



THE NEW YORK/CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONNECTOR

A publication of
The New York/Connecticut District, of the
New York Annual Conference, of the
United Methodist Church

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June 2010 Edition

Reflections of an Itinerant Preacher i.e., A Word from the D.S.



Dear brothers and sisters:

I'm way behind in the work I have to do by yesterday (ever experienced that????!), and as a consequence, I am taking the easy way out for this "Reflections" piece.

I'm going to give you a list of my hopes for the summer (read that as August), with a taste of what is to come in September. I'm hoping you will get appropriate dates on your calendar now, so that things don't seem so rushed when everyone returns from vacation.

First, I'd like to get started in August on my one-to-ones. That is what all D.S.s call their annual conversations with the pastors in their districts. We need to check in with each other – how are we doing, what do we expect in the year to come; what will it take from each of us to partner with God in our ministry settings. After annual conference is over, please call the office to schedule a meeting. I won't be able to do all of these in August, but perhaps we can get off to a good start.

Of course, September also means Charge/Church Conference time. If you want an individual charge/church conference with me, you should plan on an early one, by which I mean mid-September to mid October. I'm not taking reservations just yet – again, after Annual Conference. Start thinking about that now. The papers you need to complete aren't ready yet, but you know the drill – nominations, setting appointed pastor's salary, audits, budgets, etc. The paper work is easy once the underlying work is done.

Clergy will gather for the bishop's tri-district retreats on Sept. 27th and 28th. We are hoping to have presentations from a few of the conference's very successful pastors, and ours will again be at Mt St. Alphonsus.

Continued...

Reflections *continued*

September 11th is the date when we ask pastors who are newly appointed to their churches to come with their PPR chairs and or members of the PPR committee to an annual conversation that hopes to get new appointments off to a good start. If you are in your church for the first year, be sure to save that date. The event will be at Christ Church in New Rochelle.

And finally, the members of the District Council on Ministry (DCOM) will have its planning day for the year at the District Parsonage, on September 18th, 10 to 2:30. Weather permitting, we will meet – or at least eat – outside, so please bring a lawn chair. I am in short supply of these.

A word to our cluster conveners: please think about a suitable way to welcome the pastors who are new to your cluster. The following are either changing appointments in our district, or are coming new to us.

- + **Melissa Boyer** – Melissa is moving from Trinity Boscobel to Katonah.
- + **Tom Theilmann** – Tom is moving from Red Hook and Rowe, in Dutchess county, to Trinity Boscobel in Westchester county.
- + **Wesley Shand** – Wesley is moving from the CT district to Brewster. Please welcome Wesley.
- + **James Long** – he came to us from the Reformed Church, and is at our Federated Church, Lyall Memorial in Millbrook. Jim came in the middle of our appointment year. Please reach out to Jim.
- + **Tisha Jermain** – Tisha will be coming to us from the Westport UMC, in the CT district. Tisha is appointed to Norwalk UMC.
- + **Dorothy Weigert** – Dorothy is moving within this district, from East Avenue in Norwalk to Red Hook and Rowe.
- + **Seungho Shin** – Seungho comes to us from First Flushing UMC, as the Associate Pastor at Mid-Hudson Korean.
- + **Michael Barry** – Michael will be in his first year as a local pastor, appointed as of August 1st to Newburgh/Grace as the associate.

There are still a few appointments, yet to be made, in our district. Please keep an eye on the email so you can welcome your sisters and brothers.

On another note, I want to thank all of you who are reading this for another year of working together for Christ's reign on earth. What a privilege to work with you in the power of our Savior!

While the end of appointment season (at least, I hope it will be at an end before my vacation), things will slow down a bit at the district office. A reminder – I will be on vacation for most of July. It is good to have this Sabbath time, and I hope and pray you can grab a bit of it too.

Have a great summer.

Jeannette

NY/CT Appointments

Newburgh/Grace Associate:	Michael Barry
Red Hook & Rowe:	Dorothy Weigert
Brewster:	Wesley Shand
Mid-Hudson Korean Associate:	Seungho Shin

THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE



- 01: Introduction – Red Hook & Rowe
- 02: Cabinet
- 03: Day in office
- 04: Day off (I sincerely hope!!!)
- 05: Introductions, morning and afternoon
- 06: Confirmation Celebration - LaGrangeville
- 07: Day in office
- 08: Day in office
- 09: Annual Conference
- 10: Annual Conference
- 11: Annual Conference
- 12: Annual Conference
- 13: Worship
- 14: Church Conference - Ridgefield
- 15: Church Conference – Newburgh/Trinity
- 16: Cabinet overnight – day 1 - Olmsted
- 17: Cabinet overnight – day 2 – Olmsted
- 18: Day off
- 19: Ernest Swiggett's retirement luncheon
- 20: Worship
- 21: Cabinet & Parish Development
- 22: Methodist Episcopal Dialogue and Conference Trustees
- 23: Meeting, Drew UMC, Carmel, NY
- 24: Seasoned Citizens Lunch – East Ave., Norwalk
- 25: Day off
- 26: Work from home
- 27: Warwick – Mozambique speaker
- 28: first day of vacation (vacation from June 28 through July 26th)



- 01 to 27: Vacation
- 27, 28, 29: work in office
- 30: day off
- 31: work from home



As of this writing, Jeannette will be in the office Mondays through Thursdays, working from home on Saturdays, and a day off on Friday. I hope to visit churches for worship on Sundays. Please let the office know if one of those Sundays would be a good day for Jeannette to drop in.

Please Note: Chan Gillham, the Administrative Assistant, will be on vacation from August 23rd through September 3rd.

OUT & ABOUT the District



Thursday, May 6, the Men's Ministry of the **Highland Mills UMC** marked the 59th annual National Day of Prayer, a time designated by the U.S. Congress when people were asked to come together and pray, especially for our country. They conducted a community service for this occasion which was open to all faiths. It was a time of prayer, hymns and some brief remarks on the role of prayer as it relates to government, business, community and church. It was the third year in a row that the HMUMC Men's Ministry hosted this event.

In honor of Father's Day, **Vail's Gate UMC** will take a special offering for the **Blankets+** mission of Church World Service. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities in need, around the world and here in the US, to help them build a more viable future. Resources provided by Church World Service include: blankets, tents and food and other emergency supplies needed in the wake of disaster; tools and seeds, wells, and literacy training for women.



Vail's Gate UMC *The Vail's Gate Visitor*



In April, youth from **Poughkeepsie UMC** hosted a bunch of youth bands at "Fuel the Fire: Battle of the Bands" to raise funds for their summer missions.

Rumor has it that some of the leaders came armed with earplugs, Planned summer missions include M-Fuge in Philadelphia, a mission trip to Mexico and Bridge Builders Youth Camp (a 5-day/4 night camp hosted at PUMC).

Poughkeepsie UMC *The Journey*

Sunday is June 6 is Faith in Action Sunday at **Trinity-Boscobel UMC**. They meet in the sanctuary for a very brief time of worship, and then go out into the community to put their faith in action! The projects this year include home repair for an elderly member of the church, singing in a nursing home, and, for the less able-bodied, assembling UMCOR kits and knitting infant caps.



Trinity-Boscobel UMC *The Tower*

The **UMC of Mount Kisco** and **Yorktown UMC** (in addition to **Trinity-Boscobel UMC**) are putting their faith into action On Sunday, June 6th by canceling their regular Sunday services to practice very purposeful acts of kindness throughout their communities.

Volunteers from the churches and the community will be joining together to perform various tasks such as: carpentry work, cooking, cleaning, calling on shut-ins, nursing home visits, painting, litter pick-up and yard work. A total of a dozen work projects, with something for all ages and abilities, will be held during Faith in Action Sunday, bringing together community members from both within, and outside the churches. This is the



third year that United Methodist Churches in northern Westchester County have celebrated Faith in Action Sunday, and each year it has grown in its participation and impact.

OUT & ABOUT continued...

Christ Church UMC (Beacon) had a “Blanket the World with Love” campaign for Mother’s Day. Each Mother’s Day card sold represents one blanket that will be distributed by Church World Service around the globe.

Christ Church UMC (Beacon) *The Messenger*

Hyde Park UMC had more than 30 volunteers participate in a day of volunteering for Rebuilding Together Dutchess County, working alongside a homeowner to build a deck, prepare the foundation for repair, insulate the basement and do miscellaneous repairs and painting, as their team of cooks kept them well fed during the day.

Hyde Park UMC *Messenger*



The **Highland Mills UMC** was very proud of one of its members who was Grand Marshal of this year's Memorial Day parade in the Town of Woodbury. Gunnery Sergeant Raymond Sheldon Hanaburgh, 85, U.S. Marines, (pictured with son Ray Hanaburgh III) served in World War Two and Korea, and received the Purple Heart after being wounded in both conflicts. At the conclusion of the parade a service was held at the Veterans Monument in the Cemetery of the Highlands next to the church.

UMC Church of the Highlands reached out to the local community with a ReThink Church open house. Church doors were open for tours, while on the lawn lunch was served, Bibles given out, and gently-used **RETHINKCHURCH**® clothing distributed. Information tables accepted donations for Habitat-Newburgh’s Methodist and Friends Build, Imagine No Malaria, and UMCOR Hygiene Kits. Under a banner created by the Sunday School they planted flowers and made bird feeders.

UMC Church of the Highlands newsletter

On Monday, May 31 the **East Avenue UMM** once again held their traditional Free breakfast for all those who attend the Memorial Day Parade. The parade which passes right in front of the church is a chance for them to meet and greet all their East Norwalk neighbors. The UMM has been serving this traditional breakfast for years now, as a way to show the community that EAUMC is reaching out to one and all.



East Avenue UMC *EAUMC Events*

OUT & ABOUT continued...



May 16 **Mountainville UMC** began the day hosting their sister church, the Highland Mills UMC, at their 4th “Worship by the River.” Held at the gazebo in Donohue Park in Cornwall, people gathered for a regular service as the river lapped at the shore, and fish jumped in the distance. Later that afternoon, **Highland Mills UMC** hosted a community “Sowing the Seeds of Love” day which followed the “Pay it forward” movement. Organized by

the Evangelism Team of the church, the community joined in as healthy food, entertainment, prayers, seeds, plants, and healthy services were offered – all free of charge. Both events were continuing offshoots of the UMC Change the World weekend of April 23 which included a bonfire, showing of the movie “Before the Night Comes”, a free meal for the community served by the Food Pantry, and a blood drive.



The **Pine Plains UMC** Youth Group, known as YoDOG, used the money raised from the Soda Can Sunday (\$45) as a donation to help pay for the food cost during the senior game night for senior citizens. The game night is held the 1st and 3rd Friday evenings of each month. Not only did they contribute the money, but they went to a game night in May and assisted in serving the food and played canasta with the seniors. The youth had so much fun that they are making plans for returning in June.



Mission Trip

Sponsored by

First United Methodist Church of Greenwich

Everyone is invited!!!!

June 13 (pm) - 18 (evening)

Where: Stephentown, New York (2-1/2 hour drive from Greenwich, CT up Route 22). Arrangements will be made to assist you with transportation.

Accommodations provided by the Lewandoski family in Stephentown

Our Mission: To help several elderly, sick or poor neighbors in a very economically depressed area with badly needed home repairs. We will be working from Monday through Friday. Thursday afternoon/evening the Stephentown United Methodist Church (now part of a Federated congregation) will be hosting us for a dinner, swimming at the creek (weather permitting) and a walk through their healing labyrinth.

If you are interested in joining us, please call our church office at (203) 629-9584, Ann Shifman-Deibler at (203) 661-9343 or Pastor Ferrari (203) 543-5435 **as soon as possible**.



New rule limits use of wireless microphones

Businesses and organizations, including churches, using wireless microphones operating in the 700 MHz band must stop using them no later than June 12. Both licensed and unlicensed users must comply or face fines, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

The new rule affects only wireless microphones and similar devices operating between 698 MHz and 806 MHz. Systems operating at other frequencies are not affected.

Find a list of affected microphones and other information www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones.



NYAC Cooperative School of Christian Mission

2010 Theme

Faith – Hope – Love in Action



Thursday, July 22nd – Saturday 24th, 2010
Western Connecticut State University
Danbury, CT

A “Young Adult” class (age 18 – 25) has been added this year.

Forms and more information can be found at www.qbgm-umc.org/NYACCSOCM/index.htm

Areas of study include the epistles of John, the Sudan, and evangelism in the age of global Christianity

The three-day program is \$180 for adults, \$150 for teens age 13–17; \$60 for first child under age 13 and \$40 for each additional child.

Reservation deadline for both the program and your hotel is June 23, 2010.



Local Mission Opportunity



Golden Hill UMC in Bridgeport, Connecticut, part of the Connecticut District, has developed a Mission Academy. This Academy offers an opportunity for hands on mission experiences that give you the tools to be in mission in your local community. Week-long and weekend programs are offered and open to groups aged High School through Adult.

If you know people who have returned from overseas or national mission trips and are looking for a way to be in mission at home, *this is for them*
youth groups looking for an affordable mission opportunity that gives them opportunities for new experiences, *this is for them*
UMW or UMM groups wanting to reach out into their own communities, *this is for them*

More information and a brochure can be found at www.goldenhill.org/MissionAcademy.

United Methodist Women of the Highlands
present:

“God’s Elected Women of Destiny”

A Conference For Women

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT)

Date:
Saturday,
June 26, 2010

Cost:
\$15.00



Time:
10am to 12pm

Place:
Nicole's
Highland Falls,
NY

“You Don’t Choose Destiny. Destiny Chooses You.”

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Judy Ferguson - Holy Innocents'/St. Mark's Chapel
Pastor Agnes Campbell Saffoury - Sloatsburg United Methodist Church
Chaplain (MAJ) Julie Rowan - 4th Regimental Chaplain U.S.M.A.
Pastor Scharlise Dorsey - Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery
United Methodist Church

“What a blessing it would be to have a room filled of women worshipping
God in Spirit and in truth”

Ticket Information: (845) 446-9444

New York Annual Conference Disaster Response

20 Soundview Ave. White Plains New York, 10606

Office: 914-615-2233 fax: 914-615-2244

jewoodzie@gmail.com

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator

Early Response / Volunteers In Mission Teams HAITI 2010 Schedule

The moment has come for us to put Love in Action. Our brothers and sisters in Haiti are calling on us to come and help. Please consider this invitation PRAYERFULLY and respond as soon as you can.

Travel Dates:

July 20-28	(10 persons max)
August 23-31	(10 persons max)
September 21-29	(10 persons max)
October 18-26	(10 persons max)

How to apply:

1. Select one of the schedule dates
2. Provide me with your official passport name and contact information
3. Complete the attached application form and return it to me (fax, email, or post)
4. Send a deposit of \$500. Make check payable to NYAC / Haiti ERT

Total cost per participant: \$1,500 (includes airfare, meals, housing and all other local expenses)

Trip Requirements:

1. Medically and physically declared fit by your physician to work in humid and vey high stressful conditions.
2. Holder of valid passport and able to acquire all necessary travel immunization including tetanus, typhoid, rabies, hepatitis A, B, and malaria tables. (contact your physician)
3. Attend the Haiti VIM team orientation (TBA)



The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

MOMENTUM IN MINISTRY PDF

Nature Photography for Professional Reproduction

Monday June 28 - Friday July 2, 2010
Kingswood Campground, Hancock, New York



Kingswood Campground, nestled in the Catskill Mountains and owned by the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church, is offering a nature photography course for adults. This 5-day course will concentrate on improving techniques for shooting in the wild and will give participants a chance to learn by practicing techniques each day and looking at the photos in a group setting.

Kingswood offers opportunities for both land-based photo sessions in fields and woods and behind wildlife blinds as well as water-based photo sessions in canoes (or jon boats) on Hathaway Lake. A special trip is planned for nature documentary shooting. Enjoy fellowship, camp cooking, and the superb natural, diverse environment of Kingswood Camp.

Cost: \$375

Leader: Christie R. House, editor, *NEW WORLD OUTLOOK* magazine. Ms. House has 20 years of experience as an editor and journalist in magazine publication.

To register, call the camp registrar: **845.679.5692**.



Wellspring

Institute for Spiritual Growth

is offering its eighth class this September. The class is for laity and clergy who thirst for a deeper understanding and response to God's call in their lives. Over the past 18 years, about 140 individuals have been part of the Wellspring community.

Wellspring's purpose is to support personal growth and spiritual deepening within God's gift of a gathered Christian Community. This gift of Christian Community will assist us in learning about ourselves, our gifts, God's call to each of us, and will help us to examine our place in the human community of God's sacred creation. It is in the challenge ...*of such a time as this...* that we come to discern the Spirit's beckoning.

This path of Spiritual discovery will use spiritual disciplines, a variety of prayer forms, worship, covenant groups, as well as creative learning experiences. The program is rooted and grounded in Christ, especially as practiced in the Christian contemplative way, and the Wesleyan tradition. We, in the NYAC, are united in our desire to increase our *Passionate Spiritually*; and this experience of spiritual formation is a proven benefit to all faith communities.

Wellspring is a two year program meeting monthly at Bethany Spirituality Center in Highland Mills, New York. (with summer off) The application and the formal dates are available at www.nyac.com/site/search?controller=&keywords=wellspring. If you have questions, or desire a hard copy of the application or flyer, please contact Gail Erdie at 845-255-8058 or gerdie@hvc.rr.com.



*Sponsored by the
New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*

“SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT”

(A God for all Time)

*A weekend experience for men and women
based on the church's liturgical year*

**WISDOM HOUSE
229 East Litchfield Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759**

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2010
(Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday after lunch)

The liturgical year is an adventure in bringing the Christian life to fullness, the heart to alert, and the soul to focus. The seasons of the church represent the life of Christ, whose life and attitudes we strive to emulate. The cycle proposes, year after year, to immerse repeatedly into the sense and substance of the Christian life until, eventually, we become what we say we are: followers of Jesus all the way to the heart of God.

Led by Reverend Caroly R. Gibson

Total Cost \$225.00 includes 5 meals, room, program and materials

Register Soon – Space in Farmhouse is Limited

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Special Diet: _____

Mail Registration with \$150.00 deposit to:
Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Circle Trumbull, CT 06611
Balance due by August 31st

Questions or Further Details, call: (203) 380-1260 email: cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com

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