

# NEWSPIRIT

## **New Associate Conference Ministers Elected: Rev. David Popham and Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi**

After a year-long search by a Conference-wide Search Committee chaired by Rev. Mark Boyea of the First Congregational UCC in Westfield, NJ, two new Associate Conference Ministers - Rev. David Popham and Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi - were unanimously and enthusiastically elected by the Conference Board of Directors at its meeting on October 5.

In presenting the two candidates to the Board, Rev. Boyea reminded the Board that following numerous interviews, surveys, and questionnaires, new job descriptions for these positions were developed by the Committee. In addition to fulfilling various conference-wide responsibilities, these positions will primarily focus upon congregational renewal/new church development. Indeed, all Ministry Team job descriptions are also being modified to reflect the Conference's commitment to congregational renewal/new church development.



Rev. David Popham, currently an Associate Conference Minister with the UCC's Rocky Mountain Conference, has

been called as the Associate Conference

Minister/North. He will be based in the Conference's New Jersey office. Prior to

joining the Rocky Mountain Conference staff eight years ago, Rev. Popham was the pastor of a UCC congregation in Utah for eight years.

In addition to relating to churches/clergy in Delaware and New Jersey, Rev. Popham will oversee the Conference's Search and Call efforts. He will begin this full-time ministry on or about February 20, 2014. For the interim period, Rev. Dan Schroeder will continue to serve as Interim Associate Conference Minister.

After performing pastoral responsibilities in Tucson, AZ, Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi came to the Central Atlantic Conference in 2012 as the Interim Associate Conference Minister for the Shenandoah and Catoctin Associations.

She has now been called to the new Associate Conference Minister/West position. The Search Committee received several



applications for the new ACM/West position; however, when interviews were completed, the Committee did not judge it had a candidate to recommend from among those who had applied. The Committee was therefore delighted when Rev. Bacchiocchi accepted its invitation to candidate for the

*New Associate Conference Ministers elected  
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new part-time ACM/West position.

In her new position, Rev. Bacchiocchi will continue to relate to churches and clergy in the Shenandoah and Catoctin Associations, as well as to provide support to the Church and Ministry Committees of the Conference's five Associations. She will begin the process of transitioning to her new responsibilities on November 1, 2013.

Marie and David join Kwame Osei Reed and John Deckenback to form the CAC's Ministry Team, which is greatly assisted by Arnetta Jones and Angie Megna in Catonsville and Beth Pugh in New Jersey. It is expected that the Ministry Team will be transitioning to the new job descriptions during 2014, as new ways of relating to Church and Ministry Committees, Associate Councils, and local church ministerial searches are developed and implemented.

Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback  
Conference Minister  
Central Atlantic Conference

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## Clergy Appreciation Month

*"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching . . . "* (1 Timothy 5:17 [NRSV])

The month of October is dedicated as Clergy Appreciation Month. While we can encourage and thank our pastors throughout the year, October is set aside as a specific time to express our gratitude

toward them and to endeavor to be a blessing to them.

This is the perfect time to commit ourselves to praying for, encouraging, and honoring our clergy in the Central Atlantic Conference. Leadership is a difficult, and often thankless, job. We need to be thoughtful and intentional about making sure that our leaders know that we hold them in the highest regard.

Part of our mission in the Central Atlantic Conference is to strengthen local churches. Christ, in his sovereignty and wisdom, has established the local church as the focal site and essential means for preaching, fellowship, worship, growth, and service. Pastors have been called and appointed by God to teach the Bible and to shepherd their flock, and such pastoral work takes a (great big) willing heart, diligence, time, energy, and a dedicated prayer life.

Take this month as an opportunity to genuinely thank your pastor for all the work she or he does and for the leadership she or he displays. Take this occasion to spur her or him on as a believer in Christ. Take this time to pray about ways that you can be a source of encouragement, and thereby a blessing and a benefit, to your pastor. Some churches

may decide to dedicate a worship service or coffee

hour to their pastor. Others will offer small religious tokens or provide a monetary gift. As much as such displays of gratitude will encourage your pastor, nothing is more encouraging than a sincere note or phone call of thanks from you!



Whatever you do, we pray that you take a few minutes this month and let your pastor know how much you appreciate how God is using her or him in your life to grow and encourage you. But more important, pray for your pastor and for all our CAC clergy.

In Christian Love,  
Lois Carrigan  
Vice President  
Central Atlantic Board

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## NJ United for Marriage

"The issue at hand is simple. We're here because we believe that it's not government's proper role to interfere with someone's happiness. Government must not limit our freedoms, including our freedom to marry the person we love." Jeff Cook-McCormac, Senior Advisor to American Unity Fund

New Jersey UCC churches are engaged in a renewed fight to secure marriage equality in the state and to stand up for equality and human dignity for LGBT friends and family. A number of our UCC clergy are active in various advocacy efforts, and a new coalition has united a wide range of groups for the campaign. This coalition is called NJ United For Marriage, and its offices are housed at First Congregational Church in Montclair. Modeled after successful efforts in New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, and Maine, the campaign will seek to broaden the existing coalition of supporters to include Main Street businesses, large corporate employers, industry organizations, and Republicans.

As members of NJ United For Marriage, we are working both legislatively on an override of the Governor's veto *and*

judicially against the Governor's challenge to the court's ruling. Both fronts – legislative and judicial – are important to pursue concurrently, since such a two-prong attack may secure the best chance to enact into law equal marriage rights for all.

On the legislative front, we are attempting to overturn Governor Christie's veto of "The Marriage Equality and Religious Exemptions Act" that passed in the State Senate and Assembly in February, 2012. NJ United for Marriage seeks this override of the veto by early January, 2014, before the end of the current legislative session. The challenge is to convince enough state senators and assemblywomen and men to change their minds on this issue. It helps that the NJ Superior Court has ruled that - after the striking down of the "Defense of Marriage Act" by the Supreme Court – the current "Civil Union" law is unconstitutional because it unfairly discriminates against same sex couples financially and legally.

The NJ Superior Court's ruling, of course, has been appealed by the Governor's office and will take months to resolve. A decision on that appeal may be determined by either the Appellate or NJ Supreme Court. For this reason, NJ United For Marriage is moving forward judicially as well to combat the Governor's attempt to reinstate the "Civil Union" law.

Updated 10/21/2013

(CNN) - New Jersey Republican Gov. Chris Christie is dropping a legal challenge to a court ruling abolishing the state's ban on same-sex marriages.

"Although the Governor strongly disagrees with the Court substituting its judgment for the constitutional process of the elected branches or a vote of the people, the Court has now spoken clearly as to their view of the New Jersey Constitution and, therefore, same-sex marriage is the law," Christie's office said Monday morning in a statement.

Rev. L. L. DuBreuil – Pastor, Faith United Church of Christ (Union, NJ)

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks - Pastor, Holmdel Community UCC (Holmdel, NJ)

Rev. Ann Ralosky – Pastor, First Congregational Church of Montclair (Montclair, NJ)



## **New Visions Campaign Achieves Primary Goal**

### **Strives to Achieve Challenge Goal**

The New Visions campaign achieved a major milestone during the Central Atlantic Conference's annual meeting last June. With pledges still being received up to the last minute, delegates learned during the Saturday evening banquet that the campaign had reached \$303,000 in cash and grant support, as well as in pledges to be received over the next two years.

Prompted by this achievement, the Board of Directors of the Conference voted on October 5 to continue the New Visions campaign through December in order to achieve our challenge goal of \$350,000. Funds from the New Visions campaign will establish a new part-time staff position in the Conference to support new church starts as well as revitalization programs and coaching for congregations.

In recent years, both the Church Development committee and a committee seeking to support new congregational renewal and revitalization efforts have been working to strengthen and grow the Conference. These efforts have produced results.

- This year, the annual meeting recognized Safe Harbor UCC in Milton, DE. Safe Harbor is a member of the Chesapeake Association and the fifth new

congregation to achieve full standing in the Conference in the last four years.

- The four additional new congregations are Covenant Baptist UCC and Community Church UCC, both of Washington, DC; United Christian Church, Lexington Park, MD (with both UCC and Disciples of Christ standing); and Grace UCC, Flemington, NJ.
- Eight congregations are in the process of forming in the following locations: Hagerstown, MD; Baltimore, MD; Laurel, MD (2); Owings Mills, MD; Reston, VA; Asbury Park, NJ; and Bergen County, NJ.

Other activities related to congregational vitality have been taking place. They have been conducted in cooperation with the Center for Progressive Renewal.

- Four well-attended seminars have been conducted in the past two years, supported in part by the New Visions campaign. A fifth seminar on creative prophetic worship will take place on November 16 at St.

John's UCC in Catonsville, MD.

- Individualized coaching has been provided for several congregations and ministers as they work to develop specific plans for revitalization.
- Support has been available for pastors participating in group coaching sessions through teleconferencing.

### **Singing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land: The State of New Jersey after Superstorm Sandy**

**“How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?”**

(Psalm 137:4)

May 2013:

Psalm 137 is a song of despair, frustration, and anger offered up by the Israelites during their exile in Babylon. It is also a psalm that weighs heavy upon my heart in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. For months, individuals and families have lived literally in exile from their homes as they struggle with an appropriate response to the destruction that the storm set upon them. Should they rebuild? If they rebuild, to what standards should they or will they be required to rebuild? (Civic leaders and FEMA are still wrangling over those requirements.) Should they sell? If they consider selling, who will buy their homes

Achieving the challenge goal of \$350,000 for the New Visions campaign will provide the necessary financial resources to ensure that the Conference can grow and strengthen its program of creating new churches and new vitality for the future.

It's not too late to join the effort to complete the New Visions challenge! Contact either Arnetta Jones in the Conference office ([ajones@cacucc.org](mailto:ajones@cacucc.org)) or Rev. Robert Peters, New Visions coordinator, at [rfpeters@verizon.net](mailto:rfpeters@verizon.net).

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and to where or how will they move? Many have lost not only their homes but also their jobs. If they have been lucky, they have found new employment – but not everyone has been so lucky.

For those who have decided to “stick it out” and stay in their damaged homes and neighborhoods, those very homes and neighborhoods have become foreign and hostile lands. Mold has invaded everything that took in water. It has impregnated drywall, insulation, wood, and anything else that is in the least bit absorbent, filling the atmosphere with toxins. Neighborhoods have become wastelands, with the majority of the population moving away at least temporarily. Many businesses that these people once depended upon are now closed and boarded up. Support structures such as churches and community organizations are no longer there. Even basic services and utilities are sometimes not available, on account of disruptions and damage to the communal infrastructure or to the homes themselves. Yet many have chosen to stay.



In Psalm 137, the people of Israel are being taunted by “their captors,” who ask them for songs and mirth. “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” they jeer. Along the Jersey Shore, residents are also being taunted as they are basically asked to dissimulate about the effects of the storm upon them. Newspapers are flooded with genial, happy stories of “that little business that could” – though such businesses that have managed to rebuild and reopen are clearly a minority and nearly all of them are tourist related, *not* resident related. At the same time, the countless businesses and homes that remain boarded up receive little press. The casinos, we have been assured, are open for business, as they were within weeks of the storm. The boardwalks are being rebuilt at breakneck speed. The announcements have come that the Jersey Shore will be better than ever for the summer of 2013. Come and party! Come and be entertained! We even have a jingle for TV and radio ads!

“But how can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”

As the resurrection people that we are, as followers of Christ our Lord, we are called to sing a new song amid the destruction of Superstorm Sandy. We are called to sing a lullaby of comfort, a marching song of passion, a serenade of love to the people of the Jersey Shore and beyond. The song we sing should not be one of false happiness sung through masks decorated with false smiles. Instead, our song should be one of realistic hope and solidarity. Our song must be one that reminds the people that our churches and ministries have been with

them through the ages and will continue to be with them into their uncertain futures. They must be reminded that our churches and ministries will still be rebuilding when others have lost interest and when the cause no longer seems urgent or “sexy.” We must remind them that when everyone else has packed up and gone home, we will still be there because we have always been there. We must sing of welcome and of joy, though not of the joy that says “everything is fine”; rather, we must sing of the joy that comes from the faith that lies deep within our souls.

Some of our individual congregations have already begun composing and singing their songs of hope by working on remodeling their facilities to receive volunteer work groups. Others have started their songs by organizing their members to serve as volunteer workers throughout the state or by giving generously of their resources. The New Jersey Association has the outline of a new song in the design of a statewide database that we hope will allow us to direct appropriate volunteers, skilled and unskilled, toward unmet needs. In many cases, we will join in the songs of others – other churches, other individuals, other organizations and structures – so that a greater chorus of voices may come to sing a symphonic song of authentic hope and harmony. Whether in a great chorus or as a solo voice, though, the song must be sung; for if the song is not sung, the silence of despair will overwhelm.

So join us. Sing a song of joy and of grace. Compose your own tune or join in the tunes of others. Let us show a people of despair that there is no land so foreign, so oppressive, that it cannot be made a household of love and grace through the

power of God Almighty in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev. Dan Schroeder  
Interim ACM

Postscript, October 2013:

One major “crack” that has engulfed many shoreline residents is the dilemma of residential/rental properties. Many people, especially retirees, have bi-level homes that both house them and serve as vacation rental property. These houses are often seen as “businesses” by those agencies that fund residential relief but as “residences” or even “secondary residences” by those agencies that fund business relief. For such people, there is little or no recourse or support beyond whatever property insurance payments they may have already received.

Another phenomenon that has become apparent in the aftermath of Sandy is the “gobbling up” of enormous numbers of residential properties from frustrated homeowners by largely unknown businesses. It is expected that these businesses will pressure town boards to rezone these properties for high-end hotel/retail development, thereby eviscerating residential neighborhoods and forever changing the “landscape” of our shore communities.

Most of the county Long Term Recovery Groups in New Jersey are only now beginning to organize work on individual residences. They welcome individuals and groups – especially those with construction skills and licenses – to volunteer their time and talents

**But a cautionary note:** Many rebuilding organizers are **not** inviting youth to assist in the rebuilding – and for good reason. The mold that is so pervasive in flooded homes is quite toxic, and children and youth are especially vulnerable to these toxins. Make sure you alert rebuilding organizations to the age of your volunteers, and please don’t try to circumvent the rules of these organizations or do “renegade” rebuilding. The long-term health of your youth may very well be at stake!

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Provided below is a litany prayer commemorating the one-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy (October 29<sup>th</sup> in the continental United States) that can be used in either a Sunday morning or some other worship service. Please feel free to edit, alter, add, or subtract as your own circumstances require.

### **LITANY PRAYER FOR THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SUPERSTORM SANDY**

**One:** God of all creation, of serene beauty and of raging storms, we come to you in prayer on the first anniversary of the storm we call Sandy.

**All:** **We come as witnesses, as survivors, as rescuers, and as mourners to raise our prayers of thanksgiving and of humility, of grief and of concern.**

**One:** We give thanks for those who were rescuers, who risked their lives to save lives, who offered all that they could as quickly as they could, and who continued to serve through the exhausting times that followed the storm.

**All:** **And we give thanks for the aid workers, who rushed into the gap as soon as they were able to offer**



**the necessities of life to those who had lost much or most or all.**

One: We give thanks to those who opened their doors and their hearts, who provided warmth and shelter and a listening ear.

**All: And we give thanks for neighbors, who, even in the midst of their own loss and their own suffering, reached out to those around them and offered what they could.**

One: We give thanks for the organizers and the volunteers who have come from near and far to muck out and clean up, to renovate and rebuild and replace.

**All: And we give thanks for those volunteers who will continue to come and who will continue to build and rebuild.**

One: We mourn with those who suffered damage and those who suffered total destruction, those who lost home and livelihood and security in the matter of a day.

**All: And we mourn with those who still suffer loss as they wait for settlements and assistance, new regulations and guidelines, realizing that for many there may never be sufficient assistance to rebuild their lives. We grieve those things that can never be replaced and are lost forever.**

One: We have been forever changed, O God, by the event that we name Sandy. We will not easily forget the destructive power of her winds and waves and rain. At the same time, we recognize that new communities and fellowships and friendships have grown out of our need in her aftermath.

**All: Let us never forget the storm, nor anything that came of it, for the memories are part of the change in us. Guide us to nurture and to**

**expand these webs of relationships, so that good may grow out of tragedy and greater order may supersede this mind-bending chaos.**

One: Help us to work toward those actions and policies and mindsets that will nurture our world rather than pushing it and its people toward self-destruction.

**All: Give us wisdom that will guide us to paths of harmony with nature, so that we may be planters rather than destroyers, shepherds rather than thieves, celebrators rather than oppressors of the bounties that you set before us in this amazing universe.**

One: May we love those around us and the whole of your creation as Christ has shown us to love, unconditionally and without expectation of return.

**All: May we live as Christ has taught us to live, with fervor and with appreciation for every good gift that comes from your mighty hand.**

One: And to you be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

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## Transitions

### Welcome

- Rev. Jeffrey Dull, Pastor, Emmanuel (Baust) Westminster, MD
- Rev. Cynthia Robison, Pastor, New Ark UCC, Newark, DE
- Rev. Beverly Lewis, Pastor, Immanuel UCC, Catonsville, MD
- Mr. Ryan Sirmons, Pastor, UCC of Annapolis, Edgewater, MD
- Rev. Darla Dee Ledger, Pastor, Bethesda UCC, Bethesda, MD

## Retirement

- Rev. Stephen Anderson
- Rev. Jonathan Heaslet
- Rev. James Colvin
- Rev. Richard Scott
- Rev. Esther Ziegler
- Rev. Daniel Griggs

## St. Paul's Youth to Travel to China for a Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

The youth of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Westminster, MD, are taking advantage of a unique opportunity to travel to China with a group from McDaniel College. This trip will enable them, among other things, to cultivate relationships with some Chinese youth and to earn two college credits. This is a timely cross-cultural experience since the UCC's President and General Minister Rev. Geoffrey Black recently traveled to China to strengthen relationships with certain Chinese churches.

St. Paul's is blessed to have Mr. Peter Chen, his wife, Dr. Qin Fang, and their daughter, Luoluo Chen, as members. They three have generously shared Chinese stories, games, and food as part of our expanded Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible School. We all have especially loved their freshly made dumplings!

Peter teaches weekly Taiji Chuan and Qigong classes, connecting these practices with the spiritual practices of wellness, prayer, and meditation. Indeed, one of our young adults shared that the practice of Tai Chi helps her control her anger. Moreover, some of us were recently inspired by Peter's teaching to join the Chinese community from Rockville in an evening of Taiji Chaun performance.



Practicing for Taiji performance in St. Paul's courtyard

In preparation for our trip to China, Qin and I have organized a partnership between the St. Paul's youth and some youth in China. Both groups make a list of questions for the other and share their answers when we talk by SKYPE each month. They have discovered they have many things in common, like music, video games, and sports. There are also some differences, however. When one of our youth shared that in his free time he texts his girlfriend, we learned that Chinese youth in Wuhu, China, do not date in high school. They wait until they are in college.

While in China, our youth will have the opportunity to visit areas of great significance that will help them understand the history and impact of Christian Missionaries. Dr. Xiaoling Zhu from UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries has been giving us guidance in this matter, and he is arranging for us to connect with members of various churches during our visit. We are particularly excited about meeting the Chinese youth with whom we have been conversing on SKYPE.

We are grateful to the CAC Board of Directors for granting us \$2,000 to help defray the cost of this trip. We are hopeful that we can find further funding to help four to six additional youth and adults go with us to China this January for a once-in-a-lifetime cultural-educational-religious experience.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Lucy Brady+  
Pastor for Children and Youth  
St. Paul's UCC  
Westminster, MD



Youth in Wuhu, China, talking with us in Westminster!



St. Paul's youth with Peter Chen and Quin Fang in the Kid's DeCafe youth room

## Partners in Peace Experience for Young Adults



Rev. Dr. Charles McCollough with Image of *Heavy Burden*

The Rev. Dr. Charles McCollough (New Jersey Association) was the resource speaker for the Hartman Center portion of the Partners in Peace Experience, an international conference that was sponsored by the Penn Central Conference UCC and that ran from June 6-19, 2013. For nine days, teams of young adults from the Rhineland and Berlin (Germany), Namibia, the Dakota Association of native people, and the Southern and Penn Central Conferences concentrated on peace making. After attending the Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference, conference attendees moved to the Hartman Center Camp and Conference Center, where Rev. Dave Bushnell coordinated the program.

The program for the week was presented by McCollough and his spouse Carol, the former Director of Christian Education in the New Jersey Association. Charles is a noted sculptor and peace activist who has served the UCC in the national setting and who is the author of eight books. He spoke with the youth about the biblical imperative of peace making. Using his latest book, *The Non-Violent Radical: Seeing and Living the Wisdom of Jesus*, as well as multi-media presentations of his sculpture, *Heavy Burden*, McCollough stimulated exciting conversations among the participants, who began to plan peace-making initiatives back home in their own countries.

The young people also enjoyed sculpting, drumming, hiking, and swimming, as well as attending vesper services. After the week's program, they journeyed to Washington, DC, where they attended worship at Plymouth UCC and visited the various museums of the Smithsonian. They met with staff of the Washington Office of Justice and Witness, who arranged for them to meet with congressional representatives. Next, they visited the United States Institute of Peace, where they were welcomed by a UCC minister. Afterwards, they toured war memorials and the Holocaust Museum.



Funding for the program, including travel, was provided by grants and by contributions from congregations and individuals who believe in fostering peace in the church. A forty-five minute video summarizing the program is posted on YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg1\\_fEmVf38](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg1_fEmVf38)). The organizers of the Partners in Peace Experience from the Penn Central Conference believe that this event serves as a model for peace-making education and advocacy that can be readily replicated by other conferences.

Carol McCollough  
Member, New Jersey Association Church and Ministry Commission



Participants at Vespers Campfire

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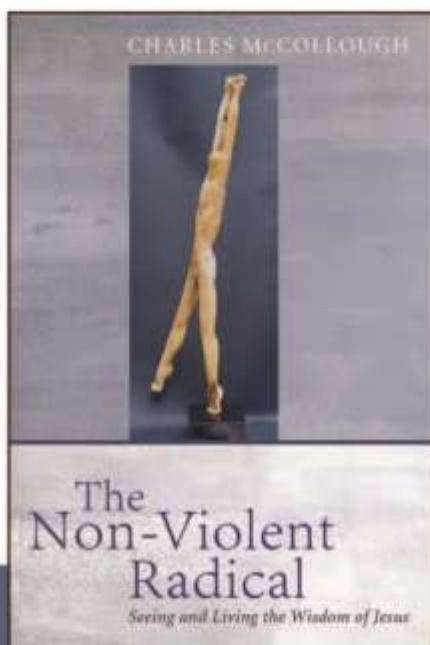
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# The Non-Violent Radical

Seeing and Living the Wisdom of Jesus

CHARLES McCOLLOUGH



This book interprets the wisdom of Jesus' sayings in the gospels in words and images. McCollough examines Jesus' wisdom in the context of the political and economic world of the Roman Empire and then applies it to our own time for both personal growth and social action. Original works of art by McCollough illustrate the texts of these sayings and can be used in private reflection, worship, and educational settings. In addition, readers may use the images for newsletters, church bulletins, and program announcements. A DVD with color images of many more illustrations of the book is available from the author.

The short wisdom sayings of Jesus are almost always interpreted as private or interpersonal instruction and ignore the political/economic context of his time. The result is often sentimental piety or otherworldly speculation. Yet it is hard to imagine that Jesus and his followers were blind to the tyranny of Rome and the economic exploitation of a tiny minority over the vast majority of people living desperate lives in the Roman colonies. This book uses the insights of formerly colonized Bible readers in the non-Western world to understand the postcolonial meanings of Jesus' time and our own.

CHARLES McCOLLOUGH, PhD, is a sculptor and the author of seven books, including *The Art of Parables*. He was the resident artist at five seminaries, and a former policy advocate on the national staff of the United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C. He lives in Hopewell, New Jersey.

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"Charles McCollough assembles much wisdom in this wonderful book, from Jesus, scholars, his own life, and friends. Some of it he presents with words, some he presents in an extensive array of extraordinary, sculptured visual images. Read, look, and look again."

—WARREN CARTER, Biola Divinity School

"Tell the truth. Keep it simple. Anyone charged with the responsibility of this paradox of preaching will appreciate, even treasure, this book from Charles McCollough. Dense theories of postcolonial biblical studies, tender mercies from a life of ministry, and articulate forms of an artist are molded skillfully together. The reader, teacher, and preacher will feel the heat of its firing and carry that flame into their task of living the truth that is both justice and love."

—HEATHER MURRAY ELKINS, Drew University

"*The Nonviolent Radical* is a sumptuous tapestry that offers a new angle of vision and an invitation to walk wisely so that all might experience God's shalom. Weaving together insights from postcolonial biblical studies, his own everyday experiences, stories from around the globe, and his whimsically serious sculptures, McCollough probes the depths of Jesus' wisdom sayings. McCollough's gifts as sculptor and scholar come together here to gently and powerfully re-form our perceiving and living."

—RENE HOUSE, New Brunswick School of Theology

"*The Nonviolent Radical* by Charles McCollough is an inspired melding of lively, accessible scholarship and visual art in a study of Jesus' proverbial wisdom teachings. As the foreword attests, McCollough sculpts both words and clay so that the sayings of Jesus 'cut to the marrow of our being.' McCollough places Jesus' often spiritualized, individualized wisdom sayings in their political-economic context, the brutality and inequity of the first century, highlighting parallels with the twenty-first century... The sculptures the author/artist has created and the stories behind them become an incarnation in clay of Jesus' wisdom teachings."

—ALYCE M. MCKENZIE, Perkins School of Theology

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## Saint Luke's UCC "County Line" (Timberville, VA) Reaches Out to Migrant Orchard Workers

I recently preached on 2 Timothy, in which Paul uses the image of fire to describe the passing of faith down through the generations. Too often small country congregations like St. Luke's UCC "County Line" lament the lack of children and young families. Yes, the prospect of new, "permanent" members can add much needed fuel to the flames of faith; however, there is another way to obtain new flames: stir the "fleeting" embers that may already be there. County Line UCC has heard the call of the Holy Spirit to engage in an outreach right to migrant orchard workers right in the midst of our rural neighborhood .

County Line UCC is a migrant church by ancestry. Many of the old-timers can remember grandparents who spoke German and can recall the story of founding members who moved to the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania to seek fertile farm land. We recently discovered a letter of complaint from 1828 against a pastor who preached too much in English!

County Line is about seven miles outside of a small town set in a region that produces a significant number of the nation's apples. Those apples are picked by migrant farm workers. Last year, I started to notice buses in the Food Lion parking lot every Friday from

the first of September to the first of November. I later came to learn that Timberville and the surrounding towns host as many as 300 migrant workers during the peak apple-picking season. In an effort to offer a welcome to these temporary neighbors, we greeted them right in the grocery store parking lot. Because of the language barrier, I put on my clerical collar and held up a bright orange sign that read - in three languages (Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English) - "Welcome from Saint Luke's United Church of Christ, County Line." We handed out gift bags and information about our church. One worker, Marcel, said, "I have missed going to church ever since we have been here." So, of course, I invited him to worship with County Line the following Sunday. The Sunday after that, another migrant worker, Luxamar, sang our offertory



in Creole and English. The next Sunday, however, our visitors had gone, the apple-picking season having concluded.

Coffee Hour Fellowship at St. Luke's – First Sunday of Outreach to Migrant Workers



This year, we met up with the workers the first week they arrived. The workers say that County Line members are the only locals who have come by to offer a welcome. We have had three workers visit with us for worship so far this season. Through these interactions, we have come to discover at least four migrant work camps, all within four miles of the church. When we were in discernment as a congregation regarding this outreach effort, someone said, “You know, I have never thought of them [i.e migrant workers] for Christian outreach because they have just always been here.” Sometimes, the best way to fan the flames of faith is to work with what you've already got, for no matter how long you may have it. Our goal is simply to offer Christian fellowship to the resident alien among us.

Rev. Joel Walkley  
Pastor, St. Luke’s UCC “County Line”

Preparing a meal for the migrant workers



## Passages

**Pastor William Jorris Beckmann, 89,** Frederick, died Monday October 14 at Homewood at Crumland Farms in Frederick. He was the husband of Nancy McCoy Beckmann.

Born in Plymouth, WI on May 11, 1924 he was the son of the late Dr. William Carl and Verna May Scilt Beckmann and brother of twin sisters Kathryn Louise and Esther Elizabeth who both predeceased him.

He was a graduate of Lakeland College in Plymouth, WI and also of Mission House Seminary, formerly of Plymouth. Besides holding bachelor degrees from these institutions he also attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and holds a Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in the New Testament field. His thesis on John the Baptist is in the Princeton library.

After his ordination his first church was Calvary in Philadelphia, PA. He met his wife Nancy L. McCoy there and married in 1955. After Calvary he moved to SW Philadelphia at Karmel church then to Rochester, NY where he was elected President of the Rochester Association and he and his wife attended the Synod Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. and was a delegate there. He then answered a call to Christ Reformed UCC in Middletown where he pastored for many years and also wrote newspaper articles for The Valley Register.

After his retirement he and his wife moved to Thurmont where he served a small country church in Keysville for quite a while. He then moved to Worman's Mill for over ten years finally moving to Homewood at Crumland Farms.

They have four beautiful daughters, Esther, Deborah, Ruth, and Mary. Dr. Beckmann baptized his granddaughters.

Pastor Beckmann confirmed all his daughters and when they were married he walked them down the aisle and performed the marriage ceremony.

Surviving, besides his wife, are:  
4 daughters- Esther and Richard Bowman, Deborah and David Austill, Ruth and James Wolfe, Mary and Timothy Lenhart.  
8 grandchildren - Justine Bowman Coleman and husband Tim, Richard Jorris Bowman, Daniel Austill and his son Cameron (great grandchild). Rachel Austill Putman and her husband Scott; Thomas Beckmann Wolfe and Anna A. Wolfe.; Ryan A. Lenhart and Nathan A. Lenhart.

A brother-in-law John McCoy and sister-in-law June McCoy and many friends and extended family.

Services were held on October 18 at Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd., Frederick, MD 21702

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Frederick County, POB 1799, Frederick, MD 21702 or to Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd., Willows Unit, Frederick, MD 21702.

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Published in The Frederick News-Post on Oct. 16, 2013

### **Rev. John Herman Ware, Jr.**

Rev. John Herman Ware, Jr., 76, of Mount Jackson, Virginia, died Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Rev. Ware was born December 15, 1936 in Winchester, Virginia, the son of the late John Herman Ware, Sr. and Margaret Green Ware. He graduated from James Wood High School. He graduated from Shepherd College. He graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio with a Masters of Divinity in May, 1963.

He pastored with the United Church of Christ in Lebanon, Ohio, Pleasant Valley Charge in Winchester, VA, Grace United Church of Christ in Mount Jackson, VA, St. John United Church of Christ in Hudson Crossroads, VA, Concord United Church of Christ in Timberville, VA and currently serving at Trinity United Church of Christ in Basye, VA.

Surviving are a son, Mark Ware and his wife, Lynne, of Mineral, VA and numerous nieces and nephews.

A daughter, Kimberly Ware, and a brother, Richard G. Ware, preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held on October 5, 2013 at Trinity United Church of Christ in Basye, VA with Rev. Barbara Rhodes.

Memorial contributions may be made to AFLAC Cancer Center, Attn: Diane Vaughan, 1687 Tullie Circle NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Published in the Northern Virginia Dailey

### **Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley**

By [Adam Bernstein](#), Published:  
**September 25**

A. Knighton Stanley, a civil rights leader who helped bring Jesse Jackson to prominence as an activist in the 1960s and who became a political force in Washington as pastor of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ for nearly 40 years, died Sept. 21 at a hospital in Atlanta. He was 76.

The cause was a heart attack, said his daughter Kathryn V. Stanley.

The son of a Congregationalist minister, Rev. Stanley graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1962 and then returned with urgency to his home town of Greensboro, N.C., amid growing tensions over civil rights protests. "Here I am in the nice beautiful North, and my people are fighting this revolution," Rev. Stanley later recalled.

The city had drawn national attention in 1960 when students at the city's historically black colleges led sit-ins at Woolworth's because they had been denied service on the basis of their race. But when the community did nothing more to integrate many of its theaters, emporiums and other public accommodations, the pickets and protests continued afresh.

"Demonstrations in Greensboro were larger than anywhere else in country except Birmingham, Ala.," said Duke University history professor William H. Chafe, who wrote the book "Civilities and Civil Rights" about the Greensboro protests. "There were 1,400 people in jail in the spring of 1963."

Rev. Stanley charged into this environment, serving as a respected adviser to the students who really drove the civil rights

movement in the city and proving instrumental in bringing the black establishment behind the demonstrations. "There was a generation gap, and if you could show that people like Rev. Stanley were behind the effort, reinforcing it, it meant you had a lot of other people, members of the establishment, willing to be supportive," Chafe said.

Rev. Stanley worked at Greensboro's black schools, North Carolina A&T State University and the women's Bennett College. He also became a local official with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a civil rights group, and sat on Greensboro's human rights commission.

By his own description, Rev. Stanley was not a fiery orator and "hated to argue with anybody." His role was more intellectual: calculating when activists would proceed with utmost caution and when they would risk mass arrests with the intent of flooding the city's jails. Such a dramatic gesture, he said, would "break the back of the whole damn thing."

Rev. Stanley knew that the civil rights efforts in Greensboro lacked someone to galvanize the struggle in a consistent way, and he helped identify the charismatic potential of Jesse Jackson, then a popular campus athlete and student body president at North Carolina A&T. In later years, he would become a minister, civil rights leader and presidential candidate.

"We needed Jesse as a football player the girls loved," Rev. Stanley told Chafe. "We woke him up one day and he has been protesting ever since."

In an interview Wednesday, Jackson called Rev. Stanley his "closest teacher" before he became involved in civil rights marches led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "He was young enough for us to relate to but old

enough to set parameters for us," Jackson said. "He had the capacity to interpret our struggle bigger than just the daily march."

Jackson said that white government officials threatened the school with budget cuts and loss of accreditation if the university president did not more forcefully prohibit student protests. When state legislators targeted the school, Jackson said, Rev. Stanley helped persuade the students not to back down.

"At the crossroads, you must take the right choice and must be willing to make sacrifice," Jackson recalled Rev. Stanley advising. "He was saying, 'What good is a degree without dignity?'"

Jackson said he was inclined to pursue a career in law before Rev. Stanley steered him toward his religious vocation.

"I had a limited definition of the ministry," said Jackson. "He saw it as a call to do service, to do justice to exalt people. He said the ministry is much broader than the law, said it's Genesis and Revelation and beyond — the sum total of life."

The Greensboro lunch-counter sit-ins were credited with sparking similar protests throughout the South and ushering in a new generation of civil rights leaders, including Jackson, Julian Bond and John Lewis. Three years after the first Woolworth's sit-in, the Greensboro mayor issued a call for mass desegregation. The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed segregation in public places.

Alfred Knighton Stanley, known as "Tony," was born in Dudley, N.C., on July 15, 1937, and raised in Greensboro. He was a 1959 graduate of Talladega College in Alabama and received a doctorate in ministry from Howard University in 1974.

In 1966, he left Greensboro for a ministerial job in Detroit. Two years later, he arrived in Washington and became senior minister at Peoples Congregational, a historic church whose late minister, Arthur F. Elmes, helped lead the push to integrate Washington restaurants in the 1950s.

The church, on 13th and Crittenden streets Northwest in the city's Petworth neighborhood, was a favorite of Howard University educators, doctors, lawyers and journalists. During Rev. Stanley's tenure, membership increased to about 2,000 from 650 when he took over.

Carrying on the social justice ministry of Elmes, he started a food pantry program and social action group focused on international human rights concerns and began collecting scholarship money for college-bound District students.

For a decade, Rev. Stanley oversaw the redesign and construction of a \$5.2 million church sanctuary that was completed in 1991. Describing the house of worship, which was conceived to evoke the African American religious experience, Rev. Stanley called it "an African hut in cathedral proportions." It has stained-glass windows — one depicting a black female Jesus, a slave ship and a family — donated by Bill Cosby's wife, Camille.

Rev. Stanley's marriages to Beatrice Perry and Andrea Young — the daughter of Atlanta mayor, congressman and U.N. ambassador Andrew Young — ended in divorce. Survivors include two children from his first marriage, Nathaniel T. Stanley of Washington and Kathryn V. Stanley of East Point, Ga.; a daughter from his second marriage, Taylor M. Stanley of Washington; and a sister.

Rev. Stanley sponsored dozens of Ethiopian students and helped raise one of them,

Yeme Mengistu-Gunn of Washington, through much of her adolescence.

Rev. Stanley, who often marched against gun and gang violence, was ensconced in the political and business life of the city.

He was special assistant to Mayor Walter E. Washington in the 1970s and an advisory board member of the Industrial Bank of Washington, one of the country's largest black-owned banks. He also was a trustee of the University of the District of Columbia and served on the judiciary nominating committees that helped elevate black judges on the D.C. courts.

Washington tapped Rev. Stanley in 1975 to lead the office overseeing the city's bicentennial efforts. He was the fourth person in as many years to take over the job. Previous bicentennial czars faulted the mayor and private business leaders for failing to provide the financial and community support necessary to essentially remake many of the city's neighborhoods — including many torn apart by riots in 1968 — into a glossy showcase.

The bicentennial plan came perilously close to falling into chaos, and Rev. Stanley scaled back many of the more grandiose projects.

Mostly, he told The Washington Post, he focused on "an intangible kind of thing, a lifting up of the diversity and ethnicity of the Washington area." He said his biggest hurdle was justifying the Bicentennial "to a city whose residents are largely black. . . . There were a lot of reservations — with justification — that the flag waving and the hoopla were just for the tourists, and there were questions concerning what do we have to celebrate."

The city hosted musical concerts and education activities, but Rev. Stanley said he was proudest of 50 "curb projects,"



neighborhoods cleanup efforts and mini-parks that sprang up in abandoned lots.

In a city where church leaders often have the clout of ward bosses, Rev. Stanley frequently made clear who he intended to support for city offices. He privately counseled then-Mayor Marion Barry after the politician's series of arrests on drug charges in the late 1980s and was one of the few black ministers who spoke openly and with great disappointment about the mayor's behavior and its effect on the city's reputation.

"Our only power," Rev. Stanley said of his preaching, "is to give the city a sense of moral meaning and when you lose touch with that which makes you powerful, it's like pulling the cord."

### **Rev. George Kopp**

Rev. George Kopp, former pastor of St. John's Reformed UCC near Middlebrook, died Saturday, September 7. He had not been in good health for some time. We believe that George was likely the oldest, or one of the oldest pastors, in the Shenandoah Association.

He served as a Navy Chaplain in WWII and began his first pastorate at St. John's after separation from the military. It was there that he met his wife, Janet, a young widow of the congregation. After his first tenure at St. John's, he and Janet moved on, but returned to St. John's for another go in the late 1950's.

George and Janet returned to Staunton after his retirement. Janet died many years ago with George as her faithful caregiver until the end. They had no children, but are survived by several nieces and nephews. George is also survived by his older sister.