

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | March 29, 2017

The POWER of We

In This Issue

- word POWER 2
- Bishop On the Move 3
- Connecting 3
- Faith Communities 5
- Save the Date /
- Announcements 6
- Cares & Concerns 8
- Recipe 8
- Employment 8

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.

Worth a Thousand Words



A picture tells a story just as well. The story behind this photo that was given to the family of Rev. Dr. Jimmy Carr is a reminder of his love for Africa University, a United Methodist institution. Carr, was a member of the Mississippi Conference who recently passed away before the conference's generous donation to the university. **Read more in the section Connecting on page 3.**



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.

Just Around the Corner!

2017 Annual Conference Session, June 8-10
2017 Pre-Conference Workshops, June 7

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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John 11:1-45*New International Version (NIV)***The Death of Lazarus**

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7** and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. **10** It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." **13** Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." **29** When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39** "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

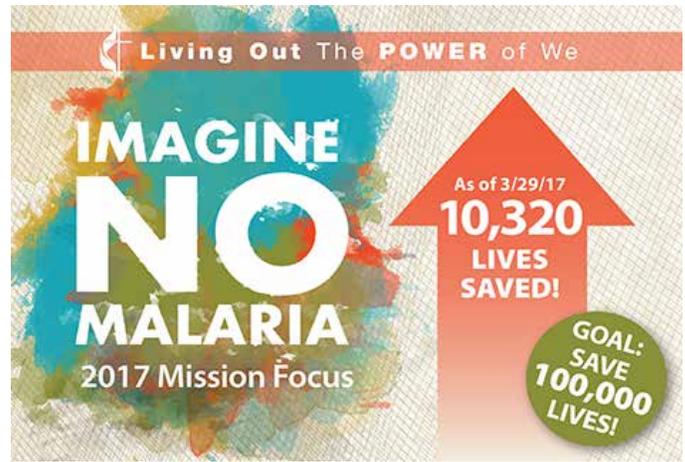
Bishop On the Move

March 20 - April 3, 2017 (Monday - Monday) - Bishop Swanson will join the Africa University Board of Trustees for a tour of Africa University.

April 16, 2017 (Sunday) - Bishop Swanson will preach during the three services on Easter Sunday at First UMC in Tupelo, Mississippi. The church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

April 24, 2017 (Friday) - Bishop Swanson will spend a day with the ordinands at the Mississippi United Methodist Conference Center in Jackson.

April 30-May 5 (Sunday-Wednesday) - Bishop Swanson will attend a gathering of the Council of Bishops in Dallas, Texas.



For more information:

www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas

Connecting

Picture Reminder of Carr's Love for Africa University

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

When the time came for members of the Mississippi Conference to make the trip to Africa University where they would present its first installment of a \$1.3 million endowment to the university, one of the biggest cheerleaders leading the fundraiser stayed behind. Doctors told the Rev. Dr. Jimmy Carr his heart was not healthy enough to travel to Zimbabwe. He passed away days before a check was presented in the amount of nearly \$700,000. The presentation occurred during a celebration of the school's 25th anniversary of its existence.

Carr was a co-chair for the Mississippi Africa University Partnership. He passed away early morning on March 18.

"He wanted to be there so badly and so did I. He worked hard to make that scholarship happen and wanted to be a part of the presentation. He was there in spirit," said Carr's wife Joy. She shared her husband's passion for Africa University.

She said he served on the site selection committee for Africa University as a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He was there when the university opened.

The family has been overwhelmed with condolences from all over the world. One of them came in the form of a picture from Jim Salley, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement for Africa University.

"He sent a picture to us of a rainbow taken the night that he (Jimmy) died. It went from the bottom of the mountain over the cross and flame to the other end of the mountain. It was heartwarming."

The cross and flame image in the photo sits on a hilltop above the main campus at Africa University. It was donated by the Mississippi Conference. Carr was responsible for the emblem being there.

Visit <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/jimmy-carr-champion-of-deacons-dies-at-72> to read more about Carr's obituary and gifts to the United Methodist Church from the United Methodist News Service. For more about Africa University's 25 years, go to <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/africa-university-celebrates-25-years#>.



Ensuring the Future of Africa University

The Mississippi conference presented a check for almost \$700,000 during the four-hour 25th anniversary celebration for United Methodist-related Africa University. The group visit to Zimbabwe was March 20-28, 2017. The check was presented on behalf of the Mississippi Conference as a part of a conference-wide initiative to benefit Africa University students. The goal of the Mississippi Conference campaign is to provide 10 endowed scholarships of \$130,000 each for a total of \$1.3 million.



Bishop Swanson and Mrs. Swanson presented dresses made by United Methodists to Fairfield's Children's Home.



Back row left to right: Meridian District, Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church superintendent, Rusty Keen; West Jackson District of the United Methodist Church superintendent, Stephen Cook; Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. and internal auditor, Ed Jones. Front row left to right: Mississippi Conference director of connectional ministries and communications, Vickie White; The Greenwood District of The United Methodist Church superintendent, Mattie Gipson; Tupelo District UMC superintendent, Jimmy Barnes and Mrs. Delphine Swanson, wife of Bishop Swanson.



This photo of children a classroom was taken during the tour.



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

Living Out The POWER of We

Keith Tonkel Honored at State Capitol

The late Rev. Keith Tonkel of Wells Memorial United Methodist Church of Jackson, Mississippi, was honored Wednesday, March 29, 2017 with a proclamation from the Mississippi House of Representatives.



Accepting the honor were his children, Shelley Tonkel Herndon, Anthony Tonkel Puckett, and Tracey Furniss (*photo right*). Tonkel was the pastor at Wells for 63 years before he passed away early March 2017. He worked tirelessly advancing the belief that God's grace would overcome differences—social, cultural, and racial—that divided people.

Tonkel served as Sunday school teacher and ministerial advisor to The United Methodist Hour television broadcast.



Photo by Greg Campbell

Annual Conference 2017 Forwards

- Pre-conference workshops (<http://bit.ly/2oiG7FO>)
- 2017 Mission Offering: Imagine No Malaria (<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017offeringinm>)
- Register Now for Special Meals (<http://bit.ly/2o9fL7>)
- Connected: A Night of Worship (<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/connected>)
- All things related to 2017 Session of The Mississippi Conference (<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017smac>)

Two UMAC Awards Go to MS Conference

Photo right: From left to right: Tamica Smith Jeuitt, Rev. Kevin Carter and Jasmine Haynes attended the conference.

United Methodist communicators from around the world gathered in New Orleans to "Embrace the Story" at the United Methodist Association of Communicators Conference, March 22-24, 2017.

The annual Awards Celebration Dinner was held one evening where the work of 160 communicators were recognized. Their entries, across 10 classes of communication, bore witness to the shining of Christ's Light from local to global levels.

The Mississippi Conference received a third place award in the special publication category for the *Special Annual Conference Edition of The Circuit Rider* and another third place award in the article series category for Celebrating Mission Grants. Tamica Smith Jeuitt is the communications specialist for the Mississippi Conference. She was responsible for both projects recognized by the United Methodist Association of Communicators. Her *Circuit Rider* team included Greg Campbell, Cindy Clark, Amy Thaxton, Chris Blount, Jessica Love. Laura Lea Williams assisted with Celebrating Mission Grants. The Rev. Kevin Carter, chair of the Mississippi Commission on Communications and Jasmine Haynes the conference's web and social media specialist attended the conference as well.



Faith Communities

Sewing Pillows for a Night of Outreach

The Wesley Foundation at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi, gathered recently for a Night of Outreach. The student made pillows for children being assisted by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. This labor of love will support the kids in the local DHS unit.



Photo courtesy of Facebook.

Correction Notice:

The news article "Partnership Brings Ministry to the Homeless," shared in **The Circuit Rider** on March 15, 2017, referred to the day shelter as South Street Safe Place. The correct name is South Street Safe Space. Click here for more information about the project on Facebook.



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>.

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>.

2017 Sacred Conversations Events for Young Clergy (Under 40)

March 30 | April 4 | April 27

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. There are three upcoming opportunities. All times are 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- March 30 at Starkville First UMC led by Sarah Jo and Jake Adams-Wilson, RSVP to Sara Jo at 601-818-7055, sjadamswilson@me.com.
- April 27 at Court St., Hattiesburg led by Amy Roller and Brad Corban, RSVP to Amy Roller at 601-479-7743, brotheramy@gmail.com
- April 4 at Fannin UMC (Jackson area) led by Reed McCaleb and Amy Roller, RSVP to Reed McCaleb at 601-807-4494, reed.mccaleb@gmail.com

His Last Days

April 13-15, 2017

All people are invited to the production of the annual Passion Play, "His Last Days," presented by First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko, Mississippi. This is the 31st year in production. The play is a 1-hour outdoor drama documenting Christ's last days. The production is free and open to everyone. Lawn chairs are encouraged. There is a free nursery offered for children up to K4. For more information, call 662-289-1412.

Greenwood District Lay Servant Training School

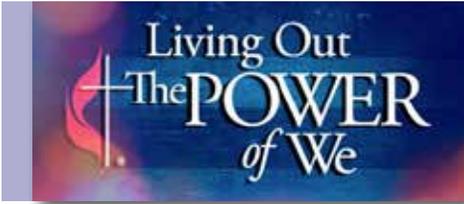
April 21-22, 2017

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

UMVIM Team Leader Training

April 22, 2017

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



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>

Free Day at Camp Wesley Pines
April 29, 2017

Would you like to know what happens at Camp Wesley Pines summer camps?

April 29, 2017, will be the annual FREE DAY at Camp Wesley Pines. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and activities will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and experience most of what summer camp has to offer. Many activities will be offered including a ropes course, canoes, pedal boats, and archery. Take a walk and enjoy nature on our prayer trail. A selection of hotdogs or hamburgers will be served for lunch. Canteen and camp store will also be open. For the safety of your children, all children should be accompanied by an adult.

Mission Fest at Galloway Memorial UMC
June 4-8, 2017

Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, invites youth who have completed grades 6-12 and adult chaperones to attend Mission Fest.

Register and pay by April 20 for the early bird price, \$200 (must have registration forms and payment by this date for reduced price). May 10 is the final registration and payment deadline, \$225. Go to <http://bit.ly/2nPIAKd> for more information contact, Becky Dole at bdole@gallowayumc.org, or Emily Sanford at esanford@gallowayumc.org or 601-353-9691.

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.

Announcements

Susanna Wesley Scholarship for Clergy Spouses

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

UMC Events

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



Visit <http://bit.ly/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.

Cares & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Carr

Carr was a faithful servant of God who loved with his whole heart. Ordained to Word, Service, and Compassion, as a Deacon in Full Connection in The United Methodist Church. Carr passed away early morning on March 18.

He was survived by his wife, Joy Taylor Carr; three children, David Carr, Todd Carr (Susannah) and Allison Dickerson (Matt); two brothers, Tommy Carr (Pam) and Hugh Carr (Medero); four grandchildren, Noah Carr, Taylor Dickerson, Caleb Carr, Katherine Dickerson and many loved cousins, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, H.D. and Mable Carr and a brother, Charles Carr.

A memorial service for Carr was Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

Methodist Tested Recipes

Quick and Easy Broccoli Soup

One bunch broccoli, cooked and chopped

One tsp. minced garlic

One stick butter

One onion, chopped

Parsley, chopped

Two cans cream of potato soup

1 (16 oz.) ctn. half and half

Milk (to thin)

Salt and pepper, to taste

Sauté onions, garlic and parsley (to taste) in butter. Add soup, half and half and broccoli. Heat through. Season with salt and pepper. Thin with milk, if needed.

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



Employment

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

- Administrative Assistant at Meridian United Methodist District, Meridian, MS
- Director of the Wesley Foundation at Millsaps College, Jackson, MS
- Exec. Director Project Salud y Paz at Edmonds UMC, Edmonds, WA

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.