

*"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

August 19, 2011

## 9-11 Response: Putting Faith Into Action



UMNS FILE PHOTO

**In this October 2001 photo, Rev. Chuck Ferrara stands in front of John Street UMC in New York, a few blocks from where he served as a chaplain at Ground Zero from September to December 2001.**

**BY CHUCK FERRARA**  
Senior Pastor, New Life  
Community Church UM

In writing this piece for our conference paper, *The Vision*, I would like to quote a passage from a book I wrote for police officers following September 11, 2001, "Beyond the Badge: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Cops and Their Families."

"I could have been an astronaut standing on the dusty surface of the moon, but it was actually the most expensive piece of real estate in the entire world. My feet rested on the powdery top landing of a subway entrance in the Wall Street District of New York City. People were walking around with surgical masks over their noses and mouths. There was a haze of smoke and white dust in the air with a beam of

sunlight running through that gave me the impression I had entered heaven, but the surroundings and expressions on the faces of the people made it look more like I was about to enter hell.

As I made my way through National Guard and police checkpoints displaying my retired NYPD identification card, it wasn't long before I stood at the base of a huge pile of debris that once made up the two great towers of the World Trade Center. I knew this place like the

back of my hand. I had worked its streets as a cop and supervisor. But I could not recognize the subtlest sign of the picture I had etched in my brain of what it should have looked like. I

**Continued on page 5**



## VBS Kids Serve Up God's Love

**BY REV. BETTE JOHNSON SOHM**  
New Paltz UMC

This summer New Paltz United Methodist Church teamed with The Caring Hands Soup Kitchen at Clinton Avenue UMC in Kingston and the conference in creating an incredible vacation bible school experience through the conference's "VBS on the Road" program. It was a great experience, and a wonderful benefit of a connectional church.

New Paltz saw an ad in *The Vision*, inviting

churches to be a part of the VBS on the Road program. We contacted Ann Pearson and found out that the conference was ready to supply us with a starter kit for VBS, loan us various decorating items that help to make the program visually appealing but also expensive, give us other materials (like the coordinating name tags), reimburse our expenses for up to \$300, and supply us with a coach, who would work with us through the summer on VBS and

**Continued on page 3**



**These milkshake-like crafts were a big hit at the "Shake it Up Café" VBS at New Paltz UMC.**

**Lockward Elected / 5**

**Connectional Changes / 6**

**Kingswood Site / 7**



### 9/11: Afternoon of Worship Through Music

“Our Vision, Our Voice, Our Victory,” a Christian Women On The Move concert featuring the Shepherd Singers. 3:30 p.m., Freeport UMC, 46 Pine St., Freeport, N.Y. 11520. Tickets: \$25; for more information call: 516-378-0659.

### Starting 9/12: PowerPoint for Clergy

Three series of four workshops for clergy will be at the Learning Center in the conference offices in White Plains, N.Y. Prerequisites are a working knowledge of word processing, and a laptop with Microsoft PowerPoint already installed. Instructors are Susan Sungsil Kim and Joonki Kim. To register, go to <http://nyac.com/events/detail/3509>.

- Mondays, 2–4 p.m., September 12, 19, 26 and October 3
- Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, September 13, 20, 27 and October 4
- Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

### 9/14–11/30: School of Healing Prayer at Oratory

This 12-week, level 1 course provides a foundational, practical approach for prayer ministry, and offers a scriptural basis for God’s gift of healing prayer. Meets from 6–8 p.m., at the Oratory of the Little Way, and uses the newly revised material of Frances and Judith McNutt, founders of the School of Healing Prayer in Florida. Registration: \$120 plus \$30 for manual; payment plans available. To register: call 860-354-8294, or email: [oratory1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oratory1@sbcglobal.net). For more information on the oratory in Gaylordsville, Conn., go to: [www.oratoryhealing.org](http://www.oratoryhealing.org).

### 9/25: Installation of Rev. Ott

Rev. Elizabeth (Betsy) Ott will be installed as the New York/Connecticut District superintendent, 4 p.m. at Grace UMC, Newburgh, N.Y.

### 9/27: General Conference Petitions Due

The final day to submit petitions to the Petitions Secretary for consideration at the UMC’s 2012 General Conference in Tampa, April 24–May 4. Detailed instructions for submitting a petition are available on the General Conference website at [www.gc2012.umc.org](http://www.gc2012.umc.org).

### 9/28-10/2: Evangelism Explosion

St. John’s UMC of Elmont is sponsoring this event with biblical storyteller Dennis Dewey. Activities included revival preaching at 7 p.m. on Wednesday–Friday; Dewey will preach Friday. On Saturday is a \$40 biblical story-telling workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and worship again at 7 p.m. Two worship services are planned for Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The church is at 2105 Stuart Ave., Valley Stream, NY. For more info call the church at 516-285-6003, email [stjohnum@optonline.net](mailto:stjohnum@optonline.net), or check the web site: [www.stjohnumce.org](http://www.stjohnumce.org).

### 10/2: Installation of Rev. Samuel

Rev. St. Clair Samuel will be installed as the Metropolitan District superintendent; time and place to be announced.

### 10/5–8: Pastors & Leaders Empowerment

This conference & retreat is the first to be held at Springfield Gardens UMC as a Congregational Resource Center under Strengthening the Church for the 21st Century ([www.sbc21.org](http://www.sbc21.org)). You are invited to participate in exuberant worship, innovative and practical teaching, and authentic discipleship. The workshops are designed to address real issues; speakers will include: UMC Bishop James Swanson, Rev. Dr. Floyd Flake, UCC Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop David G. Evans, Dr. Dale Irvin, and Rev. Kirk D. Lyons Sr. Location is the LaGuardia Plaza Hotel, 104-04 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst NY 11369. For registration and housing information, go to: <http://www.plecr2011.org/>. Regular registration ends August 31; there are special rates for students and couples. For additional information, please contact: Alonye Henry at Springfield Gardens UMC, 718-528-7267 ext. 207, or [www.sgumcny.org/](http://www.sgumcny.org/).

### 10/13: Order of Elders 2011 Clergy Day Apart

The retreat will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Memorial/Central Korean UMC, 250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, NY.

Continued on page 9

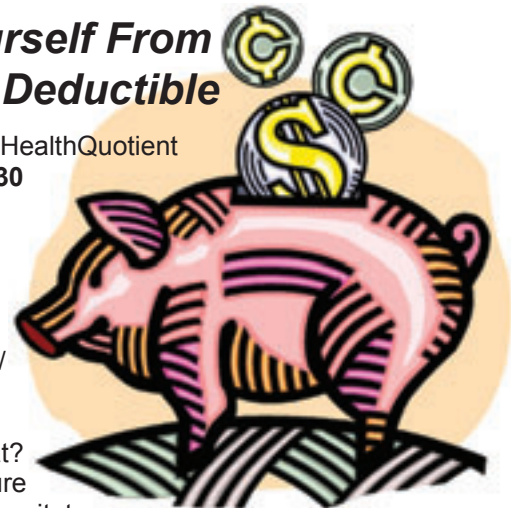
## Save Yourself From A Higher Deductible

Take the online HealthQuotient  
by **September 30**

and keep those  
extra dollars in  
your own piggy!

Why pay a  
deductible of  
\$500 individual /  
\$1000 family in  
2012 when you  
can pay half that?  
Please make sure  
your spouse takes it, too.

Go to: [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org), and click on HealthFlex/WebMD.  
Don’t say we didn’t warn you!



# The Vision

The News of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

**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](http://www.nyac.com)  
 Vision e-mail: [thevision@nyac.com](mailto:thevision@nyac.com)

# VBS Kids Cook Up Love for Soup Kitchen

Continued from page 1

the coming year on Sunday School. What they asked in return was a commitment from us to use this as an opportunity to work on outreach to the community with special events and a new look at how we do Sunday School.

New Paltz had not done VBS in a number of years, and we didn't know what sort of turnout we would have. But we did know that there were a number of unchurched kids, and this would be an opportunity to reach out. We gathered in March to talk about what we might do. The VBS program was called the "Shake it Up Café," and featured a cooking motif. It was planned for kids to work through the various stations. We were not sure we wanted to use it the way it was written, and our coach, Cassandra Negri from the Vails Gate UMC, helped us to figure out how to adapt it. As we set priorities, we realized we wanted a larger focus on the mission component. We decided to give it its own station.

Linda Mellor, our compass point for mission at New Paltz (she has gone to Bolivia in 2010 and Haiti this past June) helped us discern a way of involving some real hands-on mission work: each night our kids would help make a meal that would go to the Caring Hands Soup Kitchen the next day. We contacted the pastor of Clinton Ave., Rev. Darlene Kelley, who was delighted to receive this gift; she started working with us immediately on the details. We also were given the opportunity to do a photo display on the people who are served by the soup kitchen: a show that was exhibited at Annual Conference a few years ago.

The experience was amazing all the way around. We started our recruitment at a town-wide yard sale on Memorial Day weekend by setting up a table where kids could try their hand at building a snack, an ability that earned them the opportunity to register for VBS.

We started small, with just a handful of volunteers, and none of us were sure it would gel. But God provided 26 people who worked on VBS this year, from hands-on leading the children (or hands-in, in the case of the Scraps the Raccoon puppet!) to those who helped setup, register the kids, prepare food, and simply be the face of the church to children and parents alike. We had 14 children participate.

VBS was a success. The kids really enjoyed their time with us. But beyond that, they did meaningful work—making food to feed the hungry. We found some of the older kids studying the faces of the photo display, wanting to know more about the people before them. Rev. Kelley visited with us on Wednesday night, and invited everyone to come the following



Some of the 14 children and 26 volunteers, above, at the New Paltz UMC gather in front of the "Shake It Up Café" set that was on loan from the conference's VBS on the Road program. Below, two of the VBS "chefs" prepare to serve up food they made for The Caring Hands Soup Kitchen at the Clinton Ave. UMC in Kingston.



day to visit Caring Hands (this was planned in advance).

The next day one of the youth and several adults traveled to Kingston to meet the people of the community. It was profoundly moving, when that night at VBS we shared our experiences, and one after another pointed out faces in the photo display, naming those with whom we sat and shared.

At the end of all this, we packed up the loaned materials and sent them to Newburgh,



the next church on the list. But this just begins the year for us, as we will have the opportunity to meet with our coach and explore how to bring the Word of God to this portion of God's family.

We have heard that there were few churches taking advantage of this program. I am not sure why: this has been a wonderful gift. If you considered it and then decided against it for fear that it would be too onerous a job, please let me assure you that it is well worth the time investment.

# Prayer, Recognition & Hope Frame 9-11 Plans

When the world marks the 10th anniversary next month of the bombing of the World Trade Centers, the event will be deeply felt throughout our conference. Here's a list of what some of our NYAC churches and their communities are planning (in no particular order):

## Church of The Village

During both our services, namely the 10 a.m. Spanish worship at our East Village location, 48 St. Marks Place, and the 10:30 a.m. English worship at our West Village location at 13th and 7th Avenue, opportunities for "Remembrance and Hope" will be offered in special music and dance, prayer and witness, and word.—*Bishop Johnson*

## United Ministry of Delhi

We will dedicate a new Peace Pole, which will go in the garden near our church entry. The hexagon-shaped pole features the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 12 languages. We will have a prayer service as well, and probably participate in a remembrance service at SUNY Delhi.—*Rev. Martha E. Vink*

## Windham-Hensonville/Ashland Community

Our charge is planning a joint worship/remembrance service at the Windham-Hensonville church at the special time of 9:11 a.m. Our message for the day is centered on the strength we find in Christ to "Press On" in any struggle or tragedy we face. Our joint chancel choir will sing, as will soloist, Diane Cross, and the Sacred Dancers will bless us dancing to "Press On" by Selah. Opportunities will be given for personal witness and prayer concerns.—*Rev. Dick Lenz*

## UMC of Floral Park

We will hold an ecumenical service of remembrance at 2 p.m.; participating in the service will be St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church. Village officials and fire department personnel from Floral Park and South Floral Park will also attend.—*Pastor Gainus Sikes*

## Ghana UMC Bronx

We will organize a memorial service to

remember those who lost their lives and pray for their families. We will also pray for those who were injured. And we will be participating in a community remembrance.—*Rev. Samuel E. Nketsia*

## Narrowsburg UMC

We will be participating in the Eldred UMC (Greater New Jersey Conference) Ecumenical Celebration of Remembrance at 2 p.m., Sunday. All local churches, fire departments, police, constables and the ambulance corps from the Town of Highland, N.Y. will be participating.—*Rev. Linda Bohs*

## Stony Brook Community Church and Setauket UMC

Both churches will participate in an Interfaith Service of Memory and Hope at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at Setauket Presbyterian

Church. Pastors Elizabeth Braddon and Sandy Mantz will be two of several leaders in the service, which is sponsored by the Three Village Interfaith Clergy Association.—*Rev. Elizabeth A. Braddon*

## The Federated Church of Kerhonkson

We are holding a memorial service open to the community. Afterwards we will walk from the church to the memorial plaque, and will continue with prayers, recollections and hymns. This time is a joint effort by the Kerhonkson Fire Department, the Friends of Kerhonkson, and the church.—*Pastor John LeCain*

## First & Summerfield UMC

We will focus on interfaith dialogue in our 10 a.m. Sunday worship and offer prayers for peace. Our congregation is a member congregation with Interfaith Cooperative Ministries of Greater New Haven and there will be a prayer service on the New Haven Green at 4 p.m. There will also be a 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Gathering at Yale University for students, staff, faculty, and the wider community.—*Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling*

## Memorial UMC, White Plains

This will be an interfaith service to which the entire community is invited. We have asked church members Orlando and Phylis Rodriguez to be our speakers that day. Their son, Greg,

perished in the Trade Towers on September 11. We will include members and clergy from Kol Ami synagogue and the Islamic community. It should also be noted that Al Jazeera is producing a feature that highlights the witness and lives of the Rodriguez family.—*Rev. Larry Duane Pickens*

## Sea Cliff UMC

Mention of the anniversary will be a part of the regular worship services. Additionally, we have purposely scheduled our "welcome back" picnic for that day—as we will be aware that we are here for people in all phases of their lives. The focus will be a quiet remembrance of what did occur on that day, and on the families that were ripped apart.—*Rev. Kirt Watkins*

## Aldersgate UMC, Dobbs Ferry

We will share our stories because everyone would remember where they were, and what they were doing 10 years ago.—*Rev. Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon*

## Drew UMC

The church has a full weekend of activities. A praise band and pizza party will unite our folks on Friday. On Saturday, we'll hold our second Day of Service with our members out working in the community, followed by light meal and our regular laity-led Saturday evening worship. An ecumenical gathering is being organized for Sunday to remember those who died in this tragic event 10 years ago, and to recognize first responders.

## UMC New Canaan

The church will join with area congregations for an Interfaith Service of Remembrance at 5 p.m. The focus of the service will be looking forward in faith and will involve a combined choir and various readings from differing faith traditions.—*Rev. Eric Fjedal*

## Community UMC, Jackson Heights

In collaboration with Community Board 3, we're organizing a memorial dedication service, which includes a procession to the place of the service. We will also open our doors to the community for prayer from 3–6 p.m.—*Rev. Delois Davis*

## New Life Community Church

Every year since 2001, our church has honored first responders and members of our military. We have recognized returning National Guard units, wounded warriors, police officers,

Continued on page 7



# 9-11 Response: Putting Faith Into Action

Continued from page 1

kept thinking this could not be the site of the World Trade Center. What inhumane act of terror could justify what I was looking at? It was as if Armageddon had begun—and its starting place was not in the Megiddo Valley in Israel, but on the southern tip of the Island of Manhattan.

Firefighters and police officers were walking around in a daze suffering from shock, grief, and sleep deprivation. ‘Hi Father,’ one fatigued firefighter said to me with a glance in my direction. I had almost forgotten that I was wearing a black clerical shirt with white collar.

New York City is my beloved city. It is where four generations of my family grew up. It is where I played stickball, pitched pennies, and went to school. It is where my father was born, where I was born, and where my children were born. It is where I enlisted in the Army to serve my country during the Viet Nam conflict. It was on these streets I had the privilege of serving in the greatest police department in the world.

I had traveled down to Ground Zero in the hopes of doing something constructive—something to help this tragic situation that had struck our nation. Now that I was there, no longer watching it on CNN or CNBC, I stood on a battlefield where our president made a declaration of war against terrorism. I stood on a site that was so horrendous, yet it felt like holy ground at the same time. I couldn’t help but wonder what I could possibly offer these guys in the form of hope and encouragement. I felt so ill-equipped, so inadequate for the task at hand. If I were a cop again, I could help dig, give directions, set up a temporary headquarters—everything a cop or emergency services worker instinctively does. But I was in a different place. I was a man of the cloth, a representative of God in the midst of what had every indication of godlessness.

Starting at what became known as ‘the pile’ with a sense of grief, pain, rage, and helplessness running through me—I considered returning home, wondering what possible good could I lend to

such an enormous disaster. In that moment, I was reminded of a verse from the Bible, *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4:16).

I was given a whole new sense of hope and purpose from that moment on. I felt called to be an extension of God’s love to the men and women who were in such anguish. Leaving the site that night, after members of the Red Cross cleaned the dust from my shoes at the washing station, I looked back from Ground Zero at all the years God kept his hand on me, perhaps for that very moment in time.”

Over the next three months serving as a police chaplain at Ground Zero, I believe I was far more blessed than I blessed others. What I learned was to practice the ministry of presence. The firefighters, police officers, ironworkers and others were not looking for verbal mini-sermons, but rather sermons acted out without speaking a word. I wish I had a dollar for every cop and fireman I just hugged and allowed to weep into my chest. My Ground Zero experience revealed to me the very best our nation is capable of delivering. It wasn’t about Democrats or Republicans, Evangelicals or Progressives—it was about serving your neighbor, sharing God’s love through action—putting faith into practice. The number of volunteers from around the country and world was staggering—all of them just wanting to lighten the load of New Yorkers. It was so heartwarming, even in the midst of such a great loss and tragedy. I occasionally see signs that read, “9-11: We Will Never Forget”. Whether that is true or not, I cannot judge or say. But I can speak for myself—I will never forget for as long as I live.

*Ferrara, a retired NYPD lieutenant, has served churches in the New York Annual Conference since 1988. He sensed a call to the ministry in the mid-1980s after nearly 15 years in the police department.*

## Lockward Elected to World Methodist Post

Dr. Jorge Lockward was elected chairperson of the Worship and Liturgy Committee of the World Methodist Council during the group’s early August meeting in Durban, South Africa. Lockward, who has served as worship coordinator for the New York Conference’s annual gathering, is the Global Praise program director for the General Board of Global Ministries. He is also part of the leadership team for New Day UMC in the Bronx.

The World Methodist Council is a worldwide association of churches in the Methodist tradition that promotes unity, evangelism, mission, and social justice, and suggests priorities in Methodist activity.

At their meeting from August 1–3, the World Council also voted on new officers, including the first African general secretary, Bishop Ivan Abrahams, who is the presiding Bishop

of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. They also accepted into the membership three new churches: the Methodist Churches of The Gambia, the Methodist Churches of Nepal, and the Tanzanian Methodist Churches. The World Methodist Council, which meets every five years, is made up of 77 member churches in 135 countries and represents 75 million people.

The council’s meeting immediately preceded the 20th World Methodist Conference that welcomed 1,826 registrants from 58 countries, including a delegation from the NYAC. The conference focus was “Jesus Christ, for the healing of the nations.”

Conference Lay Leader Renata Smith has promised a report from her trip to South Africa for the September issue of *The Vision*. For more information about the council or the conference, go to <http://bit.ly/o8VgCd>.



**The NYAC’s Jorge Lockward, left, and Rafael Moreno-Rivas of Puerto Rico discuss drumming at the World Methodist Council meeting.**

# Connectional Table Recommends Big Change

## UMNS REPORT

Members of the Connectional Table, meeting July 25–28, endorsed five proposals that would change the United Methodist Church's structure and potentially its funding.

East Ohio Area Bishop John L. Hopkins, the Connectional Table's chairperson, called the proposals "far-reaching."

"What we're trying to do is simplify the church and integrate it more," he said. He added that the changes are intended to help the general church's programs and resources better serve the needs of annual (regional) conferences and local churches.

The proposals are the result of the church's Call to Action process, adopted by the denomination's Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table in their fall 2010 meetings.

The 60-member Connectional Table coordinates the denomination's mission, ministries and resources, and it is responsible for recommending changes in agency structures. The body voted to recommend:

- Making "necessary changes" to allow for "a just, reasonable and compassionate process" for low-performing clergy to leave the itinerancy.

- Consolidating 10 of the denomination's 13 general agencies into five offices that will be part of a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. The center will have a 15-member board of directors, which will be accountable to a 45-member advisory board that will "represent the diversity and inclusiveness of our Church." Under the recommendation, the consolidation will take place in two phases and be completed by 2014.

- Forming a special study task force to determine the optimal organizational structure and business model of the United Methodist Publishing House and the United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, both "fee-for-service" organizations. The task force is to make its recommendations by the end of 2013.

- Having the General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking assembly, authorize the board of the new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry to study the most effective ways to fulfill the mission of the church. Under this proposal, the board would evaluate programs and spending at all levels of the church and ultimately could direct the reallocation of up to \$60 million during the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

- Forming a task force that would conduct a denomination-wide financial analysis and initiate proposals for a more equitable and



UMNS FILE PHOTO, 2008.

**Ultimately, the delegates sitting in the chairs at the 2012 General Conference will have final say on the changes proposed by the Connectional Table.**

effective apportionment system across all annual conferences. Apportionments support ministries at the annual conference and General Conference levels.

The role of General Conference in guiding the work of the church remains paramount in the new model. "We really feel that General Conference sets the values of our church, not a board of directors," Bishop Hopkins noted.

The Connectional Table took up and refined the recommendations as part of the multiyear Call to Action process, which has found that that the status quo of a shrinking and aging U.S. church is "toxic" and unsustainable.

The suggested changes originated with the Interim Operations Team, a group of laity and clergy working with denominational leadership to implement the Call to Action recommendations.

The recommendations will be drafted into legislation for the 2012 General Conference, which has final say on whether these structural changes come to pass.

Proposed General Conference legislation from the Connectional Table and other church agencies must be completed by Sept. 1.

Illinois Area Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, the convener of the Interim Operations Team, expressed confidence that the changes will help the church promote vital congregations and address the decades of membership decline in

the United States.

"I think some bold directions have been embraced," Bishop Palmer said. "We're looking at a much more nimble structure [i.e. as in the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry] that creates some new possibilities of coherence and flexibility."

## Streamlining dismissal

Just about every category of church leadership will be affected by the proposals.

The first recommendations dealing with clergy follow on the heels of a number of church studies questioning the sustainability and effectiveness of job guarantees for ordained elders.

The Connectional Table's recommendation is conditioned on no other body in the church proposing legislation to General Conference to alter the process for dismissing ineffective pastors. If no other legislation is submitted, the Connectional Table asks that General Conference appoint a team to study and report to the 2016 General Conference a process for transitioning clergy in a way that best serves congregations, clergy and the denomination.

The Rev. Kim Cape, the top executive of the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, told the Connectional Table that the 2008-2012 Commission to Study the Ministry will issue its final recommendations Aug. 12, and they are likely to include an end to "security of appointment" for elders.

## Agency changes

The proposed structural changes have implications for the nearly 1,400 people who work for the denomination's 13 general agencies. The number of staff positions in the general agencies has decreased steadily, from 3,139 in 1971 to 1,384 as of 2010.

The Connectional Table's recommendation endorses the move by the denomination's ecumenical agency, the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, to become part of the Council of Bishops.

In the Connectional Table's proposal, many of the ministries of the current agencies would be subsumed under the newly created Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

The new center would have five offices.

The first would be an office of shared services that would include the "essential functions" of the General Council of Finance

**Continued on page 8**



## Kingswood Opens Access Friendly Site

**Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, above at far right, joined campers, counselors and volunteers at Kingswood Campsite to dedicate the facility's first "fully-equipped access-friendly site." Over the past two summers, teens from Woodsmoke Camp have helped construct the site under the supervision of Mike Weinlein. It was only appropriate to celebrate "The Pines" on July 29 with the campers. The site allows those with mobility issues to enjoy this natural setting in Hancock, N.Y. At right, Bishop Park applies mortar to a stone from Israel that he added to a place of future worship through the camp's "stone ministry."**



## Prayer, Recognition & Hope Frame 9-11 Plans

**Continued from page 4**  
firefighters, and a Navy chaplain, a member of our conference who served in Iraq. This year, we will have a police/fire and Civil Air Patrol honor guard. Our honoree this year will be two-time NYPD Medal of Honor recipient, retired Detective Richard Lewis, who also worked as a chaplain at Ground Zero.—*Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara*

### Stone Ridge Charge

Kripplebush and Rondout Valley churches will both recognize

the first responders in their communities during Sunday worship and breakfast.—*Rev. Caroline Berninger*

### Bay Ridge UMC, Brooklyn

Our community suffered many losses, and continues to grieve. Because we are a small congregation, we will make time in our service for individuals to say words of remembrance. Prayers for healing will be offered.—*Rev. Bob Emerick*

### Bridgehampton

At sundown, the congregation will participate in a multi-faith service sponsored by the Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor clergy group. Participants walk from various houses of worship to gather at a waterside park where they will be asked to name their losses, before lighting candles to signify and name their hopes. Short readings from various faith traditions focusing on the need for peace will be offered.—*Rev. Joanne Utley*

## Financial Staff Changes For NYAC

Sam Rosenfeld, controller of the New York Annual Conference, announced two recent staff changes. Gail Kamerman has been hired as the new accounts payable administrator, and Heman Persaud has moved into the billing administrator's position.

Kamerman had been serving as a contract employee for nine weeks prior, before assuming this position. She has 15 years of combined experience in accounts payable and not-for-profit office management.

Kamerman's responsibilities will include invoice payments, bookkeeping for restricted funds and issuing the 1099 forms to contractors/consultants. She can be reached at [gakerman@nyac.com](mailto:gakerman@nyac.com), or by phone at 914-615-2215.

Persaud has been with the conference since fall 2004 as the accounts payable administrator. The billing administrator's position has not been permanently filled since fall 2010. "We look forward to Heman bringing much needed stability, leadership and new methodology to the position," Rosenfeld wrote in his announcement. "He did it with accounts payable, and we are calling on him to do it again."

Persaud will handle billing and payment matters related to HealthFlex, CRSP and workers compensation. He can be reached via email at [hpersaud@nyac.com](mailto:hpersaud@nyac.com), or by phone at 914-615-2232.

## "Wesley" Film Deal

Foundry Pictures, the creators of "Wesley"—the film about John Wesley's heart-wrenching journey to grace—are making the feature available for church movie nights. The package offering includes a church exhibition license. For details on showing the movie in your church, go to: <http://wesleymovie.com/>.

# Connectional Table Recommends Big Change

Continued from page 6

and Administration, United Methodist Communications and other agencies' communications staff members, the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History, and the denomination's information and technology support. (UMNS is part of United Methodist Communications.)

The other proposed offices are designed with the denomination's Four Areas of Focus in mind.

The offices would comprise:

- Office of Congregational Vitality, encompassing "the essential functions" of the General Board of Discipleship and multicultural ministries. (New Places and People)
- Office of Leadership Excellence, encompassing much of the work currently done by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. (Developing Leaders)
- Office of Missional Engagement, responsible for much of the work of the General Board of Global Ministries, including global

health, missionaries, Volunteers in Mission and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. (Global Health)

• An Office of Justice and Reconciliation, encompassing the essential functions of the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. (Ministry with the Poor)

How the work of UM Men and the Women's Division fits into this model is still being worked out.

If this recommendation gains General Conference approval in 2012, the plan calls for the transition to be conducted in two phases, with all agencies operating in their current structures initially and then moving to the new organizational chart in about two years.

"I think looking at how the general church can operate more efficiently and effectively is a good thing," Erin Hawkins, the top executive of the General Commission on Religion and Race, said in an interview. "I'm encouraged that we

are in the conversation of how we make what we do better and more effective. I think it's too early to tell what the implications will be."

Still, Bishop Hopkins acknowledged that the merger of the agencies would likely lead to at least some downsizing of people whose roles at different agencies overlap.

The Call to Action research found that there is a great sense of distance between leaders at all levels of the church and the people in the pews. Bishop Hopkins and others expressed hope that the changes would close some of that gap.



## Advocacy for Children Requires Care of Many

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. In tough times, the discussion stays only about money and the reason for the money is often forgotten.

This 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, and for agencies like ours, 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. We need to, both personally and professionally, be strong advocates for children with our friends, families, neighbors and elected officials.

*At the Children's Home we believe "Every Child Deserves a Safe Place." To borrow our video or to schedule a presentation about the Children's Home, please contact Rebecca Mebert ext 131. For more information on the Children's Home, call us at 607-772-6904 (or toll free 800-772-6904) ext. 131 or visit our website at [www.chowc.org](http://www.chowc.org). Please feel free to send donations directly, or use our New York Conference advance number 60-0588.*

## JOB OPENINGS

### UM City Society Financial Officer

The United Methodist City Society is recruiting for a financial leader to provide fiscal oversight and proactive direction for its mission and social service agency of the United Methodist Church.

The City Society is a mission agency in partnership with the NYAC with special focus on the Metropolitan region. It is the sponsoring body of Head Start programs, after-school programs, mission-oriented grants and loans to UM related institutions and churches. It owns 75 units of affordable housing and holds title to a number of church properties. The City Society is also the parent corporation of Five Points Mission—a camp and retreat center in Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y.; Anchor House, a residential faith-based drug rehabilitation program in Brooklyn; and the United Methodist Center of Far Rockaway, a feeding program in Queens.

This position demands an experienced accountant to focus on the big picture while providing day-to-day direction to the finance staff. The CFO is responsible for the fiscal operations of the City Society and directing the organization's financial strategy, planning and forecasting. For more details on the opening, go to: <http://nyac.com/classifieds/detail/160>.

Please send cover letter and resume to Executive Director, Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady, United Methodist City Society, Suite 1922, 475

Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10115, or email to [bshillady@umcitysociety.org](mailto:bshillady@umcitysociety.org). References and background check will be required.

### Finance Manager

New Milford United Methodist Church in Connecticut seeks part-time finance manager, who is proficient in QuickBooks and Excel. Minimum requirements: High school graduate with past work experience in finance; project management experience is a plus. Please email a cover letter with resume to [pastorpaul@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:pastorpaul@newmilfordumc.org). Compensation is commensurate with experience.

### Benefits Administrator

The New York Annual Conference is seeking an experienced benefits administrator to oversee and administer our employee benefit programs. A Bachelors Degree in a related field and a minimum of 6 years benefits administration experience are required. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. To view the full job description, go to <http://nyac.com/classifieds/detail/162>.

To apply, please fax a cover letter and resume to: "Benefits Administrator Search", at 914-615-2243. All applications must be received by August 31.

Continued from page 2

### **10/15: Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century**

Jesse Lee Memorial UMC and the NYAC are co-sponsoring this seminar with Rev. Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship. Dr. Gentzler is a much sought after speaker and seminar leader. He will assist pastors and church leaders in understanding aging issues, and help develop intentional ministry, by, with, and for older adults. Cost is \$20; lunch will be provided. Seminar runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ridgefield, Conn. church. For more information, contact Rev. Douglas Osgood, 203-438-8791, email: [drgoodpath@aol.com](mailto:drgoodpath@aol.com). To register, go to <http://nyac.com/events/detail/3488>.



### **10/21-22: Healing in Our Families**

This two-day conference on healing prayer will be led by Judith MacNutt and Linda Strickland from Christian Healing Ministries, at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC, Ridgefield, Conn. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Friday morning, with worship music at 9 a.m. Register before August 15 for \$65, and for \$75 after that date. To register online, go to <http://www.prayandsee.org/>, and click on the 2011 Healing Conference. Information on area hotels offering a discount is also provided on the link.

### **10/28-29: Christian Educators Conference**

Christian educators throughout the Northeast Jurisdiction are invited to attend "Building Bridges: Exploring the Importance of Bridges in Christian Education," at Calvary UMC, Annapolis, Md..

Hosted by Baltimore-Washington Conference Christian Educators Fellowship Chapter, the event includes worship, plenary speaker, after-hours dessert lounge, three workshop sessions for all age-level ministries. Keynote speaker is Mike McCurry, former White House press secretary and member of the Baltimore-Washington CEF Chapter. Group rates for members of the same church. Continuing education credit available. Deadline for registration is September 15; for further information, go to: <http://bit.ly/pW55Ko>.

### **10/29: Clergy Spouses: A Day Apart**

The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Learning Center at the NYAC offices, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, N.Y.

### **11/2: UM Home Awards Dinner**

The Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home will hold its 24th annual awards dinner dance at Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Crossbay Blvd., Howard Beach, N.Y. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 718-827-4500, ext. 102; or go to the web site, [www.bumch.org](http://www.bumch.org).

### **11/5: UMW 39th Annual Meeting**

With the theme, "Building an Inclusive, Supportive Community of Women in Mission," the gathering will welcome Harriett Jane Olson, deputy general secretary of the Women's Division, as guest speaker. The New York/Connecticut District will host at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield, Conn.

### **11/11-13: Exploration 2011**

This event in St. Louis, Mo. offers young adults the opportunity to explore the call to ordained ministry in the UMC through worship, prayer, workshops, networking, and small groups. Sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Exploration 2011 is open to those ages 18 to 26. The registration fee (\$150-\$200 depending on the deadlines) will cover a two-night stay at the Millennium Hotel, meals, and program fees. Registration information can be found at [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration).

## OBITUARIES

### **Esther Foster**

Esther Swords Foster, the widow of Rev. William Foster, died on July 5. She was 89.

Mrs. Foster was born in Germany to Gertrude and Rev. Albert E. Swords. She came to the United States in 1942 when she was in her early 20s. She married Bill Foster shortly after his discharge from the U.S. Navy, and accompanied him to seminary at Boston University, to pastorates in the Northern Iowa and Minnesota conferences, and beginning in 1964, in the New York Conference.

Mrs. Foster was employed in office work in various places, and supported her husband's ministry in appointments at Canaan, Bridgeport, and Waterbury, Conn., and Commack, N.Y., until his retirement in 1987. They then moved to East Chatham, N.Y., and began an association with the First UMC of Pittsfield, Mass., where Mrs. Foster was a member of the choral and bell choirs. Rev. Foster served the church as associate pastor until his death in 1993.

Mrs. Foster is survived by two brothers, the Rev. John Swords of Syracuse, N.Y., and Herbert Swords of Cincinnati; and daughter, Christa Niver of East Chatham and granddaughter, Janet Moon of Syracuse.

A service of thanksgiving was held on July 10 at First UMC of Pittsfield. Mrs. Foster's niece and nephew, Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell and Rev. James Moore, respectively, led the service.

Condolences may be sent to Ms. Christa Niver, PO Box 39, East Chatham, NY 14338. Memorial gifts may be given to: First UMC of Pittsfield, 55 Fenn Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201; or Berkshire Concert Choir, Attn: Bob Koch, 333 East New Lenox Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

### **Rev. Lloyd A. Duren**

Rev. Lloyd Alvah Duren, a member of our Conference who retired in 1986, died July 7, at age 87. Rev. Duren served our conference at Warren Street in Brooklyn; Newfield in Bridgeport; Huntington, Long Island; St. Mark's in Brooklyn; and Trinity in Poughkeepsie. After retiring, he served as director of the New York Methodist Credit Union in White Plains, N.Y. for several years. He also continued to volunteer on social action projects at Riverside Church in Manhattan.

Duren is survived by three sons: Stephen (Margaret) Duren of Waterville, Maine; Mark (Jan) of Sarasota, Fla.; and Thomas Duren of Schenectady, N.Y.; two granddaughters, Gwendolyn and Leigh and a grandson, Jason. He was predeceased by his wife, Janice, in 2006, and a son, Paul, in 1980.

Rev. Tony Beck officiated at a memorial service celebrating Rev. Duren's life August 3 at Christ United Methodist Church, Beacon, N.Y.

Expressions of concern may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Duren, 1 Essex Rd., Waterville ME 04991. Memorial gifts may be given to the National Kidney Foundation, Inc., 30 East 33rd St., New York, NY 10016.