

"Write the vision clearly on the tablets, that one may read it on the run." – Habakkuk

THE VISION

The Newspaper
of the New York
Annual Conference
of The United
Methodist Church

March 18, 2011



Many Young Hands Work Together

Using a variety of implements, members of the Youth Ambassadors in Mission team dig a row of postholes for a fence in the O’Krouch village in Cambodia. Accompanied by Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Gillian Prince and Donna Jolly, the youth combined work and play to form a bond of friendship that stretched to fully embrace the Cambodian people. Please see Page 8 for excerpts of their trip blog.

Two New Superintendents Named

Dear Members of the New York Annual Conference:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I am delighted to announce the appointments of two new district superintendents effective July 1: The Rev. Elizabeth J. (Betsy) Ott will serve the New York/Connecticut District following the Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, who is completing a

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Rev. Betsy
Ott



Rev. St.
Clair A.
Samuel

2011 Conference Prepare For Processions & Push-Ups

It will be challenging to top the enthusiasm of the 2010 Annual Conference at Hofstra, but as we all know: With God all things are possible!

The June 8–11 event will be a time to celebrate why, “For Such A Time as This: We Are Heart-Warmed United Methodists in Mission,” and will culminate with another parade of banners on Saturday afternoon. Bishop Jeremiah J. Park is looking to repeat the festive procession of last year by asking churches to march in with banners depicting their mission involvement, both locally and globally.

“Please begin now to recruit your most creative members to fashion just such a

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SAVE THE DATE

Summit on Children's Ministry

March 25–26: NYAC presents this first-ever event, "And a Child Shall Lead Us," featuring two nationally recognized leaders in children's ministry, Melanie Gordon from GBOD, and Leanne Hadley, founder of First Steps Spirituality Center. Begins at 6 p.m. Friday; ends at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Renaissance Hotel, West Harrison, NY. Pastors, Christian educators, and parents are encouraged to attend with children in grades 2–5, who can sit through three 75-minute seminars. Cost is \$65 for adults, \$25 for children, not including housing. Register online at <http://www.nyac.com/events/detail/3280>; questions to Lynda Gomi, at 914-615-2219.

Permaculture Design Course

April–May 2011: Learn about living practices and land use that are in tune with nature and good stewardship at Epworth Camp and Retreat Center, High Falls, N.Y. Weekend/holiday dates in April and May. Kay Cafasso and Connor Stedman will lead the course with guest teachers. If interested, please contact Joan Ewing, Green Phoenix Permaculture, at mamajoane@yahoo.com, or 845-687-7646.

"Whole, Holy & Filled with the Holy Ghost"

April 1–2: All women of the conference are invited to this overnight retreat sponsored by the Women's Ministry of Fenimore Street UMC, Brooklyn. Bishop Violet L. Fisher is the guest speaker. Transportation to the Inn at Pocono Manor is available. For more information and questions, contact Andrea Smith at 718-469-8816, or email, fenimorestreet@aol.com. Please, also, see the story on Page 10.

Workshop on Construction Ministry

April 1–3 or May 13–15: Members of Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield, Conn., will share their experiences in two weekend

work/study retreats. The "Spirit Building At Your Church" weekends will be held at Camp Epworth, High Falls, N.Y. Check out the new web site, www.thespiritbuilders.org. Details and registration info are also on the NYAC web site, <http://www.nyac.com/events/detail/3325>.

Safe Sanctuary Workshops

Register by contacting Lynda Gomi at learningcenter@nyac.com, or 914-615-2219.

April 9: Learning Center; registration opens at 8:45 a.m.; workshop runs 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Translation in Korean available.

April 30: Learning Center; registration opens at 8:45 a.m.; workshop runs 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Translation in Spanish available.

May 14: Cuyler-Warren Street UMC, Brooklyn; registration opens at 1 p.m.; workshop runs 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Deadline to File Statistical Tables

April 18: The General Council on Finance & Administration's statistical Tables I, II and III are ready on their web site will remain available until the evening of Monday, April 18. Go to the GCFA web site at: www.eagle.gcfa.org. Churches can find important information and documents related to filing the tables at: <http://nyac.com/pages/detail/1720>.


 <p>The Vision</p> <p>The News of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church</p>
<p>Bishop: Jeremiah J. Park Director of Connectional Ministries: Ann A. Pearson Editor: Joanne Utley New York Conference of The United Methodist Church 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606 Phone (888) 696-6922 Fax (914) 615-2244; Website: www.nyac.com Vision e-mail: thevision@nyac.com</p>



Photo opportunity for most of the NYAC contingent: Sitting, from left: Lynne Severance, Rhonda Taylor, Agnes Saffoury and Adrienne Brewington. Second row: Miyoung Kang, Constance Pak, Darlene Resling, Trudy Codd, Evelyn McDonald, Lorraine DeArmitt, Dolores Henderson, Judy Stevens, Janet Porcher, Maxine Nixon, DeLois Davis, Vicky Fleming, Koonae Lee, and Roslyn Lee. Third row: Betsy Ott, Sonia Jermin, Bette Sohm, Lucy Jones, Tisha Jermin, Hikari Chang, and Bernadette Logan. Absent from the photo are: Elizabeth Braddon, Elizabeth Williams, Huibing He, Louise Stowe-Johns, and laywomen Linda Thompson and Robyn Hyland.

400 Clergywomen Empowered as “Bodacious & Bold”

Some 30 members of the NYAC were part of 400 clergywomen from Maine to Washington, D.C., who answered the call to be “Bodacious and Bold” in their ministry at the recent Northeastern Jurisdiction Consultation. For four days—February 27–March 2—the group gathered in Lancaster, Penn., to celebrate their accomplishments and also confront the obstacles that remain for women in ministry.

A unifying part of the gathering came in the painting of

silk scarves and a service of “unveiling” presided over by five UMC bishops—Violet Fisher, Susan Hassinger, Peggy Johnson, Jane Allen Middleton, and Susan Morrison. With the passage from 2 Corinthians 3 about the veil being lifted when one turns to God as a theme, each bishop shared significant moments in their faith journeys when they had been symbolically “veiled” or “unveiled.”

During the service, each of the bishops and all of the participants wore



Above, five UMC bishops—Susan Morrison, from left, Violet Fisher, Jane Allen Middleton, Peggy Johnson, and Susan Hassinger—participate in the service of “unveiling” during the women’s consultation.

the colorful scarves that they had painted after arriving at the consultation.

The NYAC’s Rev. Constance Pak, a member of the program team for the

event, said she was “most inspired” by a timeline that the group created to demonstrate the importance and leadership of women in the denomination’s

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Council Clarifies New Voting Pools

UMNS—When United Methodists start electing clergy delegates this spring to the denomination's top legislative meeting, several new groups will be eligible to vote for those representatives.

The new categories of electors for the 2012 General Conference were clarified by the denomination's Judicial Council in a special called session Feb. 12. The nine-member council serves as the church's "supreme court."

The new categories— related to elections conducted by the denomination's annual conferences—are the result of the adoption of Amendment 19 to Paragraph 35 of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church.

As interpreted by Judicial Council in a ruling released Feb. 14, those now eligible to vote are:

- Full clergy members
- Associate members
- "Provisional members who have been judged by the annual conference to have completed the educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership."
- "Local pastors who have met two criteria: they have, by either of two options as determined by the annual conference, completed the constitutionally specified level of education; and they have been appointed by the bishop and served for two consecutive years, during which time no withdrawal of the appointed status has occurred."

The 2008 legislation was part of a long-term effort by the United Methodist Rural Fellowship, the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors and other groups to expand the pool of those eligible to elect delegations, said the Rev. Roger Grace, the rural fellowship president.

Many rural churches, he explained, are served by local pastors. But under the previous Book of Discipline, the denominational law book, local

pastors were not allowed to vote on representatives to the top legislative meetings.

The 2008 General Conference refined the petition and adopted what became Amendment 19. That action later was ratified, as required, by the annual conferences, with a vote of 79 percent in favor of the legislative change.

For the complete story, go to: <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/lnet/content3.aspx?c=1wL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=9126851>.



A timeline created on red fabric, below, honors the women of the UMC, both past and present.

400 Clergywomen Empowered

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history. The bright red timeline celebrated the contributions of women in the past, and allowed each participant to add her own photo and story to the continuum.

Keynote speakers for the event were Rev. Dr. Traci C. West, an NYAC elder who is professor of Ethics and African-American Studies at Drew Theological School; and Dr. Marjorie Suchocki, United Methodist professor

emeritus at Claremont School of Theology, and co-director of the Center for Process Studies.

Rev. Darlene Resling, who was empowered by the words of both Suchocki and West, wrote in an email that it is "important for clergywomen to attend such events to enable them to maintain a connectional reality . . . I will take back the revived memory of the lifting of my veil and living into God's call on my life."

Prepare For Processions, Push-Ups & Elections

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banner to carry in procession . . . You may want to bring your banner from last year or both of them!" Park wrote. "It should be spectacular."

And if you remember the banners of 2010, you may also recall something about 120 push-ups that the bishop did to promote building up a healthy body of Christ. The bishop has been working out, and promises to match—or even surpass—that amount in June.

"I have already begun working out in order to do at least 120 push-ups," the bishop wrote. "In return, I'd like each church to give at least \$1 for every push-up to the Bishop's Partners in Mission."

The bishop is also encouraging any organizations within the church—UM Men, UM Women, youth groups—to donate \$1 for every push-up.

Bishop Violet Fisher, most recently the episcopal leader of the Northern and Western New York Annual Conferences, will be the featured speaker during Saturday's mission celebration as well as the preacher for the commissioning/ordination service at 7 p.m. Friday night. Bishop Fisher was the first African-American woman to be elected to the episcopacy in the Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. In addition on Saturday, Thomas Kemper, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, will address the



**Thomas
Kemper**



**Bishop
Violet
Fisher**



Bishop Jeremiah Park got in some push-up practice at the Jan. 21–23 Ignite retreat. When he offered to do at least 120 push-ups, the bishop was challenged by Jayoo "Ryan" Lee from Hicksville UMC, who said he could do more. But Lee proved to need a little more stamina as the crowd counted out 150 pushups for the bishop.

conference, and the "Go For the Gold" mission awards will be announced.

On the business side, this year's gathering will be charged with the election of clergy and lay delegates for both the 2012 jurisdictional and general conferences.

According to Lay Leader Renata Smith, the lay candidates will be introduced during the Laity Session on Wednesday afternoon. As per the conference rules, the name, church and district of lay nominees will be read and they will be invited to sit on the stage.

"In an attempt to get to know them better, each will be asked the same two questions and be given the same amount of time in which to answer," Smith wrote in her letter to laity.

In his letter to clergy, Bishop Park reiterated the importance of

the meeting, and wrote, "As you know, attendance at the sessions of our annual conference are part of our covenantal responsibility to faithful membership in the United Methodist Church. I can't emphasize strongly enough the importance I place on our clergy fulfilling this part of their vows of annual conference membership by being present for the entirety of the conference. Your presence is an essential witness to what kind of church we are and we want to be."

Information about the delegate elections, legislative sessions, registration, and housing can be found online at: <http://www.nyac.com/pages/detail/1641>. Registration fees for the four days vary from \$215 to \$265, depending on date of reservation. Housing at Hofstra is \$47 single or \$37 double, per person, per night.

Hope is Raised With Rafters in Haiti

Volunteers in Mission teams from the NYAC continue to arrive in Haiti each month. Here's are excerpts from the blogs written by the members of February's team, which included Ted Malick and Frankie Edwards of Coram UMC, Rev. David Henry of Freeport UMC, Michael Bruening of Nichols UMC, and Rev. John Roy and Vincent Chiamonte of Westhampton UMC.

Day 4: February 6

As I reflect back on these last three days, these are my thoughts:

I came to bring hope, but hope was upon their faces.

I came to bring Jesus, but Jesus was in their hearts.

I came to bring God, but God was amidst their worship.

I came to bring the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit was strong among them.

I came to bless them, and they blessed me.

So what did I bring—I brought love.

A love that fed them. A love that clothed them. A love that embraced them.

A love that only God could send. Halleluia!

Day 5: February 7

Today was an awesome day. It started with the sun in full blossom and clear blue sky. Things started out slowly but once we got going, we cranked! We completed the block walls, installed the sill plate and installed the crossbeams.



The team helps hoists a beam in place to support the rafters.



ABOVE: Much progress had been made on the church rafters by the last day. **LEFT:** Sunday was a day for church and rest.

Lord willing, we will raise the rafters tomorrow or Wednesday morning. We all agreed to work an extra half-day on Wednesday.

The air was filled with excitement. Many of the people from the village were there today and they were excited because the church building was really beginning to look like a church building.

We had a special time of communion inside the church. We have been working with another

team from South Carolina over the last couple days. Today was their last day, and their pastor did the service. We stood together with the Haitian workers, the elders of the church and the elders of the village. In the center was a small piece of plywood, a plastic cup of juice and a few loaves of bread set on cement blocks. After the service, we sang "Amazing Grace" together. They sang in Creole, we sang in English. The combined

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Hope is Raised With Rafters in Haiti

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voices were a sweet fragrance to the Lord.

I can't end without mentioning the children. There are between 30 to 50 of them around. They love to play with us, and we love to play with them.

I know this blog has been going for a couple of days and if you are moved to do something, I suggest you pray to take the training course and come here for a week. There will be group coming here for a week. There will be a group coming here once a month for the next 3 years. Your life will be changed forever. Thank you all for your prayers, and may God bless you.

Day 6: February 8, 2011

When we arrived at the work site the villagers were already waiting for us. The weather was moderate and we got a lot accomplished. The roof rafters are being installed and the building is beginning to take shape. Today we were there to help the carpenters. They were excited to have a helping hand and they too learned a technique to make their work easier.

The day closed with a fellowship moment. It was a time of sharing. There was a testimony from a woman who was at Bible study when the earthquake struck, and she spoke about how she lead people out of the collapsed building.

I sensed a profound expression

of gratitude from the members, workers and villagers. They're channels of blessings. The people see the rebuilding of the church as a miracle in their time and presence.

This community will never be same and the team has felt an indelible mark upon them. They

are now looking forward to the rededication of their new church

As we bring our sojourn to an end, each member reflected on the impact this mission trip had on each of us.

To read more and see additional photos from the Haiti blog, go to: <http://nyachaiti.blogspot.com/>.



Training With A Vision

Nearly 20 members of the conference's Vision Bearers program met recently at the White Plains center for training with Bener Agtarap and Kent Melcher, (from left in photo at right). The Vision Bearer program is focused on starting new churches and revitalizing existing ones as part



of a denominational movement focused on re-evangelizing the United States. Melcher is the area superintendent for new church development in the Kansas East Conference; Agtarap is the director of conference ethnic stewardship for the General Board of Discipleship. The group, made up of both clergy and laity, began a seven-month training period in September. Further info about the program can be found at <http://www.nyac.com/news/detail/148>.

Youth Mission Cements Friendships, Fence Posts

If there were one word to describe this year's Youth Ambassadors mission experience, that word would be friendship. Within a few days, the eight young people representing different geographic and socio-economic sectors of the conference bonded together as one big family.

And so when they arrived in the O'Krouch village, neither the Khmer language nor the culture could block the flow of the spirit of friendship from American youth to the Cambodia people. Below are excerpts from their web blog:

February 20 / Tori Mason, Jessie Lee Memorial UMC

YAMs experienced a Cambodian church service . . . It was a new experience for us and at first it was a little uncomfortable. Although the music was in a different language, we all recognized "Holy, Holy, Holy."

On our way to Kampong Thom, we got to visit a Christian school. We were all shocked when we saw Dell computers in one of the classrooms . . .

February 21 / Stephen Alston, Grace UMC (St. Albans)

We arrived at the village where the kids live, and introduce ourselves. Out of all of us, I probably looked the most nervous introducing myself . . .

The Cambodian kids sang for us and even taught us how to do

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The agenda included time for stops at cultural and historical sites.



ABOVE LEFT: Pipe cleaners spurred the creativity of the village children. ABOVE RIGHT: Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie pitches in to lighten the load. LEFT: The lineup of fence posts is a sign of steady progress.

Youth Mission Cements Friendships, Fence Posts

Continued from page 8

some of their dances. They also taught us how to count to 10 in their language, Khmer. Everybody was shocked when we learned that they knew how to count to ten in English.

February 22 / Christopher Blair, Fenimore Street UMC

As our eyes opened at 5:00, we were still tired and really didn't want to get up . . . we drove off to the work site/village and we broke sweat, we dug about 7 holes, we broke some rocks and we mixed some cement.

. . . we went to look at one of the wife's houses and looking at her house makes you think of how we Americans take things for granted; it kind of brought frowns on our faces.

February 23 / Hannah Cover, Simsbury UMC

Though we were going to hand out school supplies in the morning and the afternoon, we still had a duty to help the people of Okroch with their fence, so we went there first . . .

As we were preparing to leave for the school, we realized that some of the children who were supposed to be in school had come to the site to be with us ("hee hee" was Joseph's response).

February 24 / Nicole Daniel, Bethany UMC

Today was our last work day in

the village. We used white T-Shirts that Rachel's mother bought to let the kids sign their names in Khmer . . . We finished digging holes, breaking rocks and filling holes.

After lunch, we had a church service and there were lessons, performances, and thank-you's . . . Before we left, we all took pictures with the kids.

February 25 / Rachel Bortin, Reservoir UMC

Today we said our final goodbyes . . . The kids gave each of us "I love you" pictures. Before that we went by the school and gave out some of our extra supplies to the kindergarteners. They do not even have a teacher, but they still go to school anyway.

. . . At six thirty we gathered for dinner. We went to Steve's Steak

House. It was all American food and we were able to drink the water, for once.

February 26 / Kevona Walker, Grace UMC (St. Albans)

. . . we visited an old school that became a part of the Cambodian Holocaust. It was popular for its cruel interrogations . . . Some of the rooms were so extreme and graphic that we had to take breaks in between. At the end of the tour we got the chance to meet a survivor . . . For me, watching a documentary called, "Year Zero" and actually being at the actual place took a toll on all of us. The cruelty of man can be unpredictable at times.

For the full entries in the blog, go to: <http://www.nyacyam.blogspot.com/>.

Is Your Directory Info Correct?

Rev. Dennis Winkleblack, assistant conference secretary, has asked all ordained, commissioned and consecrated leaders to check their pastoral records in the back of the conference directory for accuracy. Although the errors found to date are not substantial either in number or consequence, mistakes on appointment records could affect pension credits. He also requests that you check for needed updates wherever else your name appears in the directory.

Requests for corrections can be made in two ways:

- Use the form in the back of the directory and send to Winkleblack at the conference center, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, N.Y., 10606.
- Go online and fill out a pastoral record change form at: <http://www.nyac.com/pages/detail/1768>. There are links for the form at the bottom of the page; you may fill out a PDF version online, or save your changes in a Word document to be emailed to: confsecy@nyac.com.

Samuel, Betsy Ott Named New Superintendents

Continued from front page

seven-year term. The Rev. St. Clair A. Samuel will serve the Metropolitan District following the Rev. Noel Chin, who is finishing his eighth year as a district superintendent.

The Rev. Betsy Ott is presently the senior pastor of Park Avenue UMC in Manhattan. Rev. Ott brings to annual conference leadership, a passion for spiritual growth and evangelism and a record of helping congregations grow in witness and service. Betsy is a graduate of The Theological School of Drew University with a Master of Divinity degree. She has served on numerous district and annual conference committees, including as vice-chairperson of the Conference Connectional Ministries Vision Table and as chairperson of the Conference Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Committee. Prior to her present appointment, Betsy served as pastor of Westbrookville, Trinity-Boscobel in Buchanan, and Lake Ronkonkoma, all in New York. Betsy is a preacher's kid, the daughter of the Rev. Gene Black, who served several churches in the New York Annual Conference. Betsy is married to Gary, and they are the parents of Emily and Gene. Gene is the pastor of Stevens Memorial UMC in South Salem, N.Y.

The new Metropolitan superintendent, the Rev. St. Clair A. Samuel, is the senior pastor of Butler Memorial UMC in the

Bronx. Rev. Samuel grew up in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and received the Master of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Prior to his appointment to Butler Memorial, St. Clair served the Church of our Savior in Yonkers, West Hempstead, South Floral Park, and Freeport, all in New York. St. Clair is highly regarded for his pastoral and congregational leadership skills. As he leaves, Butler is poised to begin a long-planned building expansion. He has served the wider connection as the chairperson of the Superintendency Committee of the Long Island West District and as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. St. Clair and his wife, Brenda, are the parents of Brandon, a sophomore at Howard University.

The Cabinet and I are looking forward to working with Betsy and St. Clair. We believe that both the New York/Connecticut and the Metropolitan districts as well as the New York Annual Conference will be richly blessed by their leadership. Please join us in welcoming them to this critical ministry for such a time as this.

In Christ,

Jeremiah J. Park

Recent New Appointments

Walter C. Barton, Jr.
Golden Hill (Bridgeport)
/Connecticut

Allen Pinckney
Butler Memorial (Bronx)
/Metropolitan

5 Doctoral Offerings at Drew

Drew Theological School, a seminary of the United Methodist Church in Madison, N.J., has announced its Doctor of Ministry offerings for the Fall 2011 semester:

- Global Online Concentration in Congregational Leadership
- Congregational Growth and Development; hosted in North Carolina
- Congregational Growth and Community Shalom; hosted in California
- Congregational Growth and Development; hosted in Oklahoma
- Worship, Spirituality, and Preaching; hosted at Drew University

To apply or request more information about the Doctor of Ministry at Drew, please visit our web site: www.drew.edu/theo/dmin. For questions about the application, or to schedule a visit contact the admissions office at 973-408-3111, or theoadm@drew.edu.

Advocacy Helps Keep Children Safe, Secure

As you are no doubt aware, private not-for-profit agencies like the Children's Home, have been facing financial challenges for the last two years and will continue to face these challenges this year and next year as well. One of the primary reasons for this is that most not-for-profit agencies get the vast majority of funding from federal, state and local governments. Thus, we are competing for public funds that are already under stress and in jeopardy.

The story is the same everywhere, the feds squeeze the state, the state squeezes the counties, and counties squeeze the private agencies, like ours. Some of this is to be expected, we want



our governments to exercise fiscal responsibility. However, in tough times, the discussion stays only about money and the reason for the money is often forgotten.

That is where advocacy comes in. Advocacy is a pretty straightforward concept—educating and supporting causes, ideas and policies that are important to us. We need to stay on message in these difficult times. Behind the decisions and judgments around funding, there are people and programs that are important. For us, the safety, stability and wellbeing of children and families are of utmost importance. For children, a safe, supportive, and nurturing home gives them the best chance for a successful life.

However, this is not always available to every child and it is the job of places like the Children's Home to keep the hope of a better

future open for them. You and I, both personally and professionally, need to continue to be strong advocates for children with our friends, families, neighbors and elected officials. One of the ways the Children's Home engages in advocacy is through its memberships and collaboration with other community organizations and groups.

Robert K. (Chip) Houser

President & CEO

For more information on the Children's Home, call 800-772-6904, ext. 131 or visit the web site at www.chowc.org. To order resources, or schedule a presentation about the Children's Home, contact Rebecca Mebert, ext 131. Please send donations directly, or use the New York Conference advance number, 60-0588.

Counselors Sought for Woodsmoke

Female and male counselors are needed for the Woodsmoke camps during the weeks of July 17–23 and July 24–30. Woodsmoke, which is held at Kingswood campsite, offers small-group rustic camping experiences for boys and girls in four age groups—those entering grades 5–6, 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12. Kingswood is a 766-acre campground operated by the NYAC in Delaware County, approximately 150 miles northwest of New York City.

Experienced program staff includes a program director, chaplain, nurse, lifeguards, and food service personnel. The 9–10 and 11–12 youngsters will help construct an accessible campsite and in assembly of personal energy transportation vehicles. “PET”

vehicles are shipped to developing countries for use by those with mobility issues.

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 a training event to be held June 10–12 at Kingswood. A \$300 stipend is offered for each week served.

Persons interested should contact Cynthia Price, program director, at caprice925@gmail.com for additional information or to receive an application form. Please also see our web site at www.kwcamp.org.

Designated Relief Giving Soars in 2010

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Total United Methodist designated mission giving soared in 2010 as a result of response to the earthquake in Haiti. Designated gifts for missionary support held steady from 2009 to 2010.

Figures released by The Advance for Christ and His Church, a designated mission giving channel, indicate that the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) received \$62,338,768 through this source last year. Of this, \$43,909,314 was earmarked for relief and rehabilitation in Haiti, devastated by an earthquake in January 2010. A total of \$721,988 was received for relief in flood-ravaged areas of Pakistan.

Designated giving for missionary support through the General Board of Global Ministries remained constant at \$6,157,043 in 2010 compared with \$6,151,628 in 2009. These funds do not include allocations for missionary support from World Service, the apportioned benevolence fund of the denomination. For the 2011 budget, 37 percent of

missionary support is projected to come through World Service.

The total mission giving through The Advance in 2010 was \$79,233,112, with \$10,742,716 designated for worldwide mission projects other than UMCOR or missionary support.

“The generosity of United Methodist people has powerful and specific impacts around the world,” said Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of Mississippi, who is chair of the Advance Committee. “One hundred percent of every Advance gifts goes for the designated purpose. Through The Advance, we are together a welcoming, healing, and helping presence in the lives of children, women, and men around the world.”

Thomas Kemper, chief executive of Global Ministries, thanked United Methodists for their strong giving through The Advance in 2010. “Our church has a wonderful record of response to natural and human-caused disasters,” he said. “UMCOR continues to be a remarkable expression of our sense of humanitarian responsibility.”

Call to Action Team Named

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have named a seven-member Call to Action—Interim Operations Team. The team will serve to guide change management and work with the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, and the general agencies to develop and implement work plans in stages leading up to and beyond the 2012 General Conference.

The Interim Operations Team (IOT) assignment is to be a catalyst for implementing significant change in denominational structures, policies, practices, and leadership in ways that are aligned with God’s call, the church’s mission, and the needs of the world in the 21st century. The IOT was created to build on recommendations from the Call to Action steering team.

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, convener of the IOT says, “The Call to Action process helped to clarify the why

and the what for denominational effectiveness. The IOT will next offer counsel to the Church about the who and the how.”

The other members of the interim team are:

- Neil M. Alexander: President and publisher of the UM Publishing House
- Carolyn H. Byrd: Chair and CEO of GlobalTech Financial; member of Cascade UMC, Atlanta.
- Adam Hamilton: Founding pastor of the UMC of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan.
- Laura Nichol: Past chair of the Board of Stewards at St. Luke’s UMC in Houston.
- Gary Shorb: President & CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, Memphis.
- Carol Tuthill: Retired executive with Proctor & Gamble; member of Armstrong Chapel UMC, Cincinnati.

CATCHING UP

Sometimes newsworthy items get buried in the barrage of email, much to the chagrin of The Vision editor. Here are a couple stories that have been unearthed recently. Good news is never too late to share, right?

Sailor at the Helm

Greg Nissen was spotlighted on the web site of US Sailing as the “Sailor of the Week” for January 20–26. US Sailing, the national governing body for the sport of sailing, has been honoring sailors nominated from its membership since January 2009.

Nissen, director of Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center on Shelter Island, N.Y., was honored for promoting the sport and expanding the camp’s successful learn-to-sail programs for youth, women and disabled individuals.

After the announcement, Nissen told the Shelter Island Reporter, “I’m shocked and honored, but I have a feeling it’s a direct result of my mother getting the Internet.” He joked that his mother must have nominated him for the honor.

Nissen served as sailing director at Quinipet before taking over the reins of the full facility. He grew up sailing with his father on the Hudson River.

He is married to Amanda Clark, a women’s 470 skipper on the US Sailing Team AlphaGraphics and a 2008 Olympian. Clark and new teammate, Sarah Lihan, will be making a run at the 2012 Olympics in London. In May, the duo will head to Weymouth, England, to practice out of the Olympic venue.

For more on Camp Quinipet’s programs, go to: www.quinipet.org; for the US Sailing announcement about Nissen, go to: http://media.ussailing.org/Sailor_of_the_Week/2011/Sailor_of_the_Week_-_January_2011.htm.



Greg Nissen at the July dedication of Quinipet’s new welcome center.



A Giving Tree

Being the hands and feet of Jesus, the congregation of Community UMC in Massapequa, N.Y., have decorated their sanctuary tree for the past three Christmases with hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens, as well as placed winter coats under the tree. All of the winterwear collected goes to the Long Island Council of Churches for distribution. This past Christmas they collected more items than ever before. Also during 2010, CUMC donated 502 bags of food items to the LICC emergency food pantry in Freeport, N.Y.

Leaning on God For All Our Live Long Days

BY JIM STINSON
Consultant on Older
Adult Ministries

My mom had a spirit that never gave up. She was game for anything that came her way. If there were a laugh to be found, she would find it. If one day brought unexpected trouble she would say, "Oh well, tomorrow is another day." She worried little if at all. She was a joy to be with, as evidenced by the number of friends she had.

My dad, on the other hand, was not as easy going. He worried a lot, did not laugh as often as she did. People liked and respected him, but he did not have close friends. Partly because he always worked two jobs, and partly because he did not make friends easily. One of my lasting memories of him is a



statement he made many times, especially as he grew older. "I don't know if I've lived too long or if I haven't lived long enough." As the world changed, he wasn't sure the changes were good and he feared where they might lead. My mother, however, thought there was possibility in every change.

In ways I am still coming to realize, their approach to life and its changes has influenced and is influencing my life. Their approach left me with a clear choice. Embrace life as it comes and expect the best or fret about it and worry about where it will lead.

My mother never

said, "Maybe I've lived too long." Life, even when its events led her to live in a nursing home, found her ready for more. Even when afflicted with dementia and early Alzheimer's disease, she seemingly enjoyed her days, so deeply ingrained was the attitude of welcoming each new day. My father, on the other hand, died young. We never knew how he would deal with aging. My guess is that it would have been with the attitude, "Maybe I've lived too long."

As Christians, we have a teacher who never shied away from the reality of life. We have a teacher who always chose life as it came, not always placidly with an attitude of fatalism and resignation, but rather with the certainty that God would accompany

him at all times. He never wondered if he had lived too long, always assuming God had a purpose for his life no matter where it led. As those who engage in ministry with and to older adults, we are called to faithfully remind them that Jesus had it right, God always accompanies them regardless their situation. We have to continually challenge them to see the possibilities if they hear God, in Jesus, speaking the words, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." We have to challenge them to faithfully see each new day as God's choice for them. We are called to help them see they have not lived long enough.

A tough assignment? Yes, it is. But a faithful witness? Yes, it is!

NBC Special Focuses on Efforts Against Malaria

UMNS—On both sides of the ocean, people are working to end a disease that takes the life of a child every 45 seconds. An NBC special TV program, "A Killer in the Dark: An Extraordinary Effort to Combat Malaria," discusses efforts being undertaken by United Methodists and others to achieve this goal. Presented by the

National Council of Churches and produced by United Methodist Communications, the program will be available to local NBC affiliates starting May 1. Church members can contact their local stations and ask them to schedule "A Killer in the Dark." For more information, go to: <http://www.interfaithbroadcasting.com>

“Whole & Holy” Retreat For Women April 1-2

Come and experience a mighty move of God on an overnight retreat at the Inn at Pocono Manor, sponsored by the Women’s Ministry of Fenimore Street UMC, Brooklyn. Bishop Violet L. Fisher is the guest speaker for “Whole, Holy and Filled with the Holy Ghost,” and all women from throughout the conference are invited to attend the April 1-2 event.

Bishop Fisher was the first African-American woman to be elected to the episcopacy in the Northeast Jurisdiction of the

United Methodist Church. She served as bishop of the Western and North Central New York Annual Conferences from 2000 to 2008. Bishop Fisher will also be the preacher for the ordination and commissioning service at Annual Conference, as well as the speaker for the Saturday mission celebration.

A bus will leave from Fenimore UMC at noon April 1, and return to the church on Saturday, April 2, by 5 p.m. You may also arrange for your own transportation to the inn

on Route 314, One Manor Drive, Pocono Manor, Penn.

Please reserve your space now by sending a \$50 deposit check, made payable to Fenimore St. UMC, 276 Fenimore St., Brooklyn, NY 11225. The price includes transportation, meals, accommodations and conference materials. Double rooms are \$270 per person, triples \$250 pp, and quads \$240 pp. For more information and questions, contact Andrea Smith at 718-469-8816, or email, fenimorestreet@aol.com.

Elders Retreat Offers Scripture, Music Combo

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kah-Jin Kuan, new dean of Drew Theological School, and composer/professor Mark A. Miller will speak at the Order of Elders spring retreat May 9-12 at Mount St. Alphonsus. This gathering is open to all clergy members of the New York Annual Conference, and is an opportunity to earn 1.3 points of continuing education credit.

Kuan came to Drew from the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union, both in Berkeley, Calif. He served on the Old Testament faculty of both institutions.

As the new leader at Drew, Kuan looks forward to meeting the pastors of the NYAC. Under the theme, “Thinking and Rethinking about God,” Dr. Kuan will explore the Book of Job and use contextual hermeneutics to



Mark A. Miller, left, and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kah-Jin Kuan will each share a bit of their expertise at the elders’ retreat

re-think the scripture in light of divergent socio-cultural locations.

Miller teaches sacred music and worship at Drew and Yale University. Since 1997, he has performed concerts and directed conferences at churches both internationally and across the United States. Miller directed music at the 2008 General Conference of the UMC.

Under the topic, “Leading UM

Music & Worship in the 21st Century: a Postmodern Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Generational Mashup,” Miller will introduce resources to assist liturgical leaders in creating a broader vision of the beloved community in worship. Miller promises spirit-filled singing, love-infused laughter and soulful revival!

Room rates for the retreat vary from \$250 to \$310, depending on occupancy and reservation date. There are discounts for retired clergy and those serving less than fulltime; scholarships of \$125 are also available. Single occupancy at the retreat center in Esopus, N.Y., is limited this year. For the reservation form, go to: <http://nyac.com/events/detail/2703>. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Constance Pak at 631-588-5856, or pastorconstance@msn.com.

Outrage, Praise on Gay Clergy Proposal

A UMNS REPORT

A call from 36 retired bishops for The United Methodist Church to eliminate its ban on gay and lesbian clergy has outraged some members and encouraged others.

In the past month, United Methodist-related groups on both sides of the ordination dispute have issued strong responses.

The retired bishops' statement has focused new attention on the issue as the church approaches the one-year countdown to its 2012 lawmaking assembly. When bishops talk, people tend to listen.

Condemnation and praise

When the retired bishops issued their Jan. 31 statement, the first responses came from fellow bishops. Some expressed support and others disappointment, but all of them affirmed their commitment to uphold church law.

Other United Methodists are also having their say.

The Renewal and Reform Coalition, representing six unofficial evangelical renewal caucuses in the denomination, called the bishops' document "woefully inadequate" in a Feb. 17 statement.

The retired bishops did not address "the clear pronouncements of Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments and almost 2,000 years of Christian history," the coalition said. "The teaching of The United Methodist Church on human sexuality is consistent with the teaching of the church

universal."

However, the retired bishops received an "Amen!" from the Common Witness Coalition, which encompasses three unofficial church caucuses that advocate for greater inclusion of gay and lesbian members.

In a Feb. 25 statement, the coalition said it hoped the bishops' call will become "a catalyst for a new 'watershed moment' in the life of the United Methodist Church!"

The Black Methodists for Church Renewal, an official caucus for black United Methodists, also endorsed the retired bishops' statement at its annual meeting on Feb. 25, though the vote was not unanimous. The other ethnic caucuses have not officially weighed in on the retired bishops' statement.

The Book of Discipline, the United Methodist law book, states that, "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed

practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

The retired bishops' Statement of Counsel to the Church asks that this passage be removed. About 42 percent of the denomination's 85 retired bishops have signed the statement.

Only General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body, can change the Book of Discipline.

The subject of homosexuality has sparked discussion at each quadrennial General Conference since 1972, and delegates consistently have voted to keep the restriction. Neither active nor retired bishops are allowed to vote at the gathering.

But both supporters and opponents of the church's current stand expect the topic to surface again when General Conference next meets April 24–May 4, 2012, in Tampa, Fla.

Exploring Cross-Racial Ministry

May 16–18: "Facing the Future: Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Appointments in a Global Church," is planned for May 16–18 in Los Angeles. The General Commission on Religion and Race, and the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry are sponsoring the event featuring special learning tracks designed for bishops and cabinets, boards of Ordained Ministries, clergy and laity. Former NYAC Bishop Ernest S. Lyght is a key presenter. Regular registration from March 1 to April 15 is \$300. For basic information about the schedule, event presenters, and pre-event activities, go to www.gcorr.org/crccevent.

St. Stephen's Renovation Earns Moses Award

The restoration of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in the Bronx has won a prestigious Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, the New York Landmarks Conservancy's highest honors for outstanding preservation efforts.

The exterior work on the 111-year-old church in the Marble Hill neighborhood of the Bronx was completed and celebrated in a rededication service in October 2010. The church raised more than \$60,000 for the project, and the Park Avenue UMC Trust Fund and the United Methodist City Society donated \$150,000 each. Rev. Nathaniel Dixon is the church's pastor.

Named in honor of philanthropist Lucy G. Moses, the preservation awards recognize the property owners, builders, architects, artisans, and designers who renew the beauty and utility of New York City's distinctive architecture. The annual awards celebrate the role of historic preservation in the economic, social, and cultural vitality of the city. Preservation Awards are given to projects that demonstrate excellence in the restoration, preservation, or

adaptive use of historic buildings, streetscapes, and landscapes that preserve commercial, residential, institutional, religious, and public buildings. Other categories include community groups or organizations that foster neighborhood revitalization. The Preservation Leadership Award is given to an outstanding individual in the field of historic preservation.

The awards will be presented in a ceremony at 6 p.m., April 27, at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 46 West 16th St., Manhattan. Tickets for the ceremony, and the reception following are \$50, and may be purchased via the internet at http://www.nylandmarks.org/events/moses_awards/, by email from Meral Agish at MeralAgish@NYLandmarks.org, or by calling 212-995-5260.

Individual Moses winners

Preservation Leadership: J. Winthrop Aldrich, former deputy commissioner for Historic Preservation, New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Public Leadership: Anne van Ingen, former director of the New

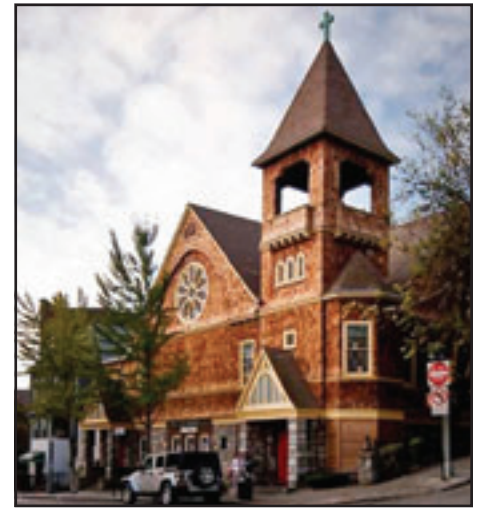


PHOTO BY KARSTEN MORAN

The restoration of the front and northwest sides of St. Stephen's UMC was celebrated in October.

York State Council on the Arts' architecture, planning and design program.

Other project winners

Queen of Greene; 614 Courtlandt Street, Bronx; Belasco Theater; Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, Governors Island; the Knox Building; Liberty Tower; New York Public Library; PS 90 Condominium; Our Lady of the Rosary Mission-Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Church of St. Francis Xavier; and Surrogate's Court-Hall of Records.

Time for Holy Conferencing

June 8–11: Under the theme, "For Such A Time as This: We Are Heart-Warmed United Methodists in Mission," the NYAC will meet at Hofstra University. For information on registration, see the story on Page 1, or go to: <http://www.nyac.com/pages/detail/1641>.

OBITUARIES

Margie Oakes

Martha "Margie" Jane Cheeks Oakes, died March 2 in Prattsville, N.Y., at age 56. She was the wife of Rev. Elliott Oakes, pastor of the Prattsville and Lexington-Westkill United Methodist churches.

In addition to her husband of 33 years, she is survived by daughters Dana Margaret (David) Oakes-Sand of Winstead, Conn., and Emily Victoria (Kim) Mead of Oneonta, N.Y. Also surviving are six grandchildren; two sisters, Bobbie Nicholson and Sue Potts; and two brothers, Cecil Cheeks and Benny Cheeks.

A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 19 at the Prattsville UMC, with a reception to follow at the Lexington-Westkill UMC in Lexington, N.Y. Pastors Peg Van Siclen and Shelly Vamosy, and Rev. Dottie Morris will conduct the service.

Expressions of concern may be sent to: Rev. Elliott Oakes, PO Box 248, Prattsville, NY 12468. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to continue Mrs. Oakes community food banks may be sent to: Margie's Kitchen, c/o Prattsville UMC, 14464 Main St., Prattsville, NY 12468.

Lorla Nothdurft

Lorla Nothdurft, wife of the late Rev. Ivan Nothdurft, died February 22, in Overland Park, Kan. She was 92.

She is survived by two

daughters, Jane (William) Rall of Rockville, Md., and Marjorie (Charles) Pryor of Overland Park, Kan.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter, Sally Marie Galion.

Her husband, who died in December 1998, served in the New York Conference in extension ministry with the American Bible Society until his retirement in 1982. Prior to this, he served as a missionary in Bolivia and Peru.

A funeral service was held in Overland Park, on February 25, and was followed by interment in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Jane Rall, 6 Bentley Court, Rockville, MD 20850. Memorial gifts may be given to: the American Bible Society, 1365 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, or the General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

Rev. Merritt B. Queen

Rev. Merritt B. Queen, 95, died February 2 in Groton, N.Y. He served under the New York Conference at the following churches: St. Paul and St. Andrew, Woodycrest, Irvington, Maspeth, Southampton, Pound Ridge and Selleck Corners, and Roslyn. He continued to serve in extension ministry and was associate professor of Scaritt College, Department of Christian Education, an adjunct of Hofstra

College, and president of Career Resources Foundation. He retired in 1980.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothea; a daughter, Bethany Queen of Ithaca, N.Y.; and two sons, Christopher (Alys) Queen of Wendell, Mass., and Jeffrey (Christina) Queen of Miltitis, Calif.; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild..

A celebration of life and resurrection is being planned for May 2011, at the Forest Home Chapel UMC in Ithaca. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Mrs. Dorothy Queen, 520 Champlin Road, Groton, NY 13073. Memorial gifts may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104.

Rev. Dr. R. Marston Speight

Rev. Dr. R. Marston Speight, who served in extension ministries in Tunisia and Algeria under the General Board of Global Ministries, died on January 19, at age 86. He also served as director of the office of Christian-Muslim Relations under the National Council of Churches.

Speight is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth; and a brother, A. Garland Speight, Georgetown, Texas. His son, Jonathan W. Speight, died in April 2010.

A service of death and

Continued on page 19

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 18

resurrection was held January 29 at First UMC of Middletown, Middletown, Conn., with the Rev. Stefanie Bennett officiating.

Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Elizabeth Speight, 52 Missionary Road, Apt 4302, Cromwell, CT 06416. Memorial donations may be made to: First UMC of Middletown, 24 Old Church St., Middletown, CT 06457; or UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087.

Rev. Julian Hartt

Rev. Julian Hartt, who had served the Cheshire, Conn., UMC, died in Greenfield, Mass., on November 29, 2010. Hartt, who was 99, held the Noah Porter professorship of philosophical theology at Yale Divinity School, and occupied the William Kenan, Jr. chair of religious studies at the University of Virginia before retiring in 1981.

Rev. Hartt is survived by his wife, Elinor N. Hartt, and three children: Beverly Ann Gouaux of Denton, Texas, Susan L. Hartt of Hamden, Conn., and Julian N. Hartt, Jr. of West Hartford, Conn. Also surviving are two grandsons, three stepchildren and three step-grandchildren as well as a sister, Betty Strand, of Sagle, Idaho. He

was predeceased by his first wife of 50 years, Neva Beverly.

A memorial service was held at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield on December 18. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Elinor Hartt, Buckley Health Center, 95 Laurel St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

Rev. Robert A. Traina

A retired professor and pastor, Rev. Robert A. Traina, died November 9, 2010, in Wilmore, Ky., at age 89. Rev. Traina served under the New York Conference as professor of English Bible at the Biblical Seminary of New York, and professor of English Bible and vice president of academic administration at Asbury Theology Seminary, Wilmore, Ky. He retired in 1988.

Rev. Traina is survived by a son, Robert (Glenna) Traina; and two daughters, Jan (Len) Worfford and Judy (Marty) Seitz of Wilmore, Ky. Seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren also survive, in addition to three sisters and one brother. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane.

A small graveside service was held on November 13, 2010, with a memorial service following at Estes Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary.

Expressions of concern may be sent to: Ms. Judy Seitz, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390. Memorial gifts may be sent either to the Salvation Army, 2615 Grant Ave., Ogden, UT 84401; or The Bible League International, PO Box 2800, Chicago, IL 60628.

Sylvia Dietlin

Sylvia Dietlin, wife of retired Pastor John Olofson, died at age 77 on November 23, 2010, in Farmington, Conn.

In addition to her husband, Dietlin is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth (Richard) Collins of Simsbury, Conn., and Nancy Dietlin of Darien, Conn.; and two grandchildren.

Rev. Olofson served in the New York Annual Conference at Darien, Westville, Pound Ridge and Selleck Corners, Simsbury, Round Hill, Nichols, Valhalla, Canton and Washington Hill before retiring in 1995.

A memorial service was held at Simsbury UMC on December 4. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. John Olofson, 100 Sarah Lane, Apt 102, Simsbury, CT 06070. Memorial gifts may be given to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson Research, PO Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780.

UMC Donates to Native American Center

The United Methodist Church has donated \$50,000 to the National Park Service for the development of the Sand Creek Massacre Learning Center. Located in Eads, Colo. near the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, the center will feature education materials to help visitors understand the impact of the massacre and its relationship to contemporary issues worldwide.

“The Sand Creek National Historic Site is a sacred place,” said the Rev. Stephen Sidorak, general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, a UM agency with offices in New York. “I am proud that the church is providing seed money that will

be matched by the National Park Service. This history needs to be told.”

The United Methodist Church has a shocking connection to Sand Creek. On Nov. 29, 1864, Colonel John Chivington, a Methodist minister, led the attack on a Cheyenne and Arapaho encampment along the banks of Sand Creek. At least 165 were killed, mostly women, children and the elderly.

In 1996, The United Methodist General Conference, the denomination’s top legislative body, expressed regret for the Sand Creek Massacre and issued an apology for the “actions of a prominent Methodist.” The donation to the Sand Creek Massacre Learning Center was

authorized in 2008.

“This effort is only a single step in a very complex and emotional journey for our church,” said Sidorak. “We have played an unfortunate role in history in regards to Native Americans and our recognition of our involvement is long overdue.”

The United Methodist Church is also preparing for an Act of Repentance to Indigenous Persons to take place at its 2012 General Conference in Tampa. The service is intended to be an acknowledgment of wrongs done to indigenous persons and the beginning of a process to heal relationships between indigenous communities and the church.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.gccuic-umc.org>.

Fundraising Dinner May 19 for Anchor House

Anchor House, a Christ-centered substance abuse program for men and women, will hold its annual fundraising banquet on May 19, at the Grand Prospect Hall in Brooklyn.

For more than 40 years, the ministry of Anchor House has helped rescue men and women that are trapped in a web of despair and addiction. Their work to reach those that society once considered “hopeless cases” is dependent upon the financial backing and prayers of their supporters.

Pastor Damian Smeragliuolo, senior pastor and founder of Lighthouse Tabernacle Church in Staten Island, will be the featured speaker at the 6 p.m. event. Pastor Smeragliuolo’s weekly sermons are

broadcast on Staten Island’s local cable TV station.

Tickets are \$70 per person; to reserve tickets, call Emily Falero at 718-771-0760. If you are unable to attend this special event, you may still send a much needed contribution to: Anchor House, 1041-47 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11216-3372. Or you may wish to sponsor a table or any number of tickets, enabling the men and women of Anchor House to attend. All checks should be made out to: Anchor House.

Anchor House is also available to minister at your church. For information, contact Falero at the phone number above, or by email at: efalero@anchorhouseinc.com.