

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

# The Circuit Rider

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## Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

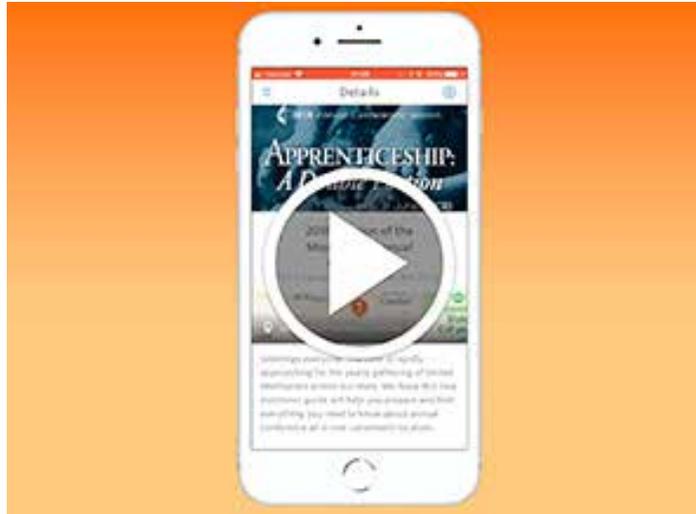
Contact The Circuit Rider at [news@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:news@mississippi-umc.org).

### Mission:

The mission of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Living Out The POWER of We

## Download the AC Session App



Get the 2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference app to access the most up-to-date information about our event including schedules, a preliminary agenda, maps and much more. Also, check out the list of hotels and make sure to sign up for special meals. A video walk-through of downloading the app can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2qwukFR>



2017 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/2t7XYFm>

### 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

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## word POWER

Acts 3:12-19 (NIV)

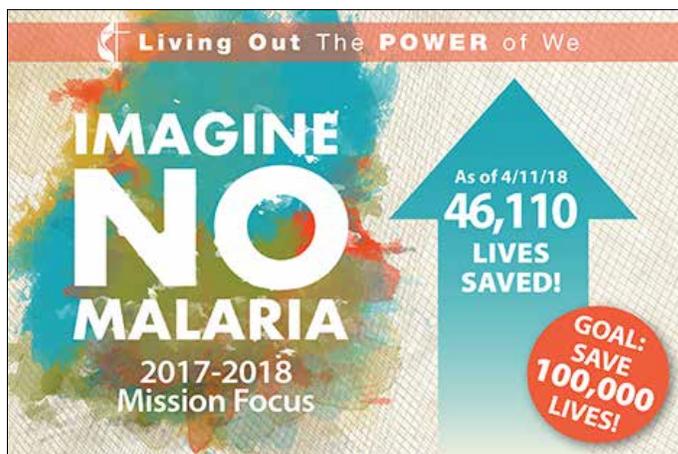
**12** When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13** The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. **14** You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. **15** You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. **16** By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

**17** "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. **18** But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. **19** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

## Bishop on the Move

### Q&A with Bishop Swanson: Discipleship

In this video [<https://vimeo.com/264100332>] Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. guides a conversation on discipleship, our role as the body of Christ in creating intentional disciple systems and how to disciple people beyond the four walls of our churches. As the conversation comes to a close, Bishop Swanson also takes a few minutes to explain the governance of our church and the process of the Commission on a Way Forward.



*For more information:*  
[www.mississippi-umc.org/inm](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/inm)

## Imagine No Malaria Update

## Connecting

Send a Heart-felted Congratulations  
in *The Circuit Rider - Souvenir Journal!*

The Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church will be hosting their 2018 Session of the Mississippi Conference at the Jackson Convention Center May 31 - June 2, 2018. Take advantage of this opportunity to advertise in this year's *Circuit Rider Souvenir Journal*.

The souvenir journal will serve as a go-to guide for all 2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference happenings and close-by points of interest. This journal will be frequently referenced by attendees throughout the duration of the conference.

To view the ad rate sheet with pricing and size specifications, go to <https://bit.ly/2vdqua3>. The deadline for print ready ads is April 17, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. To place an advertisement in the *Circuit Rider Souvenir Journal*, send an email to [echapman@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:echapman@mississippi-umc.org) or call, 769.243.7043.



## Child Care Offerings for the 2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference

This year we are excited to offer three different programs for child care at the upcoming 2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference: one for youth, one for children ages 8-weeks-old to pre-kindergarten and one for kindergarten through fifth grade. You can register online [<https://bit.ly/2HyfSoQ>] or in the annual conference app.

**No refunds are allowed after May 1.**

More information on each of these childcare offerings can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2ve1Q9i>.



## Details on Special Meals Here

Several groups have sponsored meals on Thursday and Friday of annual conference. To participate in one of these special meals, you must register in advance. Most meals are eligible for online registration. View the available special meals here: <https://bit.ly/2FJzm8t> and follow the directions for the meals you plan to attend.

*\*Special dietary restrictions: for those of you who are not attending a special meal and have gluten or vegetarian dietary restrictions, concession meals in the convention center may be purchased in advance. You will need to register and pay in advance at the link provided for each meal. Your name will be given to the chef who will ensure that the meals you selected will be available in the food court.*



## Nominations Requested for 2018 Tobias Gibson Award

Nominations are now being solicited by the Commission on Archives and History for its annual Tobias Gibson Award [<https://bit.ly/2H0eElf>]. Nominees should have made significant contributions to the preservation of the history of Methodism in the Mississippi Conference, ideally within the last year. The award nominee must be a living person and able to be present at the 2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference to receive the award. Nominations are due by May 1, 2018 and must be emailed to commission chairperson, Rev. Rob Webb at [rowebb16@bellsouth.net](mailto:rowebb16@bellsouth.net). Webb can also be reached at 601.580.3525. For more information on submitting nominees, contact Debra McIntosh, archivist at J.B. Cain Archives at Millsaps College, by phone at 601.974.1077 or via email at [mcintdw@millsaps.edu](mailto:mcintdw@millsaps.edu).

Additional awards accepting nominations and being presented at the Glory Sightings Banquet can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2GVZJfP>.



## Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi - Day of Hope 2018 April 21, 2018

This year's event will open at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer walk around the Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi Campus. Additionally, there will be an open house with tours, mission discussions and presentations from our staff and youth. We have some exciting things planned -- you don't want to miss out. The day ends at 2:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming. Go to <https://bit.ly/2FWKjH7> for future updates.

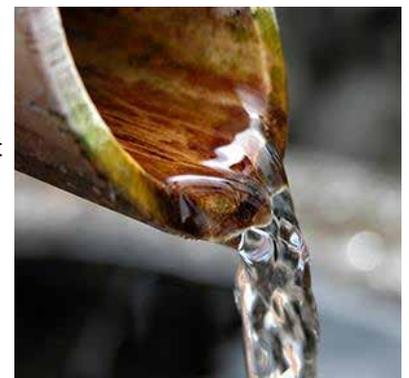


## Creating a Culture of Generosity offered by The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation

*Creating a Culture of Generosity* is an experience for churches of the Mississippi Conference designed to develop a lasting culture of generosity. All of the required tasks are easily scaled to fit a variety of congregation sizes. The selection of optional tasks makes it easy for those just getting started to achieve a comprehensive plan for generosity.

The experience comes with a \$500 grant from the foundation to cover expenses incurred by the congregation. The Foundation also provides the required reading for the experience. Satisfactory completion of the experience within 12 months allows the church to apply to another year with some additional tasks and another grant.

Send an email to [mike@ms-umf.org](mailto:mike@ms-umf.org) to request your complete resource guide. The foundation promises to walk with you throughout the journey. We believe that God calls each of us to be generous with all that God has entrusted to us. More information can be found here: <http://ms-umf.org/culture-of-generosity/>.



## Methodist Children's Homes Tee Off May 3

What could you do with \$1,000,000? Shoot a hole-in-one and find out! The East and West Jackson Districts of the Mississippi United Methodist Conference are sponsoring the annual Tee Off for Mission Golf Tournament that will benefit the Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi. Gather a four-person team and register to spend the day at the Patrick Farms Golf Club in Pearl for a good cause.

Sponsorships still available! Download the registration form here: <https://bit.ly/2HlpLs9> or call 601.853.5000, ext. 1222 for more details.



## Disaster Response News

### Volunteers Needed in Miss. Counties Recovering from Disasters

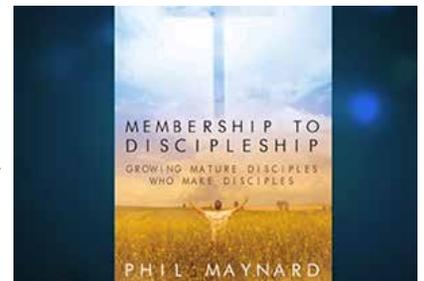
If you have specific skills for which you would like to volunteer, or if you are not skilled at carpentry but feel a call to disaster response ministry, families in Washington, Perry, Lamar, Jones, Holmes and Montgomery Counties could use your help. Recovery efforts include installing attic stairs, drywall, interior doors, trim, fixtures, kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities; interior priming and painting and several other building-related tasks. If you are interested in being helping hands and a non-anxious presence in the lives of those affected by disaster, contact Mellie Jordan, disaster recovery project manager at 601.354.0515 or [disasters@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:disasters@mississippi-umc.org).



## Faith Communities

### Learn More About the Benefits of Readiness 360 in This Video

Readiness 360 (R360) is an online assessment tool that invites participation of the entire church to get feedback around how the people in the church perceive their current context and their effectiveness. Rev. Timothy Thompson, director of faith community formation and assistant to the bishop sat down with Rev. Dr. Phil Maynard, author of *Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples* and president of Readiness 360 and EMC3 Coaching, to talk about how spiritual intensity, dynamic relationships, missional alignment and cultural openness are four critical, measurable areas of church health. Additionally, they discussed how readiness 360 can serve as a useful revitalization tool for the Mississippi Conference. Learn more about Readiness 360 by watching this video: <https://bit.ly/2IUxQBv>.



## Administration

### Protecting Our Churches: Parking Lot Safety and Security

Our churches have a parking area for employees and church members. These are key people in our church, so it's important that we keep them as safe as possible. Safety and security in parking lots is often overlooked until an incident occurs. Parking areas introduce an inherent risk with the motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic mix. Blind corners, excessive speed and inattentiveness can all be factors with serious incidents. Traffic flow, parking lot stripping and signage are important design considerations. Learn about how to be more proactive in minimizing parking lot risks here: <https://bit.ly/2H0bHoA>.

*Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. administers the conference property insurance plan and writes a monthly newsletter titled, Protecting Our Churches for the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church.*



## Register Now for Southeast Church Network Conference

Plan to attend the SECN Administrator's Conference being held at the Terrace Hotel in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina Sunday, April 29-May 1. Church administration can be a mine field and it often requires careful navigation of the traps to be successful. Get more information and learn how to register here: <http://bit.ly/2F6z5wD>.



## Students

### Youth Belong at Beach Camp

Surrounded by palm trees, sand and coastal winds, youth can experience relaxation, fellowship with friends and quiet time with God at Beach Camp. From the creators of The Gathering, Beach Camp is an engaging spiritual weekend for youth grades six through 12 and their leaders. Beach Camp will take place July 6-8, 2018 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi.



Find more details and how to register here: <https://www.mississippi-umc.org/beachcamp>.

### Subscribe Now to Youth News and Updates

Whether you're an adult youth volunteer, youth minister or a parent who just wants to be more engaged in what's relevant to the life of your teenager, get plugged in to tips, news and updates on events dedicated to student ministry in the Mississippi Conference. Subscribe to youth news and updates here: <http://mississippi-email.brtapp.com/subscribe>.

## Save the Date | Announcements

### Celebrating the Retirement of Gulfside Assembly's Mollie Stewart April 21, 2018

The Gulfside Association, Incorporated, Board of Directors takes great pride in offering Mrs. Mollie M. Stewart a retirement appreciation for serving the Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, Mississippi. The Mollie M. Stewart's Retirement Celebration Brunch will take place April 21, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta Airport located at 1325 Virginia Avenue. The cost for the Brunch is \$60.00 per person. **If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Carolyn Malone Clark at [cmalonec@outlook.com](mailto:cmalonec@outlook.com) no later than April 10, 2018.** More information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2Gfg1vu>.



### Harambee for Youth June 27-30, 2018

The Southeast Jurisdiction Black Methodist for Church Renewal, Inc. is having Harambee at Rust College in Holly Springs. Harambee is targeted towards students ages 12-18 in grades seven through 12. This event will include spirit-filled praise, music, dance, a mission project, fellowship, fun and food. More details and registration will be forthcoming at <http://www.bmcumc.org/2017/10/24/harambee/>.

### Summer Youth Events at Lake Junaluska June 17 - July 31, 2018

Lake Junaluska, N.C. - Church youth groups of all sizes are invited to Lake Junaluska for five Summer Youth Events June 17 - July 31. Each event includes morning and evening worship led by a diverse panel of speakers and bands, small groups for spiritual formation and mission opportunities.

During each three or four-day event, youth will have afternoons free to explore the area. Lake Junaluska has partnered with Asheville Youth Mission, which allows groups the option to do an off-site mission project in the Asheville area for a nominal fee. Youth can also go ziplining or rafting, or simply stay on property and enjoy paddle boarding, slip-and-slide kickball or other recreation at Lake Junaluska.

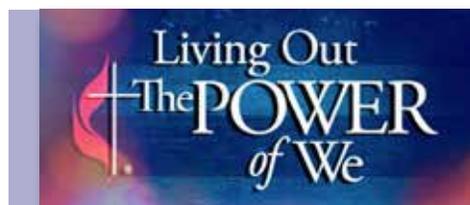
Groups can register for the Summer Youth Events by by visiting <https://bit.ly/2JKHEzI>, calling 800.222.4930, or emailing

[reservations@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:reservations@lakejunaluska.com). Packages include program, lodging, event T-shirts and meals. The program is geared toward those in grades 6-12.



## Cares & Concerns

- It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that **Rev. Jim Fisher**, Seashore District Superintendent, passed away at his home April 10, 2018. A service celebrating the life of Rev. Fisher will be held Saturday, April 14 at Caswell Springs United Methodist Church, 18601 Highway 63 in Moss Point. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. The funeral service will follow at 2:00 p.m. Clergy attending the service are to wear black robes with white stoles.
- **Mrs. Nelda Bailey**, widow of Rev. J. Leo Bailey, recently passed in Starkville and the funeral service was held Wednesday, March 21 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Columbus. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that all donations or memorials be made to Camp Lake Stephens in Oxford or the University of Southern Mississippi's Wesley Foundation.
- We are sad to report that **Rev. Manley W. Jones Jr.** died on February 27, 2018. He served at Philadelphia United Methodist Church in the Hattiesburg District from 1995 until his retirement in 2003. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Mrs. Beverly Sue Jones, at 25 Waters Edge Circle, Apt. 513, Georgetown, TX 78626.



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>

## 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 <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities>.**

- Director of Children and Family Ministries
- Student Minister
- Director of Student Ministries at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church
- Director of Youth and Recreation
- Church Administrator
- Director of Older Children's Ministry
- Associate Director, Wesley Foundation at University of Tennessee Knoxville

## 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\\_Kix8lbYuHKRMLIjg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbYuHKRMLIjg)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/)

### Download the 2018 Annual Conference Session App

Android and iOS users:

1. Get our guide here: <https://guidebook.com/g/powerofwe/>.
2. Tap the "Download" button to download the free Guidebook app.
3. Open the app and you can find our "2018 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference" guide.