

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A World House Congregation

250 Bryant Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

Phone: 914-949-2146

Website: www.memorialmethodist.org

Email: info@memorialmethodist.org

CONTACTS:

Joan Meehan, Executive Director, (914) 949-2146, joan@memorialmethodist.org

Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt, Coordinator of Communications, (914) 777-7367,

lisa@memorialmethodist.org

--- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ---

**Lifelong Civil Rights Advocate Rev. John Collins
to Receive Justice Award at Memorial UMC Awards Dinner**

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes is Keynote Speaker

WHITE PLAINS, NY (Oct. 24, 2008) –

United Methodist retired Pastor John Collins, a lifelong advocate for social justice who organized rallies for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be honored as the first recipient of the John Collins Justice Award at a gala awards dinner on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 4 p.m., at Memorial United Methodist Church.

Recently retired Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, the first African-American to serve as Senior Minister of the Riverside Church in Manhattan, will headline a program honoring Rev. Collins' life as a former inner city pastor, civil rights activist, national peace and justice leader, community organizer and prophetic voice in the United Methodist Church.

The Collins Justice Fund is funded by a gift from the Memorial UMC congregation to Pastor Joseph Agne when he received his doctorate in theology in 2007. Agne, himself a nationally recognized civil rights promoter, named the fund after Collins to honor his lifelong mission.

Tickets are \$50, and donations will go to two justice organizations named by Collins, the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the National Jobs for All Coalition. Future awardees will choose future recipients.

The awards dinner, to be held in Memorial's Asbury Hall, is chaired by Rev. Stephen Goldstein, Assistant General Secretary of Mission Personnel at the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, and Pat Clark, Executive Director for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and convener of the Church and World Journey Group at Memorial UMC.

The meal will be prepared by renowned Chef Greg Cortelyou, who oversaw the kitchen at the Sunset Grille in White Plains and most recently cooks at the United Nations International School in Manhattan.

Those who wish to attend the dinner should contact Joan Meehan, Executive Director, Memorial United Methodist Church, 914-949-2146 or joan@memorialmethodist.org.

About Memorial UMC

Memorial UMC is a “world house” congregation dedicated to the pursuit of peace and social justice, with a strong emphasis on the role of interfaith relationships. We believe everyone has a place at God’s table. Our congregation strives to welcome and respect persons of every race, ethnicity, national origin, physical or mental ability, gender, family status, sexual identity and orientation, age, theology, and economic circumstance.

Memorial is located at 250 Bryant Avenue between North Street and Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Directions and more details about our programs can be found at www.memorialmethodist.org. The parking lot entrance is on the left side of the church; parking is in the rear.

(Photos of Collins and Forbes are available by request. Interviews with Collins or Agne can be arranged.)

###