



Prayer room dedicated at Conference Center

Since the New York Conference Center was opened in White Plains, noticeably missing has been a space set aside for prayer and meditation. Facilities and places for conducting the business and programs of the Conference have been amply provided, but there was no place set aside for the exercise of the spiritual aspects of what we do as a church.

That is no longer true! Thanks to the Rev. Adrienne Brewington and her husband Fred, members of their Westbury (Long Island) United Methodist Church, a room just off the entryway to the building has been set aside and furnished for prayer and meditation.

The room's furnishings are the gift of the Brewingtons and members of the Westbury church. Rosemarie Walker and Franklin Anderson, both lay speakers and part of the Westbury congregation, were present with Adrienne and Fred Brewington and Bishop Park as the



Back row, left to right: Rosemarie Walker, Adrienne Brewington, Bishop Fred Jeremiah Park. Front row left to right: Fred Brewington and Franklin Anderson at the Conference Center Prayer Room dedication on Aug. 10.

room was set up for its new purpose.

The room is located just to the left of the receptionist's desk and near the coat closet. Conference members and visitors to the Center are encouraged to make use of this new space to prepare themselves spiritually for the work they have come to the Center to engage in. Sincere appreciation is given to the Westbury Church for this gift. The room will be formally named at a date to be determined.

What is a New York Conference event that is second in size only to Annual Conference session?

It features Bible study and worship led by Bishop Park, runs from 6:30 am to 10 pm, with in-depth studies on timely topics, a conga-line, entertainment by talented youth, spirit-filled music and singing that threatens to raise the roof, and it all takes place in the 'country.' The answer of course is the 2006 New York Annual Conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission, held August 3-6 at the State University of New York at New Paltz.



Bishop Park receives Mission Recognition Pin from Bev Risk, United Methodist Women President

Not even the blistering heat and humidity the first day or two could dampen the spirits of the 234 participants, ranging in age from three to over eighty, that attended this year's event which was focused on the theme of "Harvesting Peace." Study leaders led with enthusiasm the designated studies: Globalization; India and Pakistan; and Shalom, Salaam, Peace. The entire school met each morning for worship and each evening for plenary sessions based on the study topics. And interwoven were morning watch, mission time, meals, UMW/UMM updates, vespers, learning center activities and opportunities to check out the good books in the resource room.

Participants donated boxes and boxes of empty pill bottles to be sent to overseas missions, eyeglasses to be donated to the Lion's Club and an abundance of underwear and socks to be used by the children in Deaconess and Community Worker Nancy Delaney's Creating Horizons project in the South Bronx.

None of this could have happened without the hard work of the School of Mission team led by Dean Terry Smith; Assistant Dean Sharon Noisette-Jenkins; Registrar Gail Ross; and Business Manager Dianne Adone. Each person that attended this School of Mission was renewed, equipped and energized to return home with new awareness and

purpose to "let peace begin with me."

But if you missed this year's School, be sure to make plans to attend next summer when the studies will be: Israel and Palestine; Music and Mission; and Globalization. It is an opportunity not to be missed!

Submitted by Merrilyn Paradise



Morning watch began the day for participants at the School of Christian Mission held on the New Paltz SUNY campus.

3 Sing Praise for Faithful Women - a new collection of hymns



4 Open Air Mission at Hanson Place Church



8 World Methodist Council sets evangelism priority



10 Blessing of the animals can be a significant worship experience.

When a Wireless company knocks on the church door

*Here's the church, and here's the steeple
Open the door and see all the people.
Here's the parson going upstairs,
And here she is saying her prayers.
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Across the United States, wireless companies - telephone, Internet, public service, and others - are putting antennas into our landscape. Yet many of those antennas are unseen - hidden in church steeples and bringing \$1,000 or more each month to the church budget.

When a wireless company wants to send a check to your church each month, your trustees have little guidance to rely on. This is a technical field and the wireless companies know how to make deals that are most advantageous to them and less advantageous to the church. Churches are often eager to receive payments, and not well-enough prepared to work out the details.

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United Methodist Communications recommends that when your church is approached by a wireless company, you contact SteepleCom for assistance.

A Vision Guest Editorial

"Dumped On"

We were sitting at a lovely seaside restaurant in San Diego, looking forward to enjoying seafood, gazing at the sunset scenery of the harbor, and hearing the birds (pigeons and sea gulls) chirp in the open air porch of that restaurant. Suddenly I heard and felt a "plop" on my shoulder, and I realized that a pigeon had landed on the light fixture overhead and had unceremoniously made an unwelcome deposit on me. Didn't that pigeon know I am a bishop? Or perhaps the pigeon knew I am a bishop, and he was offering his evaluation!

Everyone around us, including the server and my wife Marsha and another diner at our table, rushed to help clean my shirt. The waitress apologized profusely, and the manager later arrived to make restitution for the damage to my shirt. Once everything settled down, we still enjoyed the lovely view (with the birds chased away), the meal, and the humor of it. But for a while there, I experienced first-hand what it means to be dumped on.

Have you ever been dumped on? Maybe not literally from a bird, but from other experiences in life? Have you ever been let down by someone you trusted? Have you ever been falsely or unfairly criticized? Have you ever been the topic of mean-spirited gossip? Have you ever experienced the discouragement of doing your best, but then hearing complaints that you did not do more? It is not much fun being dumped on, even if the event (like my experience) is funny. How do you respond when you feel dumped on? In my case, I was forced to assess the situation to discern what had hit me. Since it was not a valuable contribution (and sometimes effective criticism is indeed a valuable contribution), I was glad to have it promptly brushed away. I had gladly to rely upon the help of others, since I could not reach all of the deposit. And I felt some fairness in the restitution offered by the restaurant manager. But mostly, I just laughed, and went on with a delightful meal and evening with friends. That is not so easy to do in other situations when we get dumped on, but it still may be the best answer. One of my mentors, Bishop Woodie White, used to say to us in Cabinet meetings, "We should always take our ministry seriously, but never take ourselves too seriously." Somehow having a pigeon dump on me was a good reminder not to take myself too seriously. So, I hope you are not often dumped on, but when it happens, I encourage you to laugh and to keep going.

from Bishop Michael J. Coyner
Indiana Area of the United Methodist Church
"Making a Difference ... in Indiana and around the world"



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

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Women in religion conference set for October

The National Council of Churches USA (NCC) is among dozens of organizations endorsing "Women in Religion in the 21st Century: A Conference on Commemorating, Celebrating, and Continuing Their Legacy," scheduled for October. The conference will be held in, and is sponsored by, The Interchurch Center in New York City. The building is home to the NCC and more than 60 faith organizations and non-profit agencies.

The conference will explore the roles of leadership for women, the impact of women in religious communities, how religion affects women's lives and the historical perspective of women in religion. More than 50 speakers from various religious traditions will share their perspectives during the October 17-19 gathering. The NCC was part of an inter-religious task force that planned the event.

Dr. Ann Braude, Harvard University director of the Women's Studies in Reli-

gion program, will be the first speaker. "Faith-Filled Foremothers: Women in Religion in America in the 19th and 20th Centuries," is the title of her address. The closing plenary speaker is Helen LaKelly Hunt, author of "Faith and Feminism, A Holy Alliance" and founder and president of The Sister Fund.

In addition, the conference will also honor Ruth Stafford Peale. She was the first woman chair of the board of trustees and guiding force in the establishment of The Interchurch Center. She is the widow of the Dr. Norman Vincent Peale.

The full conference fee is \$300 for early registration before Sept. 10. After that date the fee is \$350. A one-day fee is \$140. Scholarships and Continuing Education Units are available. Contact Sue Dennis at 212-870-2931 or email her at sdennis@interchurch-center.org for details.

More information and online registration is available at www.womeninreligion2006.org.

Sing Praise for Faithful Women from Scripture and Throughout History

"Sing Praise for Faithful Women from Scripture and Throughout History," a new collection of hymns by Edith Downing, is available online at: http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=16682&loc_id=17,823.

"Sing Praise for Faithful Women from Scripture and Throughout History" is a major new collection of thirty-six hymn texts and recommended tunes by well-published hymn writer Edith Downing. The texts recall not only the women of the Bible but also important women who have struggled for equality and justice throughout history: Joan of Arc, Perpetua, Harriet Tubman, Dorothy Day, Maggie Kuhn, and Corretta Scott King.

Edith Downing earned masters degrees in religious education at The University of Chicago and in theological studies with a major in worship from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She has been an active church musician, directing choirs and serving as organist. She did not begin writing hymns until her late sixties and has gone on to publish several collections with major publishers of hymns as well as contributing texts to numerous hymnals. Now in her mid-eighties, Edith continues to write hymns and play the organ in her church. She is a distinguished member of the Hymn Society in the United States and Cana-



da. Edith Sinclair Downing began her ministry of writing hymns in her late sixties. This ministry in song is inspired by Scripture as well as by today's life stories. Some of the concerns she addresses are pain and suffering, care of the earth, affirmation of women, and peace and justice for all God's people. Edith's first hymn collection, "A Season on Clear Shining," was published by Selah Publishing Co. in 1998. Her second collection, "For Us, God's People Now," is to be published by Selah soon. Her texts appear in these denominational hymnals: The New Century Hymnal (The Pilgrim Press), The Book of Praise (The Presbyterian Church of Canada), Sing! A New Creation (CRC publications), and the Church of Scotland's The Church Hymnary: Fourth Edition (Canterbury Press). Her texts are included in these collections: Radiant City (Thomas Pavlechko), Sing to The Lord No Threadbare Song (Alfred V. Fedak), New Songs of Rejoicing and The Selah Psalter (Selah Publishing Co.), Bring The Feast: Songs from the Re-imagining Community (The Pilgrim Press), Voices Found: Women in the Church's Song (Church Publishing, Inc.).

Edith received a scholarship in cello from The University of Wichita, and she also attended Baker University. She continued her studies at Chicago Theological Seminary and earned an M.A. degree in religious education from The University of Chicago in 1946. In 1980, she received a master of theological studies with a major in worship from Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park of the New York Area officiates at the commissioning of new young adult missionaries

By Mary Beth Coudal, staff writer
General Board of Global Ministries

Eight young adults were commissioned on Sunday, July 30, for United Methodist mission service in the United States. The service took place as part of morning worship at Christ Church United Methodist in New York City.

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park of the New York Area officiated at the commissioning, assisted by John Peterson, a young adult director of the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries, and staff of both the agency and Christ Church. They laid hands on the young missionaries, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's igniting Barnabas and Saul into mission service from the book of Acts.

"The call of God is always profound and our response can be no less extraordinary," said Bishop Park from the New York Annual Conference, who had recently returned from the World Methodist Conference in Korea.

The young people, all 2006 college graduates, are from seven annual conferences and will be assigned to two-years of service in eight conferences. Six of the eight are graduates of United Methodist colleges or universities. In his sermon, the Rev. Stephen P. Bauman, senior pastors of Christ Church, commended the young missionaries for doing "good and holy work."

US-2s serve for two years in mission assignments in the United States. Some are in community centers or other denominational institutions while others serve in congregation-based ministries. They must be between the ages of 20 and 30; be college graduates or have equivalent life experience, and be connected to The United Methodist Church through local churches or campus ministries.

The eight young people this year comprise the 54th class of US-2 missionaries. Many United Methodist leaders on national, annual conferences, and local levels are US-2 missionaries.

"The US-2 program is nourishing ground for future United Methodist leadership," said the Rev. R. Randy Day, chief executive of the mission board, in a statement honoring those newly commissioned. "These young adults have deep commitment to Jesus Christ and to the church. They are smart, alert, filled with compassion, and willing to work hard. We praise God for them."

Joining Bishop Park and Mr. John Peterson in the act of commissioning were the Rev. Edith Gleaves, deputy general secretary for mission personnel of Global Ministries, and Christ Church pastors, the Rev. Stephen Bauman, the Rev. Cathy S. Gilliard, and the Rev. Javier A. Viera.

Gleaves gave each new missionary an

anchor cross, an early Christian icon. "Christian mission can be a perilous mission... The anchor cross is a reminder to be firmly rooted in faith, hope, and love," she said.

During the commissioning, the missionaries made a covenant prayer in the Wesleyan tradition that began with the words, "I am no longer my own, but thine."

The missionaries wrote their own litany of commitment, asking "for God's empowerment in our attempts to be catalysts of social change." The eight dedicated themselves "to our planet... to each other... to the inherent value of all persons... to economic integrity... to justice... and to harmony."

During three weeks of July, the young people spent almost all of their waking hours together - studying, praying, and learning. They discussed faith, leadership, the journey ahead, mission work, and United Methodism with each other and with staff of the mission board. The home conferences and assignments of the new US-2s are:

Margaret Bagwell, South Georgia Annual Conference, who will work with the United Campus Ministries, Fargo, ND, Dakotas Conference.

Valerie Borhauer, Southwest Texas Annual Conference, who will be school liaison/education assistant, The David & Margaret Home, LaVerne, CA, Southern California-Pacific Conference.

Adam Burgett, Tennessee Annual Conference, who will be a social justice advocate at the Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City, UT, in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Tyler Davis, North Alabama Annual Conference, who will work with the NOAH Project/PEACE for Youth and Central at Central United Methodist Church, Detroit, MI, in the Detroit Conference.

Michelle Kuskie, Nebraska Annual Conference, who will be a counselor/case at Samaritan House/Café 458, Atlanta, GA, in the North Georgia Conference.

Emily Pennington, Nebraska Annual Conference, who will be an intern for spiritual life activities/special group therapies, Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, IL, in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

Harris Tay, Baltimore/Washington Annual Conference, who will be a public relations and youth enrichment coordinator at Wesley Community Center, Inc., Dayton, OH, in the West Ohio Conference.

Christina Wichert, Detroit Annual Conference, who will serve with children and youth at the Wesley-Rankin Community Center, Dallas, TX, in the North Texas Conference.

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Open-Air celebrates pantry's mission

On July 14 2006, Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church extended its ministry to the streets of downtown Brooklyn with an old fashioned Open-Air event featuring the Salvation Army Times Square Ministries Summer Mission Team. The six-person team, which includes college students from around the nation, filled the streets with praise and worship choruses, prayer and testimony. The event, which was a collaborative effort of Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church and Hanson Place Campaign Against Hunger (an outreach ministry of HPCUMC), served to spread God's love and the important message that the Churches doors are open to anyone seeking Him.

Hanson Place Campaign Against Hunger is a customer choice style food pantry which operates as a job training site. Open Monday-Friday 10am to Noon, the pantry provides over 100,000 meals annually to needy New Yorkers as well as job training for at-risk, developmentally-delayed youth and adults returning to the workforce. The mission of HPCAH is taken directly from John Wesley's charge to serve and advocate for those in need and enlist others in service to our neighbors. To that end, HPCAH's team includes dedicated church members, developmentally delayed youth, and adults in-need, all working together to serve the community and God.

The partnership of service has lead to numerous recognitions and awards in 2006 including being named New Yorkers of the Week by Channel One News, Outstanding Job Site by District 75, inclusion on the Wall of Fame at Schermerhon Transitional Center, New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award by Citizens for New York and \$10,000 in support from City Council member Leti-

tia James. The work and awards at HPCAH are only possible due to the dedication and service of church members Ms. Rena Nelson, Ms. Avril Edwards, Ms. Daphne Antonio, Mr. James Newell, Mr. Ken Rice, Mr. Irwyn Ince and the leadership of HPCUMC including Rev. Margaret Ince and Rev. Patrick Perrin, HPCUMC Pastor.

"The job training program at HPCAH has allowed us to be exposed to people with disabilities and encourage them, with our help to gain responsibility and encourage them to take on the life's challenges. It is an important ministry to Hanson Place Central Church and to the downtown Brooklyn community," states Mr. Ken Rice, HPCUMC Church Member and HPCAH volunteer.

"The Open-Air was a public celebration of our commitment to open our hearts and minds every day to the community," states Dr. Tamar Auber, HPCAH Director. "Our doors are open every day to those in need."

Hanson Place Campaign Against Hunger is currently seeking those willing to join us in ministry. Youth groups and mission teams from throughout New York Annual Conference and beyond are welcome to participate in this special mission through food drives, fundraising, praise opportunities and on-site volunteering. To find out more contact Tamar at hpcah@aol.com or 718-783-0908.

HPCAH would like to thank the following for their support: West Side Campaign Against Hunger located at the Church of St. James and St. Andrews for helping develop the pantry program, Rev. Rick Stackpole (West Virginia Annual Conference) for leading 2 mission teams, and the Salvation Army Times Square Ministries Mission Team (pictured below).



Reader response to recent Vision article

The following letters have been received in response to a letter by Mr. Herman Yost which was printed in the July 28 issue of The Vision.

To the Editor:

Kudos to Mr. Yost for succinctly nailing these issues on the NYAC door. Perhaps it is time to hear from our leadership just how they envision implementing our new vision statement with these politically tainted social petitions.

R. Leisy
Summit United Methodist Church

Dear Sirs:

In the July 28 issue of The Vision, Mr. Herman Yost correctly quotes Romans 13.

The verse(s) quoted were in a letter

which St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome, and I take issue with his reasoning.

By this reasoning, God established Adolph Hitler, Idi Amin and other tyrants. This I do not accept. By this reasoning also, the entire Protestant Church will bring judgment upon itself for its rebellion against the authority of the pope. It does no good to say that the foregoing authorities were not established by God if you accept that "there is no authority except that which God has established".

So, Mr. Yost, I respectfully submit that there is a time for rebellion.

Very truly yours,
Colleen DeLise, Member
Smithtown United Methodist Church

**Pastoral Appointments Announced by Bishop Park since adjournment of Annual Conference, June 10, 2006.
(Effective immediately)**

The Rev. Yugo Suzuki (Retired)
from the Pacific North West Conference
has been appointed to serve 1/2 time
at
Japanese American United Methodist Church
(Metropolitan District)

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the Sunday that Carol Gantter and I were in Korea for the 19th World Methodist Conference (July 23rd), we had the opportunity to travel to the DMZ (demilitarized zone) along the 38th parallel, which separates North and South Korea, for a Prayer for Peace service. We went on one of twelve chartered buses, carrying over 500 Methodists from around the world (132 countries with 78 varieties of Methodists) to the DMZ along the Imjing River. From Seoul to the DMZ (about 35 miles) we were escorted by motorcycle police officers, and at every intersection or on-ramp, all traffic was halted while our entourage passed by. The deep importance of our journey was not yet known to us, and we wondered at the celebrity treatment we were receiving.

When we arrived at the outdoor arena at Imjingak, we sat in folding chairs in the blazing sun. Onstage was a huge banner, proclaiming peace and unification for Korea. A 50-voice choir from Wolgok Methodist Church sang; three dancers, refugees from North Korea, performed a liturgical dance; a gifted soprano, also a refugee from North Korea, offered a very moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" in Korean (almost every service and conference was offered in at least two languages, with translators) – the spirit of her song needed no words!; the laywoman General Secretary of the Board of Laity and Social Responsibility offered prayer; and Bishop Sunday Mbang, the President of the World Methodist Council preached. It was only during his sermon that we became aware of what our presence meant to the people of Korea. Our Korean friends had been separated from family and friends in North Korea for over 50 years. Just when there was hope of reconciliation, a new wave of paranoia and fear swept across North Korea, and the hopes and dreams of our Christian brothers and sisters were dashed. We learned that missiles were aimed at Seoul continuously; we learned that the DMZ was still guarded by UN soldiers as well as North and South Korean soldiers; we learned that the fields were treacherous due to land mines still in place; we learned that the barrenness of the DMZ was a metaphor for a people whose hope for peace and reunification was nearly as lifeless as the mountain-side without trees.

And we learned that this service was the culmination of four years of hope, planning, and preparation by the Kore-

an Methodist Church. Our presence was the symbol of hope for a land where hope was shattered. Our many-languaged prayers lifted the spirits of our brothers and sisters in faith. Our proclamation in unison with Bishop Mbang's words, "We claim and proclaim this land as a place of peace and love," was the very manna for which this country has hungered.

We also learned that there were four veterans of the Korean conflict in our congregation that day: Bishop Robert Fannin, a Korean bishop who had been a chaplain at the DMZ; Rev. Seung Soon Yang, a clergyman who had been a soldier in the Korean army; Lt Col Owen Armbruster, a retired AF officer who had been a B-26 pilot over Korea in 1953; and Pete Taylor, a retired foot soldier from America, now the lay leader of the California-Pacific annual conference. These four men sat together, prayed together, and embraced each other. Together we released colored balloons of peace into the cobalt blue sky.

Along the roadways to the military outpost where we received our briefing on the terrain and tactics of the DMZ, we saw wires with signs announcing mines in the fields. At each bend in the road blossomed wild Rose of Sharon bushes; the Rose of Sharon is a symbol of Jesus. Across the zig-zag of the bridge, and for nearly 20 miles outside the DMZ, barbed wire fences and curls reminded us of our human capacity to inflict pain on others. Our freedom is always bought with a price: the price of soldiers dying on the battlefields, the price of families torn apart by theologies and ideologies, the price of the spirit, dimmed by sadness and loss.

Into the midst of this heavy and gut-wrenching sense of loss came the hope of reconciliation and peace. The theme of the World Conference was "God in Christ Reconciling" – how true these words rang out in Korea; no where more poignant than at the DMZ. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Our call is to reconciliation and peace; the question is never who is right or wrong, but who is willing to remember that peace requires the courage of the first step. May we pray for peace in the world, reconciliation among tribes, religions, and peoples, and the blessing of respect among nations.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Ginny (Hoch)

"Only when the power of love replaces the love of power will there be peace in the world." Author unknown

Making Sense of Contemporary Christian Musical Style

by Dean McIntyre

The Gospel Music Association (GMA) recently gathered in Nashville (Tennessee) to announce and celebrate its nominations for 2006 music awards. Solo singers and groups came to sing, perform, and be recognized for their contributions. Agents, publishers, recording studios, and promoters took every opportunity to speak to anyone who would listen, especially the press. Trees, buildings, and streetlights were covered with promotional publicity posters. Our own local newspaper offered a daily series of articles on the new artists and how they and their music are changing how people worship, communicate with, and experience God's presence. The April 3, 2006, issue of *The Tennessean* said, "If you figure awards shows as a barometer of industry trends, then this year's GMA Music Awards nominations sent a message: Praise and worship music sure is what's happening."

There is no doubt that praise and worship music (PW) is big business and that it is having a major impact on music publishing, performance, and worship. But what is it? What makes it different from traditional worship music? Understanding that there are always exceptions and differences, here are some of the common characteristics of PW:

Text

- * Use of short, often repetitive, phrases.
- * Primary use of short, simple, monosyllabic words.
- * Language that is direct, plain, uncomplicated.
- * Lack of theological or doctrinal content.
- * Concentration on personal experience in worship.
- * Lyrics directed TO God rather than ABOUT God ... but also lyrics in short, stock phrases that describe God's attributes or one's longing for or relationship with God.
- * An abundance of offering praise and giving thanks.
- * An absence of opportunity for

lament.

* Frequent borrowing of short phrases from Scripture.

* Use of the common, informal, vernacular language of the people.

* Use of images that evoke feelings and emotions.

Music

* Melodies with limited range.

* Short melodic phrases, often repeated, sometimes slightly varied.

* Predominance of slow tempos ... but also fast, energetic tempos when called for by the text.

* Simple harmonic structure; common use of primary chords (I, IV, V) and some related minors (ii, vi).

* Regularity of rhythm with a strongly accented beat pattern.

* Since much of this music is written by solo artists or established groups, the musical style is often reflective of that soloist or group and less adaptable to congregational singing.

These characteristics, of course, can only be generalities. There will be many exceptions and songs exhibiting unique elements of style. And the PW category can be further diversified by style elements added from other categories, such as rap, hip hop, global, country, and various folk styles.

See related articles:

* Music Musing #8: July 5, 2004 — Doo Wop and Church Music (Part 1)

* Music Musing #9: July 19, 2004 — Doo Wop and Church Music (Part 2)

* Music Musing #27: December 3, 2004 — Where Is My Lingua Franca?

* Music Musing #35: January 28, 2005 — What Makes a Good Hymn?

* Music Musing #46: April 15, 2005 — Vernacular Music

Dean McIntyre (dmcintyre@gbod.org) is the Director of Music Resources for The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship

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The New Canaan UMC has 34 burgundy choir robes of various adult sizes and 1 matching director's robe plus 33 satin stoles which reverse from white to dark cream. They are made of acetate (or similar fabric) and are clean and in good condition. Call the church to arrange pick-up, 203-966-2666.

Assistant Music Director

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, is seeking an assistant music director, experienced with organ and working with the church youth choir. This is a part-time position; the salary negotiable. Interested persons should FAX their resume as soon as possible to (718) 282-8348.

Reserve this Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2006



Join the Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home in celebrating 123 years of service to God & the Community

at the

Nineteenth Annual Awards Dinner Dance

in honoring

The Community Service Award



Walter Campbell
District Manager
Brooklyn Community Board 5

The William C. Kirkwood Humanitarian Award



Rev. John H. Cole
Pastor
Grace Unbed Methodist Church
Valley Stream, New York

The Distinguished Service Award



Robert Rigoroso
Private Banker - Vice President
The Citigroup Private Bank

Russo's On The Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York

6:30 p.m. Reception & Silent Auction
7:30 p.m. Dinner
For more information, call Carolyn Roper-Smartt
(718) 827-4500 ext. 105

Please Post



New York Annual Conference
United Methodist Men

Our 26th Annual NYAC Men's Retreat

"A Program of Prayer, Praise & Fellowship with Good Christian Brothers from across this conference"

Friday, October 27th & Sunday, October 29th, 2006

(Registration starts at 5:00pm, Friday Night)

~ Location ~

CAMP OLMSTED, 114 BAY VIEW AVE., CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON, NY

(9W to Route 218 at Cornwall, Camp Olmsted is on the right)

Registration \$154.00

3 day Retreat—(Registrations received after September 27th 2006, late fee of \$5.00)

Refunds or no show policy: What Camp Olmsted charges us will be deducted

Enclose this Registration Form with your check made payable to "NYAC UMM", mail both of these to:

NYAC, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY 10606, Attn: Sam Phillips

Registration starts at 5:00pm

Registration Form

Name: _____ Church: _____
Address: _____ Phone #: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Retreat for Spiritual Renewal "ORDINARY TIME"

WISDOM HOUSE
229 East Litchfield Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

OCTOBER 13 – 15, 2006

(Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday after lunch)

In examining the days of Jesus' ministry, we can connect our days with His, deepening our relationship with Him and consecrating our ordinary days to God's service.

Experience renewal through music, worship, Bible Study, solitude, and community.



Led by Reverend Caroly R. Gibson

Total Cost \$185.00 Includes 5 meals, room, program and materials

Registration

Register Soon - Space in Farmhouse is Limited

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Special Diet _____

Mail Registration with \$100.00 deposit to:
Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Circle Trumbull, CT 06611
(Balance due by Oct. 1st)

Questions or Further Details,

Call: (203) 380-1260 Email: cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com

Peace is possible



You may believe there is a need to replace violence with peace in your community, across our country and around the world. Did you know that you have the power? Creating a Culture of Peace is a program which uses an interfaith and intergenerational approach to help people just like you achieve nonviolence in their communities. CCP is a program of FOR—Fellowship of Reconciliation—which works with schools, civic organizations, veterans, congregations, and many others seeking personal and social change through practice of active nonviolence.

We invite you to our three day workshop

Creating a Culture of Peace

Nonviolence Training for Personal and Social Change

Southold United Methodist Church
September 22, 23 and 24

\$75

For more information and to register please contact Bill Moore at (631) 765-4663 or wdmoore1@optonline.net. Also, please visit us at www.forusa.org.



Learn how to make emergency cost-free sleeping bags for the homeless made of 100% recycled materials!

Saturday, September 23

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Mt. Kisco UMC
300 East Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

This seminar is sponsored by the New York Annual Conference, and is designed to teach you enough about the "Ugly Quilts" to get you started in your local church!



The pattern for what has been known as the "Ugly Quilt" was designed in 1985 by "My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group" which organized to produce and distribute sleeping bags free to people who are cold on the street. Their only purpose is to help the homeless be warm until they can be helped or healed by others in our society.

WHY THE NAME 'UGLY QUILT'
a. The Sleeping Bag is a utility quilt made from clean used or no-cost fabrics.
b. This simple sleeping bag should not have a market value to assure the homeless are beneficiaries.
c. The name indicates the skill level needed for this bed quilt.
d. The Ugly Quilt can be made in less than a day.
e. A group can make one in an hour.

No sewing skills necessary!
If you can tie a knot, you can do this!



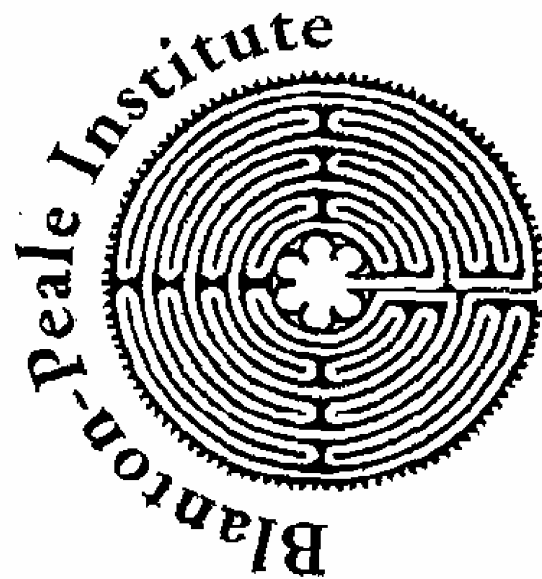
FAR ROCKAWAY MISSION
16TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON
To be helping hands to the less fortunate and other people in need

A New York Annual Conference Initiative

SATURDAY
September 16, 2006
Join us for a Cool Walk on the Boardwalk of Rockaway Beach
Starting 8:30 AM
Beach 9th - 44th Streets



Donations are welcome by mailing to: UM Center at Far Rockaway; Box 900875, Far Rockaway, NY 11690-0875



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Consider the Pastoral Care Studies Program of the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute. Pastoral Care Studies is a two-year, one-day-a-week experiential program that trains clergy and lay people in the skills of pastoral care and short term counseling. Classes are small and interactive, offering students support in various aspects of their ministry.

English-speaking classes meet on Mondays, and Korean-speaking classes meet on Saturdays in midtown Manhattan in the Marble Collegiate Church at 3 West 29th Street. Tuition is \$950 a year plus admissions fee and registration fee. Classes begin on September 11th.

For further information go to www.blantonpeale.org and click on Pastoral Care Studies Catalog and Application, or call the Rev. Marta Green for the English Language Program at 212-725-7850 x 330 or the Rev. Ho-Yeong Jong for the Korean Language Program at 212-725-7850 x 334.

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* 입학신청서를 원하시면, "bpkorean@gmail.com" 으로 이름과 주소, 전화번호를 보내주시거나, 전화 (917)254-1300 정호영 목사에게 연락 주시기 바랍니다. 감사합니다.
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이수연 교수 M. Music Therapy, AAMFT (심리치료, 가족치료, 음악치료);
김미진 교수 D.A.T. (음악치료박사, 놀이치료, 융심리분석과정수료증)
한동석 목사 MST(병원임상목회 - NJ & NYC, 심리분석임상훈련수료증)

World Methodist Council declares evangelism priority for next five years

At its quinquennial conference in Seoul, Korea, the World Methodist Council set evangelism as its worldwide priority for the next five years. This followed dynamic reports on the work of the World Evangelism Division of the Council by Dr. Maxie Dunnam, Chairperson, Dr. Winston Worrell, Director of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, and Dr. H. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism. Worldwide, Methodism is growing at more than one million persons per year.

In his report, Dunnam reminded the delegates of the uniqueness of World Evangelism, pointing out that the World Methodist Council is the only World Communion to have an evangelism division, a full-time director of evangelism and also an Evangelism Institute for extensive worldwide evangelism training. He announced the re-election of Fox as the World Director of Evangelism for the Council for the next five years. Dunnam declared, "What World Evangelism is doing in leadership development, faith-sharing and Connecting Congregations throughout the world Methodist movement is one of the most powerful dynamics in contemporary Christianity."

Worrell told the delegates of the special 25th Anniversary of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, a ministry of the World Methodist Evangelism Division and Candler School of Theology, Emory University, being planned for 2007.

Fox's report to the 2,500 Methodists from 71 countries at the Conference centered on the theme, "The Bells Are Ringing." He began with the dramatic story of the bell in the Methodist Church in Varna, Bulgaria, which rang from the bell tower for seventy years before it was removed by the communist regime in the 1960s. Then, three brave young men, pretending to be workers, secretly moved the bell from the church grounds and buried it in a garden where it laid silent in its tomb for forty years.

The conference responded with great applause when Fox declared, "Evil never has the last word! The bell was raised from its tomb and when a new church was erected in the heart of the city, the bell was placed in a new tower, in the highest point above the city skyline. The congregation would not ring the bell until the church was dedicated. Through World Methodist Evangelism, a family made a huge sacrifice to help finish the church on September 29, 2002 and the bell rang again!"

In a moving moment, Fox announced that Bulgarian Methodist Superintendent Bedros Altunian was one of the three youth who originally hid the bell

and introduced Altunian's son, Samuel, who was a delegate to the conference in Korea.

Fox's message resonated with the audience as he declared that the bell rang at creation, through the message of the prophets, in the songs of the Psalmist and, uniquely, in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He declared, "The bells are ringing around the world today through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Fox said, "The Moment is Urgent" and declared that it is not God's intent that we should live in a world of violence, destruction, and war. We are called to ring the bell of salvation, healing and hope in the world."

Fox carried the bell image throughout his presentation, sharing how the bell rings through the World Evangelism outreach, including:

+ International Youth Conferences on Evangelism attended by more than 6,000 young people;

+ EvangeMed (medical), EvangeBicy (bicycles), and EvangeBread (food) continued as ministries;

+ Faith Sharing New Testaments distributed, some half-million copies in 38 languages;

+ Connecting Congregations established on every continent since the ministry began in 1992;

+ Training programs conducted for more than 6,000 leaders through the World Methodist Evangelism Institute;

+ The 800 young pastors trained as members of the "Order of the FLAME (Faithful Leaders As Mission Evangelists) are committed to "doing the work of an evangelist and carrying out the ministry fully." (2 Timothy 4:5)

Fox reminded the delegates that they would have to make sacrifices if they were committed to the world evangelism mission, "'That the world may know Jesus Christ! Our unity is in Christ Jesus, full of grace and truth." He indicated that, "There are parts of our movement which are in decline, and in denial, who are suffering from 'truth' decay."

Referencing the song "If I Had a Hammer," he reminded delegates that the second verse begins, "If I had a bell." He concluded, "You have a bell, the name is Jesus, and we are called to be the bell ringers through word, deed, and sign in the world!"

At the end of Fox's presentation, the meeting hall was filled with the sound and video images of Methodist church bells ringing in Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Tonga. The entire conference stood with sustained applause and delegates received "bell labels" to attach to their official name tags as signs that they were "Bell ringers of the good news



The bell at the Methodist Church in Varna, Bulgaria that was hidden from the Communists for 40 years and now rings from the new church tower at the highest point over the city.

"That the world may know Jesus Christ!"

The "bell ringing" emphasis continued as many of the delegates gathered around the Peace Bell at the Korean Demilitarized Zone following Sunday worship services during the conference, declaring that the bell would ring in the name of Jesus Christ for all the people on the Korean peninsula. Dr. Fox and the new Chairperson of the Evangelism Division, Bishop Robert Fannin joined with other delegates in this unique moment.

The Vice Chairpersons of the Division for the next five years are Bishop John Bryant, Dr. Maxie Dunnam, and Bishop Lawi Imathiu.

World Evangelism Convocation

The Saturday World Evangelism Convocation - a sub-meeting of the World Methodist Conference -- offered another opportunity to hear how the Methodist Church is bringing hope through worldwide evangelistic outreach.

Rev. Taavi Hollman, Superintendent

Humanitarian mission organization of Women for Women of Sierra Leone to hold Thanksgiving Service

"The humanitarian mission organization of Women for Women of Sierra Leone (WWSL), which has been working for many years now in poverty-stricken villages in the war-torn country of Sierra Leone, West Africa, will hold its Annual Thanksgiving Service as follows:

Date: Sunday, October 1, 2006

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church, 116 Edgecombe Avenue, New York, New York

Dinner will be served after the service; the speaker will be The Rev. Estella Abel, member of Butler United Methodist Church.

of the Methodist Church in Estonia, shared how God sustained the people during difficult times and how the church in the former Soviet satellite nation is reaching out today.

Dr. Wilson Bonfim of Brazil told stories of EvangeMed, a ministry of World Evangelism and the Methodist Church in Brazil, which offers medical care to "the poorest of the poor" in Rio and the Amazonian region.

Katherine Ng, a member of the World Methodist Council presidium and a leader in the Methodist Church of Hong Kong, told how "Faith-Sharing Ambassadors," are trained and sent out as witnesses. They expressed to the Convocation that the very being of their church has been changed by this emphasis.

Bishop Mvume Dandala, chief executive of the All-Africa Council of Churches, challenged participants to be faithful ambassadors of the Gospel and Dr. Darryl Starnes of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, affirmed the assurance of the power of God's Spirit for sharing the Gospel message.

A highlight of the convocation came as individuals committed to support the work of many young evangelists on bicycles in the Mt. Kenya region in Meru, Kenya, through the ministry of World Evangelism and the Kaaga Synod of the Methodist Church in Kenya. Others gave to the call to provide "EvangeBicy" for young evangelists in Ghana. A Missionary in Ghana said, "Young evangelists are today shedding their flip-flops for a speedy EvangeBicy!"

Through the ministry of World Methodist Evangelism the bells will continue to ring around the world.

(Some material in this story from United Methodist News Service coverage).

For directions: please call 646.456.3436. ALL WILL BE WEL-COMED!

This humanitarian mission organization takes Missioners every June and December to conduct various projects. Anyone interested in "missioning" with WWSL can e-mail us at: WWSL_inc@net-bizz.com or call 646.456.3436."

Women for Women of Sierra Leone
58 Livingston Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10314

OR

Women for Women of Sierra Leone
P.O. Box 730
New York, New York 10030

25th Anniversary of Upper Catskills Larger Parish

The Upper Catskills Larger Parish is one of only two cooperative parishes in New York Conference, and the other one is much more loosely structured

In 1981, the New York Annual Conference proposed a bold experiment. Could seven small, struggling churches in the northern Catskill Mountains come together in cooperative ministry? With this proposal, the Catskill Cluster, consisting of the churches in Andes, Fleischmanns, Halcott, Halcottville, Margaretville, Pleasant Valley, and Roxbury, was formed. The configuration was to be evaluated after a three-year trial period.

The experiment was successful, and in 1984 the Upper Catskills Larger Parish was begun. The Parish, as it has come to be known, was responsible for pastoral and parsonage expenses. Each individual church would be responsible for its ministry and local expenses. One pastor, appointed as a Parish Coordinator, was to be responsible to organize and administer parish activities. A Council, consisting of two elected members from each church, was to function as the Administrative Council.

On September 24, 2006, The Upper Catskills Larger Parish will celebrate 25 years in ministry. The bold

experiment of 1981 has proven to be a successful model for small church cooperative ministry. Over the years, the churches in Pleasant Valley and Halcottville have closed and have been merged with other churches in the Parish. The Parish Coordinator position has been renamed as "Lead Pastor," and there have been other small 'tweakings' of the original concept. But the Parish remains strong and viable in ministry to the Northern and Western Catskills.

During our existence, we have been served by six bishops, four district superintendents, and 23 pastors. Several of these people are planning to be on attendance at the celebration. Bishop Park will be the featured speaker at the celebration, which will include a time of remembrance and reflection, Holy Communion, and joyous worship. The formal worship will be followed by a dinner. All this will occur at the Margaretville United Methodist Church starting at 4:00 p.m. on September 24, 2006.

We of the Parish offer praise for God's faithfulness and blessing during our time of unity. We pray that we will be able to continue to be doing God's work in ministry together in our corner of the world.

submitted by Pastor William F. Hawes
Upper Catskills Large Parish

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving on Reconciliation available on Discipleship website

The General Board of Discipleship worship Web site contains a Holy Communion Great Thanksgiving on the theme of reconciliation. Written by Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker with Korean translation by Dr. John J. Park, it was used at the World Methodist Council meeting in Seoul, Korea in July 2006. There are no copyright restrictions on this material.

The author and the World Methodist Council intend it to remain in the public domain. It may be used with any service but might be especially appropriate for services recognizing the current hostilities in the Middle East, the tensions in other parts of the world such as the Korean peninsula, the political divisions within countries, or on World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October).

The Board of Discipleship website where the prayer is filed is: www.gbod.org/worship/greatthanksgiving-tucker06.pdf

The website also contains the Korean language version in a pdf format. Printing the prayer in both languages in your church bulletin may strengthen the perception that ours is a worldwide church and that there is a never ending need for emphasis on reconciliation in our lives as well as in our worship experiences.

SPRINGFIELD GARDENS



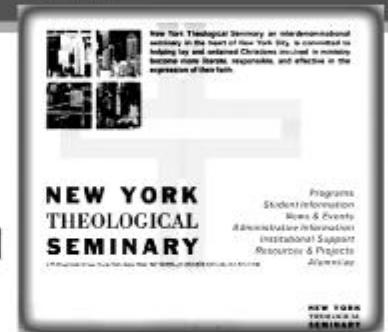
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FALL 2006

Queen's College

New York Theological Seminary



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES THROUGH ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

For Fall registration dates, please contact our Campus Coordinator.

Registration
September 14th - 6-8pm

Classes begin
September 19th

Course Offerings
GED Preparation
Computer Phobia
Child Care Provider
Medical Office Assistant
Real Estate Salesperson
American Sign Language
Notary Public Exam Preparation

Course Offerings
Old Testament Exegesis
Writing
Join us for our 2006 Fall Convocation- September 16th
from 8:00AM - 3:00PM, which will kick off the
beginning of our school year.

For more information contact Campus Coordinator
131-29 Farmers, Blvd., Springfield Gardens, New York 11434
(718) 528-7267

John Wesley United Methodist Church: A Church Persevering in Love with Hope for the Future

John Wesley United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York began as a "faith venture" in 1916 under the leadership of the late Rev. J.R.H. Matthews. Originally based in the community of South Brooklyn (now known as Cobble Hill, Brooklyn), the church grew rapidly, having to move to several storefront locations before finding a then permanent home in a former Greek Orthodox church on Pacific Street in that neighborhood in 1921.

At the time, the congregation was primarily composed of recent immigrants from the Caribbean, most notably the island of Barbados and also many African-American Blacks whose families had migrated from parts of the South. All of these individuals and families came to New York City in search of a better life.

In the years to follow, the church continued to grow as the second-generation members of the church grew and began having their own families. Many of these families settled in the community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, and commuted to worship at John Wesley. This situation set the stage for a final move to the Church's current home at 260 Quincy Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn in 1947. Due to recent changes in the community, the area where John Wesley is located has now become identified with the growing neighborhood of Clinton Hill.

The occasion of the church's move to 260 Quincy Street was marked by the congregation gathering for a final time at the Pacific Street location and marching across Brooklyn to its new home for their first worship service there.

The new building was the former home of the Nostrand-DeKalb Methodist Episcopal Church, which was a member of the New York Annual Conference. At the time John Wesley was a member of the Delaware Conference in the Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This situation meant that though both churches were both Methodist Episcopal churches, John Wesley would have to buy the property. John Wesley took out a mortgage on the building that was fully paid, and was burned at a mortgage-burning ceremony in 1963. In the years to follow, John Wesley transferred its membership to the New York Annual Conference, and became a United Methodist Church with the formation of the current denomination in 1968.

Over the years, John Wesley would develop many ministries to serve its community, including Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Prison Ministries, Exercise Classes, Senior Midday Activities Programs, Tax Services, Scholarship program and Tutorial Programs. Also, there would be many capital projects undertaken to repair and upgrade the aging building, including converting the former gymnasium into a Banquet Hall.

More recently, John Wesley became one of the initial sites for the Justice For Our Neighbors immigration program in 1999. Other recent ministries and programs at John Wesley include Disciple Bible Study, Worship and Prayer Events, a revamped weekday Tutorial Program, Praise Dance Ministry, assuming responsibility for a community Food Pantry, and a renewed Girl Scouts program. Also, contemporary worship was introduced with "Pillar of Fire Ministries," at one time a monthly worship service packaged with increased outreach to the community. That ministry resulted in PowerPoint projections and contemporary music now being a regular part of worship

at John Wesley UMC.

In addition, John Wesley church received the Kim Jefferson Award for Urban Ministry in 2002, and was a candidate for the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century" initiative.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the "faith venture" that began in a Cobble Hill storefront so long ago. No one could have ever imagined what has been accomplished from that storefront church in 1916. God's work in John Wesley church is more than enough reason to celebrate and give thanks.

John Wesley's 90th Anniversary Celebration will include several dynamic worship services beginning on Homecoming Sunday, September 10th, continuing straight through the Advent/Christmas Season, including World Communion Sunday on October 1st, and Laity Sunday on October 15th. Also, the Youth and Young Adults of John Wesley will lead worship on October 22nd.

There will be several highlights of Anniversary Celebration, including the 90th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, October 21st at 12:00 PM. This event will take place at Le Cordon Bleu Caterers, 96-01 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven, NY. The next major event will be the Anniversary Celebration Service on Sunday, October 29th at 11:00 AM. The Rev. Allen N. Pinckney, Superintendent of the Long Island East District and Dean of the Cabinet will be the preacher that morning. "Men & Women's Day" will be celebrated on Sunday, November 12th at a special worship celebration at 3:30 PM that afternoon to highlight the ministry of the Men and Women of John Wesley UMC. The final event of the 90th Anniversary will be a Christmas Concert on December 17th at 3:30 PM.

We pray that you will join us for some of these events as we celebrate 90 years of ministry as a church. For more information contact us at our website, www.gbgm-umc.org/johnwesley, by email at johnwesley.umc@verizon.net or at the Church Office at 718-783-5761. God bless you all in the fall season.

John Wesley United Methodist Church
260 QUINCY STREET AT NOSTRAND AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11216
REV. FAULINE WARELL-SANDH, PASTOR
invites YOU to join us for our

Anniversary Celebration
Celebrating 90 Years in Ministry (1916-2006)
Persevering in Love And Hope For The Future

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>HOME COMING SUNDAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2006 AT 11:00 AM PASTOR FAULINE WARELL-SANDH</p> <p>PILLAR OF FIRE MINISTRIES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2006 AT 11:00 AM EVANGELIST MARVA HESBER-KERR</p> <p>90TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006 AT 12 PM SPEAKER, REV. DR. CHESTINA M. ASUMUHALL</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2006 AT 11:00 AM SPEAKER, REV. DR. ALLEN N. PINCKNEY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2006 AT 3:30 PM</p> <p style="font-size: small;">For information, please call the Church Office at 718-783-5761 or contact us online— Email: johnw@gbgm-umc.org Website: www.gbgm-umc.org/johnwesley</p>	<p>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2006 AT 11:00 AM PASTOR FAULINE WARELL-SANDH</p> <p>LAITY SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2006 AT 11:00 AM LAW LEADER DAVID TAYLOR</p> <p>YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS SERVICE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2006 AT 11:00 AM</p> <p>MEN & WOMEN'S DAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 3:30 PM</p>
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"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." -ROMANS 5:1-5

"PERSEVERING IN LOVE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE"

Service of the Blessing of the Beasts

By Tom Goodhue

Francis of Assisi is the favorite saint of many United Methodists and other Protestants. One of his gifts to the whole church was a renewed appreciation for God's good creation. Many congregations celebrate St. Francis, either on or before his feast day, which is October 4. One of the best ways to remember this saint is with a "Blessing of the Animals."

The idea is simple: encourage people to bring their animals to worship--preferably on a leash or in a box--to offer thanks for them and to ask God's help in caring for them. Here are some suggestions:

--Choose a convenient time and an appropriate space, such as the church lawn or parking lot, or the front steps of the sanctuary.

--Make copies of his hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" so that all can join in the singing. You might also try "All Things Bright and Beautiful" or "I Sing the Almighty Power of God."

--Pick Scripture readings, such as Genesis 1:20-25, and readers.

--Tell a story about Francis of Assisi. One of my favorites tells how embracing a leper transformed his life.

--Invite worshippers to bring up their animals and offer a simple prayer, such as, "I thank God for _____ because he/she . . ."

--Offer a prayer of gratitude for all creatures and all creation and ask God to help us to care faithfully for the earth and all its inhabitants.

Given the popularity of Francis with both Protestants and Catholics, both Christians and non-Christians, this event could easily be an ecumenical one. It could even be an interfaith worship service: on Long Island, the Bay Shore Interfaith Clergy Association held a Blessing of the Animals at Sinai Reform Temple.

Nor do you need to limit yourself to October. The beginning of the summer is a good time to gather the critters outdoors. This spring Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist) chose an equally appropriate time: Earth Day in April. Would you like to try such a service in your community?

(Editor's Addition)

Your editor has been privileged to have been invited to participate in a Blessing of the Animals service at the Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Manhattan for the last three years. Pastor Bill Shillady schedules the service for the last Sunday in Advent because, he notes, it was the animals who were the first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in the manger of Bethlehem.

The Park Avenue Church holds the service inside the sanctuary on Sunday afternoon. The only accommodation for the animals is the removal of seat cushions from the pews (for obvious reasons). There is always a variety of pets present; dogs and cats predominate, but fish, gerbils, rabbits, guinea pigs, parakeets and canaries (in cages) and others also show up. Several times, a police horse has arrived, carrying its rider, and receives a blessing at the front entrance to the church.

The service includes hymn-singing - often accompanied by some in-tune or out-of-tune barking, prayers, Scripture readings and a brief message by one of the pastors.

Perhaps the most notable Blessing of the Animals service has been held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in upper Manhattan which has seen elephants, and other very large animals participating.

Tom Goodhue is Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches. You can reach him at 516-565-0290, ext. 206 or licchemp@aol.com.



GOD'S GIFT OF LONG LIFE

Sudden Illness

(Joanne Seltzer, from:
**"When I Am An Old Woman
 I Shall Wear Purple"**

When Mother is discharged
 from the hospital
 you accompany her down
 on the same elevator
 with a young couple
 bringing Baby home.

They call to mind
 the Holy Family
 until you realize
 that every family is holy.

You feel holier-than-thou.

What a powerful reminder when ministering to and with older adults. How easy it is to forget their holiness, their sacred worth! How easy it is to see illness and frailty, rather than a soul; every bit as valuable to God as when it was housed in a younger, healthier body! How easy it is to become so entangled in the question, 'How do I care for this person now? How easy it is to see the older adult as a project to be cared for, rather than a person to engage! "...realize that every family is holy." Doesn't this imply that every member of that family is holy and sacred, most especially the old and the frail?

What does this mean? How do we affirm the sacred worth of a person even as we need to be increasingly concerned about physical care? It is different for each person, but certain things are common.

1. An older adult may be less capable than she once was, but her thoughts and wishes still matter.

2. The physical condition does not define the person. It is simply a fact to be acknowledged.

3. The spirit of a person is eternal. The body is fulfilling its purpose as it dies, even if it is piece by piece.

4. The emotional/spiritual needs of a person lasts a lifetime, they don't end with illness or physical limitations.

5. Sacred worth is valued each time we allow the individual to express his true feelings and needs without fear of being criticized for feeling that way.

6. Other ideas? (I'd love to hear them.)

Jim Stimson

Consultant for Older Adult Ministries

Vision Deadline September 4th for the Sept. 22nd issue



Frontier Foundation Considers Endowments and Seed Corn

These days of late summer are times when farmers' markets abound. In some sections of our Conference, the June floods have held down the selection and increased the price. Nevertheless berries, peaches, cantaloupes, tomatoes, and sweet corn are some of the attractive offerings to be found in the farmers' markets. They are all fresh, homegrown, and delicious.

If I buy a dozen ears of corn at the market this week, how many people will they feed? If roasted or boiled, served with butter, salt and pepper, it will feed a few folks today. But if I purchase a dozen ears of corn, properly store it, and then next year plant the kernels, tend them, and harvest the results, those dozen ears will feed many more people than the dozen ears cooked would feed today. And if I set aside some seed each year and go through the growing process all over again, the seed corn will keep feeding people for the foreseeable future.

Endowment funds are like that seed corn. Properly tended, they generate income that can enhance the ministry of the church for all the years ahead. Setting aside funds now can ensure the future of the church when new ministry opportunities present themselves and there is no source for current funding. Endowments maintain church buildings as assets for ministry. Endowments generate funds for mission work beyond the walls of the local church.

We believe in the power of endowments, properly established and used, to enhance the ministry of the church. We currently work with dozens of churches around the Conference and beyond in helping them develop and use their endowments for the advancement of their ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Foundation not only provides professional management of invested funds through U. S. Trust and John G. Ullman Associates, but we also help churches develop appropriate policies for the use of endowment earnings. We assist churches in promoting planned giving among their congregants. And we help people make those planned gifts that they feel good about and that benefit their church in the years ahead.

We invite you to visit our website at www.umff.org. Check the information under "Assistance for Institutions" to see the recommended policy we have posted for setting up an endowment fund. Check the "Assistance for Individuals" to see the ways we help donors make planned gifts. Then contact us and schedule a visit where we can present our services to your church leaders and begin working with you to help you develop this important resource.

Enjoy the fresh produce at the farmers' market right now. And as you enjoy, think about how your congregation might want to lay up some of today's resources to enhance its ministry in the future. Contact Jeff Rarich at the United Methodist Frontier Foundation at 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY, 10606, or phone toll-free at 1-888-696-6922 + 238 or e-mail jrarich@umff.org. We will be pleased to answer your questions on endowments and make plans for one of our Foundation Consultants to visit with your church to work with you in building up your seed corn for an abundant harvest in the future.

Conference Calendar: September 2006 to March 2007

The Conference Office will be closed Fridays and Saturdays through Labor Day. Conference offices will be open from 8 am to 6 pm Mondays through Thursdays.

SEPTEMBER 2006

Sept. 1-4 Labor Day Weekend - Office Closed

Sept. 7-8 Natural Church Development Coach Training
 (Cardinal Spellman Retreat Center)

Sept. 8 Religion and Race Audit: White Plains

Sept. 9 Clergy Sexual Ethics Training: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
 White Plains

Sept. 9 School of Mission: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm White Plains

Sept. 9 Clergy Spouses: 10 am to 12 Noon White Plains

Sept. 9 Natural Church Development Seminar:
 10 am - 2 pm (Christ Church, New Rochelle)

Sept. 11-12 Religion and Race Audit: White Plains

Sept. 13 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains

Sept. 13 Parish Development and Cabinet

Sept. 15-16 Wellspring: 5:30 pm Friday
 (Bethany Spirituality Ctr., Highland Mills, NY)

Sept. 16 UMW Team Mtg. / Finance Mtg.: 9 am-3 pm Wh.Pl.

Sept. 16 UMM Executive Comm.: 10 am White Plains

Sept. 17 Stewardship in Action; (Ulster Heights Church)

Sept. 19 Board of Trustees: 7 pm White Plains

Sept. 20 Cabinet: 12 Noon White Plains

Sept. 20 CMVT Plenary: 6:30 pm White Plains

Sept. 21 Archives and History: 10 am White Plains

Sept. 21 COMPASS Orientation: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Wh.Pl.

Sept. 23 Leadership Training for Homosexual Study:

(Time and location TBA)
 Sept. 23 Mozambique Sister Conf, Election: 10 am; and
 Mozambique VIM Team Building: 1 pm White Pl.
 Sept. 23 Learning Center Workshop-Sleeping Bags for
 the Homeless: 1 t- 3:30 pm (Mt. Kisco UM Church)
 Sept. 25 Conference Sessions: 7 pm White Plains
 Sept. 26 CFA; 7 pm White Plains
 Sept. 27 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Sept. 28 Board of Pensions & Health Benefits: 7 pm Wh. Pl.
 Sept. 29 Igniting Ministry Workshops: 1 to 4:00 pm and
 5 to 9 pm White Plains
 Sept. 30 Igniting Ministry Workshop: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
 White Plains
 Sept. 30 Igniting Ministry Workshop: 9:00 am -1:30 pm
 White Plains

OCTOBER 2006

Oct. 1 Stewardship in Action: (Freeport Church)
 Oct. 2-3 Bishop's Retreat - Connecticut/NY and Catskill
 Hudson Districts: (Mt. St. Alphonus)
 Oct. 4-5 Bishop's Retreat - Metropolitan, LIE and LIW
 Districts: (Bishop Malloy Retreat Center, Queens)
 Oct. 6-7 Confirmation Kick-Off: 4 pm Fri to 3 pm Sat.
 (Camp Quinipet)
Oct. 7-9 Columbus Day Observance - Office Closed
 Oct. 11 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Oct. 13-14 Wellspring: 5:30 pm Friday
 (Bethany Spirituality Ctr., Highland Mills, N.Y.)
 Oct. 13-15 Jurisdictional Leadership Event (TBA)

Oct. 14 Financial Planning for Women only:
 10 am - 2:30 pm White Plains
 Oct. 15 Stewardship in Action: (First Church, West Haven)
 Oct. 17 Board of Trustees: 7 pm White Plains
 Oct. 18 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Oct. 19 Archives and History Workday: 11 am White Plains
 Oct. 20-21 Confirmation Kickoff: 4 pm Fri to 3 pm Sat.
 (Camp Epworth)
 Oct. 21 UMW Annual Conference: 9 am- 4 pm (TBA)
 Oct. 21 Clergy Spouses Day Apart: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
 White Plains
 Oct. 21 Stewardship in Action: (New Fairfield, CT)
 Oct. 24 Order of Elders Day Apart: Location - (TBA)
 Oct. 24 CFA: 7 pm White Plains
 Oct. 25 Pre-Retirement Seminar: 9 am to 3 pm Wh. Plains
 Oct. 25 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Oct. 27-29 United Methodist Men Retreat: Camp Olmsted
 Oct. 28 UMM Executive Comm.: 10 am White Plains
 Oct. 29 Stewardship in Action: (Newtown Church)

NOVEMBER 2006

Nov. 1 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Nov. 4 Stewardship in Action - For Women Only:
 Long Island East District
 Nov. 8 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains
 Nov. 10-11 Wellspring: 5:30 pm Friday (Bethany Center,
 Highland Mills, N.Y.)
 Nov. 11 UMW
 Nov. 15 Cabinet: 9:30 am White Plains



igniting
MINISTRY

Igniting Ministry

It's More than a 30-second television ad!

It's a multi-faceted public awareness campaign for our entire denomination and for every local church!

Do you want to learn how to take full advantage of this opportunity to tell your church's story?

Come to an Igniting Ministry Training Session. Three are being planned for September 29 and 30. Each will be held at the New York Conference Center, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, New York. Each will be slightly different.

The key leader for the training will be
The Rev. Larry Homitsky
United Methodist Communications Consultant
and
Director of Connectional Ministries for
The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference

Session I

Friday, September 29 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

How Can Igniting Ministry Help my Church?

Designed for persons who have had no previous Igniting Ministry Training. Come to learn; Come to plan; Come to take home ideas for your church.

Session 2

Friday, September 29 - 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. (A lite supper will be provided)

For persons who have participated in previous Igniting Ministry Training or whose church is already using igniting ministry resources.

Session 3

Saturday, September 30 - 9:00 am to 1:30 p.m. (A lite lunch will be provided.)

A "Hybrid" session for anyone — You are welcome at this session whether or not you have had any previous Igniting Ministry training!

Take your pick - any one or more

But sign up below and come to discover how Igniting Ministry can help make your church more visible and more welcoming

There is no charge for these events, but advance registration is necessary

Please complete this registration form and send it to:
Donald E. Collier, New York Annual Conference
20 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606
or
FAX the form to him at: 1-914-615-2244

Name: _____
Local Church name and city or town: _____
Preferred Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Have you attended any previous Igniting Ministry training events?
Yes: _____ No: _____
If yes, where and what year? _____
Names of other persons from your church who will attend with you:

We will attend the training on: _____ Sept. 29th from 1 to 4 p.m.
_____ Sept. 29th from 5 to 9 p.m.
_____ Sept 30th from 9 am to 1:30 p.m.

Relieving the stress to caregivers is what we do best

Through our successful Respite Service, the Methodist Church Home for the Aged, a long term care facility, providing exceptional care to older adults in New York, has been continuously providing "time out" to caregivers in the community.

What is Respite Care? Respite Care is a term used to describe time taken by the caregiver for rest and rejuvenation from a person with a short or long term illness. Caregivers need time away from their care giving responsibilities to enjoy their interests, socialize with friends and family or simply to take a break.

You have heard it before; if you are a family caregiver, you are at a greater health risk than your loved one. Providing care to someone you love- whether full-time, part time or long distance takes a huge toll both physically and emotionally.

The Methodist Church Home's Respite Care Service will allow you to relax for a weekend or longer, and up to 45 days a year. You won't have to worry about anything other than to enjoy your vacation.

This service will give you the relief you need. We will provide your loved one with a beautiful private room with private bathroom. Rooms have magnificent views of a formal garden, fishpond and waterfall. Each room features all the modern commodities that only a five star hotel can offer. Our professional and friendly staff will take care of your loved one 24 hours a day and provide him or her with exceptional comprehensive care including: Physical and occupation therapies, three meals a day, activities program, religious services and even a beautician and dentist are site.



There will no time for boredom or discomfort- the Methodist Church Home provides our guests with plenty of entertainment and detailed attention on individual medical needs.

Anyone who has an illness or condition and requires treatment is eligible for Respite.

By contacting us, we will be able to provide you with personalized information regarding this service. You may reach us at 718-548-5100 ext. 224, to assist you preparing the appropriate paper work if necessary. As a caregiver you have a choice: using Respite Service which Medicaid covers as well as supplemental insurance or hiring professional help to assist your loved one at home while you are away. This alternative however isn't covered by Medicaid or supplemental insurance. You as the caregiver will have to cover for the expense.

Visit or contact us to receive important information about care for the caregiver and tips that you can share with others that might need this information as well.

Farewell to Summer Barbecue for Older Adults Featuring live music and door prizes.

On Saturday, September 9, 2006
from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm,
Formal Garden of the
Methodist Church Home for the Aged.
4499 Manhattan College Parkway,
Bronx, NY.

This activity is open exclusively to older adults. The Home's formal garden, which features a fishpond and waterfall, will accommodate guests who will enjoy live music, good food, and door prizes. Space is limited, reservations are a must. To RSVP and receive additional information regarding transportation available for your convenience, please call 718-548-5100 ext.231 by September 7, 2006.

Free parking available. (Free of charge and open only to older adults.)

