

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

# The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | March 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](mailto: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.

## Glory Sighting



A small group of young people from Wells Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Miss. showed off their self-decorated stoles following Camp Lake Stephens Confirmation Retreat. Read more about their 36-hour experience in the section **Students** on page 7.



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](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe).



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out  
The **POWER** of We

320-C Briarwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39206  
601.354.0515 | Fax 601.948.5982  
[www.mississippi-umc.org](http://www.mississippi-umc.org)

## word POWER

### John 4: 5-42

*New International Version (NIV)*

**5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

**7** When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

**9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])

**10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

**11** "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

**13** Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

**15** The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

**16** He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

**17** "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

**19** "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

**21** "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

**25** The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

**26** Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

### The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

**27** Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

**28** Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29** "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" **30** They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

**31** Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

**32** But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

**33** Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

**34** "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. **35** Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. **36** Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. **37** Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. **38** I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

### Many Samaritans Believe

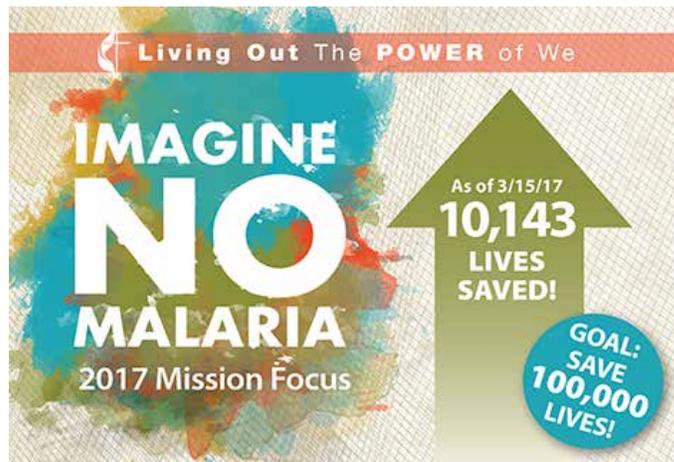
**39** Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers.

**42** They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

## Bishop On the Move

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

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



For more information:

[www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas)

## Connecting

### Bishop Swanson Recruiting 'Prayer Team'

**Photo right:** In 2015, Bishop Swanson led teams representing districts of the Mississippi Annual Conference that gathered at Camp Wesley Pines in Hazlehurst, Miss., for "Transforming Communities through Health Care Training."

People who believe God has given them a gift of prayer and want to use that gift to be a blessing to the Mississippi Conference are wanted. Bishop James Swanson Sr. is forming what will be known as the Prayer Team. Whenever there is a pressing need for prayer, Swanson will contact the team to pray over the matter. **For those interested in being a part of the team, go to <https://mississippi-reg.brtapp.com/BishopsPrayerTeam> and submit your name, contact information and church name by Monday, March 20, 2017.**



### Message from the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Lay Delegation

**To clergy and laity of the Mississippi Conference:**

*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7*

Due to the fretful time that some Mississippi Conference congregations are having concerning The United Methodist Church, the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation of the Mississippi Conference met Saturday, March 11, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and discern the future of The United Methodist Church in Mississippi. We believe in the process adopted by the 2016 General Conference and the appointed Commission on a Way Forward. Therefore, we encourage the clergy and laity of our conference to remain committed and faithful to the process as voted on by the 2016 General Conference held in Portland, Oregon.

This process was to develop an appointed commission-selected by the Council of Bishops-that seeks to prepare a document that will lead The United Methodist Church forward in the name of Christ. As of November 2016, that commission has been appointed and started meeting in January of this year. The expectation is that the commission will come forward with a recommendation to the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops will consider this recommendation, propose legislation and call a special session of the General Conference in 2019.

Therefore, the following members of the Mississippi General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation encourage the clergy and laity of the Mississippi Conference to remain prayerfully committed to the process as our church seeks the discernment of God Almighty for the future of God's blessed United Methodist Church.

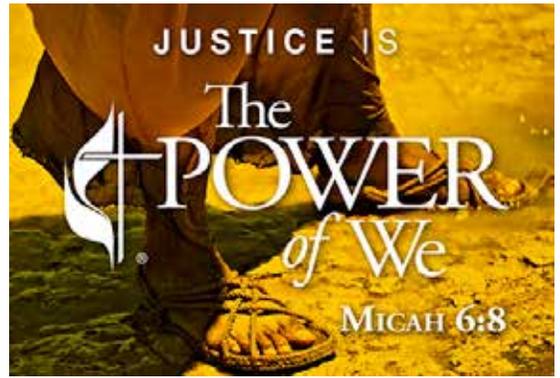
Prayerfully signed and submitted,

*Timothy E. Crisler, Elmo "Bo" Gabbert, MD, Leanne Burris, Brian Jones, Opal Ann LaSalle, Jim Genesse, Stephen Sparks, Connie Shelton, Barry L. Male, Jr., Connie B. Walters, C. Martin Butler, Kay Barksdale, Mitchell B. Hedgepeth, Fred Britton, David Stotts, Turner Arant, Lauren Sledge, Tim Prather, David Beckley, William D. Scott, III, Steve McAlilly, Mattie Gipson*

**Commission on a Way Forward**  
Council of Bishops  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Annual Conference 2017 Forwards

- **Plan to attend Pre-Conference Briefing Near You**  
<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/blogdetail/7666197>
- **May 1 Deadline for Exhibit Booths Guidelines and Application**  
<http://bit.ly/2m1b6Zk>
- **Childcare Options for the Annual Conference Session**  
<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/childcare2017>
- **Hotels Offering Special Rates for Annual Conference Session**  
<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017hotels>
- **Advertise, Send Congratulations and Post Celebrations in Special Edition of The Circuit Rider**  
<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017specialcr>
- **Nominate People for Awards: Emma K. Elzy, Harry Denman, and Tobias Gibson**  
<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017awards>



## Appointment News from Bishop Swanson

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. announces the appointment of two new district superintendents, effective July 1, 2017. Swanson and the cabinet announced some fixed appointments. Visit <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/appointmentnews> to view.

The cabinet is continuing the appointive process, and other appointments will be announced at a later date. Continue to pray for transitioning and returning pastors, as well as the ministries of the Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

## Methodist Le Bonheur Named Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For"

### Submitted to The Circuit Rider

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare made Fortune Magazine's prestigious list of "100 Best Companies to Work For"® in America, coming in at 92. The announcement was released in a joint letter signed by Le Bonheur's President and CEO, Michael Ugwueke and Chief Human Resources Office, Carol Ross-Spang. The facility is in Memphis, Tenn.

"We all know that MLH is a special place, and to earn a spot on this list alongside companies that are admired throughout the world, such as Google, Nordstrom's, Hilton, Ikea, Nationwide, and well-respected healthcare institutions like Mayo Clinic and St. Jude, is truly an indicator of how well we rank as a national Employer of Choice.

What makes this recognition truly significant is that it is based largely on the voice of our Associates. Many of you participated in Fortune's survey and gave feedback about MLH in the areas of respect, fairness, pride, camaraderie, and credibility.

We want to personally thank each of you for your commitment to making MLH the best place for our Associates, our patients and their families, our physicians and our community. You bring the Power of One Spirit to every life you touch."

The pair noted special thanks to recently retired CEO, Gary Shorb, who started the "Power of One" culture that led Le Bonheur to develop a workplace culture that would be worthy of this type of recognition.

The full list of Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For" in America is published in Fortune's March 13 issues and The Great Place to Work Institute's website: [www.greatplacetowork.com](http://www.greatplacetowork.com).

## Bethlehem Center Celebrating 80 Years

The month of March marks 80 years of service for The Bethlehem Center Inc. The center is a mission related to The United Methodist Church. Serving in one of Jackson, Mississippi's poorest neighborhoods, the center supports low-income families and individuals through affordable childcare, a free income tax assistance program, a counseling center and various community development initiatives. A celebration honoring The Bethlehem Center was held at Galloway Memorial UMC earlier this month. You can follow The Bethlehem Center Inc. on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemCenterInc/>





Link for **2017 MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE**  
**LENTEN DEVOTION GUIDE:** <http://bit.ly/2kmjChE>  
Living Out The POWER of We

## Faith Communities

### Vicksburg UMM Paint House for Homeless Men

A house in Vicksburg is being renovated to provide temporary housing for homeless men. United Methodist Men in the area helped paint what will soon become the South Street Safe Place. The Vicksburg Post published an article that explains more about the Methodist connection to the home. Read the story below.

#### Partnership Brings Ministry to the Homeless

By John Surratt, Vicksburg Post

**Photo bottom right:** *Good Shepherd director Tommy Miller stands in front of the home on South Street that will one day become the "South Street Safe Place." Photo credit Vicksburg Post.*

A blue two-story home at 1122 South St. will soon take on a new life as a place of refuge. The "South Street Safe Place," as the home is called, is a joint venture of Good Shepherd, Beyond the Walls Ministry and Hawkins United Methodist Church.

Local residents will be able to get a look at the home and learn about the program Saturday during a block party at the home from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We'll have food, entertainment, games and fun," said Good Shepherd director Tommy Miller.

According to a brochure on the project, its mission "is to create a Biblical hospitality which offers physical refuge and spiritual restoration to all God's people, brings into relationship the served and the servant, empowers the excluded and advocates for the restorative justice of God's Kingdom."

"Our dream is to have it open on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, for people who need to come either to get out of the weather, have a hot meal, have a place for them to shower, have a laundry facility where, so they can wash clothes, and if needed, to have referrals to doctors or other agencies in the community," Miller said.

"It's not just for homeless only," he said. "It's also for people who just need to get out and have some contact with other people -- the elderly, parents who have small children who just need and adult contact.

He said the program was developed "by a conglomeration of people," but the genesis for the idea came from Vicksburg physician Dr. Bob Ford, who founded Beyond the Wall Ministries, and Hawkins pastor the Rev. Sally Beville.

"Bob Ford had a building that was open and not being used, and wanted to renovate it, and our pastor out at Hawkins has been working in this type ministry for years. They just got together and came up with the idea to see what we needed."

Beyond the Walls Ministry began in 2007 as a twice a week soup kitchen that grew into a daily feeding program. At Christmas, the ministry serves dinner to 200 people.

The home designated for the South Street Safe Place was one of two homes owned by the ministry to house and help homeless men. It was damaged by fire in May, providing the opportunity to renovate it for the safe place program. Miller said repairs are still being made on the house, adding volunteers will be working on the building Jan. 7 and 20 in an effort to complete repairs and open the shelter.



Photo courtesy MS Conference United Methodist Men Facebook.



## Kids Visit Methodist Residence for Read Across America

In honor of "Read Across America Day," students read to residents at Aldersgate Retirement Community in Meridian, Mississippi. The center is a facility of Methodist Senior Services which is supported by the Mississippi Conference. Read Across America Day falls on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. In honor of the late author, people are encouraged to read in celebration of his birthday.



## PRAYING THROUGH "A PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT"

Bishop James Swanson Sr. continues to solicit prayers for himself and those involved in "a period of discernment." Pray for the bishop, the congregations of Getwell Road UMC of the Senatobia District and The Orchard UMC of the Tupelo District, the pastors of these congregations, their district superintendents, and the Mississippi Conference treasurer. The bishop covets your prayer for a fruitful resolution as this process is ongoing. To read Swanson's full statement on "a period of discernment," go to <http://bit.ly/2ltKThe>.

## Administry

### Christians Need Help Getting Final Wishes in Order

By Rev. Mike Hicks, Executive Director, The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation

The "State of the Plate" report for 2016 suggests that 46 percent of people who attend our churches have no will or estate plans. Most churches fail to realize that the largest donations they will ever receive are from someone's accumulated assets or estate. Most churches do nothing to assist their members in making such plans.

Only 46 percent of those in our churches with a will or estate plan will make a donation to their church or favorite charity as a part of their final wishes. This means that only 24 out of 100 will leave something from an estate donation to their church.

We need to do a better job of helping our folks prepare for the future. It is not about trying to twist an arm for money from an estate, but assisting our members in making faithful and caring plans for their future. I believe that most regular worshippers in our churches will make a bequest, if they are invited to do so in a caring way.

Think about a simple phrase in newsletters and bulletins. "Have you remembered your church in your will?" Your Foundation will be glad to assist you in developing a plan to assist your members in making good decisions about their future.



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>

## Students

### Confirming Our Faith

By Ashley Hewitt Roger, Children's Ministry Director, Wells UMC

**Photo right:** Wells UMC youth display their stoles at Camp Lake Stephens during the Confirmation Retreat. Each youth decorated his or her stole with scripture, images, and words to remember that God has called each of us individually into a relationship. Photo credit Wells United Methodist Church.

"Her father told her, 'What you promise when you are confirmed is not that you will believe this forever. What you promise when you are confirmed is that this is the story you will wrestle with forever.'" (Rachel Held Evans, Searching for Sunday)

This was the quote used during closing worship at Camp Lake Stephens during the UMC Confirmation Retreat held at the end of January. I sat with tears in my eyes as I thought about its significance for not only our youth but for every single one of us who has wrestled with some aspect of our Christian faith.

I pray our youth never feel guilty about having questions, big or small. The reality is that life's messiness leads most of us to have deep questions about who God is and what it means to be a God-follower.

Over the course of about 36 hours, our youth attended five different workshops on Scripture, Methodist History, Grace, Sacraments, and Missions. We also had a chance to participate in four worship services, which gave our youth the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and experience praise and worship-style music. While they actively participated, the definite consensus was that they really like the music at Wells.

I wish you could have seen our kids in action. They were shining examples of kindness and leadership. James Martin, I were so proud to claim them as our own.

In mid-May, we will have a church-wide Confirmation Sunday where these youth plus any youths who have not been confirmed, will be recognized in the Confirmation liturgy of The United Methodist Church. Please continue to support these young people in their growing faith. Encourage them to ask the difficult questions, and ask questions of them. The beauty of faith is that each of us has something unique to offer and wisdom and insight that's not bound by years.



**UMCOR SUNDAY March 26** (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)  
For promotional resources, go to <http://bit.ly/2mvH2Vw>.



## Save the Date | Announcements

### Reflections on the Cross - A Lenten Lunch Series

**March 1 - April 5, 2017**

Heritage United Methodist Church, D'Iberville invites you to a Lenten Lunch series beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1 and ending Wednesday, April 5, from noon until 1 p.m. Each week a brief reflection led by area clergy will be shared over a meal of soup, salad, and warm bread. We hope you will join us in this opportunity to gather as friends for fellowship and reflection. Join us for one or all of the series. (A donation of \$5 is requested to cover the cost of lunch. No reservation required.) For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2leJ24j>.

### Methodist Children's Homes Foster Care Training

**March 16, 2017**

You have been thinking about becoming a foster parent for years, but never got around to starting the process. Here is your chance! A new Foster Parenting Class starts Thursday, March 16. To sign up for the class, email Kim Day at [Kday@mchms.org](mailto:Kday@mchms.org) or call 601-717-2322 and find out more information on how to start the class.

If you still have questions. Hear the personal story of a foster mom and have all your questioned answered. Our next Coffee Talk will be March 7 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the CUPS in the Quarter (1855 Lakeland Dr, Jackson, MS).

## **Connecting Neighbors Training**

**March 18, 2017**

The purpose of Connecting Neighbors training is to inspire congregations and communities to be better able to minimize disaster-caused harm to people and property and to respond to our neighbors in helpful, cooperative and caring ways on behalf of the church and in the spirit of Jesus Christ. On Saturday, March 18, 2017, you are invited to train from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Galloway UMC in Jackson, MS.

## **Pratt Memorial UMC Annual Women's Day Celebration**

**March 23, 2017**

Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 1057 West Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39203, is celebrating its Annual Women's Day on March 23, 2017, at the 11 a.m. Sunday service. The theme is "Be an Encourager - Spread the Good News!" Our supporting scripture is from Philippians 2: 12-18. The speaker will be Rev. Deborah Bracey, pastor of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Vaughn, Mississippi. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2mHpVNG>.

## **Seashore District Lay Servant Ministries Saturday**

**March 25, 2017**

Join us for our spring 2017 Lay Servant Ministries Saturday, March 25, at Beauvoir United Methodist Church, 2113 Pass Road, Biloxi, Mississippi. We are offering some exciting courses that will enhance your eagerness to serve the church, community, and the world. For more details, <http://bit.ly/2leU6yq>.

## **Greenwood District Lay Servant Training School**

**April 22-22, 2017**

The Greenwood District will have Lay Servant Training School April 21-22, 2017 at Moore Memorial UMC, in Winona, MS. All participants may register through the Greenwood District Office. Payment and registration must be received no later than April 7, 2017. For more information about cost and training details, go to <http://bit.ly/2mKSnyl>. You can contact Susan at the district office for more information as well. Call 662-453-0878, or email [gwddist@bellsouth.net](mailto:gwddist@bellsouth.net).

## **UMVIM Team Leader Training**

**April 22, 2017**

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) highly recommends that any mission team have a trained team leader. If you are planning to lead a short-term mission trip (nationally or internationally or disaster response) or simply exploring the possibility, you are encouraged to attend. Training led by Rev. Amanda Gordon is Saturday, April, 22, 10 a.m-3 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC in Jackson, Mississippi. Pre-Register by April 17. Call 662-781-1333 or email [amandammumc@gmail.com](mailto:amandammumc@gmail.com). The cost is \$30 for the UMVIM manual and lunch (pay at the door).

## **FAM JAM**

**Aug. 12, 2017**

Save the date, Aug. 12, 2017! The Mississippi Conference presents a family event especially for children, kindergarten through 6th grades. Keep checking Mississippi Conference newsletters and social media and the website for details.

## **Announcements**

### **Susanna Wesley Scholarship for Clergy Spouses**

The Susana Wesley Scholarship is available to clergy spouses in Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church currently enrolled in college or graduate school. Twice a year, \$500 is presented as funds are available. The deadlines to apply are March 1 and Sept. 1. For application and guidelines go to [www.msumccclergy spouses.org](http://www.msumccclergy spouses.org) and click the tab Scholarship Info.

### **UMC Events**

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



Visit <http://bit.ly/2kCN8lh> to receive UM Interpreter

Interpreter is published by United Methodist Communications as a ministry magazine for the members—lay and clergy—of The United Methodist Church.

## Cares & Concerns

### Rev. James Milner

The Rev. James Milner of Forest Hill UMC in Jackson, Miss., passed away last week. His funeral services were Thursday, March 9, at Crossgates UMC, in Brandon, MS. Please keep Mrs. Clydia Milner and the Milner family in your prayers.

### Rev. Keith Tonkel

The Rev. Keith Tonkel, who preached and lived a message of reconciliation, died Wednesday, March 8, 2017. He was the pastor at Wells Memorial United Methodist Church on Bailey in Jackson for nearly 50 years.

His funeral was Saturday, March, 11. Visit <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/blogdetail/keith-tonkel-obituary-7685314> to read Tonkel's obituary. To watch the complete memorial service for Tonkel, go to <https://vimeo.com/207969891>.

## Methodist Tested Recipes

### Sauce for Baked Potatoes

1 T. mayonnaise  
1/2 c. chopped chives or sweet onions  
1 tsp. salt

1 pt. sour cream  
2 cloves garlic, pressed

Mix all together and refrigerate. Note: Make ahead a day before serving for best flavor.

— By Judy Ball 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](mailto: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](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities).

- Director of Student Ministry at First UMC, Columbus, MS
- Full-time Director of Youth Ministry and Contemporary Worship at First UMC, Crawfordsville, IN
- Director of Children's Ministries at First UMC Brookhaven, Brookhaven, MS
- Director of Student Ministries at Galloway Memorial UMC at Jackson, MS

## Stay Connected

- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524)
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Mississippi\\_UMC](https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC)
- You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv\\_Kix8lbYuHKRMLjg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbYuHKRMLjg)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/](http://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.