

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

# The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | March 1, 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.

## Marking Day 1 of Lent



Today is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent -- a time for reflection and preparation for Easter. On this day, people are getting ashes on their forehead in the shape of a cross. In the section **Connecting on page 3** United Methodist Communications reporter, Joe Lovino, answers *Why ashes?*



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

## word POWER

### Matthew 4:1-11

*New International Version (NIV)*

#### Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

**4** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a]by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

**4** Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]”

**5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’[c]”

**7** Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’[d]”

**8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **9** “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

**10** Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’[e]”

**11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## Bishop On the Move

### March 1 - 5, 2017 (Wednesday - Sunday)

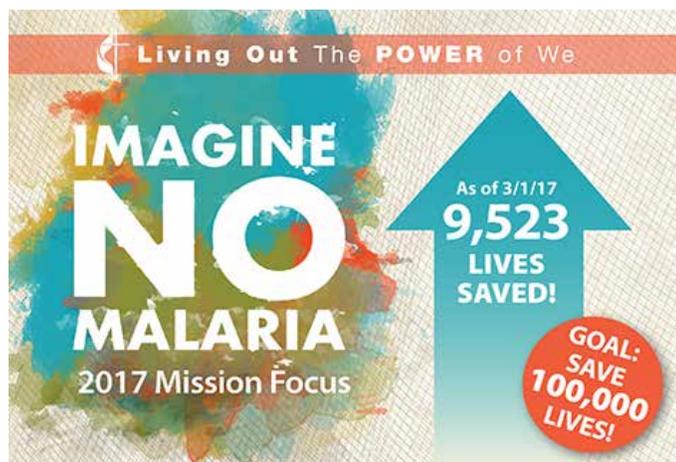
Bishop Swanson will attend spring meetings of the National Association of Conference Presidents and United Methodist Men Foundation Annual Meeting, in Nashville, Tennessee.

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

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



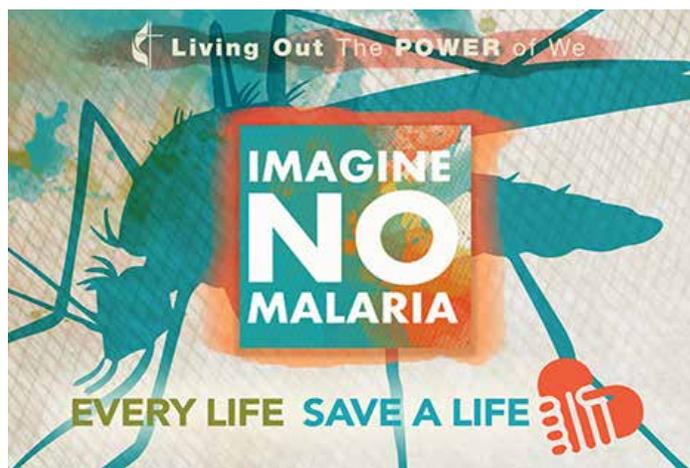
## INM Update!



*For more information:*

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

## 2017 Mississippi Conference Lenten Devotion Guide Available!



*Get your copy here:*

<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/inmlent>

### Why Ashes? Connecting to Who We Are and Who We Can Be

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino

One Wednesday a year, sometime in February or March, you notice someone at work, school, or elsewhere with a smudge on her forehead. It looks as if she missed a spot when washing. Then you see another who looks as though he needs to glance in the mirror. By the time you see the third, you realize it is Ash Wednesday, and these passersby must have received the imposition of ashes.

This practice we use to mark the first day of Lent may seem odd. People go to church mid-week to have a cleric place dirt on their foreheads.

In the early days of the church, it was even more dramatic. Pastors did not dip their thumbs into the ashes to draw the shape of a cross on your forehead. Instead, they poured or sprinkled ashes over your head.

Under any other circumstances, most would run from ashes. We avoid cleaning fireplaces for fear of the filth from them, yet we participate in this practice that is growing in popularity. In fact, the receiving of ashes seems to connect with all sorts of people.

To read the article, go to <http://bit.ly/2ltWXPx>.



Photo by Kathleen Barry,  
United Methodist Communications

### Mail Imagine No Malaria Collection to Conference Treasurer

**Photo right:** An offering for Imagine No Malaria was collected during the youth conference, The Gathering at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, MS. Photo by Tamica Smith Jeuit.

Mississippi Conference local churches continue to raise awareness and money towards the life-giving campaign of Imagine No Malaria. From smashing old cars to dressing as a mosquito, congregations are creatively doing their part to generate funds. Churches that are ready to turn in their donations are urged to mail their gifts to the Mississippi Conference treasurer. Mail to: **Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1603, Jackson, MS 39215. Be sure to make checks payable to the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church with "Imagine No Malaria" in the memo line.**



The conference goal is to save 100,000 lives from the deadly malaria disease. For more information about the Mississippi Conference effort to fight malaria, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/inm>.

## Disaster Response Updates

### Volunteers with Heavy Equipment and Chainsaw Skills Needed

Rev. Daniel Herring, the disaster response coordinator for the Hattiesburg District, said there are over 100 work orders from the recent January tornado that need completed. The remaining work requires heavy equipment and chainsaws. Volunteer teams available to help can contact Herring at 601-278-3092.

### Edwards Street Fellowship Center Thanks MS Conference for Disaster Relief Support

Edwards Street Fellowship Center (<http://bit.ly/2k0wfhf>) would like to thank local churches for their overwhelming generosity in response to the needs for recovery supplies. At this time, no more supplies are needed in the disaster area, but financial contributions are welcome to serve the immediate needs of the affected communities and prepare for long-term rebuilding.

The local church should send monetary donations to:



**The Mississippi Annual Conference, P.O. Box 1603, Jackson, MS 39215. Make a note in the memo line on the check that reads, "Hattiesburg/Petal Disaster Response."**

To read the letter from Ann McCullen, the executive director of Edwards Street Fellowship Center. go to <http://bit.ly/2mg9dYn>.

Please continue to pray for those who suffered loss and damage due to the recent severe weather.

## Duggar Leaving Methodist Children's Homes and New CEO Named

After four years as CEO of Methodist Children's Homes in Mississippi, Mike Duggar is saying goodbye. In a letter to the MCH family, Duggar talked about his plans and his replacement.

### Dear MCH Family,

*It is with much sadness that I announcement my resignation as your President and CEO. I have recently accepted a position at Lutheran Family and Children Services in Missouri. It has been my greatest joy to serve alongside you these last four years. I was able to make this difficult decision because I believe we are in a great position for a new CEO to step in.*

*It is an honor and privilege to announce Devon Loggins as the new President and CEO of your Methodist Children's Homes. You will quickly realize that Devon is a man of integrity and loyalty. Like you, Devon has a heart for children in need, and over the past 3.5 years, he has served MCH as the Chief Operations Officer where he has continued to improve the quality of programs and services to better serve our children.*

*Devon has over 15 years experience in providing crisis interventions in the field of corrections and working with at-risk youth. He received his bachelor of social work degree from Arkansas State University, his MSW from the University of Pittsburg, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. While he has served all over the country, Mississippi is his home. He was raised in Winona, MS and is looking forward to a long tenure as President and CEO of MCH.*

*Please join us in welcoming your new President and CEO of the Methodist Children's Homes, Devon Loggins. Over the next few months, he is looking forward to getting to know you through phone calls, meetings, church speaking engagements, and at our 4th annual Day of Hope.*

*Thank you for your support and prayers during the next couple of weeks as we go through the transition process. Your dedication to our children and youth is what makes MCH different from any other group home. Thanks for just being you, and for loving us always!*

*With many thanks,*

**Mike Duggar**

*President and CEO*



**Mike Duggar**



**Devon Loggins**



## 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/2ItKThe>.

## Update on Connectional Discernment at Lauderdale UMC

**Dear Mississippi United Methodists,**

*Grace and peace to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

*It is with a wounded spirit that I inform you today that 79 persons who were members of Lauderdale United Methodist Church in the Meridian District (<http://www.lauderdaleumc.org/>) resigned their membership in The United Methodist Church (<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are>) at a called church conference Sunday, February 19, 2017.*

To read more, go to <http://bit.ly/2IVjUs>.

# Commission on a Way Forward Convenes in Atlanta

Submitted by United Methodist Communications

The second meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward got underway in Atlanta February 27, as commission members spent time in reflection, discussion and work team meetings.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball led the Commission in discussions of accountability and their covenant, the complexity of the work ahead, and building relationships of trust by going deeper in conversation and understanding. These three values-accountability, complexity, trust-are considered essential to taking the steps toward decision-making.

On Tuesday, the Rev. Jorge Acevedo led a Bible study on Galatians 1, a letter that stirred the fires of the Protestant Reformation and was important to both John and Charles Wesley. "Paul gets to the heart of the matter. He's concerned; very concerned for the church," said Acevedo.



## Learning from history

Does a divided era of the church's past provide some clues for how to move forward towards the future? Commission members heard from Bishop Woodie White as he reflected on the period that spanned the 1940s, 50s and most of the 60s when African-American churches were segregated and placed into the Central Jurisdiction. That lasted until the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968.

"Fifty years ago, the church was -- as everyone knows -- structurally segregated. Annual conferences were segregated, most of our colleges were segregated, our institutions were segregated, and the church said that that had to come to an end," said Bishop White.

Bishop White likened the church to a family. "I believe we are brothers and sisters in Christ, and because I believe that, I won't let you write me out of the family and I won't write you out of the family. That gives me hope, that we are children of God," said Bishop White.

"Because I believe that everybody in this room is a brother or sister, it impacts how I treat everybody in this room. I believe everybody in this room is of infinite worth. I believe everybody in this room is entitled to be loved and accepted. I believe everybody in this room is more than their opinion or their ideas or their philosophy or their theology. I think everyone's essence transcends all of that, so I have to find a way to always evidence how important I think you are even when I think you're 1000 percent wrong or even when I know you are working against my best interest."

Bishop Ken Carter said that the moderators invited Bishop White to reflect on his experience as a leader having lived through the divisions of the church and the Central Jurisdiction and how that might help the church in the future.

"I think Bishop White is a leader and a sage, wise voice across our denomination," said Bishop Carter. "He both lived in a time of segregation and exclusion and also in a time of reunion -- as imperfect as that was. I feel like he has a unique perspective and a historical perspective; and if we didn't listen to that kind of voice, we'd have a gap in our knowledge of where we are at a time when the church is also struggling for unity."

White says it's a mistake to think that we will ever have a church where we're never struggling with issues. "Somebody's always struggling and I think it's unfortunate when we believe that because it causes people to become discouraged."

## Centralized vs. decentralized organizations

Gil Rendle led commissioners in a learning session on centralized and decentralized organizations that provided basic organizational information as a foundation for later conversations on denominational structure.

"A way forward cannot be an extension of the same path that got the church to this point," said Rendle. "Albert Einstein said, 'We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that created them.'"

Organizational theory notes that all organizations go through a swing in behaving in centralized and decentralized ways. Each type of structure has both advantages and disadvantages, but when the disadvantages become too pronounced, centralized organizations move toward decentralization and decentralized organizations begin to move back toward centralization.

"The United Methodist Church in some contexts experiences itself as a highly centralized organization that often wishes it could be more decentralized," said Rendle.

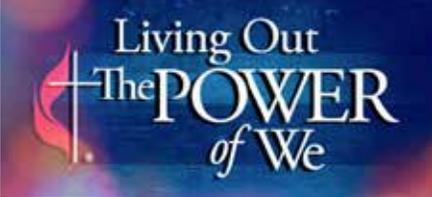
Rendle said that organizations become deeply embedded in a particular way of thinking because it works; but if practiced to excess, such thinking can easily become a weakness. As leaders who are schooled in the structure and polity of the denomination, Rendle says the Commission may have to set aside some of their current assumptions.

Rendle talked about organizational theory and polarity management, that is, managing two equally important truths that cannot be held together at the same time. For example, an organization should be well ordered and efficient, aligned in purpose and resources; and it should also be quick and agile, responsive to immediate needs and inventive enough to meet those needs. But how can it be both? How do we get out of our own constraints?

"I think there is an assumption by others that the work you are doing is to fix the centralized system we already have or how to improve it. But that's a question that comes within the framework of assumptions about the goodness of being centralized. If you stay within that box, you will not be able to address the questions about how to move forward."

The Commission on a Way Forward continues their meeting through March 2. Additional information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

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## 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>

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## Faith Communities

### Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

**Submitted by Peter Infanger - Director of Music at First UMC Starkville and Director of the Men of State at Mississippi State University**

**Photo right:** Starkville District Superintendent Embra Jackson (left) served as narrator for the Mississippi State University Male Chorus Black History presentation. Photo from Starkville District office.



On Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, the Men of State -- the all-male chorus at Mississippi State University -- presented the choral department's annual "Reflect and Rejoice" program, a celebration of African-American history through music. This year's presentation, narrated by Starkville District Superintendent Embra Jackson, was entitled, *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* and explored the use of African-American slave songs and spirituals in the communication system used by Tubman and other "conductors" of the railroad.

The impetus for the program's subject came from a reading of two important books; the more recent of those, *The Underground Railroad* by prize -- winning, bestselling author Colson Whitehead, presents the Underground Railroad as no mere metaphor -- engineers and conductors operating a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil -- but as a very real telling of the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on a history we all share.

The other book explored as a prelude to the presentation of this program was John Howard Griffin's 1959 diary telling what happened to him - from the outside and within himself -- as he conducted a social experiment using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown so, as a privileged Southern white man of the 1950s, he could experience what it was like to live in the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. *Black Like Me* was given to each of the members of the Men of State at the end of the Fall semester in the hopes the men of the choir would read it and have a better understanding of the ways that life in American has -- or hasn't -- changed in the fifty years since it was written.

Dr. Embra Jackson did a masterful job of giving examples of how African-American spirituals like "Go Down, Moses" and "Wade in the Water" and "Lord, If I Got My Ticket" served as signals to those waiting to ride the Underground Railroad; whether or not it was safe to approach a "station" or if it was necessary to hide in a nearby creek or pond to mask the human scent from the slave-catchers scouring the woods for human prey. Embra also shared some poignant remarks about his experiences as a student activist in his Tougaloo College days and concluding with remarks related to the story of Emmett Till that have been in the news of late.

The evening was capped with calls to action -- not necessarily the action of activists but, rather, the actions of individuals who are going to change the way they think about those who do not look like them; the actions of ones who are going to work hard at getting to know those with whom they work, not because they are different from each other but because of the things they have in common -- sweat, dreams and hopes, a shared humanity and respect for each other and the desire for a better world fashioned along the Biblical principles expressed by the prophet Micah when he said: **and what does the Lord require of you but to DO justice, to LOVE kindness, and to WALK humbly with your God?**

To hear some of the music presented on the referenced program go to [www.growasdisciples.com](http://www.growasdisciples.com) and watch the video of morning worship at Starkville FUMC from Sunday, February 12, 2017.

## Black History Month at Riley Chapel UMC Centers on Hymnists

Submitted By Seashore District of the Mississippi Conference

**Photo right:** Members of Riley UMC. Photo submitted by Seashore District.

The Music Ministry of Riley Chapel United Methodist Church observes Black History Month by focusing on spirituals and the music of African-American hymnists and gospel composers. Riley Chapel is at 1107 Church Street, Gulfport, MS 39507-1711, and our Pastor is the Reverend Phillip W. Heidelberg.



## Students

### 'Imagine' for the Weekend

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

**Photo right:** Spoken word artist Lo and Big Al the rapper entertain the youth.

Photo by Jasmine Haynes.

**Photo below right:** There was no shortage of students willing to assist presenters at The Gathering. Photo by Jasmine Haynes.

**Photo bottom right:** Illusionist Harris "the Third," shocked attendees when he made a table float. Photo by Mark Melvin.

A-list presenters used their unique ministry styles to encourage youth from across Mississippi to imagine the possibilities of God's greatness at the annual United Methodist youth conference, The Gathering. The 2017 theme was "Imagine." Roughly 1,500 students joined at the weekend event at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

The high-energy worship band Zealand from Tennessee provided teaching moments through song and testimony. Phil Joel, the band's lead singer recalled one of his many connections with his young audience.

"He looked like the kind of kid who could easily be slipping out the back to have a cigarette as soon as he could. He said to me, 'Thanks man. I really enjoyed everything you shared on stage. It made sense to me more than anything else. So, that was kind of cool. It is not about Sunday. It is not about youth group. It is about inviting the Lord into every part of our life and that is what worship is to me,' said Joel.

A returning favorite, rapper Big Al, took the stage with new beat patterns that flowed with his rhyme around the theme. He shared that he attempted suicide as teenager—a fact that moved one of the older attendees, a youth leader. "He walked over to me and he had tears in his eyes and he said 'Al you don't know how much your story blesses me. To know that God can bring you through things he has brought you through and use you in the way he uses you and draws people to you. I will always remember that,'" Big Al explained.

For a 15 year old named Lydia, she will always remember the award winning illusionist, Harris "the Third." He made a table float and objects disappear as he talked to the crowd about lies and deception that they have been tricked into believing. "I thought it was amazing how he put all of his speaking together with his illusions and I thought it was interesting," said Lydia.

Former All-American soccer player, Mo Isom tugged the hearts of young people with her testimony around a whirlwind of events. From struggling with an eating disorder to the suicide of her father, she talked about how Jesus was constant in the midst of her journey.

In closing worship, Bishop James Swanson Sr. delivered a thunderous sermon about blessing others.

"Whatever you have God didn't give to you strictly for you, but for you to share with somebody else. God wants you share what you have been given that the world might be blessed."

Organizers believe students left empowered and excited to imagine God in the world.

To see more photos from The Gathering on Flickr, go to <http://bit.ly/2lu35Y5>.



## Lake Junaluska Announces "Love Your #Selfie" Theme for Summer Youth Events

Submitted to The Circuit Rider

Lake Junaluska has announced the theme for its 2017 Summer Youth Events: "Love Your #Selfie: Appreciating God's Masterpiece in the Mirror." The theme was created to inspire youth groups over the course of six events taking place at Lake Junaluska from June 11-July 2. All youth groups are invited to register for the events.

Tammy McDowell, the assistant director of program ministries, said the new theme will bring energy to the Summer Youth Events, infusing them with relatable dialogue surrounding insecurities that youth share.

"Many youth have self-esteem issues which can be addressed by having a proper view of their beauty and significance," McDowell said. "By looking through God's eyes, they will be able to see that their uniqueness is God's special thumbprint in the world."

The inspiration for the theme came from Psalms 139:13-18 and Ephesians 2:8-10, both of which talk about God's intentionality in creating each person exactly the way they are. Diverse speakers from across the country will delve into these topics.

"We strive to develop creative messages that attract and connect with youth," said Jack Ewing, executive director of Lake Junaluska. "As has been the case for more than 100 years, when youth come to Lake Junaluska in 2017, they will experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ and return home transformed and renewed."

Each of the program weekends at the Lake Junaluska Summer Youth Events includes worship bands, speakers, special meals, lodging and a focus on giving. The mission project this year aids Rise Against Hunger, an organization with a goal to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to countries in need. Youth will pack meals to serve this cause.

Free time is also built into each afternoon of the event for groups to engage in rafting or zip lining adventures, do additional service projects in the surrounding communities, or enjoy the recreation activities at Lake Junaluska.

The youth events are for designed for youth groups of sixth through 12th graders. Registration is now open. Packages include housing, meals and the program.

For more information about Summer Youth Events and the summer schedule, visit [www.lakejunaluska.com/summeryouth](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/summeryouth) or call 800-222-4930.

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](http://www.lakejunaluska.com).



Photo by Lake Junaluska staff.



**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>.

### Starkville District Fishing 101

**March 4, 2017**

Michael W. Foss's book, "Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church" is a road map for great fishing for Christ. Foss discusses Prayer, Worship, Reading Bible, Service, Relationships (spiritual friendships) and Giving as the marks of those that are best equipped to help lead people to Christ, best equipped to make disciples, best equipped to be fishers of people! The Starkville District Spiritual Operational Team visions are sharing those fishing tips with district churches to help them become better fishers of people

for the sake of the Kingdom! So, attend Fishing 101 with guest fisher, LaToya Redd Thompson, Mississippi Conference Lay Leader. Register online at <https://mississippi-reg.brtapp.com/Fishing101> or call 662-323-0198.

### **Award Winning Pianist Performs at Big Point UMC**

**March 4, 2017**

John Nilsen will perform at Big Point UMC in Moss Point, Mississippi on Sat. March 4, at 3 p.m. To read more about this award-winning pianist, go to <http://bit.ly/2IVLoUN>.

### **Arts Under the Dome Presents Traditional Fiddler Verch**

**March 4, 2017**

Gulfport concert series Arts Under The Dome brings to the stage Ottawa Valley, Canada native and extraordinary fiddler April Verch on Saturday, March 4 at 7:00 PM, performing as a trio with bassist and clawhammer banjo player Cody Walters and Alex Rubin on acoustic guitar and mandolin.

The venue is First United Methodist Church in downtown Gulfport at 15th Street and 24th Avenue. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 students, available at the door or in advance from Arts Under The Dome's website, [www.arts.fumc-gulfport.org](http://www.arts.fumc-gulfport.org).

### **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.

### **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>.

## 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 Susanna 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.msumccclergyspouses.org](http://www.msumccclergyspouses.org) and click the tab Scholarship Info.

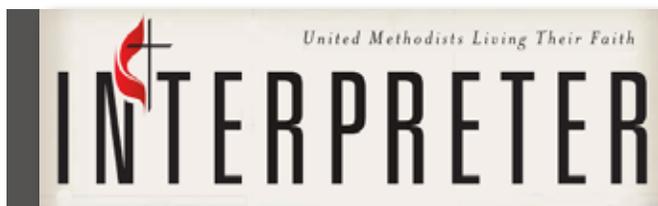
### Free CD-ROM Equipment

Wells Memorial UMC has CD-ROM recording equipment available for FREE to any church, ministry or non-profit that could benefit from its use. All equipment is in working order. Interested parties should contact the church office at [admin@wellschurch.org](mailto:admin@wellschurch.org) or 601-353-0658. Pictures of the actual equipment can be viewed here: <http://www.wellschurch.org/filerequest/2945.pdf>.

### 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.

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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.

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## Methodist Tested Recipes

### Blue Lagoon Sundae

2 T. blueberry flavoring	½ c. sweetened condensed milk
2 c. ice	1 tsp. blue food coloring
1 T. RealLemon juice	

Mix all ingredients in blender, except blue food coloring. Blend until thick smooth and slushy. Stir in blue food coloring and chill in refrigerator for 5 to 10 minutes. Serve Yield: 1 to 2 servings.

— By Caitlin Hill and Meredith Drake from "Loaves and Fishes, A Collection of Favorites" from St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, Mississippi



Have a recipe that is too good to keep to yourself? Share it with our *Circuit Rider* readers. Email your favorite recipes to [news@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:news@mississippi-umc.org).

## 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).**

- **Student Minister or Worship Leader at Sandtown UMC, Philadelphia, MS**
- **Director of Children's Ministries at Canterbury UMC at Birmingham, AL**
- **Director of Adult Ministries and Small Groups at Canterbury UMC, Birmingham, AL**
- **Director of Contemporary Worship and Technology Porterfield Memorial UMC, Albany, GA**
- **Full-time Director of Youth Ministry at First UMC in Dyersburg, TN**

## 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.