Greetings!
Welcome to your connection for up-to-the minute news and information from the Mississippi Conference. Featured in this newsletter are the latest announcements, dates to remember, celebration stories from across the conference and current employment opportunities. Our hope is for The Circuit Rider to become a tool for building the connection across the conference, strengthening our districts and local congregations as we go forth to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please e-mail your news and information for us to share with others around the conference to news@mississippi-umc.org.

Attention:
POWER of We: Core Four Resources Available on Web Site

Go to http://www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/990 to view or download.

Luke 12:49-56
New International Version (NIV)

Not Peace but Division
49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Interpreting the Times
54 He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. 55 And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. 56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?
And the Next Stop Is...
Mark your calendars to attend events where Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. will be visiting in the upcoming days.

- **August 18** (Sunday)
  Bishop Swanson will be preaching at St. Stephens UMC in Yazoo City at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

- **August 19** (Monday)
  The Mississippi Conference Board of Pension will host a two-day educational session planned to assist clergy in modeling and teaching the United Methodist commitment to fully utilizing their time, talents, gifts, service and witness. Bishop Swanson will lead worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Hilton Hotel in Jackson on County Line Road.

- **August 19** (Monday)
  Bishop Swanson will be the guest speaker at the Summer Quarter Cluster Pot Luck Dinner Meeting at Asbury UMC in Holly Springs at 6:00 p.m.

- **August 22** (Thursday)
  Bishop Swanson will be attending a consecration service in the Methodist Healthcare-Olive Branch Hospital in Olive Branch at 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Christian Retreat at Crow’s Neck Celebrates with Open House
By Renelda Owen, Meridian District

The Koinonia Emmaus Community of northeast Mississippi prayed vigorously for seven years for God to lead them to a suitable place to host Walks to Emmaus. For several years they have been renting a section of Tombigbee State Park near Tupelo for these weekends, but they had to keep all of their things in a storage trailer, and everything had to be set up at the last minute and taken down quickly on Sunday evenings at the end of the three-day events. They were always at the mercy of availability and had to accommodate the rules of the larger state park. God answered their prayers in a mighty way with the opportunity to obtain use of the former Crow’s Neck Environmental Education Center on Bay Springs Lake in the picturesque, rolling hills of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. A board of directors has taken a leap of faith by signing a lease for five years and opening the Fellowship Christian Retreat at Crow’s Neck. A large crowd attended an open house on Saturday afternoon, August 10, culminating in a service of worship at 3:00.

The Fellowship Christian Retreat at Crow’s Neck is available to groups for rent and is a perfect location for retreats, youth events, meetings, corporate events, weddings and/or receptions, educational outings or family reunions. It is nestled in the quiet of the forest that surrounds Bay Springs Lake and the beautiful lake can be seen from the cabin areas. It will be necessary for the facility to be rented and utilized by others in order for the non-profit group to afford the upkeep and insurance for the over $4 million facility.

The main building features the Great Hall, large enough to seat 250 people, a fully equipped commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, classrooms and a modern, spacious theater that seats 150. Through the doors of the Great Hall, there is a spacious 1,500 square feet deck that overlooks the trails, amphitheater and wooded acres of the camp. All of
the indoor facilities have central heat and air. There are four large, contemporary cabins that each sleeps 30. The cabins have hardwood floors throughout, men's and women's restrooms and shower facilities, study rooms, a large living room with stone fireplace and two spiral staircases to a second floor overlook. Walking paths meander through the grounds and provide access to all the facilities, including two pavilions, an amphitheater and a boathouse.

Keep this amazing new facility in mind as you plan retreats and events for your church, youth group, women's or men's group. It is very much like being in the Smoky Mountains, but much closer. Keeping the camp rented will enable the Emmaus Community to maintain the facility so that many others can experience the renewal that results from a Walk to Emmaus. For more information or to make reservations for your next event, call 662-438-7727. Donations toward the upkeep of this camp can be mailed to Fellowship Christian Retreat, 709 N. Madison St., Tupelo, MS 38804.

Youth Pastor’s Tornado Recovery Airs on HGTV

The new HGTV show, Catastrophe Inc. will feature the labor that helped a Mississippi United Methodist youth pastor rebuild his home following the tornado that destroyed it in February 2013. The twister devastated parts of Hattiesburg and the Petal community where Jeff West lives with his wife Ashlie. It was a blessing that they were away from the home when the tornado struck. The 30-minute episode is set to air Sunday, August 18, at 9:30 a.m. (CST)

West ministers at Asbury UMC where the Rev. Andy Stoddard is the pastor. Stoddard and members of the church worked alongside of West after the storm to salvage items and help with clean-up. Within days, prayers to see West back in his home were answered thanks to the HGTV crew that has reconstructed the home.

“At Asbury we talk a lot about being salt and light and this was our chance to really show it. We lived it out with the cast and crew. We made some dear friends and hopefully we’ll be able to reflect the love and grace of Jesus Christ to a national TV audience. That was our hope the entire time, that Jesus receives all the praise and glory from anything that happened in this show. I truly believe that He has,” said Stoddard. To read the HGTV writing about helping the West family, go to http://www.hgtv.com/catastrophe-inc/mississippi-twister/index.html. Last February, Jeff West talked about his faith through this experience. Visit http://www.mississippi-umc.org/news/detail/3034 to read what he had to say.

Plan Now for Children’s Sabbath

By Carol Burnett, Congregations for Children Coordinator

Congregations for Children invites people of faith from all across Mississippi to become champions for children by working together to improve children’s health, education and family economic security.

One step congregations can take to demonstrate their commitment to improving children’s lives is to participate in the national celebration of Children’s Sabbath. The Children’s Sabbath is a worship celebration in which adults affirm their commitment to children’s safety, health, education, economic security and justice.

Congregations can celebrate in their own worship service, or work ecumenically to celebrate with other faith traditions in a community-wide service. The Children’s Defense Fund, the sponsor of the national celebration of Children’s Sabbath, offers resources to help congregations plan worship experiences and community wide celebrations.

To assist communities with planning and implementing their Children’s Sabbaths Celebration, the Children’s Defense Fund produces an annual National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths Manual: A Multi-faith Resource for Year Round Child Advocacy. The manual includes sample liturgies, prayers, sermon ideas and tools for planning and implementing the type event you would like to host. To
download a free copy of this year’s Children’s Sabbath manual or for additional resources and ideas for planning your Children’s Sabbath celebration, visit http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/faith-based-action/childrens-sabbaths/.

Though Children’s Sabbath celebrations are typically observed the third weekend of October, they can be held anytime of the year, and the worship resources and prayers found in the manual can be used throughout the year. The United Methodist Church will observe Children’s Sabbath on **October 13, 2013**.

Congregations for Children will happily offer your congregation help with planning your Children’s Sabbath celebration. To request this assistance contact Congregations for Children at: P.O. Box 204, Biloxi, MS 39533, **228-669-4827** or by email at info@mschildcare.org.

**McMurry University Names First Woman President**

United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

Sandra Harper, president of Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has been named the new president of United Methodist-related McMurry University. She becomes the first woman serving as a full-time president of an Abilene university.

To read the news release, visit [http://mcmurryuniversity.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/](http://mcmurryuniversity.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/).

**Then and Now: Marching on Washington**

United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

WASHINGTON (UMNS) - Edith Lee-Payne, photographed on her 12th birthday at the famed march on Aug. 28, 1963, will return to Washington for the 50th anniversary festivities. The member of Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield, Mich., said she is bringing her granddaughters so they know “their presence can make a difference.” The United Methodist Board of Church and Society shares her story.


**Senatobia District Challenge**

By Cynthia Laird, Senatobia District Communications

August is a busy time as the Senatobia District leaders challenge the clergy and laity of each cluster to make “decisions to make a difference.” These cluster rallies, led by the Rev. Andy Ray, district superintendent; Blair Jernigan, district lay leader; Cheryl Denley, administrative assistant and the Rev. John Garrott, district director of Revitalization and New Churches, began on August 4, and will continue through August 18.

Those who gathered at the DeSoto County Cluster Rally at Southaven First United Methodist Church were challenged by Ray to look at where they are, and plan for what they can do now to improve the effectiveness of service in God’s kingdom. He issued the challenge for people to begin taking the first steps to become stronger, more vital congregations that earnestly seek “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” These steps include: set goals and work to improve worship services, remember that reaching others for Christ is priority, work with small groups to disciple and equip Christians to be ready to do their part in God’s work to transform the world and support and become involved in missions. Ray said that if people ever go on a mission trip, they will return changed and have an appreciation for the church resources that many take for granted.
Jernigan shared a special painting of a church seen through the eyes of a child. The painting also made the group think about what is really the church. If the people are not there, then what is the purpose? Church closings are a sad reality. Jernigan reminded everyone that they were present at the cluster rally because God has called them to do something. He encouraged both clergy and laity to step out in faith because God is always with them and will provide for the work He has for them.

Cheryl Denley reminded attendees that they have connections as they serve in missions together. Strengths and weaknesses vary, but as the two work together, more can be achieved for God’s kingdom than ever alone. She spoke of training opportunities, resources and networking that the district and the conference provide. She encouraged the laity to attend the Lay Servant training to learn and grow in service and connection.

Garrott shared statistics that brought more awareness on the importance of dedicated service in our churches and districts. The people who the church is trying to reach for Christ are there and it is the church’s responsibility to share with them the message of the gospel.

In closing, Ray had kind words to say about the district’s accomplishments. He reminded everyone that they must do more, resources are available and leaders are available to help. The challenge to seek and serve the Lord in a more vital, dedicated manner had been extended. Now it is up to Methodist Christians to realize the need to be about the Father’s business, and to take up the challenge to serve.

Anderson UMC Sewing Love Success
By Dr. Sarah Smith, Anderson United UMC

Anderson United Methodist Women (AUMW) have successfully completed another year of “sewing love through mission” and living the true meaning of mission, which is love in action. This year AUMW shipped 110 dresses to the Little Dresses for Africa (LDFA) national headquarters in Brownville, Michigan. Over the past three years Anderson UM women have made over 500 pillow case dresses and over 50 shorts for little boys around the world. A delegation of volunteers will travel to Malawi to deliver these dresses and other dresses from across the United States to little girls in 49 countries within Africa. AUMW ladies and other UMW seek many ways to help and assist others throughout local communities and globally. This is only one example of how God’s love through everyone has resulted in care and hope for the most vulnerable children. In addition to Malawi, these dresses are helping girls in Venezuela, Zambia, Uganda and even Bangkok as reported by the director and founder of LDFA, Rachel O’Neill.

According to the founder, the United States have sent close to two million dresses to 49 countries of Africa and 17 countries outside of Africa. “That’s a lot of little children who are being blessed in the name of Jesus because of your hard work” as expressed by Rachel O’Neill. Being a part of this mission has brought inner joy to the many ladies sewing their faith for God’s children in need.

The Anderson UMW organization was one of the first according to LDRA headquarters of the UMW groups in Mississippi during 2010 to be spotlighted on NBC’s Nightline program special segment entitled, “Making a Difference.” Many of the dresses made by the local ladies were shown on national television.

Since beginning this project, AUMW members have been blessed to share and spread this experience with others throughout the state and families across the nation. AUMC members are especially thankful for Charles Gibson and his family for donating most of the materials used for this project. They are also grateful for others who helped to make this miracle come true by the grace of God. For more information about this project and other mission outreach programs, or to join the Anderson UMW, call 601-982-3997.
Kossuth UMC 2nd Annual Operation Back to School
Kossuth UMC served their community and over 200 people during their annual Operation Back to School event. Church members and Pastor Kenny McGill gathered backpacks, school supplies, clothing and food to give out to help ease school costs for families in the area.

Photo, right: Kossuth UMC backpack collection for those in need

Mt. Salem UMC Youth Serving Community
By Valerie Brayloc, Member of Mt. Salem UMC

In today’s society most people lead very busy lives and finding time to volunteer can be an almost impossible thing to do. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family and your community. Recently, the youth of Mt. Salem UMC, pictured at left, had an opportunity to volunteer at a local homeless shelter. They provided and served meals to 250 homeless men, women and children. It was a remarkable experience that consisted of a modest sum of money, a small amount of work and a great deal of prayer, which members enjoyed. At the shelter they observed those who came to receive an afternoon meal, give praise, worship and offer a prayer of their own to Christ. The youngsters helped serve people who lacked basic necessities, people uncertain when their next hot meal would come, or if they would have a safe place to sleep from night to night. However, witnessing their admiration for God was truly a blessing to the Mt. Salem group.

Eddie Spencer is the pastor of Mt. Salem UMC is located in Terry, Mississippi.

Youth Explosion - St. Mary’s UMC
August 17, 2013

Activities begin at 12:00 p.m. and will take place at the old National Guard building on Harmony Road, Crystal Springs, Mississippi. There will be a school supply giveaway to the first 50 students. Youth attending can enjoy volleyball, basketball, face painting, the space jump and free food. Mr. Corrine Kine will be the guest speaker.

Pratt Memorial UMC Celebrates 116 years
August 23-25, 2013

The Rev. DeMario F. Benson, Sr., pastor of Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church, and the Pratt Memorial Homecoming Committee announce their 116th Homecoming Celebration to be held on August 23-25, 2013. Pratt Memorial has a rich heritage in the city of Jackson and has served the west Jackson community for 116 years.

The theme for this year’s homecoming celebration is “Make A Joyful Noise.” The speaker for the homecoming worship service will be Timothy Crisler, Lay Leader of the Mississippi Annual Conference and a member of the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

This year’s celebration will include the following: a gospel praise fest on Friday, August 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., a picnic on Saturday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and a homecoming worship service on Sunday, August 25, at 11:00 a.m.

The Pratt Memorial congregation invites former members, friends and the general public to attend this great celebration. The church is located at 1057 West Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi (behind the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street). For more information call 601-826-4018. You may also send inquiries to Prattchurch@aol.com.
Meeting of Pastors of Larger Membership Churches
September 9, 2013

Make plans to attend a “Meeting of Pastors of Larger Membership Churches,” Monday, September 9, 2013, St. Matthew’s UMC, in Madison, Mississippi. Senior and lead pastors of churches averaging more than 250 and or having full-time staff are invited. Bishop Swanson will lead the opening discussion at 10:00 a.m.

The afternoon forum will focus on ministry in larger membership churches. Participants are asked to come prepared to share “best practices” for ministry in the larger membership church. They will also contribute to discussions about how pastors of larger membership churches can offer mutual support and encouragement to one another, and ways to share ministry ideas throughout the year.

There is no cost for the invitation, only a $10.00 fee for the box lunch. For more information, go to http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102747532396-1311/Large+Church+Gathering.pdf. To reserve a box lunch, notify Annie Clay at 601-944-0776 or ejadist@bellsouth.net.

Methodist Foundation Hosts Generosity Summits - Oxford
September 10 | October 4 | October 22

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation is pleased to host three Generosity Summits featuring the teaching of Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. The three events will be held across the state. The summits are open to clergy and lay. Clergy may receive half of a CEU Credit for full participation.

Each summit will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided on site. Registration cost is $10, which will cover the cost of snacks and lunch.

Dates and locations are:
• September 10: Clinton First UMC (Clinton)
• October 4: Heritage UMC (Hattiesburg)
• October 22: Oxford University UMC (Oxford)


For more information contact Mike Hicks, associate director of the Mississippi United Methodist Foundation at 601-948-8845.

Leading with REAL POWER:
Lay Leadership Conference
September 14, 2013

Amazing things happen when you lead with the Holy Spirit in Relevant, Enthusiastic, Authentic and Loving ways. Join with Laity from across the conference at this year’s Lay Leadership Conference and discover things about yourself and the Holy Spirit that will make your ministry in the world more POWER-filled. Leadership is less about position but more about influence. Who are you influencing? What are you influencing them to do? What is God calling you to do? These questions and more will be discussed Saturday, September 14, 2013 during the laity gathering Leading with REAL POWER: Lay Leadership Conference. The conference begins 8:30 a.m. at Christ UMC, 6000 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS.

The keynote speaker is Christie Latona, church leadership and development expert. She has helped some of the most fruitful pastors in the denomination author books including “Begging for REAL Church” and “The Power of REAL” with Joe Daniels. Most recently, she has teamed with Mississippi resident Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. and leaders in the Missouri Annual Conference in creating the Core Four Study.
The Mississippi Conference Lay Leader, Timothy Crisler, explains why he’s advising laity to register for this.

“Every laity member who attends this conference will be greatly blessed by our keynote speaker,” said Crisler. “I have had the opportunity to work with Christie recently on several projects and I have found her teachings to be very inspirational and her grasp of Holy Scripture profound. I know her presentation will resonate with every participant present.”

The cost is $10.00 for lunch. For more information and to sign up, visit http://www.mississippi-umc.org/events/detail/1145.

Senatobia District Conference
September 21, 2013

“Following Jesus: Out of the Church, Into the Streets” is the focus of an upcoming missional conference in September. Opportunities to network and partner will be extended. Some of the best practices for evangelism, discipleship, change leadership, and mission will be presented. This event begins with a light breakfast at 9:00 a.m. - Noon. The cost is $20.00. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, September 19.

Contact Cheryl Denley for more information at cheryl@senatobiadistrictumc.com. For more details, visit http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102747532396-1311/Large+Church+Gathering.pdf.

The Bishop’s Convocation
“Holiness & Renewal of Ministry”
September 30 - October 2, 2013

According Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., one of the primary responsibilities of the annual conference is to provide effective and productive leadership to the local churches. For this reason, Swanson is inviting all Mississippi United Methodist clergy to an in-depth consideration of the connections between God’s holiness, one’s own holiness, and the renewal of the church. Dr. Jason Vickers has explored these relationships in his 2011 book “Minding the Good Ground: A Theology of Church Renewal.” Vickers will guide participants through the following four phrases of reflection on the theme: Contemplating God’s Holiness (Exodus 15:11 and Hosea 11:9), Encountering God’s Holiness (Exodus 19:23, Deuteronomy 4:12, and Isaiah 6:5), Becoming Holy (Leviticus 11:45 and Numbers 16:46) and Finding Freedom in Holiness (II Corinthians 3:17.)

While this gathering is designed for clergy, Swanson says that laity should care this is happening and be in prayer for those attending. “I am sure that every local congregation desires that their pastor be exposed to learning opportunities that would aid them in becoming the best pastors that they can become. The laity should desire to see growth in their pastors because as the pastor experiences growth, the people should grow,” said Swanson.

The Bishop’s Convocation is September 30 - October 2, 2013 at Crossgates United Methodist Church, Brandon, MS. For more details and to register visit www.centerforministry.com/pages/detail/1736.

C.E.R.T. Training
(Community Emergency Response Team)
October 25, 26 & 27, 2013

Location:
Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church Family Life Center
3787 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

For more information call, 662-895-2323.

Class Times:
• Oct. 25 - 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
• Oct. 26 - 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Oct. 27 - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Annual Conference 2014
June 6-8, 2014

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., has announced that the 2014 session of the Mississippi Annual Conference will be held on June 6-8 at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Employment Opportunities

• WANTED: CHEFs* to Help End Hunger! (*CHEF = Certified Hunger Event Facilitator) Raleigh, NC

Stop Hunger Now (SHN) is looking for intelligent, extroverted, hard-working individuals who are passionate about ending hunger to conduct meal packaging events in and around Raleigh, NC!

Reports To: Meal Packaging Program Manager
Start Date: Negotiable

Position Summary:
The Certified Hunger Event Facilitator (CHEF) is responsible for facilitating Stop Hunger Now meal packaging events in the community and surrounding areas. In this role, the CHEF will run meal packaging events from start to finish; including set-up of assembly line, conducting an educational presentation, training the volunteers, facilitating meal packaging, breaking down assembly line and reloading the truck with equipment and completed meals.

Stop Hunger Now is offering this position to committed volunteers in recognition of their dedication and passion in the movement to end hunger. The CHEF will represent Stop Hunger Now at meal packaging events and act as a source of information about the program, the organization, poverty and hunger.

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program provides an opportunity for volunteers to package high protein, dehydrated meals for use in international school lunch programs and crisis relief. The organization is driven by a vision of a world without hunger and a mission to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Meal Packaging Event Facilitation: Transport materials to and from meal packaging events in large box trucks. Facilitate meal packaging events including the set up of raw materials and equipment, delivery of educational presentations about hunger and poverty and training volunteers on the packaging process.

Volunteer Management: Train meal packaging volunteers on the meal production process to ensure cleanliness, consistency, and professionalism at all events. Manage large groups of volunteers of all ages/cultures/abilities, delegate tasks to groups, adjust groups to maximize efficiency, and use independent judgment to make necessary adjustments and respond to challenges.

Handling of Cash/Donations/Merchandise Sales: Collect revenues generated by meal packaging events according to organizational financial procedures. Manage the sale of SHN merchandise at packaging events.

Qualifications:
• Current valid driver's license and clean driving record, commercial vehicle license a plus
• Strong presentation and public speaking skills, comfortable speaking in front of large groups
• Ability to lift 50 to 75 lbs. Truck loading/unloading and moving heavy pallets is involved
• Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and evenings
• Experience, education or knowledge related to hunger and/or non-profits strongly preferred

**Compensation and Commitment:** $10 per hour, 25 hrs per month (about 5 events), for approx. one year.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter stating how your skills, knowledge and experience apply to this position and a resume to Mike Nelson, mnelson@stophungernow.org.

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**Gasless Red Beans**

1 lb. red beans  
1 ham hock  
6 slices bacon, cut into bits  
1 long (mild or hot) sausage  
1 large (onion, chopped)  
2 tablespoons chopped garlic  
1 tablespoon vinegar  
Pinch of sugar  
1 teaspoon liquid crab boil  
½ teaspoon Tony Chachere’s seasoned salt  
½ cup tomato sauce  
1 Irish potato, peeled & whole  
1 carrot, whole  
1 tablespoon olive oil

Look through red beans and remove bad beans and rocks. Wash thoroughly. Put ham hock and bacon on to boil. Let boil for half an hour. Add beans, sausage, onion, garlic, tomato sauce, vinegar, crab boil, olive oil, seasoned salt and sugar. Boil rapidly with lid off for two hours (more if needed, boil until beans mash easily). After one hour, add potato and carrot. Stir frequently to keep from sticking to pot. Make sure beans mash with ease, and then mash a few to make gravy thick. The last 15 minutes, put lid on, turn fire down and simmer.

— “Mollie” Jean Ryan, St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

• **Attention:** Have a recipe too good to keep? Share it with our Circuit Rider readers. Email your favorite recipes to news@mississippi-umc.org.

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**Submit to The Circuit Rider by Noon Each Monday**

The Conference communication team looks forward to getting your stories and events for the next issue of The Circuit Rider, but the details are **needed no later than noon each Monday the day before distribution on Wednesday.**

There’s no guarantee that items received after the noon cut off will make the following Circuit Rider, so share your happenings soon. Send to: news@mississippi-umc.org.

Thanks in advance for helping tell the Mississippi United Methodist story!

Follow the Conference on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524) and on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC](https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC).

**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 UMC to the number 601-721-4468 and press **send.**
3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you're connected!