A Message from Our District Superintendents

Dear East and West Jackson Districts Clergy and Laity,

Throughout the 2016 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, we kept hearing these words: GENEROSITY is the POWER of WE. We heard these words during the teaching, preaching, and singing of the session.

We were reminded about the sacrificial generosity of Jesus. We were informed how God can enlarge our capacity for giving and enable us to participate in trustworthy generosity. “Go and share the gospel in a generous manner” was our clarion call.

We not only heard these words, but we also saw GENEROSITY on display each day of the session. It was evident in our joy-filled conversations. It was visible in the commitment of the gifts and skills of the volunteers, district and conference staff who helped make the session of our Annual Conference a memorable occasion.

A pertinent question comes to mind about GENEROSITY. What are we to do with GENEROSITY now that the 2016 session has concluded? There is an answer. As clergy and laity, we are not to keep GENEROSITY to ourselves. We are to GO and tell others that a generous God calls for a generous people. Let’s go as people filled with the Holy Spirit living generously by proclaiming and living the gospel! GENEROSITY is the POWER of WE!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Stephen T. Cook
Rev. Dr. Connie M. Shelton
Message from Your Ministry Coordinators

Annual Conference packs a wealth of happenings into a few fast-moving days. It would be unfortunate for the beauty and the connection of our time together to disintegrate into a vague, blurred memory.

In the book *50 Ways to Pray* Teresa A. Blythe offers guidance for discovering the “God moments” during the rush of our busy lives. To help you to recall and savor your most sacred memories of Annual Conference, we invite you to set aside some quiet time to think back on your experience. The “Contemporary Examen” from page 60 of Blythe’s book offers this guidance for reflection:

- As you rest in prayerful silence, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you through a review of your time at Annual Conference.
- If you could relive any one moment that brought you joy during Annual Conference, which would it be? What happened in that moment that made it so life-giving?
- Sit with that moment and allow it to give you life again.
- Offer your gratitude to God for that moment.

If you would like to share your life-giving moment with us, please email it to us. We would love to hear from you.

Committed to Loving, Learning, and Leading with You,

Rev. Sherry Johnson, Ms. Brittany May
East Jackson District West Jackson District
Ministries Coordinator Ministries Coordinator
eastjackson@mississippi-umc.org westjackson@mississippi-umc.org
Congratulations to . . .

**East/West Jackson Honorees at the Glory Sightings Banquet**

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundations sponsored the Glory Sightings Banquet, on Wednesday, June 8 to "celebrate vitality in churches and individuals through an evening of story-telling", and awards. These East and West Jackson District individuals and churches received honors:

- Seven Springs United Methodist Church, Rev. Robert Cook, pastor-- The West Jackson District 2016 Vital Church
- McLaurin Heights United Methodist Church, Rev. Vicki Landrum, pastor-- East Jackson District 2016 Vital Church
- Rev. Ricky James (pastor, St. Luke United Methodist Church)--Frances Asbury Award, given in recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions to higher education and campus ministry.
- Mary Elizabeth Hilliard (Broadmeadow UMC)--Harry Denman Award (Youth) which celebrates the personal evangelism of individuals who make a difference in the lives of people, the church and the community.
We Welcome to Our Districts

East Jackson
· Larry Patrick – pastor, Greenfield
· Barry Lee Male, Sr: - senior pastor, Madison
· Kevin Trantham—pastor, Carthage
· Michael Leo Larry Pharis – pastor, Puckett
· Sherry Johnson - Ministries Coordinator, East Jackson District

West Jackson
· Tommy Elton Artmann, Jr.—senior pastor, Clinton First
· Vera Hall—pastor, Clinton St. Paul/Blessed Trinity Charge
· Frank Michael Newell—pastor, Ellison
· Douglas Hooks - Hermanville/Port Gibson
· Jason Harms—pastor, Briarwood
· Thomas Eric Davis—pastor, Bolton Memorial
· Deborah Bracey—pastor, Mt. Pleasant
· Lori Galambos—associate pastor, Galloway
· Kathy Anne Price—pastor, Alta Woods
· Clint Edward Ware--pastor Raymond/Learned
· Sara Nell (Sally) Bevill—pastor, Hawkins
· Paige Swaim-Presley—director, The Center for Ministry
· Anzette Thomas—chaplain, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Servants Reaching Milestones in Ministry

Rev. Dr. T. Jerry Mitchell-- 50 years of membership in The Mississippi Annual Conference

Linda Lindsey-Williams (WJD) and Milford G. (Buddy) Bayliss Jr. (WJD)—Completed Mississippi Course of Study

Troy Anthony Piccaluga (pastor, Redwood and Eagle Lake)--admitted as an associate member of The Mississippi Annual Conference.

Laura Michelle (Lori) Galambos—commissioned to probationary ministry

Anthony Alexander (Tony) Ashford (pastor, Forest Charge, EJD) ordained as elder in full connection

Scott Adcox, Beth Feisel, James McGraw, Brian Johnston, and John Wayne Smith of the East Jackson District; and Doug Hooks and Richard Scott of the West Jackson District—completed Licensing School

Becky Youngblood (WJD), James Salter (EJD)--Retiring
EJD/WJD Saints Remembered at Memorial Service

On Friday, June 5, Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. preached a sermon entitled "You Are the Message" at 'A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance' during morning worship. We celebrated the lives of the following clergy and clergy spouses:

**Clergy**
- Sale Trice Lilly, Jr.
- Clayton Henderson Rasberry
- Arvah Eugene Dyess
- Lee P. Roberts
- Charles Eldred Swain
- Sam Hawkins, Sr.

**Clergy Spouses**
- Lynn Burnett (Marshall E. Burnett, Jr.)
- Ellen S. Givens (Roy A. Givens, Sr.)
- Naomi Williamson (James A. Williamson)
- Carmelite Judge (James Ray Judge)
- Mary Margie Phillips (Burnell Phillips)

At the close of the service, Rev. Kathy Anne Price prayed: "We thank you for the lives of those we have honored here today. Bless the fruit of their lives that others may continue to be healed, discipled, and transformed through their legacy by the Holy Ghost."
From the Mississippi Methodist Foundation:  
Annual Conference  
by Mike Hicks, Executive Director

Joshua Becker, who is a writer seeking to inspire people to live more by owning less, argues in a recent post that generosity leads to contentment. He lists the following:

1. Generous people have a healthy understanding of how much they own.  
2. Generous people value what they own.  
3. Generous people live happier and more fulfilled lives.  
4. Generous people find meaning outside of their possessions.  
5. Generous people have more fulfilling relationships.  
6. Generous people have less desire for more.

All of this sounds familiar.

Matthew 6:25-26The Message (MSG)  
25-26 “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

The Message (MSG)  
Help Us Spread Your Good News!

You are invited to announce your upcoming events and share your Glory Sightings through the district newsletter and Facebook pages.

For upcoming events include:
- the date, time, location and purpose of the event
- a contact person along with their telephone number and email
- flyers or brochure as attachments (if available)
- websites or links that offer additional information. (if available)

Double check facts, names, dates, and phone numbers for accuracy. Email your submission to eastjackson@mississippi-umc.org with “newsletter” in the subject line. Deadline is one week before the publication date. However, for maximum effectiveness, please send your information at least six weeks before the event.

For Glory Sightings, email at least two photographs along with a brief description of each picture to eastjackson@mississippi-umc.org. Remember to write “Glory Sighting” in the subject line.
“Day at the Pines” Older Adult Event:

Durr Wise Retreat Center at Camp Wesley Pines, Tuesday, September 27

More than 200 “seniors,” usually gather at “Day at the Pines” which is sponsored jointly by the East and West Jackson Districts and the Older Adult Ministries of St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, Madison. This year’s special entertainment will include a “Musical Surprise” by Allen Hart and Sherri Beth Farmer from St. Matthew’s, a return encore engagement by the “Ragger Roos,” and Mississippi’s own Guy Hovis, formerly of the Lawrence Welk Show.

Racial Ethnic Scholarships Available for the School of Congregational Development

The School of Congregational Development is a premier event for equipping conference leaders, clergy, and laity to lead vital, dynamic, life-changing congregations. Sponsored by Discipleship Ministries, Global Ministries, and Path 1, this year’s event, “Into the Deep,” is being hosted by the Northern Illinois Conference and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The School of Congregational Development will take place in Evanston, Illinois, August 17 – 20.

Global Ministries provides a limited number of scholarships

These scholarships help to facilitate the participation of racial/ethnic church leaders – lay and clergy – in the School of Congregational Development. To apply, click here: http://www.racialethnicscdscholarships.com/online-application

‘Mission U:

Cabot Lodge Millsaps in Jackson, July 20 – 22

The Bible and Human Sexuality; Climate Justice; and Latin America are the three main courses offered at Mission U (formerly known as the School of Christian Mission). These courses will be helpful to persons planning to lead, or participate in the “mission studies” in local UMW units. Pastors are encouraged to attend, and can receive CEU credits for full participation.

To register, complete the form in the April 2016 issue of The Beacon, the newsletter of the Mississippi Conference United Methodist Women or contact Diane Reynolds 601-616-0240 or reynoldsmdf@bellsouth.net
Advocate Training, Mississippi Children’s Home

Morrow Admin Building, 805 N. Flag Chapel Rd Jackson, MS,

**June 28, 10:00 – 11:30**

Methodist Children’s Homes needs people from the East and West Jackson districts to serve the welfare of children by becoming Advocates in their communities. Advocates promote the mission of the children’s homes by encouraging others to pray for the youth at MCH, to give financially, and to share stories about how God is changing lives through our ministry.

At the Advocate training MCH staff will present everything you need to know to be able to inspire, lead, and encourage others to support our homes for children.

For more information Robyn Burchfield at 601-853-5000 ext. 1255 or Rburchfield@mchms.org.

Young Preachers Festival and Conference

United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, Kansas.

**Thursday-Friday, July 21-22**

United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry is helping to organize the event for seminarians, declared candidates for ministry and young clergy to cultivate their preaching skills. $79. Details: http://youngpreachersfestival.org/
Hope and Unity in Christ ‘is 2016 Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Theme

West and East Jackson laypersons, Kay Barksdale and David Stotts along with clergy Bob Rambo, Mitchell Hedgepeth and Jim Genesse, will represent the Mississippi Conference at the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference of The United Methodist Church. Clergy, Connie Shelton, Joe May, and Barry Male and layperson, Martin Butler will serve as reserve delegates.

The SEJ Conference is one of five jurisdictional conferences being held on July 13 through 15. The other jurisdictions of UMC are: Northeastern; North Central; South Central; and Western.

Every four years the jurisdictional conferences meet to select members of general boards and agencies and to elect new bishops. Our conference has endorsed Stephen Sparks, pastor of First UMC, Indianola, as a candidate for the Episcopacy. Newly elected bishops will be consecrated at the conference site.

The 2016 Conference theme is Hope and Unity in Christ, based on Hebrews 6:18-19a. Please pray that each person will come in a spirit of Hope, seeking Unity through our Lord Jesus Christ as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Details http://www.sejumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=59478&PID=1037703

For a complete list of delegates see conference website: www.mississippi-umc.org.
Register Now for Journey to the Table #1.

Be among the first to experience a new ministry of spiritual formation for young adults at Journey to the Table, July 8th-10th at the headquarters of The Upper Room in Nashville, TN. Participants will hear a series of ten talks about topics of identity, how we see God in our daily lives, how we live into the example of Christ, and some tools to help with their own Christian spiritual journeys. At Journey to the Table you will share worship times including Communion, music, fellowship, times of self-care, and many small group conversations with peers about how each topic relates to you.

To be among 36 the participants from across the United States and Puerto Rico, you must be between 18 and 35 years-old at the start of the event.

Participants are responsible for travel to and from the site. All lodging, meals, and program materials are included in the $200 registration fee. More detailed information about what time to arrive and what to bring will be sent upon registration.

For additional information and to register go to http://journey.upperroom.org/2016/04/27/register-to-be-a-participant-on-the-first-public-journey-to-the-table/
You’re invited to the

Methodist Children’s Homes
JACKSON
Advocate Training

Please join us for a morning of learning how you can become apart of the Methodist Children’s Homes ministry.

What are MCH Advocates
Advocates are passionate about promoting the mission of Methodist Children’s Homes. They work to educate, encourage and invite others in the community to take part in our ministry.

When
Tuesday, June 28, 2016
10:00 – 11:30 am

Where
JACKSON METRO TRAINING
Morrow Admin Building
805 N. Flag Chapel Rd
Jackson MS

RSVP
Robyn Burchfield, Rburchfield@mchms.org
601-853-5000 ext. 1255
Coach Approach Skill Training
June 23-24, 2016 ~ Jackson, MS

With Master Trainer Chris Holmes, Developer of the CAST Method

* Open to Mississippi clergy, laity, & professionals who guide others

Over two days participants learn the five basic skills of coaching and come away with a plan for using those skills in their daily lives. This training is highly participatory with heavy emphasis on the integration and practice of each skill.

The course includes the history and benefits of coaching, establishing a contact, importance of presence, deep listening, asking powerful questions, expanding possibilities, action planning, and review and commitment. This training, which includes a 50-page manual, provides 15 hours of coach specific training (12 in-person hours and 3 follow-up phone hours). The training is co-led by two CAST instructors.

Cost: $325
Location: TBA
Clergy CEUs Available (upon completion of the 15 hours): 1.5

To Register: www.centerforministry.com
Monday, June 20

Deadline to register for three United Methodist Communications online courses. United Methodist Communications will offer the following courses July 6 – Aug. 17: “Tools for Increasing Your Church’s Vitality,” “Communicating Faith in the 21st Century,” and “Welcoming Ministry.” Costs vary. Details: http://view.esp.umcom.org/?gs=a7604f9102facedefd8b1306b6fa23577eb2827e7c31fc2a3490bb4584b98d9caad64d4bc9cf2ab5e90726763ee50de07ad9b97db3f1af2f7a90f9f5556d8329e244177fdbe4310484b

Monday-Thursday, Aug. 1-4

Native American Family Camp – The gathering has the theme “Act of Repentance: Healing the Wounds from Within.” It will take place at the Fin and Feather Resort, Highway 10A, Gore, Oklahoma. The Native American International Caucus, a United Methodist group, is planning the gathering. Details http://www.memphis-umc.net/eventdetail/native-american-family-camp-3950554?month=6&year=2016&day=1&display=l

August 10

Deadline to Apply for Human Relations Day Grant—The purpose of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) Human Relations Day Grants (HRDG) is to provide funding to promote ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy, or leadership training and development. Details: http://umc-gbcs.org/content/articles/2013-2016_Human_Relations_Day_Grant_Application.pdf

Wednesday-Saturday, Aug. 17-20

School of Congregational Development 2016 — The workshops for United Methodist clergy and lay leaders will be in Evanston, Illinois, outside Chicago. United Methodist Discipleship Ministries and Global Ministries sponsor the gathering. Registration $425 before July 15. Details: http://scdnetwork.ning.com/

Monday-Wednesday, August 29-31

Global United Methodist Clergywomen Gathering — United Methodist clergywomen from around the world will gather in Houston to celebrate 60 years since the Methodist Church granted full clergy rights for women in the Methodist tradition. Details: http://www.gbhem.org/calendar/clergywomen/global-united-methodist-clergywomen-gathering-2016-08-30-00000-2016-08-31

September 17

3rd Annual Collaborative Leadership Conference: Loving, Learning and Leading Together: Church Renewal Through Spiritual Formation, Christ United Methodist Church

September 30 – October 1

Student Ministry Initiative (SMI) Conference, Galloway UMC
Details www.mississippi-umc.org/sminference

Tuesday, October 25

Domestic Violence Task Force Special Training for Clergy at Crossgates UMC. Register at www.mississippi-umc.org/stopdomesticviolence by October 18.

Mark Your Calendars for Our District Picnics!!

Clergy families of the East Jackson District will picnic at Christ United Methodist Church on Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. The meal will be provided. Please RSVP with your name and the number of attendees from your family to eastjackson@mississippi-umc.org
Please Pray For . . .

Rev. Benjamin F. Lewis and family (death of his wife, Sally)
Mrs. Nancy Creel (death of her mother)
Rev. Kevin and Diane Carter (death of her mother and brother)
Rev. Beth Feisel's mother
Rev. Art Kinstley
Rev. C. C. Koskie
Rev. Dr. Steve McDonald
Rev. Charles Nicholson
Rev. Tom Sorrell
Rev. Keith Tonkel
Rev. Everette Watts