at St. Mark's UMC in Brandon, Mississippi, Feb. 6-8.

At the 2017 Clergy Leadership Conference, the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish – pastor, spiritual director, and author – taught attendees about "Leading a Church to Do and Discern God's Will." Graham, author of seven books including *Becoming a Blessed Church and Humble Leadership: Being Radically Open to God's Guidance and Grace*, said that while "the early church discerned, the modern church dissects, debates, and deliberates." He encouraged Mississippi pastors to help churches discern and follow God's calling to their congregation. He offered instruction for how pastors can incorporate discernment into all areas of their ministry, especially worship preparation and committee meetings.

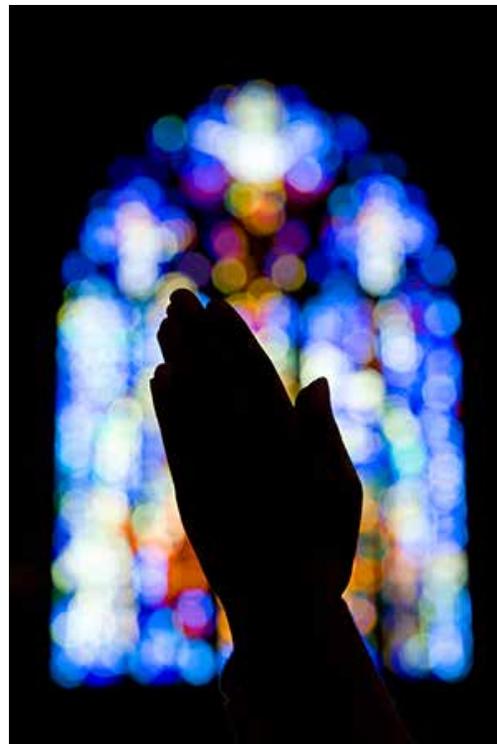




Photo left: Guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, addressed Mississippi United Methodist clergy.

Ann Phelps (Millsaps College) and James Martin (Wells UMC) led worship, including Tuesday night Evensong with the Millsaps Chamber Singers. Five break-out sessions empowered attendees to delve deeper into practices of leadership and discernment. This year's conference attendance was 178. The conference was hosted by St. Mark's UMC and planned by the Center for Ministry.

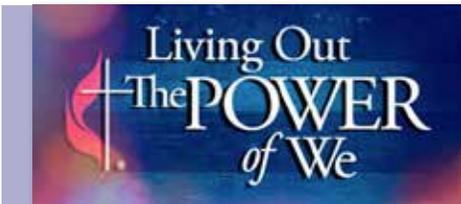
Pictures from the conference can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2lmhwkU>.

MS Conference Camp Directors Attend Retreat

Submitted to *The Circuited Rider*

Photo right: Pictured left to right are Michael Hedgepeth of Seashore Assembly; Johnny Crosby of Camp Wesley Pines; and Darrell Whitaker of Camp Lake Stephens. Photo credit Connie Crosby.

The executive directors of Mississippi Conference United Methodist-related camps recently attended the National United Methodist Camp and Retreat Leaders Gathering. The event was at Lakeview Assembly in Palestine, Texas, Jan.30-Feb.3. The theme for the biennial event was Waters of Grace. The schedule featured well-known speakers as well as workshops geared for all aspects of the camp and retreat ministry.



Four-part Bible Study: Living Out The POWER of We
With Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.

Link to access the videos: <http://bit.ly/2l1bUbW>

Faith Communities

Children Help in Tornado Recovery

Photo right: Photo credit Heritage UMC, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The children's ministry at Heritage United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg took a moment to pray over dozens of cleaning buckets that they prepared for tornado survivors in their community. The children filled 50 large buckets with cleaning supplies for delivery to nearby Bentley UMC for distribution to those in need. In the picture are Ben Allmon and his son Jacob during the prayer time. The pastor at Heritage UMC, Rev. Steve Casteel, posted words of appreciation for the children on his Facebook page.



Haven Chapel UMC (Meridian) Welcomes Fellow Methodists from TN

Submitted by Anita Betts, Communications Coordinator

Photo right: Members of Concord UMC worshiped with Haven Chapel UMC in Meridian, Mississippi. Photo credit, Haven Chapel UMC.

On Sunday morning, Feb. 5, 2017, Haven Chapel UMC in Meridian, Mississippi welcomed director of missions, Jane Currin and the Concord UMC Mission Group from Knoxville, Tennessee. The group visited Haven UMC two years ago when they passed through Meridian. This year, they were on their way to the United Methodist Committee on Relief Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, which provides an opportunity for individuals to support the mission of UMCOR Disaster Relief Supplies Network. Concord informed Haven Chapel that they completed their mission of helping pack 8,800 health kits for distribution overseas. The Rev. Marjorie Walker is the pastor of Haven Chapel.



UMM Pascagoula-Gautier Stop the MADness Event

Submitted By Rev. Tanya Edwards-Evans

Photo right: Male youth were present for the domestic violence awareness program which focused on mentorship to young people. Photo credit Rev. Tanya Evans.

The United Methodist Men of the Pascagoula/Gautier Charge hosted an event titled Stop the MADness on the issue of domestic violence. They held the program at St. Mark UMC in Pascagoula.



Davis spoke about the reasons men and women find themselves in domestic violence situations and the perception of domestic violence. Hutchins informed the men that after three incidents of domestic violence, it is no longer a misdemeanor but a felony. He said if there is any evidence of physical bruises on any party, an arrest must be made. Porter told the group that mentoring is needed and mentoring can help steer young people in new or better directions. The Rev. Tanya Edwards-Evans pastors the Pascagoula/Gautier Charge (St. Mark UMC and St. Stephen UMC).

IMAGINE
NO
MALARIA

Link for **2017 MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE**
LENTEN DEVOTION GUIDE: <http://bit.ly/2kmjChE>

Living Out The POWER of We

Administry

Video Stresses Proper Insurance Values and Square Footage for the Local Churches

In January 2005, the Mississippi United Methodist Conference (<http://bit.ly/2lbVpLm>) entered a property and casualty insurance program that has helped many local congregations across our connection. Beginning with the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina all the way up to this year's recent severe weather damage, this coverage has greatly served faith communities that were affected by disasters. A video released by the Mississippi Conference treasurer, David Stotts, details why it is paramount that churches have proper insurance values and square footage for their buildings. The video features testimonials from Rev. M.J. Pope, of Barton UMC in Byhalia that suffered a fire back in December and Donna Runnels, business manager at Main Street UMC in Hattiesburg. Bishop James Swanson Sr. and Stotts are in the presentation as well. Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/2kuwCF7>.



Save the Date | Announcements

The Gathering 2017

Feb. 24-26

The vision behind The Gathering is to create a high energy weekend conference for students to gather from all over Mississippi to celebrate the Lord and Savior. Organizers are committed to create a weekend event that is first-class quality with the best worship teams and communicators. Go to www.mississippi-umc.org/thegathering for early bird registration and more.

Lay Servant School Sponsored by Desoto Cluster

Feb. 25, 2017

The Desoto Cluster is hosting lay servant school at Hernando UMC on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017. A barbecue lunch plate will be provided for \$5. Brochures with registration forms will be available later.

View instructors here: <http://bit.ly/2k5YbQm>.

50th General Meeting of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)

March 8-11, 2017

The 50th General meeting anniversary for BMCR is March 8, 2017, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme is Celebrating a Legacy of Faith, Hope and Renewal More Rivers to Cross, More Milestones to Reach. For more information about registration and hotel reservations, go to <http://bit.ly/2igmYRs>.

Sticky Stories Preaching from Jesus' Parables

March 8, 2017

This Camp Lake Stephens event -Sticky Stories Preaching from Jesus' Parables-features Charles Maynard, a United Methodist minister, storyteller, and author. The Center for Ministry will award ½ CEU credit to participants. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch.

Go to <http://bit.ly/2k8pjCp> to download the flyer. To register before the March 6 deadline go to <http://bit.ly/2jEts07>, or call Sally at 662-234-3350.

Camp Lake Stephens Spring Fling

March 9, 2017

Camp Lake Stephens is hosting Spring Fling, a day of workshops featuring Rev. Charles Maynard on March 9, 2017. Maynard is a United Methodist minister, storyteller, and author. The camp is located in Oxford, MS. To read the brochure for the event, go to

<http://bit.ly/2k0JyhV>. For more information, call 662-234-3350.

UMC Events

Visit <http://www.umc.org/events> to see more educational opportunities and other upcoming events in the life of The United Methodist



The advertisement features the logo for 'Interpreter' on the left, which includes a red flame-like symbol above the word 'INTERPRETER' in large, bold, black letters. Above the logo, the text 'United Methodists Living Their Faith' is written in a smaller font. To the right of the logo, there is a dark grey box with white text that reads: 'Visit <http://bit.ly/2kCN81h> to receive UM Interpreter'. Below this, it states: 'Interpreter is published by United Methodist Communications as a ministry magazine for the members—lay and clergy—of The United Methodist Church.'

Methodist Tested Recipes

Onion Marmalade

3 T. oil	1 c. white wine vinegar
3 c. halved and sliced red onions	3 tsp. sugar
3 c. halved and sliced yellow onions	Salt and pepper

Heat oil in a medium saucepan. Add onions and slowly cook, stirring often. As they begin to dry up, add vinegar and sugar. Cook for 30 to 35 minutes, until soft brown and very sweet. Season with salt and pepper.

— By Gina Clement from "Loaves and Fishes, A Collection of Favorites" from St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, Mississippi



Employment

As a courtesy to the Mississippi Annual Conference, job announcements from across the United Methodist connection are featured in *The Circuit Rider*. To submit an employment notice, send an email to news@mississippi-umc.org. Postings are not guaranteed to appear more than once in Mississippi Conference publications. **To read a description of job opening(s) listed below as well as other listings, go to www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities.**

Stay Connected

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC
- You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbyuHKRMLljq
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/

Stay Connected with ConnectText

Mississippi United Methodists with the ability to receive text messaging via phone are encouraged to sign up for ConnectText. The service is another option for people to stay informed about important dates and other conference happenings.

To sign up for ConnectText:

1. Remember, you must have the ability to get text messages on your phone.
2. From your mobile phone, text the letters 'MSUMC' to the number 95577 and press send.
3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you're connected!

Mississippi Conference's Mobile App—MY MSUMC

MY MSUMC—the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church's official mobile app—is available at no cost on all iPhone, Android, Galaxy and Blackberry phones and their corresponding pads and tablets. MY MSUMC allows easy access to the latest conference events, local UM news and The *Circuit Rider*. The MY MSUMC app presents users with a unique opportunity to interact with the conference by submitting prayer requests, recording audio of personal testimonies and posting comments via facebook and twitter. Plus, the 'Our Districts' feature shows a comprehensive list of district contact information and even directions from the user's current location—all from a mobile smart phone or tablet device.