

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | April 26, 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.

Scouting for Disciples



As of 2012, 6,700 United Methodist church congregations were involved in the Boy Scouts of America program. Mississippi Conference Bishop James Swanson Sr. recently talked with some Mississippi clergy and laity about the church's presence in scouting. **Read more in the section Connecting on page 4** and follow a link to hear his message. Photo courtesy UMNS Mike DuBose.

Save the Date!

2017 Annual Conference Session, June 8-10



2016 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/280xETH>

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

Luke 24: 13-35

New International Version (NIV)

On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. **14** They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. **20** The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21** but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **22** In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning **23** but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. **24** Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. **29** But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32** They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together **34** and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." **35** Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Bishop On the Move

April 30 - May 5, 2017

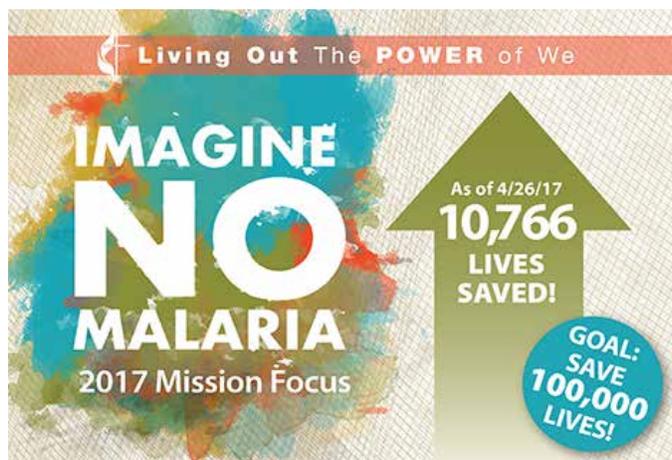
Bishop Swanson will attend a gathering of the Council of Bishops in Dallas, Texas.

May 15 - 22, 2017

Bishop Swanson will attend the Connectional Table meeting in Oslo, Norway.

May 25 - June 1, 2017

Bishop Swanson will attend the meeting of *International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU)* in Puebla, Mexico.



INM Update

For more information:

www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas



District pre-conference briefings begin this month.
To attend a meeting near you, go to <http://bit.ly/2orjK1i>.

Connecting

The Way Forward, from Easter to Pentecost

Message from the Moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward

We live in the great fifty days, after the church has witnessed the presence of the risen Christ and before the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time of being together in community, discerning the future and depending on God.

The Commission on a Way Forward recently gathered for its third meeting. We studied the scriptures, shared meals, reflected honestly about our convictions and listened intently to each other's hopes. We also began to think strategically and structurally about the future of our church, as we have been asked by the denomination to do.

In anticipation of the upcoming Judicial Council decision related to the election of Karen Oliveto as a Bishop of the church, we want to remind you of the context of our ongoing work. The Council of Bishops is committed to the unity of the church and the flourishing of its mission. One of the instruments of this unity is the Commission on a Way Forward, which is accountable to the Council of Bishops and through the Council to the General Conference.

We believe the Holy Spirit is operating through the Commission's and Council's leadership and conferencing. The conciliar work of the Commission happens concurrently with other legal, legislative, and supervisory processes. The members of the Judicial Council are elected by the General Conference. Their decisions are the product of their own sense of guidance.

The Commission on a Way Forward will continue its work after the Judicial Council decision, and the outcome of the decision is not the focus of our mandate. We urge the entire church to stay focused on the Commission's work as our best opportunity to determine God's leading for the church.

In the coming months we will move more deeply into the implications of being a global church that seeks to balance an approach to different and contextual understandings of LGBTQ identity with a desire for as much unity and connection as possible. We will be exploring this in the context of our mission and structure, and we will be developing models of listening and teaching in collaboration with the Council of Bishops and across annual conferences.

We encourage you to follow the work of the Commission on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We are grateful for your prayers and indeed we depend upon them. And mostly we claim the promise of the scriptures, that God will pour out his spirit on all flesh! (Acts 2)

*The Moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward
(Bishops David Yemba, Sandra Steiner Ball, and Ken Carter)*

UMC Bishops Call Special Session of General Conference for 2019

Photo right: *Members of the Council of Bishops listen as Bishop R. Ough reads a statement about sexuality and the church from the Council at the 2016 United Methodist Conference in Portland, Ore. File photo by Paul Jeffrey, United Methodist News Service.*

The Council of Bishops (COB) has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

In announcing the call, COB President Bishop Bruce R. Ough said the Special Session will be held in accordance with Division Two - Section II - Article II of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church as recorded in Paragraph 14 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016).

The purpose of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference will be "limited to receiving and acting on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward."

The 32-member Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge to lead the church forward amid the impasse related to homosexuality. The Commission's task includes examining paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.



Per the Constitution of the Church, the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their legal successors or alternates, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

The Secretary of the General Conference will communicate with annual conference secretaries regarding updated delegate information, seating of reserve delegates, and the issuance of new certificates of election for annual conferences choosing to hold new elections.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference will develop and forward additional information regarding the logistics of the special session of General Conference at the appropriate time.

"The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference," Bishop Ough said.

For the full letter sent to the Heads of Delegations to the 2016 General Conference (or successors), Secretary of the General Conference and the Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference, go to <http://bit.ly/2pxWHW0>.

To read Bishop Swanson's Clarity on Upcoming Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council, go to <http://bit.ly/2p5Mtut>.

Bishop Encourages Scouting in Mississippi

Mississippi Conference Communications

Photo right: Bishop James Swanson Sr. talked about the impact of scouting during a recent luncheon. More than 90 clergy and laity heard him speak.

Clergy and laity from churches across the Meridian District gathered for a luncheon on boy scouting. The district superintendent Rev. Rusty Keen told the group the meeting was the result of conversations including Mississippi Conference Bishop James Swanson Sr. and others who suggest scouting might be an effective tool for disciple making.

As president of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, Swanson encourages other annual conferences to host a Bishop's Dinner for scouting.

The messaging related to the dinner said the ideals and values stressed in scouting are the Christian foundations desperately needed by modern youth -- responsibility to God, to family, to neighbor, and to the civic community. Its religious, vocational, and educational aspects, along with a strong commitment to form a Christian conscience in youth, are important elements of the program. It is also an effective force in developing sound adult Christian leadership.

The Meridian District luncheon was held at Central United Methodist Church on April 25. To watch video via Facebook of the program, go to <http://bit.ly/2qgEzMu>.



Disaster Response News

UMCOR Awards Mississippi Grant for Disaster Recovery

Photo right: This home was severely damaged in a tornado that touched down in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in January 2017.

The Mississippi Conference is one of five United Methodist conferences handling disaster response projects and four church-related health boards in Africa receiving new grants from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The Mississippi Conference is assisting with recovery from tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding in January. The conference has been asked to take the lead, said Cathy Earl, UMCOR's director for U.S. disaster response, "because of their long history of quality case management" and the \$400,000 grant will support that work.

To read the full story from the United Methodist News Service, go to <http://bit.ly/2oNBbZb>.



MS UMCOR Disaster Response: Delta Force Team Needs Volunteers

One of the groups working to help homeowners rebuild and reinforce following last spring's flooding is Delta Force of Washington County. This group made up of local clergy, contractors, social service collaborators, and other community members meet to identify Washington County citizens who have suffered home damage due to flooding. They also provide counseling and outreach services to individuals requesting those services.

Photo right: *Flooding in Washington County, Mississippi. Photo Courtesy Community Foundation of Washington County.*

Delta Force is currently seeking volunteers and volunteer organizations to help us complete work on the homes approved for service. Projects are extremely flexible; afternoon work or long term projects are both welcome under the supervision of our construction committee. Tools and supplies can be provided but groups can bring any relevant tools they are comfortable with handling.

If you or your organization have an interest in setting up a volunteer project with Delta Force, please email Caleb Herod, Volunteer Coordinator at cmherod@gmail.com.



This message was relayed by the Mississippi United Methodist committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Disaster Response Volunteer Opportunity in Saipan

Volunteer teams of 15 including one cook are wanted to respond to Saipan where families are still waiting for assistance after a devastating typhoon two years ago. Volunteers are needed for 21 days beginning May 12 through June 2. Hollis Crowder the United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) coordinator for the Mississippi Conference is leading a team. For more information contact him at holliscrowder@aol.com.

Few Submissions for Denman, Elzy, and Tobias Awards

Application Deadlines May 1

The May 1 deadline to submit names for three annual conference award is quickly approaching. Meanwhile the Mississippi Conference Office of Connectional Ministries reports there are few application thus far.

Please submit nominations for those who shine in racial reconciliation (Emma K Elzy Award), evangelism (Harry Denman Award) or Methodist history (Tobias Gibson Award). The office of connectional ministries seeks to recognize churches, groups, and individuals in the Mississippi United Conference that are redefining what it means to be a light in a dying world.

For the nomination forms, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017awards>.



United Methodist Men Annual Meeting June 7

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Conference United Methodist Men will take place Wednesday, June 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Miss. Annual elections and the business of the UMM will be conducted during this meeting. All male members of Mississippi Conference United Methodist Churches are invited. To follow the Mississippi United Methodist Men on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/UMMenMS/>. To visit website of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, go to <http://www.gcumm.org>.



May 14 Methodist Senior Services Sunday Fund

On Sunday May 14, Mississippi United Methodist congregations will be asked to give to the Methodist Senior Services Sunday Fund. Monetary gifts will help MSS meet the financial burdens of elders who live on one of the 12 campuses across Mississippi. For more information about MSS and the Sunday Fund, visit www.mss.org.



Clergy Moving Day

Bishop James Swanson Sr. has designated June 27, 2017 moving day for clergy transferring to new appointments in the Mississippi Conference. In The United Methodist Church clergy appointments are made annually by the bishop who is responsible for setting all the pastoral appointments in the conference. For more information about the process, go to <http://bit.ly/2q9fdEc>.

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 30, 2017

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we are able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. To read more, go to <http://bit.ly/2o5E4qM>.



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>.

Faith Communities

Districts Combine for Property Insurance Discussion

From Hattiesburg District News

Photo right: Mississippi Conference treasurer, David Stotts, spoke with churches about properly insuring their property. Photo courtesy Hattiesburg District office.

Churches from the Hattiesburg and Meridian districts gathered on April 18, 2017, at Quitman First UMC for a meeting about insurance valuations of church properties. Those churches invited to attend were ones that the Mississippi Conference Board of Trustees determined needed the information. The churches may not have church building valuations correct, thus they would not have enough insurance. One Hattiesburg District church, Heidelberg UMC, called the district office to say that the board chair and the treasurer had attended the meeting and were increasing their coverage for the benefit of their congregation.



In February, a video was released featuring testimonies of two local church leaders and the bishop urging churches to properly insure their property. To view the video, go to <https://vimeo.com/203328526>.

Administry

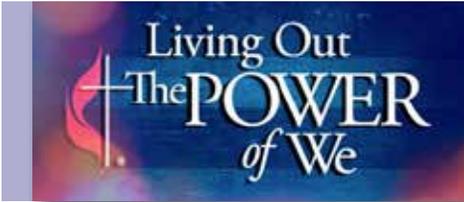
Attention: Email Scam Alert

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) has received reports recently of an email scam targeting our Annual Conference Bishops and Treasurers. The email will come from an address that is posing as the Bishop's email address. Inside, the email will ask the Treasurer to make a cash deposit or account transfer for a large sum of money.

Thankfully conference offices alerted GCFA to this situation. This same scam was attempted several times last year. We wanted to let you know as this is critical to protecting your assets. We encourage you to stay alert and please feel free to share this notice to help protect others in your conference offices.

As always, the GCFA IT and Shared Services teams are happy to try and assist if you receive odd requests or "phishing" emails. Cyber-attacks continue to grow exponentially by those looking to mine conference data. Please email sharedservices@gcfa.org if you need further assistance.





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

Bishop and DS Greets Confirmands

Courtesy Morton United Methodist Church Facebook Page

"Not everyone gets to have the bishop and district superintendent at your confirmation class, but Scott County confirmands are pretty amazing," wrote the Rev. Trey Harper in a Facebook post last month. Harper is the pastor of Forest UMC. The youth from his church recently joined with their peers from nearby Morton UMC and Lynch Chapel UMC for the confirmation class. Bishop James Swanson Sr. addressed the youth via video. East Jackson District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton was present. Following her visit with the youth, she stated on social media, "Amazing disciples of Jesus! The connection is real! Love to you, confirmands!"



Delta State Wesley Director on Her First Year

By Julia Sheets, Director of DSU Wesley Foundation

Photo right: Wesley Foundation students served a barbecue lunch at Delta State University. The campus is in Cleveland, Mississippi.

It has been an incredible year at the Delta State Wesley Foundation. I can't believe my first school year here is almost over! One student described our Wesley as what "the Kingdom of Heaven will look like." There are students of every race and socio-economic status, and we have had students from over 15 countries in attendance. It is awesome! It is so exciting to see students growing in the Lord and building relationships together, it is truly an example of Godly community.



The DSU Wesley has had a busy year of worship, Bible studies, retreats, international nights, holiday parties, and a Spring Break Mission Trip! What better way to spend Spring Break than worshiping and serving the Lord as we got to help others. We served alongside Delta Grace in a community near Baton Rouge, LA that had been traumatized by flooding. We got to help repair three homes. The work was satisfying, but it was the building of relationships with the homeowners which was the most fulfilling. The students definitely received more of God's grace than they ever felt possible through the faiths of the gracious homeowners who had lost so much.

I love being a part of the churches and communities in Cleveland and the surrounding areas. There are so many churches and individuals who lovingly give to the Wesley with their prayers, financial support, and food! We are so blessed to see how many adults in the UMC care about college students and wanting them to grow in relationship with Christ. I am excited to get to build relationships between DSU Wesley and the surrounding churches. We have been privileged to share in 17 congregations this year! I can't wait to see what God continues to do on the campus of Delta State through the Wesley Foundation.

To contact Julia Sheets, mail to, 904 S. Court St. Cleveland, MS 38732. For more information about DSU Wesley Foundation, visit www.dsuwesley.com.



All things related to the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference!
 For details, go to <http://bit.ly/2obIRDJ>.

Save the Date | Announcements

2017 Sacred Conversations Events for Young Clergy (Under 40)

April 27, 2017

The Center for Ministry is sponsoring "Sacred Conversations for Young Clergy." The regional gatherings are planned and facilitated by young clergy for the purpose of learning from each other, worshipping together, and creating community. A half CEU is available for those who attend. Bring money for lunch. The last opportunity to participate is April 27, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Court St. in Hattiesburg. Amy Roller and Brad Corban will lead this event. RSVP to Amy Roller at 601-479-7743, brotheramy@gmail.com.

Free Day at Camp Wesley Pines

April 29, 2017

Attend a free day at Camp Wesley Pines, April 29, 2017. The fund begins at 8:30 a.m. All ages are invited. Bring a church group, or come as individuals! Experience some of the events of the summer such as archery, canoeing, and ropes. Take a walking tour of the camp and experience the prayer walk. Organizers need a headcount to plan for food and drinks. So call 601-892-2341 in advance to let them know you will attend.

Coffeeville UMC Ladies Luncheon

April 29, 2017

Guest speaker Cristin Carven Barnard will share from her experience how God makes his presence real to people in every step of the process of grief. Her message is titled "Have Faith Now." This event is Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11 a.m., at Coffeeville UMC. Lunch will be followed by praise and worship. There is no cost, but reserve your place. Call 662-675-2690.

Women's Luncheon with Doris Bowman

April 29, 2017

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to a Women's Luncheon with Doris Bowman on Saturday, April 29, 2017, noon at Pleasant Hill UMC. Bowman is a regular speaker for women's conferences and retreats nationwide. She makes her home in Spring City, Tennessee, at Cedine Bible Ministries. Her personal heartwarming stories of God's provision for her daily needs will compel you to reach out of your comfort zone and watch God at work through you! Cost is by donation. RSVP's appreciated and can be made to the church office. Call 662-895-2323 or email, phumcms@yahoo.com.

Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi: Day of Hope

April 29, 2017

The Methodist Children's Homes invites you to attend the 4th Annual Day of Hope, a community day on campus. Join us on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. as we celebrate the hope that has been restored in our children through the faithful members of United Methodist churches across our state. The Day of Hope is so much more than a "day," and the outcome can be life changing. For our youth, it is a day that they look forward to all year long because they actually get the chance to meet you and show off their home. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2qqv8gi>.

Methodist Teach-in on Migration

April 30, 2017

The Methodist Teach-in on Migration (CEU workshop) will train Methodist leaders on what the Methodist faith teaches about migration and how to organize a Methodist Teach-in. Participants will receive .5 CEU through the Center for Ministry. For more information, view the flyer here: <http://bit.ly/2oDyCMn>, or call Sue Weishar at 504-864-7749.

Retirement Service for Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest

June 24, 2017

Safe Harbor UMC invites you to a retirement celebration in honor Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 5 p.m. To attend, RSVP to safeharborumc@cableone.net.

Male Chorus to Benefit Bethlehem Center

April 30, 2017

Central United Methodist Church will present the Metro Male Chorus in concert on Sunday, April 30 at 3 p.m. The concert will benefit Bethlehem Center, Inc. The center is a mission of The United Methodist Church. Admission is free, but a LOVE offering will be collected during intermission. Please give generously. Follow the link for more information <http://bit.ly/2pjf8e4>.

The Spiritual Leader as Manager

May 4, 2017

Leading a staff -- whether paid or volunteer -- is key to leading a church well. It's also one of the most challenging aspects of pastoral leadership! How can pastors lead these leaders most effectively? If you're interested in strengthening your skills in this area attend this workshop, May 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.events.centerforministry.com/assnfe/ev.asp>.

Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church

May 8-10, 2017

Spring Revival at Pratt Memorial UMC in Jackson, Mississippi is May 8-10, 2017. On May 8, Rev. Calvin Waddy of Central Community Church will preach. On May 10, Rev. Tim Howard of We Are One United Methodist will preach. May 11, Rev. John Perkins of Voice of Calvary Ministries will preach. Service is nightly at 7 p.m.

Connected: A Night of Worship

June 7, 2017

Join us as we unite in an intergenerational evening of connection. We as The United Methodist Church want to open our doors to the public, inviting people from all around the state-from different churches, communities and denominations-to gather to worship the one true God under one roof. A worship opportunity featuring music from Shane & Shane and speaker Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean.

For more information, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/connected>.

M28Camps Youth Conferences 2017

July 2-6 | July 6-9 | July 10 -14

M28Camps is in partnership with Lake Junaluska Conference Center to provide 3 youth events at Lake Junaluska, NC during the first two weeks of July. These 3 events are designed to help youth ministers and church adult volunteers foster Christian discipleship in their groups in the United Methodist/Wesleyan tradition. Participants can expect moving worship, speakers, special "late night" entertainment, and plenty of activities in the surrounding mountains. This year's keynote speakers are Rev. Regine Baptiste and Rev. Patrick Quinn. Registration is still being accepted! For more information please go to www.M28Camps.com.

Laura Story Performing at Lake Junaluska

July 3, 2017

Laura Story will perform July 3 at Lake Junaluska as part of the Independence Day Celebrations. Story is a well-known contemporary Christian artist who has been recognized for her amazing musical ability and knack for getting to the heart of difficult issues. Her song "Blessings" won a GRAMMY award, a Billboard Music Award and three Dove Awards. Her fifth studio album, "Open Hands," was released in March 2017.

To learn more about the Independence Day Celebrations at Lake Junaluska, visit www.lakejunaluska.com/july4th.

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, social media and the website for details.

2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing

Jan. 23-24, 2020

Mark your calendar to attend the 2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing in Nashville, Tennessee on Jan. 23-24, 2020.

- Learn about legislation and logistics
- Prepare for your work at General Conference
- Connect with fellow attendees

More details will be provided closer to the date of the event.

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.

Announcements

Higher Education and Ministry Loans

2017 Spring/Summer loan closes May 2. 2017 Fall applications open May 5. For all the details, go to <http://bit.ly/2oKWV3>.

Cares & Concerns

Rev. Dr. John Harper

Rev. Dr. John Harper (Retired - Seashore District) passed away on Saturday evening, April 1, 2017. He served in the active ministry as a Methodist Minister for 41 years. He is survived by his wife: Dorothy Faye (Newell) Harper and one daughter: Jennifer (Jeff) Mathis; one brother: James Harper. He also has two grandchildren, Jase Mathis and Jenna Mathis. Please keep the Harper family in your thoughts and prayers.

Rev. Jerry Norrels

Arrangements for Rev. Jerry Donnell Norrels, pastor of the Frostbridge Charge in the Hattiesburg District, are set. The family hour is Friday, April 28, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mt. Sinai UMC, 424 Monticello St., Hazlehurst, Mississippi. The funeral is Saturday, April 29, 2 p.m. at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 13146 Hwy 51 South in Hazlehurst. The repast is at the church.

Methodist Tested Recipes

Seafood Enchiladas

1 lb. lump crab meat	1 (12-oz.) evaporated milk
8 oz. frozen cooked salad shrimp thawed	4 garlic cloves, minced
Three-fourths c. chopped pimento-stuffed olives	3 T. butter
8 oz. (3 c.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided	1/3 c. flour
2 (8-oz.) bottles clam juice	1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
	1 (4.5-oz.) can chopped green chilies
	16 (6-ounce) corn tortillas



Mix crab, shrimp, olives and 1 and one-half cups of the Jack cheese in a medium bowl. Heat clam juice, milk and garlic until steamy hot. In a large saucepan, over medium heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour until blended; whisk in milk, stirring vigorously until sauce thickens. Whisk in Parmesan cheese and chilies; continue to simmer until sauce is of cream soup thickness. Stir three-fourths cup into the seafood and spread 1 cup in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Adjust oven rack to center position and heat oven to 400 degrees. Microwave tortillas on high power in a microwave-safe plastic bag until warm, about 45 seconds. Spoon one-fourth cup of the filling into a tortilla. Roll each into a cylinder and place, seam-side down, in dish. Repeat. Drizzle enchiladas with 1 cup of the sauce and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Spritz foil with cooking spray, cover the dish and bake 30 minutes. Uncover the dish and let stand for a few minutes. Warm remaining sauce (thin with water, if necessary) and serve over enchiladas.

— By Carolyn P. Hoover in the new "Recipes and Remembrances" published by Jackson Street UMC in Brookhaven

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.**

- Full-time Director of Youth Ministry and Contemporary Worship at First UMC, Crawfordsville, IN
- Director of Children's Ministries at Canterbury UMC, Birmingham, AL
- Church Administrator at Shalimar UMC, Shalimar, FL



Visit <http://bit.ly/2kCN81h> 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.

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_Kix8lbYuHKRMLljg
- 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.