

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | September 20, 2017

The **POWER** of We

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Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

Contact The Circuit Rider at news@mississippi-umc.org.

Mission:

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

The Road to Recovery



Over the last few weeks, several areas of southern states have been battered by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. With the end of hurricane season months away, disaster response coordinators need early response teams (ERTs) and other volunteers to provide support and relief to those impacted by recent hurricanes. To find out how you can be a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster by attending upcoming ERT trainings in Disaster Response News, **read more on page 4.**



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

Purpose:

The Mississippi Annual Conference—empowered by love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship—forms spiritual leaders, faith communities and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

Our Values

The Mississippi Conference Four Core Values are love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship. For more information, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe.



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out
The **POWER** of We

320-C Briarwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
601.354.0515 | Fax 601.948.5982
www.mississippi-umc.org

word POWER

Psalm 105:1-6

- 1 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
- 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.
- 5 Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
- 6 you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

Bishop On the Move

Below are some of the events where Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. will be visiting in the upcoming weeks.

September 24 (Sunday)

Moore Memorial United Methodist Church in Winona is celebrating 200 years of Methodism in Winona. Bishop Swanson will deliver the message for the 10:45 a.m. worship service. The church is located at 201 Magnolia Street.

September 28 (Thursday)

The Whitney M. Young Jr. Award Committee in collaboration with the Andrew Council, Boy Scouts of America will present Bishop Swanson with the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award at 6:30 p.m. at the JSU E-Center in Jackson.

October 1 (Sunday)

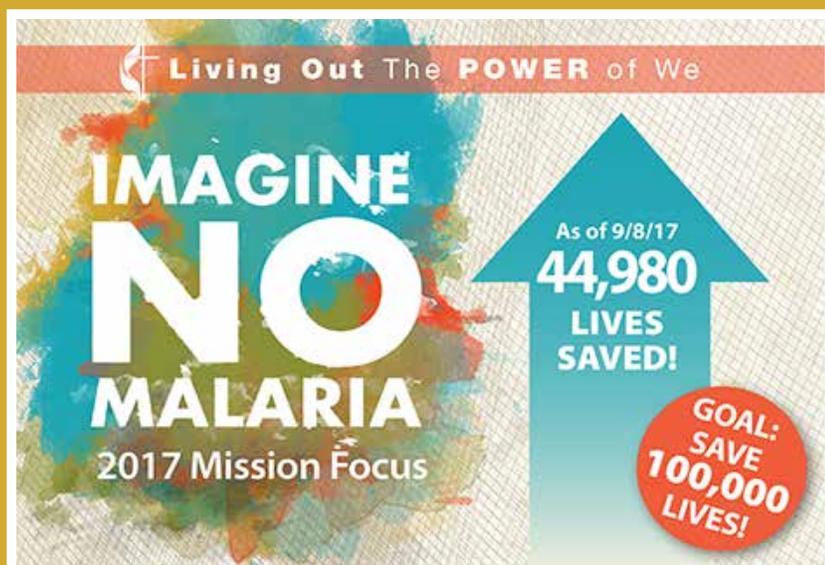
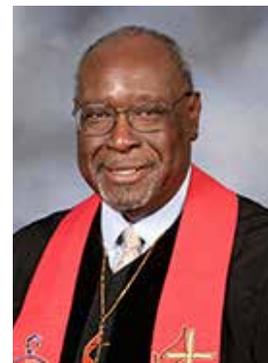
- Bishop Swanson will be preaching in Canton at Canton First United Methodist Church's 10:25 a.m. morning worship service on World Communion Sunday.
- Sylvester United Methodist Church in Forest will have a mortgage burning service at 2:30 p.m. and Bishop Swanson will deliver the message.

October 5 (Thursday)

The Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence is hosting the 8th Annual Purple for Peace Luncheon at the Hilton Jackson Hotel on E. County Line Road. Bishop Swanson has been nominated for the Faith Community Award and will be the guest speaker for the event.

October 18 (Wednesday)

Bishop Swanson will be the keynote speak at the annual Latasha Norman Domestic Violence Forum at Jackson State University beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Imagine No Malaria Update

For more information:
www.mississippi-umc.org/inm

Conference Mission Grants Applications Now Available

Apply now for the 2017 Connectional Ministries Mission Grants (<http://bit.ly/2xrby7t>). These grants are established to strengthen missions in the local churches of our annual conference as the church reaches out to their communities in efforts to fulfill the purpose of the Mississippi Annual Conference. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500 per project, with one award of up to \$10,000. Grants are awarded to projects that form spiritual leaders, develop new places for new people, renew existing congregations or engage in ministry with the poor; therefore, living out the four Core Values of The POWER of We: love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship.

The deadline to receive all grant applications is October 31, 2017. Please review the grant guidelines carefully at <http://bit.ly/2jOQL8T>. Only one application per church.



Journey with Bishop Swanson to the Holy Land

Register for the trip to Israel departing February 5, 2018 and returning to the United States February 16. Join Bishop and Delphine Swanson for a once in a lifetime experience.

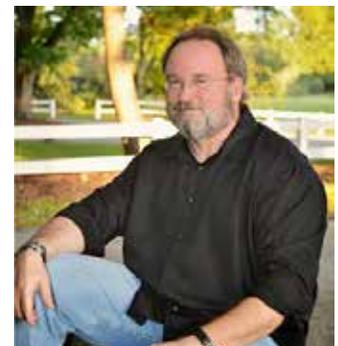
Visit the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Qumran and the Dead Sea. Experience the old city of Jerusalem with its holy sites and enrich your faith and the study of the Scriptures. Brochures are available through your district office or you can send an email to carrhaus@comcast.net to request a brochure (<http://bit.ly/2xyJGPj>). The trip coordinator is Joy Carr. To find out more information and how to registration here: <http://bit.ly/2ytaT3I>.



Mississippi United Methodist Foundation Offers Communications for Churches Workshop

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation is pleased to present *Communicating in an Ever-Changing World* with Scott Vaughan (*photo right*). The workshop for clergy and church communicators is Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Foundation Building located at 581 Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland. The event has been approved by the Center for Ministry for ½ CEU for clergy. Refreshments and lunch are provided. There is no cost for the event, but you must pre-register here: <http://www.ms-umf.org/events> or by calling 601.948.8845. Space is limited, so register early.

Scott Vaughan is an award-winning author, minister and speaker from South Carolina. His desire is to teach churches how to effectively communicate within themselves and to the ever-changing world. Learn more about Vaughan here: <http://www.svministry.com>.



The workshop will cover the church communications system, which is more than having a good website.

Vaughan discusses understanding people today through strategic insights into your audience and what moves the audience to action. In addition, Vaughan will examine methodology and message encompassing all the communication methods used today. The final material explores hospitality ministry and follow-up that makes or breaks the best of communications systems.

Foster Parents Needed

The Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi are always looking for mission-driven foster parents who will provide stable and loving homes for children. You can make a difference in the lives of children by opening your heart and home to them. To become a foster parent, you must:

- Be 21 or older, married (at least one year), divorced (at least one year) or single
- Have a high school diploma or GED, reliable telephone service and transportation, financial means to support a family
- And complete all training requirements

If you're interested in providing a home and support for children as a foster parent, please contact Kim Jayroe at Kday@mchms.org or by phone at 601.853.5000 ext. 1601. Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi will guide you every step of the way.



Disaster Response News

Register Now for Upcoming ERT Training: October 7 and 21

Those who feel called to providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster, are not only welcome but encouraged to attend an early response team (ERT) training.

The registration fee is \$40 and includes a manual, t-shirt, lunch, background check and leader expenses. For ERT certification, participants will need to attend the entire course. For more information and how to register for the October 7 training (<http://bit.ly/2xkFlwU>) at Byhalia United Methodist Church and the October 21 (<http://bit.ly/2fDbDvt>) training at Pascagoula First United Methodist Church, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/ert>.



Opportunities to Serve in Disaster Recovery

If your church is looking for opportunities for a fall mission trip, you do not have to look far. There are many places that your team can serve in long-term recovery from several disasters that have affected the lives of people here in Mississippi.

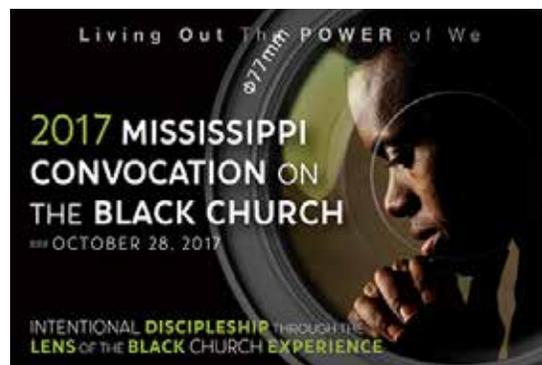
Go to <http://bit.ly/2kuIVAt> to find out regions where you can serve and Live Out The POWER of We.



Faith Communities

Clear Vision Awaits Convocation on the Black Church Attendees

Join church leaders from across the state for the 2017 Mississippi Convocation on the Black Church Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Anderson United Methodist Church located at 6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson. The theme of this convocation is "Intentional Discipleship through the Lens of the Black Church Experience." Visit <http://bit.ly/2fm7wHn> for a list of speakers, information on how to register and other pertinent details.



Find Direction at Day of Exploration

This event is designed to help those who have a burning desire and call from God to plant a new faith community or to revitalize an existing faith community. The Day of Exploration will take place at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond October 5. Whether you attended one of the Time of Discovery events or not -- if you want to know more about what it takes to transform a church, or you would like to learn more about church revitalization, the Day of Exploration is for you.

Rev. William Chaney, Southeastern Jurisdiction Strategist for New Church Starts (Path 1) will be leading the new faith community (planting) section. Find more details and how to register here: <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/2017dayofexploration>.



Spiritual Leadership

Pick Up Four CEUs with Journey Partners

This two-year training program in spiritual direction is a historic practice within the Christian tradition. Journey Partners students participate in six retreats, all held at the Grey Center in Canton. Each retreat includes times for large-group study, Sabbath practice, peer-group learning and worship. Journey Partners is open to both laity and clergy of all denominations.

The next Journey Partners class begins in March 2018. If you're interested in learning more, please visit the Center for Ministry website (<http://www.centerforministry.com/>), email Richard Robbins at richard@centerforministry.com or download the Journey Partners brochure (<http://bit.ly/2hmz0cW>). **Applications are due by December 1.**



Take a Deeper Look at Lay Ministry: Certified Lay Ministry Academy

A certified lay minister (CLM) is a qualified United Methodist layperson called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person, but who often serves the church in many other ways. The academy consists of six modules that will advance your depth of knowledge about lay ministry and equip and empower you to serve your faith community. The CLM Academy launch will be September 24 at the Cabot Lodge in Jackson. The registration fee for the academy is \$300. The cost of lodging for one evening for each class meeting scheduled is not included in that fee. For a full schedule and how to register, go to <http://bit.ly/2uK0vGT>.



Administry

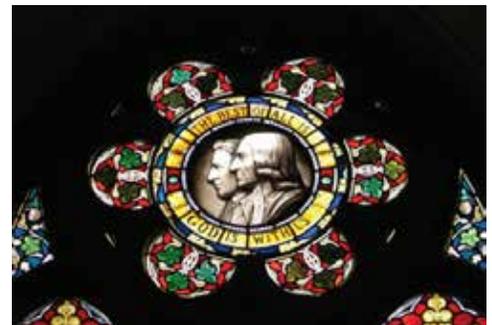
Administry Courses Begin This Saturday

This financial leadership training provides counsel and guidance to strengthen the administrative and financial abilities of the local church treasurer, financial secretary, finance committee members and church business administrators. Course options range from human resources to budget preparation to internal controls.

The training cost \$60 for the first person from a church and \$10 for each additional person from the same church. This fee covers meals, snacks and resources for the complete day.

For more information on course descriptions, the agenda and registration, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/localchurcadministrytraining>. Click on the location below nearest you if you're ready to register today!

- District Office, Senatobia District - Sept. 23, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2fDsxqg>)
- West Point First UMC, Starkville District - Oct. 14, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2wapyiY>)
- District Office, Meridian District - Nov. 18, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2xy29eX>)
- Williamsburg UMC-Collins, Hattiesburg District - Dec. 9, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2feyFZa>)



Open Enrollment Begins October 1

Beginning October 1, eligible members will have an opportunity to enroll in the Mississippi Conference insurance plan(s) with an effective date of January 1, 2018. To be eligible to participate in the conference-sponsored insurance plan(s), you must be under episcopal appointment serving at least ¾ times (75 percent) with a minimum compensation of \$20,454. Find out more details on enrollment into medical, dental and vision plans and other benefits here: <http://bit.ly/2ysPLdW>.



Protecting Our Churches: Safe Building Usage Practices

Hospitality vs. liability -- that's the dilemma many of our churches face when deciding whether or not to share their space with wedding parties and outside groups. Before you roll out the welcome mat, consider the following safeguards to protect your place of worship from liability and safety issues.

First, assemble a go-to approvals team with key church leaders and legal counsel to review and accept or deny requests. Visit <http://bit.ly/2fECbwz> to read more about the "I"s of building-usage best practices.

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.



Students

The Gathering Tour: More Than Hype

It's not referred to as a 'high energy' event just for publicity. Over 300 youth rushed through the doors at Madison United Methodist Church (UMC) on the first Director's Cut Tour stop mid-August and more recently, over 175 students attended the second stop on the tour Sunday, September 17 at Columbia First UMC. There wasn't a dull moment for two hours. Teens played games with DJ Blaha, participated in performances by illusionist, Todd Smith and 'turned up' for Jesus with Christian Hip/Hop artist, "Big Al" Cherry.

Let your youth get a sneak peek of what's to come at The Gathering 2018 (<http://www.mississippi-umc.org/thegathering>) by bringing them to one of two remaining The Gathering: Director's Cut Tour stops. Each stop is free to attend. Registration for this event is requested for planning; however, additional guests are welcome. Find more information here: <http://bit.ly/2xirDwX>.



Leaders of Student and Family Ministry, Orange Tour is for You

Experience fresh insight and new ideas for children, youth and family ministry that is powerful and lasts week after week at the Orange Tour Friday, October 20 at Heritage United Methodist Church (<http://bit.ly/2wglJuk>) in Hattiesburg. Sponsored by Heritage UMC and co-sponsored by the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church (<http://bit.ly/2lbVpLm>), Orange Tour is easy to attend, easy to afford and easy to see the impact on your whole team and your whole church. Go to <http://bit.ly/2vF65ZE> find a list of Orange Tour pricing, registration and other details.



Save the Date | Announcements

WellsFest Activities to Benefit Miss. Methodist Children's Homes September 21-30

The 34th WellsFest will be held Saturday, September 30 at Jamie Fowler Boyll Park next to Smith-Wills Stadium on Lakeland Drive in Jackson. Presented by Wells United Methodist Church, WellsFest 2017 will donate all proceeds to the Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi. Through on-campus residences, foster care and adoption, Methodist Children's Homes help neglected or abused children surmount their challenges and mature into productive, satisfying lives.

For more information about any WellsFest activities, please visit www.wellsfest.org.



Clergy Spouse Retreat September 29-30

Come and enjoy fellowship with other clergy spouses while embarking on a path of spiritual renewal. Dr. Barbara Stanford, *photo right*, is the featured speaker and the retreat will take place at the Holiday Inn at Trustmark Park in Pearl. Registration is \$100. This includes double occupancy of hotel room by attendees along with Saturday morning breakfast. Private room or non-conference attendee rates are \$150. Visit <http://bit.ly/2i6P3ix> for more information and to download the registration form.



Black Methodist for Church Renewal Annual Meeting September 30

This event will be in Jackson and the venue will be selected and shared in the near future. For more information, contact Rev. L. Fitzgerald Lovett at revlovetth@hotmail.com or 662.897.0581. You can also visit <http://www.bmcrrms.org/> to catch up on the latest BMCRR news in Mississippi.



Lambuth Day at UMC Heritage Landmark: Pearl River Methodist Church October 5

All are invited to celebrate Methodist missions and history at the annual Lambuth Day service at Madison County's Pearl River Church Thursday, October 5 at 2:30 p.m. The scenic church, designated in 2016 as a UMC Heritage Landmark, will be the site of the gathering to honor the legacy of the Lambuth missionary family, complete with preaching, singing, cemetery tours and dinner following the service.



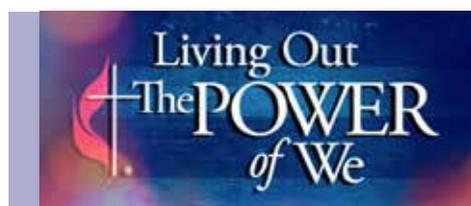
Youth Spiritual Life Retreats October 21-22 (Junior High) November 10-12 (Senior High)

With school back in session, where is God in your life? Spiritual Life Retreats are a great way to get back on the path of following God. With great speakers, worship sessions, small group sessions and opportunities to play and fellowship, the weekend will give youth groups an opportunity to grow in their faith alongside their peers.



For the junior high retreat, J. Nelson and Katie Heckel will serve as our speaker and worship leader. Rocky Shack and Thomas Toole will serve as speaker and music leader for the senior high retreat.

For more information, please contact Chap Fenwick at chap@camplakestephens.com.



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. 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>.**

- Part-time Children's Ministry Director
- Part-time Choir Director
- Full-time Director of Children and Youth Ministry
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Part-time Minister of Music
- Part-time Church Secretary

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!