

Retirees, Newly Commissioned, Celebrated

Thirteen retiring elders of the annual conference passed the torch to 16 new ministers during the Passing the Mantle of Ministry Service Thursday night. Bishop Jeremiah Park opened the service, and the candidates were presented by Conference Lay leader Renata Smith, Rev. Elizabeth Braddon, Rev. William Hawes and Rev. Kun Sam Cho.

Those who received the license for pastoral ministry are:

Scharlise Dorsey
Gregory Higgins
Deborah Mygatt

Those commissioned as provisional clergy are:

DEACONS
Sabrina Chandler
Carrie Mae Smallwood

ELDERS

Austin Adkinson
David Ball
Young Choi
David Jefferson
Miyoung Kang
Richard Lenz
Song Ha Park
Darlene Resling
Hector Rivera
Enock Yatri
Gerald Williams



Rev. Eumin Kim announced the retiring clergy, noting that the group had a combined total of 352 years of service. The retirees are:

Avelio S. de Leon
Christopher D. Doyle
Cheryl A. Driscoll
William Hawes
David F. Johnson
Marion C. Mitchell
Willard G. Nichols
Solomon Parmar
Kenneth Ruge
Stephen F. Shick
Louise D. Thomas
Richard F. Williamson
John H. Zimmerman

Rev. George Engelhardt, offered a message, "Beyond the Samaritan," urging the need to move beyond singular acts of mercy to ministries of justice. "We must respond not only to the symptoms, but to the cause against which we contend," he said.

He stressed that our churches must get beyond sending out good Samaritans to bind up one victim at a time, and added, "We must address the iniquities that cause people to rob, and to walk alone along our Jericho roads." Our



Sunday morning prayers should be filled with intercessions for peace, an end to hunger and the initiation of fair health care for all. But we also must be actively working and advocating to bring an end to these kinds of injustices.

Engelhardt especially encouraged those to be commissioned to hold tightly to their passion and joy for ministry.

"Do not give up the struggle," he said. "Stay in love with the church."



John Carr, above left, an active member of the NYAC Methodist Foundation for Social Action, presents the 2009 Gwen and C. Dale White award to Grace and Rev. Gilbert Caldwell.

Caldwells Receive MFSA Award

Two pioneers in the civil rights movement, Rev. Gilbert Caldwell and his wife, Grace, were honored for their service when the NYAC Methodist Foundation for Social Action met for dinner on Thursday. The Caldwells received the foundation's 2009 Gwen and C. Dale White award.

Rev. Caldwell, who worked alongside Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is a founder of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the second national president of that organization. He also served as associate general secretary for the Commission on Religion and Race. He has pastored churches in New Haven, Conn., Boston, Denver and eastern Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Caldwell, a teacher for 47 years, has worked alongside her husband.

Rev. John Carr, who was a member of one of Rev. Caldwell's congregations, made the presentation.

In accepting the award, Rev. Caldwell noted that the issue of race was important, but stressed that there is another pressing social justice issue today – the treatment of those who are gay and lesbian.

"We need to get a handle on this," he said. "People use the Bible to sustain their bigotry and bias. Many state governments are seeing equity in same-sex marriages, so why don't we explore that as the church." He called upon the MFSA to use spirituality to continue to push for dialogue and action on the issue.

– Tom Coddington

"Re-membering" Our Aging

The issue of aging is a familiar one for Jim Stinson, Director of Spiritual Life for the United Methodist Homes of Connecticut.

Stinson, whose adult life messages have been a regular feature in *The Vision*, addressed the NYAC's Town and Country Association at its Thursday breakfast. Using the example of his own mother, he pointed out how important it is that we "join their world, have a sense of humor about it, and enter their reality."

He said that sometimes, when older persons move to a different residence, they get "dis-membered." To remedy this situation Stinson urged, "Challenge them to do what they want to do."

He recalled the example set by the thief on the cross beside Jesus, who said to the Lord, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom," saying, "We have to remember them, and put Christ back into their lives.

"We have to recreate a sense of who they are, to help them claim the feeling that God is with them," he said. "Don't diminish people because they are old. Don't feel sorry for them – feel with them."

– Tom Coddington



Saints Have Given A Legacy of Hope

Ernest Swiggett, conference treasurer, honored the legacy of all the saints, and especially his grandfather, when he brought a message of hope to the Memorial Service Thursday morning.

“Where would we be if it were not for those who journeyed before us?” he asked. “Who are the saints in your life, the ones that witnessed to you?” Swiggett said that God had a plan to bring each and every one of them into our lives, to mold and nurture us.

He urged the audience to receive this legacy of hope – an unbroken line back to Abraham and Sarah and the prophets – and become part of that great community of faith. “The direction of hope is always forward,” he said. “It helps us navigate the unknown future.”

Swiggett questioned what we are doing to actualize faith in our lives, our churches and the world in times of declining membership and scarce resources. He asked, “Why are we so content with tepid worship services that won’t disturb the dust on the pews?” Faith in God cannot be held with a “dilly-dally hope,” but one that is rooted in the blood of Christ Jesus.

He credited his grandfather with instilling in him the understanding of Jesus as the cornerstone of hope – hope that was shared through the testimony of his grandfather’s life. We too must share in witnessing to that hope to the generations. Swiggett challenged: Is there someone you know who “needs to hear a fresh word from God?”

The celebration of life continued as Conference Secretary Robert Miller led by reading out

the names of those who have died in the last year:

CLERGY

**Austin H. Armitstead
Ethelyn Bennett
Clarence S. Bigler
Herbert William Detweiler
Robert K. Fell
Reese E. Griffin
Oren F. “Frank” Kugler
Roger Don Riley
M. Lawrence Snow**

SPOUSE OF CLERGY

**Elsie Florence Brown
Mildred M Johnson
Doris Melano
Lucille Rackliffe
Nila Jean Scholten**

LOCAL PASTOR

Richard Henrickson

WIDOWS

**Euna Lee Benson
Hilda Lee Dail
Dorothea Maria (Darcy) Nappi
Ruth Vayhinger
Jean Lapple Young**



CHILDREN OF CLERGY

**Timothy Raine Hunter Sr.
Timothy John Rackliffe**

Bishop Park and Bishop Johnson presided over the sacrament of Holy Communion as the service drew to a close.



The Pensions and Health table was a busy place Thursday for those wanting info or to sign up for the Healthflex program.