

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

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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.

'A bunch of angels'



Bishop James Swanson Sr. of the Mississippi Conference talked with a survivor of the recent tornado that struck Petal and Hattiesburg in late January. He recently toured the impacted areas where many victims expressed thanks for the United Methodist presence in their time of need. In the section **Connecting on page 3** read more and view pictures.



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.



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

word POWER

Matthew 5:13-20

New International Version (NIV)

Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. **19** Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Bishop On the Move

Feb. 6, 2017 (Monday) – Bishop Swanson will preach opening worship for the Clergy Leadership Conference at St. Mark’s UMC in Brandon.

Feb. 8, 2017 (Wednesday) – Bishop Swanson will attend the inauguration of the new president of Emory University.

Feb. 9, 2017 (Thursday) – Bishop Swanson will attend Emory Board of Trustees meeting and visit with Candler and Gammon students for dinner. Several Mississippi Conference cabinet members and the director of spiritual leadership will join Swanson.

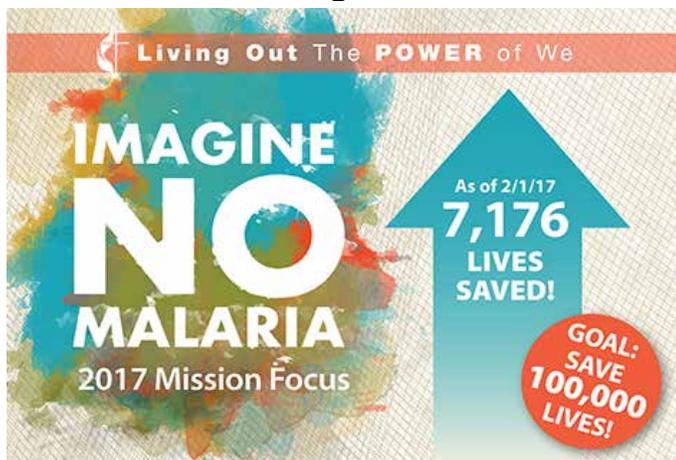
Feb. 11, 2017 (Saturday) – Bishop Swanson will attend the Tupelo District Laity Conference at St. Mark UMC in Tupelo followed by a conversation with the district pastors.

Feb. 12, 2017 (Sunday) – Bishop Swanson will preach at Usher Valley UMC in Pontotoc at 11 a.m.

Feb. 12, 2017 (Sunday) – Bishop Swanson will be a part of worship service at Houston First UMC in Tupelo. The fellowship is at 5 p.m. followed by worship at 6 p.m.

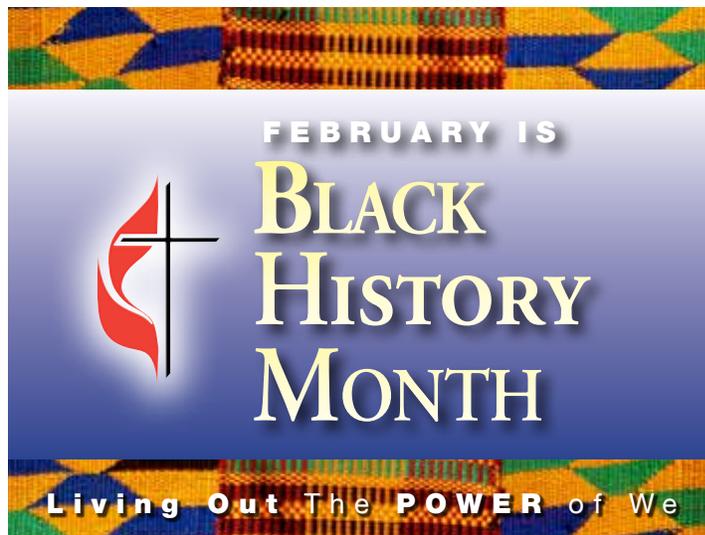


INM Update!



For more information:

www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas



United Methodists Called Angels in Disaster Response

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

Photo right: From left to right, United Methodist volunteers Kristyn Edmonds, Cindy Ivey with tornado survivor Cathy Roberts, also a United Methodist.

Photo below right: Bishop James Swanson Sr. and Daniel Short, a tornado victim, discussed the United Methodist disaster response.

Photo below left: A view of Daniel Short's home following the tornado.

Photo bottom left: Bishop Swanson and William Carey University President, Dr. Tommy King before Swanson tours tornado damage on the campus.

Photo bottom right: One of many buildings hit by the tornado at William Carey University.

Cindy Ivey and Cathy Roberts laughed and cried together like longtime friends, but they have only known each other a couple of days. Ivey is a disaster response volunteer with Asbury United Methodist Church of Petal, Mississippi. She was delivering meals to tornado survivors like Roberts who was clearing debris from her property. In getting acquainted, Roberts revealed she was also United Methodist and a member of nearby St. Paul UMC. Grateful for the generosity of fellow Methodists, Roberts told how the high winds lifted her family from their beds.

"We are so blessed. My husband was up and down the hall trying to find us. We are so grateful for our lives. We are not worried about where we go from here because I know God's got this all mapped out. I truly appreciate the volunteers that came through," she said.



Dennis Miller, another survivor, estimated his journey to recover from the tornado may have taken several months, but thanks to United Methodist heavy equipment workers, he got a jump start. Volunteers cut and removed several sizable trees from around his home.

"They are a bunch of angels. I think this is awesome what the church is doing because we needed it. God is good, and I am still alive," said Miller who recalled his house rumbling and shaking from the tornado, but never lost structure.

Bishop Tours Tornado Damaged Communities

Bishop James Swanson Sr. of the Mississippi Conference United Methodist Church recently toured the destruction. Members of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) joined the bishop. One of their stops was at the heap of debris that was once home for Daniel Short, his wife, and two kids. The family survived the tornado in the bathroom. Short said he had been turning away help because he had insurance. However being displaced for nearly a week and the mound in his yard untouched, his emotions were high. So, he graciously accepted the Methodist offer to assist him with clean up. Short added that encouraging words from the Bishop was valuable too.

"It's a blessing when people come out and are willing to help. It makes it a little easier. It was going to be hard moving this myself. God bless everyone who has come out to help us," Short stated.



Swanson also visited the Edwards Street Fellowship Center (<http://bit.ly/2k0wfhf>), a mission of the Mississippi Conference. The center is about 1.4 miles from where the tornado hit. It exists to serve the low-income families with a food pantry, a non-emergency medical clinic, and a thrift store. The facility was not damaged but lost electricity. Not knowing how long the power would be out, workers quickly distributed perishable food items to feed storm victims.

Since the power restored, businesses and schools have been non-stop with replenishing the center's resources with more than 20,000 pounds of food, cleaning supplies and household items. Ann McCullen, the executive director at Edwards Street, said that the response from United Methodist churches has been phenomenal.

"It just touches our hearts to see the power of our Methodist connection live out, and it is so comforting because you know you are not in this alone. You know that there is a whole denomination out there that you can turn to," McCullen explained.

The bishop's tour included meeting with the president of William Carey University and a golf cart ride through campus to see the tornado's impression that was campus-wide.

To view more pictures from the Bishop Swanson's tour, go to <http://bit.ly/2kYF247>.

Disaster Response Needs: Tarp Teams, Volunteer Organizer, Heavy Equipment Teams and More

Photo right: A member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Petal, Miss. assisted with tree removal. Photo by Tamica Smith Jeuitt.

Tarp teams are wanted to assist in the ongoing disaster response in the Hattiesburg area where a deadly tornado struck last month. The teams are needed to work for a couple of days. To help, contact Chris Adams at 601-818-5899.

In the latest report from the Mississippi Conference disaster response coordinator, Rev. Kenny McGill, he wrote that people are needed to help organize volunteers and conduct site assessments. Those who feel led to this work can call Rev. Daniel Herring, Hattiesburg District disaster coordinator at 601-278-3092.

McGill said workers are also wanted for providing meals to the volunteers. To help with feeding, call Penny Bart at 601-606-8816. Teams with heavy equipment for demolition can contact Rev. Kenny McGill at 662-416-1981.

To read McGill's full announcement and disaster response messaging from the Mississippi Conference, including where to send monetary donations, go to <http://bit.ly/2kulVAf>.



Register for UMCOR Early Response Team Training

The Mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. This team is neither a first response group of emergency workers nor a recovery rebuild or repair team; rather it fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church. Registration fee includes manual, t-shirt, lunch, background check, and leader expenses. For ERT certification, participants need to attend the entire course. This training will have hands-on activities. Dress comfortably and in layers. The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs.

- Training available at Baldwin UMC, Brooksville - Feb. 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Register: <http://bit.ly/2kWGabP>. Training by Rev. CJ Caulfield.
- Training available at Eastlawn UMC, Pascagoula - Feb. 3, 11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Register: <http://bit.ly/2kmkMtv>. Training by Rev. David Cumbest and Rev. David Newton.



MS Conference Board of Global Ministries Train with Center for Mission Innovation at GBGM Headquarters in Atlanta

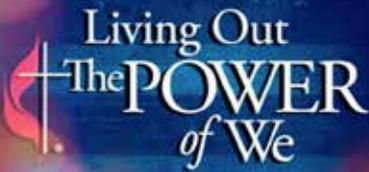
Video Highlights MS Conference Participants

Photo right: The Rev. Peggy Gibson of St. Paul UMC in Moss Point, Miss. uses sticky note method of listing her gifts. Photo Cynthia Mack.

On Jan. 18, 2017, members of the Mississippi Conference Board of Global Ministries came together with staff at the new General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) headquarters, located in Atlanta, GA. The new space was specifically designed to inspire mission innovation and a culture of hospitality. This inspiration was evident throughout the day as participants reflected on Global Ministries' Theology of Mission and discussed "big picture" projects, such as Global Health.

The General Board of Global Ministries released an article and video featuring some of the Mississippi participants. View the article and video here: <http://bit.ly/2k0G1JB>.





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>

Shelton to Join Millsaps College as Chaplain and Director of Student Religious Life

Millsaps College announced that Rev. Dr. Joey Shelton, *photo right*, will assume the role of chaplain and director of church relations, effective July 1, 2017. Shelton is currently serving as the senior pastor of Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson, a position he has held since January 2008.

"This is such an exciting opportunity for Millsaps College, and we are looking forward to Rev. Shelton joining us on campus," said Dr. Robert W. Pearigen, president of Millsaps. "Joey brings to the position not only a wealth of pastoral experiences in the Church and in higher education but also a deep knowledge of, and commitment to, Millsaps. This selection represents a major development in our strategic plan's goal to strengthen our partnership and affiliation with The United Methodist Church."

"I have four professional and vocational loves: the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church, the Center for Ministry, Galloway United Methodist Church and Millsaps College," said Shelton. "The opportunity to serve the convergences of these great loves is extremely humbling. I covet prayers for all."

Bishop James Swanson Sr. of the United Methodist Conference of Mississippi supported the opportunity for Shelton to transition to Millsaps.

"Dr. Shelton has served Galloway United Methodist Church faithfully and fruitfully for the last nine years," Swanson said. "I have every confidence that he will be an excellent addition to the leadership team of Millsaps College. He is uniquely qualified to serve both the church and the higher education community. As Joey serves in this new position as chaplain and director of church relations, I believe he will enrich the relationship between the Mississippi Conference and Millsaps College. For this reason, I am glad to make this appointment."

Shelton is a 1982 graduate of Millsaps College, and earned his law degree at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from The Divinity School at Duke University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Shelton serves on the board of Mississippi Methodist Senior Services, Inc., and is in his final year of service on the Millsaps College Board of Trustees, where he is the current chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. He is married to the Rev. Dr. Connie Mitchell Shelton, and they have two daughters.



Lake Junaluska Hires New Director of Programming

Submitted by Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, Marketing

Lake Junaluska has announced a new hire to oversee programs, events, and ministries. Mitzi Johnson will begin as director of programming on March 1. In this position, Johnson will oversee the Summer Worship Series, Choir Music Weekend, youth events, and other programs and events at Lake Junaluska.

Johnson said she plans to draw ideas from the community, event attendees, and her own personal experiences to develop an inclusive new approach to programming.

"I'm really excited about being a part of taking this beautiful, holy and historic place into the future," Johnson said. "I see openness to new types of programming and to welcoming groups that maybe haven't been traditionally served by the lake."

Johnson is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. She most recently served as the pastor of spiritual formation at University United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and UNC-Chapel Hill. Before attending seminary, Johnson worked as a corporate trainer, developing programming for Fortune 500 companies. She has also worked as a school teacher with the Teach for America program.

"We are thrilled that we have found such a perfectly qualified person for this position," said Jack Ewing, executive director of Lake Junaluska. "Mitzi brings enormous gifts and talents that will result in exciting new changes to the programs, ministries and events at Lake Junaluska."

Johnson said in the new position she wants to plan events that make each family member feel included, welcome and learn from other denominations, and connect with millennials. Johnson also said it is important to listen to the community already in place in order to truly understand the vision for the future.



Mitzi Johnson
Photo courtesy Lake Junaluska

"I'm not coming in with a set of programs that I'm ready to implement," Johnson said. "Instead, I'm bringing a set of questions that have proven helpful in the past as I've tried to learn about a new community and what is of interest to them."

Johnson said she is inspired by Lake Junaluska's dedication to hospitality and transformation.

"Hospitality is not just seeking to transform others, but allowing ourselves to be transformed," said Johnson. "So as people come to Lake Junaluska, we will allow ourselves to be transformed by what we learn from them, and what they can teach us about the kinds of programming we could be providing."

Lake Junaluska is a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body. For more information about Lake Junaluska programs and events, visit www.lakejunaluska.com.



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

Climate Justice Event for UMW and Clergy Feb.18

Photo right: Abby Bassie will be leading a social action event on climate justice Feb. 18 at First UMC in Grenada, Miss.

United Methodist Women calls for sound stewardship of the earth and environmentally friendly lifestyles that preserve creation for the benefit of present and future generations. For these reasons, Greenwood District United Methodist Women invites women to attend the Social Action Event -- Climate Justice. This event is Sat. Feb. 18, 2017, at First UMC in Grenada, Mississippi. Abby Bassie is leading the gathering and encouraging all Mississippi United Methodist women to come out.

Bassie has a B.S. in biological/environmental engineering from Mississippi State University and pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering at MSU.

As an undergraduate, she worked with leading environmental scientists to study sea level rise and its effect on wetlands in the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She also worked for the River Engineering Branch of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and developed mudslide forecasting systems for vulnerable regions of the Southwestern United States.

"These experiences have shaped my perception of climate justice in a very personal way. It's been incredible to play a very small part in the global effort to understand human impacts on our climate. It's a subject that I'm very passionate about, and I hope that our discussion will motivate you to seek climate justice for yourself, for your posterity, and for the global population," she said.

For more information contact: Jackie Pennington, Social Action Coordinator, jackiebill@tecinfo.com or call 662-719-5064.



Faith Communities

Riley Youth Remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Submitted by Seashore District

On Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, the Youth Department at Riley Chapel United Methodist Church paid tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin King, Jr., in honor of his birthday. They presented Dr. King and his inspiration for peaceful protest and equality for all. Riley Chapel UMC is in Gulfport, Mississippi.



Students

Plan for Fam Jam Aug. 12

Plans are underway for a family event primarily for children kindergarten through 6th grade. The affair will feature Kidz Blitz and Yancy. Families and friends of the Mississippi Conference are invited to come out. Fam Jam is Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2017 at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. The fun begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child and \$30 family max. Parents enter free. For more information visit www.mississippi-umc.org/famjam.

To print out the Fam Jam flyer, go to <http://bit.ly/2k0IBWX>.

Intern for The Gathering Shares Glory Sighting

By Kayla Mattox, Mississippi State University Wesley Foundation

Photo right: *The Rev. Corey Truett, front corner of the picture, captured a selfie with student interns for The Gathering 2017 in Jackson, Miss. at Christ United Methodist Church.*



On Feb. 20 - 21, a group of 13 ragtag individuals gathered together to train for and hammer out all the minute details that go into planning such a huge event as The Gathering. So much growth has occurred in this event that we needed more interns than ever before to pull off this Jesus -- encountering weekend! Knowing the scope of The Gathering, I expected the training weekend's long hours of pouring over time sheets and job descriptions; I expected the crowded conference room -- I didn't even raise an eyebrow at the bunch of strangers surrounding me with coffee on their breath.

What I didn't expect (that I really shouldn't be surprised at by now) was that God would meet us so readily in our frustrations, or that He would take perfect strangers and knit us together in one body so that we would leave the weekend with new brothers and sisters in Christ. Before we looked at the first figure or debated the first pro or con of Broom Hockey, our fearless leader, Corey Truett pulled out his guitar. He led us in a time of worship -- a time of refreshing our spirits and lifting our empty cups to the only One who can fill them to overflow with rivers of living water. In the middle of that mundane conference room, we entered into the presence of God and He turned our eyes to see the threads of Kingdom Work that He was weaving through even the smallest facets of our planning. God met us where we were. He always does.

With that truth on our sleeves, we rolled them up and got down to business, and here's some of what The Gathering has in store this year:

Big news, the usual basketball tournament is a thing of the past! Instead, there are going to be several options for group games including Kickball, Broom Hockey, Capture the Flag, Nine Square, Gaga Ball, and Sprout Ball, in addition to a video game trailer, bounce houses, and a DJ. Games are a great way to get to know new people and build community, so don't forget to sign up for some of these exciting recreational games!

We are all so excited for how God is going to move through The Gathering weekend, and we want to invite all 6th through 12th grade youth groups to register for this event and join us, February 24-26, in glorifying the Lord and learning more about Him!

Information on how to register can be found at www.mississippi-umc.org/thegathering, a page that also includes a full list of featured speakers you won't want to miss hearing.

Administry

Notice From the Mississippi Conference Treasurer, David Stotts

Greetings Fellow "Administry" Friends!

I am so happy to share with you about an upcoming event that I think will benefit your church whether you are a small congregation or a large church. The Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators (SEJUMACBA) is having their education/fellowship event (view brochure: <http://bit.ly/2kx5nIM>) at Lake Junaluska beginning Sunday, April 30, 2017 and concluding Tuesday, May 2, 2017. We are so privileged to have Elaine and Frank Sommerville of the Dallas Texas area to be our guest speakers. Elaine is a certified public accountant (CPA) and Frank is a CPA and lawyer. They are definitely experts in the field of church administration and laws related to the work we all do. They are first and foremost good Christian people who love God and love resourcing the churches. I use their information on a daily basis both as I work and teach.

If having them is not a big enough treat, our own Rev. Dr. Connie M. Shelton (Facebook link: <http://bit.ly/2k5dDPz>), East Jackson District Superintendent, will be our spiritual leader. I am sure you will grow stronger in your relationship with God as Connie leads us those days.

Come prepared to rest from your daily work, grow in your spiritual walk with God and learn the right way to be a good administer. The brochure (<http://bit.ly/2kx5nlM>) has the registration and housing information.

I hope you will consider attending this great event. You will need to be at the Lake by 4:00 p.m. Sunday and prepare to depart Wednesday morning. If you have the time, you may just want to finish out the week with a few vacation days at the Lake! If you have any questions about this event, please contact me or Sherry Russum at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church (<http://bit.ly/2kuFxWz>) in downtown Jackson, Mississippi.

I am looking forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date | Announcements

Clergy Leadership Conference

Feb. 6-8, 2017

Early Bird Registration Ends This Friday, Jan. 6

The 2017 Clergy Leadership Conference will be Feb. 6-8, 2017 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Brandon, Mississippi. Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish will lead this year's conference themed, "Leading a Church to Discern and Do God's Will." Those who attend the conference will receive 1.5 CEUs. Early Registration ends Jan. 6, 2017.

For more information, go to <http://www.events.centerforministry.com/assnfe/ev.asp>.

ERT Training at Eastlawn UMC

Feb. 11, 2017

Eastlawn United Methodist Church in Pascagoula, Mississippi will be the meeting place for Early Response Team (ERT) Training on Feb. 11, 2017. The church is at 2502 Ingalls Avenue. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2jfPFST>.

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.

Announcements

Piano for Sale - 2007 Sohmer Console Model 34R \$2,500

This piano was purchased new for \$3,700 plus tax by a Madison family for their daughter who took lessons for a short time. Recently, the piano was donated to Methodist Rehab Center's Wilson Foundation. Sohmer pianos are sought out by musicians for their sound and beautiful craftsmanship. If interested, contact Methodist Rehab Foundation's director Chris Blount 601-364-3565.

Order Society of St. Andrew Daily Devotions for Lent 2017

With a daily scripture reading, reflection, and prayer for the 40 days plus seven Sundays leading up to Easter, *With Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed*, based on the Jesus's words in Matthew 17:20, is a great resource for personal or congregational devotional use. Written by pastors and lay people from all walks of life, each day's devotional offers depth and meaning in our fast-paced world. Order your FREE preview packet today to review *With Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed*. If you decide it is right for your congregation, place your bulk order by February 17 to ensure timely delivery. (Ash Wednesday is March 1.)

For more information and to place your order, visit <http://EndHunger.org/Lent>.

Advertise in the 2017 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider

Order advertising in the 2017 Special Annual Conference Edition of *The Circuit Rider*.

2017 rates can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2iPA1bY>.



Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training Program

In times of disaster, the visible presence of the Church is an essential and effective ministry that brings God's hope and healing to people affected. United Methodist Committee on Relief's Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training is a one-day local church readiness program to equip volunteer trainers to respond.

For more information contact Rev. Kenny McGill at MSUMCOR@mississippi-umc.org. Click here to print a promotional flyer about Connecting Neighbors.

UM Appalachian Ministry Network Grant Application Now Available

Attention New Albany, Tupelo, Starkville, Senatobia, Meridian, and Greenwood Districts

The United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network 2017 Hunger & Poverty Grant applications are now available, twice a year. The upcoming UAMMN deadline is March 1, 2017. The second deadline is Sept. 1, 2017. To receive conference level signatures, applications must be received by the conference office (320-C Briarwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39206) no later than Feb. 13, 2017, and Aug. 1, 2017.

Application must be received by the cycle deadline to be considered for the current cycle.

Maximum grant amount is \$2,500.

Grants cannot be used for agency/ministry operating expenses, but may be used for non-agency/ministry resource persons.

Grants must be used for projects within the geographic region of Appalachia and that serve a majority of Appalachian people.

Here are the counties in Mississippi that fall inside the Appalachian region:

Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Itawamba, Kemper, Lee, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Webster, Winston, and Yalobusha.

Priority will be given to applications addressing causes and barriers related to hunger and poverty.

Project must be church-related-local, district, conference or ecumenical (must have active United Methodist involvement).

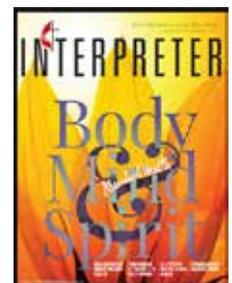
Apply for a grant: <http://www.umamn.org/grants/apply-grant/>

Receive UM Interpreter

Local churches can receive up to five free print editions of *Interpreter* and unlimited free editions.

The *Interpreter* is published by United Methodist Communications as a ministry magazine for the members -- lay and clergy -- of The United Methodist Church. The magazine's focus is on the ministries of individual members and local congregations, the resources and leadership provided by other parts of the connections and, to a limited extent, individual faith stories.

To access the current and archived issues and to subscribe, Go to <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/about/writers-guidelines> and visit the Magazine tab.



Hotels for 2017 AC Session

Hotels with special rates for the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Conference are now available online.

View the list here: <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017hotels>. Check back often for updates.

UMC Events

Visit www.umc.org/news-and-media/looking-ahead-upcoming-events to see more educational opportunities and other upcoming events in the life of The United Methodist Church.

Methodist Tested Recipes

Chicken Bread Pudding

6 slices firm-textured white bread, crust removed	1 c. grated Cheddar cheese
2 c. chopped cooked chicken	1 c. milk
4T. butter	2 eggs, beaten
¼ lb. fresh mushrooms sliced	2 T. chopped pimento
1 (8 oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and sliced	1 tsp. salt
¼ c. mayonnaise	¼ tsp. freshly-grounded pepper
	½ c. bread crumbs



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line bottom of 9x13-inch pan (buttered) with bread, cutting slices to fit. Top with chopped chicken. In a small frying pan, melt two tablespoons butter. Add mushrooms and sauté until browned. Remove from heat. Add water chestnuts and mayonnaise. Mix well and spoon over chicken. Sprinkle cheese over all. In a large bowl, combine milk, soup, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix until well blended. Pour over chicken. Bake 1 hour, until toothpick comes out clean. Sprinkle on bread crumbs; dot with slivers of remaining butter. Bake for 10 minutes, until crumbs are lightly browned.

— By Jessie TenEyck 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.

- Society of St. Andrew Harvest VISTA, Jackson MS
- Finance Administrator at Collierville UMC, Collierville, TN
- Full-time Director of Youth Ministry at First UMC in Dyersburg, TN
- Full-time Youth Discipleship Coordinator at Christ UMC, Louisville, KY
- Full-time Director of Youth Ministries at Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge, LA

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_Kix8IbYuHKRMLIjg
- 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.