



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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May 2009 Edition

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



Dear Friends:

Let me start with a heartfelt thank you for your generosity in supporting our conference's ministry work in Haiti. Your contributions have allowed the team that went there to purchase fertilizer and seeds for the farmers in Furcy, Haiti. It is our hope, that with this fertilizer and seed, and barring the catastrophic hurricanes that often batter the island, this community will be able to produce food in the coming year.

I learned many valuable lessons while in Haiti, and I would like to share one of those with you today. That lesson is that the term "less fortunate", often used to describe residents of the area where VIM (Volunteers in Mission) teams travel, is not particularly descriptive of the people of Haiti. To me, that term implies people who are helpless, hopeless, and beaten down. I did not find any of that to be true of the people in Haiti.

Instead, I found people who had much to teach and give to me. For instance, the people of Furcy in particular taught me important lessons in "radical hospitality" and "extravagant generosity." The radical hospitality started the moment we got out of the van that carried us up the mountain to Furcy. The road – or what passes for a road in that part of Haiti – ended about a mile from the area where we would work and stay. The rest of the journey was on foot, and sometimes on rear end, as the mountainous terrain challenged all but the fittest in our group. The residents of Furcy met us at our vans, and carried, on their heads, our luggage and supplies. They also, occasionally, had to pick one of us up when we lost our footing. They turned over their church to us to use as a

Continued on page 2

Reflections *(continued)*

dormitory, and welcomed us into their homes, their school, their medical clinic, and their community. The associate pastor even scraped our caked shoes clean after a rainfall had turned the clay of the ground into a river of mud. I learned about radical hospitality in Haiti.

The other lesson I learned was in extravagant generosity. Before I tell you what these folks did for us, let me emphasize that life is hard in Furcy, Haiti. The residents of Furcy are fortunate if they have one small meal per day. Children, there, are hungry. Parents carry their children miles to get them the most basic of medical care. Adults who are sick must walk those miles themselves, or die. The deaths of young people are deeply mourned, but rarely have an identifiable cause. New clothes are the used clothes left behind by VIM-ers. There is no electricity in Furcy, no running water, and few if any toys for children to play with.

Yet out of this want, they were generous to us. They collected water in an overhead cistern and put a spigot on it so that we could take showers. They built a cement cistern outside the cookhouse, and then set benches on it, so that we would have an outdoor patio on which to eat our meals. They even provided flowers in the center of that outdoor patio. I have no idea what the benches cost them, but it was too much, given what they have and do not have. They were extravagantly generous, and I will never be the same of having seen that example.

The people of Furcy are not less fortunate than I am, because they have much I wish they had. They have cooperative community. They have radical hospitality for strangers. They are extravagantly generous. They are strong and agile – one understands completely when seeing how strong they are, how they defeated the French colonizers and won their freedom. They are self-giving to us, but also to fellow Haitians. Their worship is vibrant and energetic. Their children are athletic – if the New York Yankees, or the Boston Red Sox ever discover the children of Furcy, they will be recruiting players from there!!! They are hard workers, and take pride in the fruits of their labors. They are catastrophically deprived of material resources, but they are otherwise NOT less fortunate than I am.

Jesus was a peasant, and likely had little more than the people I met in Furcy. Yet none of us would call him “less fortunate.” When I use the term, “less fortunate”, I tend to feel pity for a person. For the people of Haiti, and particularly for the people of Furcy, Haiti, I feel admiration and respect.

I learned a lot in Haiti. I learned about courage, and determination, and the catastrophic power of poverty, and about the sadness of hunger, and about the antidote of faith, hope, love, and laughter. I learned that there could be breathtaking landscapes in areas we call “poor”. I learned, well, so much.

Thank you for your contributions. You provided over \$2,700 for seed and fertilizer. I will give another \$800, because I promised you that I would match your contributions up to that amount. Thank you for your contributions. They will help my friends in Furcy, Haiti.

Jeannette

THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

May

- 1. Day Off**
- 2. Consultation**
- 3. Worship and ReThink Church Workshop**
- 4. Daytime: in office**
Evening: Pastor Introduction
- 5. Daytime: in office**
Evening: Pastor Introduction
- 6. Daytime: ReThink Church launch, Manhattan**
Evening: Pastor Introduction
- 7. Daytime: in office**
Evening: Consultation
- 8. Day Off**
- 9. District Conference**
- 10. MOTHER'S DAY (Jeannette will enjoy being treated by her son!!)**
- 11. In office (nothing scheduled for the evening yet)**
- 12. In office (nothing scheduled for the evening yet)**
- 13. Cabinet overnight, day 1**
- 14. Cabinet overnight, day 2**
- 15. Day off**
- 16. District Trustees**
- 17. Round Hill Annual Meeting**
- 18. In office (nothing scheduled for the evening yet)**
- 19. In office (nothing scheduled for the evening yet)**
- 20. Cabinet overnight, day 1**
- 21. Cabinet overnight, day 2**
- 22. Day off**
- 23. Nothing scheduled as of this writing**
- 24. Nothing scheduled as of this writing**
- 25. Memorial Day, Office closed**
- 26. Day in the office**
- 27. Cabinet overnight, day 1**
- 28. Cabinet overnight, day 2**
Evening: City Society Dinner
- 29. Day Off**
- 30. Nothing scheduled as of this writing**
- 31. Preach, Jesse Lee**





NEW YORK /CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 9
Mount Kisco UMC
2:00 to 5:00 PM

This annual meeting includes a time of worship and fellowship as well as the recognition of local and certified lay speakers and the election of district committee members.



Vision Statement Vision Statement



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.



From the editor... We would like to have the September issue of the **CONNECTOR** overflowing with reports of mission trips from around the NY/CT District.

PLEASE SHARE... Send reports about the mission trips by people in your congregation. Include pictures, and share the experience – mccarte@optonline.net



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

May 6th Media Launch, New York City

In addition to the four scheduled **RETHINK CHURCH** training events located around the annual conference, United Methodist Communications is hitting the streets of New York City on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 with a multi-layered media launch.

RETHINK CHURCH signs will appear in subways, trains stations, even on the tops of taxi cabs. Two hundred volunteers doing random acts of kindness in public will add the human touch to our **RETHINK CHURCH** mission. You are invited to participate as one of those 200 volunteers who will be sent in teams to various sites in Manhattan.

The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew located at Went End Avenue and 86th Street will provide home base for volunteer gatherings, both in the morning and in the afternoon. Each volunteer will be assigned a team and be given his or her **RETHINK CHURCH** t-shirt, jacket and hat. Teams will be transported by bus to the pre-selected Manhattan locations. Lunch will be provided for both morning and afternoon teams.

You must be registered in order to participate. Volunteer registration is available by contacting Ann Pearson, Director of Connectional Ministries of the New York Annual Conference at apearson@nyac.com. Please send an email to her and indicate whether you wish to volunteer for the morning or the afternoon. She will acknowledge your email and send to you a set of forms and further information



Jeannette is asking for ten volunteers - clergy or lay - to join Bishop Park, Jeannette, and the rest of the cabinet at St. Paul and St. Andrew for the Rethink Church media launch on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

There will be two shifts: Morning (8 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.) and Afternoon (12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.) Jeannette will be at the 12:00 p.m. event, but anyone who wants to go to the 8:30 a.m. event can go there. Please register with Ann Pearson, and let Jeannette know that you will be going.

Check for more information at the NYAC website, www.nyac.com

NEED HELP RETHINKING CHURCH? VISIT www.rethinkchurch.org

Apply for your Mission Gold Award
MISSION GOLD AWARD CEREMONY ON
SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2009
AT THE HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY ARENA

HOW TO GET YOUR GOLD AWARD

In order for me to prepare your award I will need the following information by
email or snail mail. May 25, 2009 is the deadline

1. Name of the local church
2. Category of gold award for which you are applying: (12k, 14k, 18k or 24k)
Please read carefully because requirements for each category have changed
3. Provide information for the mission projects, events, and financial contributions.
4. Send the information to Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator,
20 Soundview Ave. White Plains, NY 10606. or email: jewoodzie@nyac.com,

You qualify for a mission gold award if your church paid in full the shared ministry apportionment and participated in two or more of the mission areas listed below:

1. Supported at least one local mission project.
2. Received *Special Sunday* offerings or similar mission related offerings.
3. Fulfilled a covenant relationship obligation with a GBGM missionary
4. Supported at least one Conference Mission Initiative such as Mozambique, Cambodia, Bolivia, Haiti, Ghana, etc.)
5. Sent at least one or more persons on a Volunteer In Mission Trip.
6. Attended Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
7. Celebrated Mission Sunday with a mission speaker.
8. Took a group on a Mission Study Tour or Volunteer in Mission Trip.
9. Offered a new mission experience. Did something new that your congregation had never done before.
10. Supported the Conference Disaster Preparedness & Response Team or Biloxi trip.
11. Supported Justice for our Neighbors

For 12k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2008; and
2. Two of the mission areas listed above

For 14k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2008; and
2. Four of the mission areas listed above

For 18k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2008; and
2. Eight of the mission areas listed above

For 24k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2008; and
2. Ten of the mission areas listed above

YOU ARE INVITED

FIRST ANNUAL

MISSION CELEBRATION DINNER

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009

6:00 – 7:30 PM

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY: LOCATION TBA

HONORED GUESTS

BISHOP JOAQUINA FILIPE NHANALA
MOZAMBIQUE, AFRICA



You will also meet

Mike and Sherri Morrissey, Missionaries from THAILAND

PLEASE BRING 15 OR MORE MEMBERS OF YOUR MISSION TEAM.

MAIL CHECKS MADE OUT TO: "NYAC/MISSION" FOR \$15.00 PER PERSON TO:
REV. JOSEPH EWOODZIE NYAC, 20 SOUNDVIEW AVE
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 BY: MAY 20, 2009

For more information contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie: jewoodzie@nyac.com

1-888-696-6922 ext 233

Clergy Spouses

Luncheon

and

Fellowship Time

Saturday, June 13, 11-1

Place To Be Announced

Come When You Can

What's Behind the Door?

Meal Ticket Accepted

No Meal Ticket \$12

Dues \$15

Mail Checks to: Clergy Mates Association c/o Ms. Flora Vernon, 725 South Sixth Ave. Mount Vernon NY 10550

Name: _____
Street and Apt. _____
City, State, Zip: _____
*Email _____



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST PARISH
1 OWENS ROAD, NEWBURGH
AT THE CORNER OF FOSTERTOWN AND NORTH
FOSTERTOWN ROADS

FIRST FRIDAY MUSIC FEST

Visit our website at
www.cornerstonechristiancafe.com
Or contact Jim Schoonmaker for more information (845) 649-0963

This & That

Bishop's Confirmation Rally!



May 2nd 9:30 a.m. -3 p.m.
Jesse Lee Memorial UMC
Ridgefield, CT
Register at www.nyac.com

There are new regulations from the Federal Government regarding lead exposure that could affect **UMCOR school kits**. Since we are blessed with having so many of our churches donate the kits, it is important that they know of these new regulations. Please make sure to follow the changes.

-- **NO MAN-MADE fabrics allowed for the bags. ONLY 100% cotton, 100% wool, or 100% flax.**

-- **NO BUTTONS, SNAPS OR VELCRO**

Appointments, effective July 1, 2009...

Rev. Ariel Ferrari to First UMC of Greenwich

Rev. Stephen Goldstein to Zion's Hill UMC, Wilton, CT


Rev. Eric Fjeldal to New Canaan UMC, New Canaan, CT

Out and About the District

The Outreach Committee of **Trinity-Boscobel UMC** will be collecting Health Kits again this year during the month of May-- continuing their assistance to sustain everyday life throughout the world. UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, goes any place where natural disaster or ravages of war have deprived humans of basic living needs.

Trinity-Boscobel *The Tower*



Hand to Mouth Weavers at **Red Hook UMC** needs neckties for their  weaving project which will result in items to be sold to raise funds for the food pantry. Contact Tom Theilmann redhookrev@aol.com



Vail's Gate and **Cornwall UMCs** are among the churches offering an Alternative Mother's Day Gift that can be sent to that hard-to-buy-for woman on your list. A minimum donation of \$10 purchases a special Mother's Day Card, and proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity Methodist and Friends Build (Newburgh, NY).



Sunday, April 26, **Mountainville UMC** joined in the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial Newburgh Bay Celebration with their worship service at the river. Collette Fulton, Cornwall Historical Society chair, shared historical commentary as they recognized the United Methodist special Native American Awareness Sunday.



← *Village Historian Collette Fulton shares historical commentary at the beginning of the service.*

Collette Fulton (Cornwall Village Historian) and Pastor Darlene E.R. Resling sharing a gift flag with the congregation. →



From Anne Bracket, Pastor, Darien UMC:

The picture of the young boy, shown below, was taken in the Sudan when the General Board of Global Missions team I was with visited a Methodist Church in Pisak, during our trip from March 11-24. This church is about 12 miles from Yei, the large town where we were staying. The people in Pisak number about 4,000 and have no clean water, no school, and are struggling to survive as they return to their war-torn land.

We broke up into small groups and met with "the women", "the elders", "the children" and "the youth". I was in the group that met with the youth. Imagine my surprise to discover that the youth were a group of young men ranging in age from 20 years-old to thirty-five years-old! Anyone under the age of eighteen is considered a child.

These young men, who had survived either many years of war, and/or many years of exile, spoke eloquently of their future needs and desires and of the future of their village children. If they had education, clean water, and especially Bibles, they could teach the children about Jesus and raise up pastors for the future.

As we were preparing to leave in our different vehicles, the young boy in the picture came up to the window of my van and said: **"I want you to remember me. Don't forget me. I want an education, don't forget me."**

I will remember him. How can I forget? He speaks for all children who want the simplest things: food, clean water, education, hope for the future. Children in Sudan, Haiti, Bolivia, Norwalk or Darien need the same things to grow and become healthy adults.

Reprinted from *The Tower Tidings*



Singing the CHURCH Together

United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco

May 16th 9:30-3:00

The United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco will be hosting a Global Praise workshop led by Jorge Lockward, program director. Children and youth are especially invited to take part. The program is free, but participants are asked to bring \$5 for lunch.

Global Praise is a program of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church created to gather, receive, and share the songs of the people called Methodists and other Christians around the world. More information is available at <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/resources/globalpraise/>

Please contact us with questions or to let us know how many from your church will be attending: office@mountkiscochurch.org or 914 666-5014

Soda Can Sunday RESULTS



The NY/CT District Mission Committee invited each church to join them in collecting refundable soda cans and bottles at your church on Sunday, March 29, 2009 to raise money for a mission opportunity of your choice! This is what happened...

- 🗑️ Darien UMC raised \$17. The money was contributed to the Norwalk Shelter.
- 🗑️ Fishkill UMC raised \$67.40. They contributed to the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie.
- 🗑️ Fort Montgomery UMC raised \$52.25. It will be used to purchase gift cards for the needy.
- 🗑️ Grace UMC (Newburgh) raised \$93. Cans were collected by the Youth Group, and \$50 went to the Youth Feeding Ministry and \$43 to the Church Food Closet
- 🗑️ Highland Falls UMC raised \$331.75. Funds will be used for a series of "Random Acts of Kindness" in the community of Highland Falls. For example, on 4/18 the Youth went to two local laundromats and paid for patrons clothing to be washed and dried.
- 🗑️ Hyde Park UMC raised \$80. Money went into the ongoing Haiti Fund and given to Jeanette for her April trip to Haiti.
- 🗑️ Katonah UMC raised \$35. They sent it for Jeannette's April trip to Haiti.
- 🗑️ Pine Plains UMC raised \$115. Cans were collected by the YoDOGs (Youth Doing Others Good) and the money will be given to the Pine Plains Free Library to improve the books on tape selection for teens at the new library.
- 🗑️ Red Hook UMC raised \$28. Funds donated to the Local Food Pantry, which can buy food at 16 cents/pound from the Regional Food Bank.
- 🗑️ Yorktown UMC raised \$47.50. The distribution has not yet been decided
- 🗑️ Zion's Hill UMC in Wilton raised \$58. They sent it to the Habitat for Humanity in Danbury, CT.

That's a total of **\$924.90**
representing the collection of **18,498** cans!

If you haven't reported yet, send your results to Terry Temple, hoopster2@optonline.net

SPREAD THE WORD!

Counselors Sought for Woodsmoke Events at Kingswood



Camp Kingswood, a 766 acre campground operated by the NYAC is located in Delaware County, New York approximately 150 miles northwest of New York City. During the weeks of July 19-25 and July 26-August 1 one week camping events known as "Woodsmoke" will provide small-group rustic camping experiences for up to forty boys and girls, ten each in four age-specific sites (youngsters entering grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 in September).

Female and male counselors are needed to work with returning week. Experienced program staff includes a Program Director, chaplain, food service personnel. The 9-10 and 11-12 grade youngsters will construction projects under skilled adult leadership.



counselors in sites each nurse, lifeguards, and participate in

Each Woodsmoke unit has two platform tents, one for boys and one for girls, with six beds apiece. Counselors may sleep in the tents or in separate dome tents pitched on the site. Counselors are expected to participate in an orientation/training event to be held on the site the weekend of either May 29-30 or June 5-6 that will be based in the Kingswood Farmhouse.

A \$300 stipend is available for each week served. In lieu of the stipend, that amount may be applied to the fee of a child enrolled in the program. Scholarship funds also are available.

Persons interested should contact Cynthia Price, Program Director, at caprice@liberty.edu for additional information or to receive an application form. Please also see our website at www.kwcamp.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

VIM BOLIVIA

JUNE 19 - JULY 4, 2009

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Have you been feeling a nudging in your heart for international missions, a desire to be in relationship with our brothers and sisters outside of the United States?

The 8th VIM Bolivia team to Cochabamba leaves on June 19,
and you can be a part of this spirit-filled experience!

Don't miss this opportunity for an Encounter with Christ that will change your life forever!

Contact Team Leader Rev. Carl Franson asap:
860-596-4159 cfranson417@comcast.net



"I WILL GO LORD, WHERE YOU LEAD ME—
I WILL HOLD YOUR PEOPLE IN MY HEART."



**Brian Edwards Memorial
Mozambique Missions
GOLF TOURNAMENT
at Hickory Hill Golf Club**
RT 17A WARWICK NY

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete all information below, then turn the completed form - with your check made payable to: **WARWICK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** into one of the "Tournament Officials", or mail it to:
Warwick United Methodist Church
135 Forrester Ave., Warwick, NY 10990

(Remember to include Mulligans in the total amount.)

Tournament Date: Saturday, May 30, 2009

Registration Deadline: Saturday, May 23, 2009

Please sign ME up for Golf - and put me together with a Foursome.

Please sign our FOURSOME up for the Golf Tournament!

CONTACT NAME _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

E-Mail Address: work home _____

Name - Player #1 _____

Name - Player #2 _____

Name - Player #3 _____

Name - Player #4 _____

Total Amount of Check Enclosed: \$ _____

<p><u>TOURNAMENT COSTS</u></p> <p>Per Golfer - \$80 Per Foursome - \$320 Golfers Under 18 - \$50 <i>Includes: Brown bag lunch, 18 holes w/ cart, participation gifts & Full Buffet at Golf Course.</i></p> <p>TENTATIVE TEE-OFF: 12:30 pm</p>	<p><u>GET MULLIGANS HERE!</u></p> <p>NO LIMIT! \$5⁰⁰ EACH</p> <p><i>Please complete:</i> I (we) want (*) _____ Mulligans for a total of \$ _____ and have added that amount to the check that accompanies this Registration Form!</p>
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

FRANK ATKINS • (845) 986-0675	BOB BLANTON • (845) 986-1030
MIKE MCSWEENEY • (845) 986-0456	JOHN OLSZEWSKI • (845) 986-6310

2009 Cooperative School of Christian Mission

July 23rd - 25th, 2009

Western Connecticut State University

University Blvd. Danbury, CT 06810

*This is My Body,
BROKEN for You!*

(Luke 22)

Studies:

Spiritual Growth – Food & Faith

General Studies – Giving Your Heart Away:

Native American Survival

Geographical Study – Sudan

All Forms are available on the School of Mission website:

www.gbqm-umc.org/nyaccscom

Please visit www.wpaumcyouth.com and click on ELEVATE

elevate

taking young adult ministry to the next level

July 10-12, 2009
Pittsburgh, PA

**Resourcing
Congregational and
Campus Ministry
with Young
Adults**

**Sheraton
Station Sq. Hotel**
300 West Station Square Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
with Saturday Sessions at:
**Hot Metal Bridge Faith
Community**
2700 Jane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Sponsored by:

The Northeast Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church;
made possible by a grant from the Vision Table.

CONTENTS

Friday, July 10, 2009

Sheraton Station Square Hotel, 300 W Station Square
Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

8 p.m. Worship and Plenary
Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Preacher and Adam Swiger, Worship Leader

Saturday, July 11, 2009

On site at Hot Metal Bridge, 2700 Jane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

9:30-10 a.m. Devotions (*Jim Walker, and musicians from Hot Metal Bridge will lead our time of worship*)

10:30-Noon Workshops, Session 1:
Congregational Ministry with Young Adults
Jim Walker
Taking Young Adult Ministry to the Next Level
Ginger Gaines-Cirelli
Ministry on Campus
Indiana Grace UMC

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch

1-2:30 p.m. Workshops, Session 2
repeat of session 1

3-4:30 p.m. Creating and Strengthening a
Conference Committee on Young Adult
Ministry
Leader, TBD

4:30-8 p.m. Dinner on your own

8:30-11 p.m. Gateway Clipper Dessert Cruise.

Sunday, July 12, 2009

On-site at the hotel

9:30 a.m. Worship
*Jay Williams, Preacher and Ingomar UMC/
Worship Team*

11 a.m. Closing Plenary – *What is God calling
me to be and do?*

Cost:

\$129.00 (2 per room) by May 15.

\$149.00 (2 per room) by June 15.

Questions? Need more information? For questions about registration contact Renaye Hoffman at youth@wpaucm.org or 1-800-886-3382, ext. 224. For all other questions please contact Shane Hinderliter at shinderliter@pen-del.org or 1-877-736-3351, ext. 15.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jay Williams

Jay is a Master of Divinity student at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Prior to becoming a student at Union, Jay was an assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch in private banking. While pursuing ordination as an elder, he presently serves as the assistant pastor of Metropolitan Community UMC in East Harlem, New York. He is also the director of the church's start-up community development corporation; he led his delegation to the 2000 and 2004 General Conferences



Ginger Gaines-Cirelli

Ginger currently serves as Minister for Younger Adults, at Christ Church UMC in New York, NY. She is serving part-time to develop young adult (20s/30s) ministries. She also assists in worship, teaching Bible Studies and providing pastoral care and support.



Jim Walker

Pastor Jim Walker (Full Ordained Elder) is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2003). Jim and co-pastor Jeff Eddings have been working together in ministry since they served together as camp counselors at Ligonier Camp in 1989. After graduating from Point Park College in 1991, they spent many years using drama to proclaim the Gospel in churches and camps across the country through a ministry called "Crosslight Productions." They also created an outreach to elementary schools through the Pittsburgh Children's Museum- performing plays about conflict resolution, handling peer pressure, and reading. They are now serving the Lord together again, along with their families and many, many friends at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community on the South Side.



Karen Salser

Four years ago she became the Director of Campus Ministry at Grace UMC and has spent countless hours interacting with and ministering to college students. Coordinating an on-campus worship service, a mid-week Bible study, events both within the church and on-campus, as well as discipling young adults are just some of the ways in which she is able to serve the students of Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Eric Detar

Eric Detar is the Associate Pastor of Grace UMC, in Indiana, PA. He and his wife, Paula, just recently celebrated their 15th anniversary. Together, they have two children, Anna – 9 and Noah – 8. Before coming to Grace, Eric was the pastor at New Stanton UMC, in New Stanton, PA. He moved to Grace, to pursue a calling in campus ministry. Eric is a leader of GRIP, Grace's campus ministry. He co-leads an on-campus worship service at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) called "12:12" and a mid-week study with college students called "Cross Examine." He is an IUP Campus Minister and a member of the IFC (Interfaith Council) at IUP. Eric is passionate about Jesus, his family, music, authentic community, outdoor stuff and the Steelers.



The purpose of this event is to identify and further equip and empower young adults and those who share in ministry with them so that they can return to their annual conference and strengthen congregational and conference young adult ministry efforts.