

NEW ALBANY

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EDITION

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ALBANY DISTRICT OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Resident Bishop–Hope Morgan Ward, District Superintendent –Jerry Beam, Staff/Sec./Treas.–Lou Ann Staggs
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Feb. 13, 2012

New Albany District Mourns Loss

Rev. Dwain Whitehurst lost his earthly life Tuesday, Feb. 3rd in a traffic accident in Corinth. He was buried on Thursday at the Box Chapel UMC Cemetery. Dwain was serving the Shady Grove UMC in Alcorn County as a retired supply pastor. He pastored churches in North Mississippi for over 40 years. As son-in-law, Rev. Jonathan Cagle said, “Dwain was the same to everyone and after meeting him, was a friend and encourager to all. Each and every one of us can remember a certain thing that he had told us and it remains with us even still today and we never will forget it. He will be greatly missed.” Please remember Carolyn and family and Shady Grove UMC in your prayers.

Two Mission/Evangelism Events Approaching

The Mississippi Conference is hosting **Tony Campolo** in this year’s mission/evangelism event on February 25th, at Christ UMC, Jackson. Please read the one page article on the conference web site: www.mississippi-umc.org and register on-line there for the event. You may also call or email the district office and Lou Ann will register you if this is easier. Tony Campolo is a well known speaker, writer and educator who offers realistic approaches to mission and evangelism. He is famous for his sometimes blunt, no excuses approach to evangelism which he says, always must begin with a close relationship with God. His latest book, *God of Intimacy and Action*, invites us to act in ways that take the spotlight off of ourselves and shine that light on God’s Love. Participants will not be disappointed in the day’s event which will also include hearing from the Southeastern Jurisdiction Missionary in Residence, Susie Canafax. There is a \$10 fee for lunch that day.



Bethlehem UMC in New Albany is once again hosting an Evangelism Conference March 4th through the 7th. Featured speakers are Dr. John Ed Mathison, Rev. Terry Teykl, Rev. Fred Luter, Dr. Steve Gaines, Dr. Herb Reavis and special music by Don Chandler. To read about this event and get specific times and dates for speakers, go to the Bethlehem UMC web

site of: www.bumcnewalbany.org or email: nathanhodum@yahoo.com. Nightly services begin at 7:00 p.m.

New Albany District Clergy Event

The district clergy will gather on Saturday night, March 3rd, at New Albany Bethlehem UMC for supper and program by Dr. John Ed Mathison. Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. and immediately move into a time with John Ed. There is no cost for this event but please notify the district office if you cannot attend so we may get a count for the food. John Ed is famous for his "Every Member in Ministry" approach to intentional faith development. Dr. Mathison is the former pastor of Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery, Alabama.

Camp Lake Stephens Work Day

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Cabinet will be working at Camp Lake Stephens on Wednesday, March 28th and churches are invited to send work teams to join in. Various jobs will be done and tasks are available for young and not so young. If you would like to participate personally or can take a team from your church, please call the camp at 662-234-3350 to let them know what time you may arrive and how many are with you. They can also talk to you about what tools or equipment to bring with you. This is a mission opportunity right here in the New Albany District in getting ready for the busy summer season.

2011 Mission Shares Report

Mississippi Conference Overall Mission Shares (Apportionments) for 2011 – 81% paid
Mississippi Conference, **New Albany District** – 80% paid
N.A. District Operational Budget Paid – 97% (7 churches of 108 were 0%)
Thanks to all of those churches who helped in making this a successful endeavor.

Denman Evangelism Awards

For more than thirty years, The Foundation for Evangelism has been working with each Annual Conference to celebrate the outstanding personal evangelism and commitment to "Offer Them Christ" of United Methodist Clergy, Laity and Youth by sponsoring the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism Award. The nomination packets may be downloaded from The Foundation for Evangelism website www.foundationforevangelism.org or you may receive a packet in the mail by calling 800-737-8333. The packet includes nomination forms for each award. The awards are presented at Annual Conference each year.

Moving Pastors Seminar

Day Apart sessions for Full-Time moving pastors will be held in three locations in the Mississippi Conference. Attending one of these sessions is required now of Full Time pastors who are moving: April 26th – Oxford, May 3rd – Hattiesburg, and May 10th – Jackson. More information on this will be released at a later date.

"Good Grief" Seminar

The "Good Grief" ministry of the Hopewell - Indian Springs United Methodist Charge has a new day, time and location beginning on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The support group which is a collaborative effort of both churches will begin meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. in the dining room of the Arby's Restaurant, 706 Highway 72 East, Corinth.

The ministry was established in 2011 to support those who have experienced a devastating life event such as the death of a loved one, diagnosis of a terminal illness or condition, the loss of a spouse or parent through divorce, even the loss of a job or home. All of these events and so many more can cause us to grieve and "Good Grief" reaches out to all of Alcorn, Prentiss, Tippah and Tishomingo county residents who have been through or are currently embroiled in the turbulent waters of life. The ministry is non denominational and open to all regardless of religious and church affiliation. There is no cost to attend and no obligation to continue. For more information, please call Brother Rick Wells, Pastor of Hopewell and Indian Springs United Methodist Charge and facilitator at 662-587-9602.

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Indian Springs United Methodist Church will host a day long Marriage Enrichment Seminar on Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 9:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall of the church located at 541 County Road 300 in Glen, MS. The day long program will feature much of the "Fireproof" curriculum, plus aspects of other programs designed to touch on the subjects of communication, finance, forgiveness, responsibilities of the household and personal relationships with each other and with God. This is an interactive program not a lecture series. Lunch will be provided. The seminar will also cover most of the items contained in pre-marital counseling. There is no charge for the seminar or lunch. Seating is limited to 25 couples so early registration is urged. To register, please call 662-587-9602.

Spiritual Life Retreat

Iuka FUMC is sponsoring a spiritual life retreat for adults and older youth. This will be a time to come apart from the busyness and stress of life to find peace and rest with Jesus, the "Prince of Peace." Retreat leader is Dr. John Garrott. The date is February 18, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and the place is J.P.Coleman State Park Conference Center. Lunch is provided and registration is only \$5. Registration deadline is here so please call the church office at 662-423-6097 to sign up.

Central UMC in Meridian Hosts Dr. Ben Witherington

March 23 and 24th are the two days that Dr. Witherington of Asbury Seminary will teach on *The Revelation of John*. Dr. Witherington has written over 40 books including *The Jesus Quest* and *The Paul Quest*, both of which were selected as top biblical studies works by *Christianity Today*. This event offers 1 CEU credit and you may register on-line at www.cumcmdn.org. Before March 1st the registration fee is \$50, after this date it is \$75. The brochure has motel information and directions to the church. If you would like to have a brochure mailed to you just call the district office at 662-534-7733.

Youth Events: MYAC and Summer Youth Institute

The newly revised and envisioned event called "Unhindered" will unfold March 2-4th at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. The new MYAC focuses on encouraging and challenging youth to grow in their relationship with God and to strengthen them for ministry in their local churches and communities. Rather than a political focus with legislation and plenaries and CCYM executive elections, the new MYAC will offer: impacting worship and preaching, workshops that focus on spiritual formation and leadership development, small groups to meet and interact with other churches, training for youth leaders, a welcoming environment to **all**

youth, whether they currently go to church or not. Visit: www.mississippi-umc.org/myac2012 for complete information.

Rising sophomores and juniors interested in making a difference in their communities, focusing on tools to support local community improvement and training in leadership, community building and civil rights history, may apply for the **William Winter Institute for Youth 2012** which will be June 10-24th at Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi. The application for entry into this program may be found at: youth.winterinstitute.org. Deadline for application is March 1st.

Next Administry Training Event in Tupelo on March 10th

St. Luke UMC will once again host the next Administry Event on Saturday, March 10th beginning at 9:30 a.m. This session will focus on basic accounting and budget preparation. The training is specifically geared for providing tools for the local church to prepare and analyze financial statements. Batesville FUMC also hosts an Administry Event that same day and time and that one centers on auditing and internal controls, banking/communicating and giving. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch and all supplies. Call the conference office to register at 601-354-0515.

Other Events to Note:

Divorce Recovery Workshop – FUMC Tupelo, Monday nights beginning March 5th
Breakfast with Asbury Seminary President Dr. Tim Tennent, March 3rd, Tupelo Hilton
10 a.m., topic – Christianity and the challenge of Islam in post 9/11 world, deadline
to RSVP is Feb. 20.

Glenfield UMC New Albany hosts Folk Mountain Gospel Concert, Feb. 26th, 5:00 p.m.
Soup/Singing/Cake Auction on March 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Union/Benton Cluster Annual Bake Sale, Calvary UMC New Albany, Sat., March 31,st
Proceeds going to Camp Lake Stephens

District Leadership Training Event Numbers

January 29th training events in Corinth, Booneville and Oxford drew the following numbers:
Children's Ministry – 21, Youth-Young Adult Ministry – 14, Trustees and Insurance – 21, and
PPRC – 22.

Gift of Need for Valentine's

What a wonderful occasion to offer a gift of hope and love somewhere in the world in honor or memory of a loved one. Valentine's is traditionally a holiday when we in some way show our love and respect to someone. I use these occasions to honor my grandchildren by sending a monetary gift to an Advance Special that helps children who are in terrible situations or are hungry, or need school supplies or a safe haven, or maybe need medical care. I go on-line to www.advancinghope.org and click on "How to Give" - "Give on-line now." I can then choose to give to a project or missionary with my credit card. I can see and read about many of the projects on-line, watch videos on some of them and choose whichever I would like with **100% of my gift going to that project or missionary**. I can then print out a card or ask for one to be sent to my grandchildren so they can see who is receiving this gift in their name. Some projects relating to children are: **Children, Poverty and Violence # 14680A; Children's Ministries # 982027**

(addresses the needs of children living in poverty around the world); **Heifer International, Living Gifts # 982532** (this one offers gifts of live animals to help feed villages over the long term); **Medicine Box # 982630**(provides essential medicines and supplies for clinics, hospitals and health programs); **Nothing but Nets # 982015**; and **Water and Sanitation # 3020600**. For a catalogue of all the Advance Specials please email Lou Ann Staggs or call and ask for one: nadist@bellsouth.net or 662-534-7733.

The Advance is missional support through the official United Methodist Mission Agency - General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) There are over 300 mission projects and missionaries serving all over the world. You may also send a gift to the Mississippi Conference Office, P O Box 1201, Jackson, MS 39215 and mark it "Advance Special Number _____. It will then be sent to the Advance office. If you would like additional information on Advance Specials please contact Lou Ann Staggs, New Albany District Office of the UMC, P O Box 686, New Albany, MS 38652, 662-534-7733.

*** A link for UMW is going on the District Website: Watch for it!**

For additional information on these events please watch one or more of these sites:

District Email: nadist@bellsouth.net

District Web Site: www.nadist.org

Conference Web Site: www.mississippi-umc.org

Camp Lake Stephens Web Site: www.camplakestephens.org

Missions: gbgm-umc.org- www.advancinghope.org

Gen. Bd. Higher Ed. and Min.: gbhem.org

Call the District Office if you would like to have the newsletter mailed to you: 534-7733

