

THE COURIER

Catskill Hudson District
New York Annual Conference

January/February 2007

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ANNOUNCEMENT ! The New District Superintendent of the Catskill Hudson District !! (Starting July 1, 2007):

Dear Friends,

I am absolutely thrilled to be able to announce that **Rev. James Moore (Hyde Park UMC)** will be the new Superintendent of the Catskill Hudson District beginning July 1, 2007.

Jim is a gifted pastor with a warm and caring heart. He is very familiar with rural ministry. He has served in Callicoon, Fremont Center, Hankins and North Branch. These churches were formerly on the Delaware Hudson District and are now part of our District.

Jim's wife, Holly, is a teacher. They have three grown children.

Jim's integrity and pastoral heart are perfect for this District, and I could not be more pleased than I am.

Sincerely, Mark

Souper Bowl of Caring! Last year more than \$1 million was raised by United Methodist Youth from around the country to help the hungry. The goal this year is 1.4 million. Youth groups may register at www.souperbowl.org and then plan their soup event for Super Bowl Sunday, FEBRUARY 4, 2007 !

FROM WALTON:

Dear Friends of the Catskill Hudson District,

It has been exactly six months since the devastating flood covered Walton, causing damage and inflicting great loss on our church and community. Much has happened in that first six months. Folks in the community who were displaced from their homes came to our church seeking refuge, food, and words of hope and encouragement. Our church itself was flooded, but with great consensus we wanted to keep our doors open and extend help where we could. Working with the NYAC disaster team, UMCOR, and the Red Cross, we were dispensed water, food, cleaning supplies, and performed sanitation clean-ups in 87 homes, continuing to help our community into the next phase of repair and rebuilding and working on 12 projects to date. Then our task was to repair our church. The damage was great, with an initial estimate of \$260,000 worth of repairs. We have so far completed about 40% of the repairs and raised about half of what we will need to get us to where we can once again use our full space for mission and ministry. We have replaced our rotten wood floor with a concrete floor, we have repaired our drain system, we have installed a new heating system, and now we have begun to reframe the walls.

What still remains ahead is for us to rebuild our two bathrooms making one of them fully handicapped accessible including a handicap accessible shower. Of course this means that we must also provide a new handicapped accessible entrance. We will need to replace all our gas, water and electric lines, lights, ceiling, sheetrock, new kitchen, dining room cabinets and furniture, and refurbish our nursery.

It seems like a lot to do, but it will be accomplished the same way we have accomplished all the work in the church and our community so far; with donations, and volunteers from our church members, community, friends, District, Conference, Jurisdiction and Greater Connection. That is why I am writing this rather lengthy letter TO THANK YOU ALL for your contributions.

You are our encouragement. Because we have had support, we have been able to continue providing a ministry to our community when they needed it most. We have been able to offer a vacation Bible School, we opened our church to host a Community Thanksgiving Service, and we sponsored a Community Christmas Dinner. In addition, it was evident from the extra large attendance at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that our presence in the community has been recognized.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark Del Giudice

Wanderings . . .

By Diane Meredith

Greetings in the New Year! I hope that the Christmas season was spiritually and personally gratifying to you, your families, and your churches. There is no more heartwarming time of year to reflect on being a Christian!

I have had two wonderful experiences in the last few weeks as your wandering lay leader. First, I visited the Reservoir United Methodist Church in Shokan on December 17th for their “Hallelujah Celebration,” dedicating their new education building and hall as well as their newly renovated and restored sanctuary. A large crowd, validating the lengthy and well-thought-out process of consolidating three churches into one, extended sincere congratulations. Bishop Park led the dedication, and DS Mark Chatterton and several of their former pastors were present for the occasion. Rev. Lucy Jones and members of the congregation provided a thoughtful and entertaining overview of the history of their planning and project. A service of Thanksgiving followed with special music by Lee Stowe. The new facility is absolutely beautiful—artfully done—and the Reservoir Church members can take great pride in the care and insight they devoted to the design. They embody the Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts vision!

On New Year’s Eve Day I worshipped with the White Sulphur Springs UMC. This welcoming congregation, led by Pastor Bridgette LeConey and Lay Leader Sue Buzzell, should boast of their enthusiasm for worship and their care for one another! The message by Pastor Bridgette offered some intriguing questions that God may have pondered as the Great Parent. All who have experienced child rearing could certainly relate to this relevant and scripture-based meditation. The coffee hour following worship was a time of fellowship that I, as a visitor, much appreciated, and I thank all who made me feel so welcome! It was a pleasure to meet the pastor’s spouse, Bud, and I must note the choir—10 or more members strong—for their lively anthem, ‘Mary, Mary.’ Fond remembrances and good wishes were sent back to Walton with me for the Robertsons—Rev. Bill, Olive, and Lyle, as many remembered their service as the pastoral family in White Sulphur Springs.

You must be tiring of my repeated awe over the connectionalism I find in our Catskill Hudson District, but I am truly amazed time and again by the bonds that tie our hearts, our minds, our hopes, and our trials. We are truly United Methodists, and by the grace of God, we are not alone.

Peace be with you.

Diane

Annual Catskill Hudson District Workshop Training Day

Saturday, March 24, 2007

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Federated Church of Kerhonkson

42nd Street

Kerhonkson, New York 845-626-8160

There is no cost for this event.

Lunch available at the church (free will offering) Choice of two options! (on registration form)

Workshop Descriptions

(You will choose two workshops – one to attend in the morning, and one in the afternoon, unless your workshop is an all-day workshop.)

1. Grief and Loss Ministry (*Pastor Bridgette LeConey, White Sulphur Springs UMC*)

This workshop will clarify some commonly held myths about grief and loss, discuss some common issues, and provide information and encouragement to begin an individual and/or group ministry within your church fellowship. (offered in the a.m. only)

2. Screening of “An Inconvenient Truth” (*Karen and Terry Cianci, Directors of Camp Epworth*)

Al Gore’s critically-acclaimed new film “An Inconvenient Truth” offers the best opportunity we’ve ever had to capture the immediate attention of all Americans and to move this country to consider the impact of our lifestyles on the planet Earth. (Those who register for this workshop should also register for the follow-up workshop in the afternoon: “Epworth as Sacred Common Ground”). (*Inconvenient Truth* offered in the a.m. only)

3. The Power to Forgive: Is it Possible? (*Rev. Sara Thompson-Tweedy, Federated Church of Kerhonkson*)

One of the major tenets of the Christian faith is that we should forgive those who have wronged us. In a culture that teaches us to seek retribution, “to get even”, and to attack back, how do we live up to this seemingly impossible standard? This workshop will address such issues as: Why forgive? What is forgiveness? What is forgiveness NOT? How do we achieve forgiveness? **This is an all-day workshop.**

4. Praying the Scriptures (*Gail Erdie, District Spiritual Life Representative, Staff Member of Wellspring Spiritual Institute, pastor of Lloyd UMC*)

While traditional study of scripture has an important role in our Spiritual Formation, there are additional ways of entering into the scriptures. We will explore at least two different ways of praying/experiencing them. Come, appreciate how scripture is also Living Word in our lives today.

5. What Does It Mean to Be “United Methodist”? (*Pastor Bridgette LeConey, White Sulphur Springs UMC*)

This workshop will review church history as to how the United Methodist Church came to be formed in 1968; the foundational concept of connectionalism, and the Wesleyan influence of the social Gospel. (offered in the p.m. only)

6. Epworth as Sacred Common Ground (*Karen and Terry Cianci, Directors of Camp Epworth*)

Our camps are “sacred common ground”. Epworth has 28 buildings, 13 with hot and cold plumbing, 9 with heat, 80 acres of forest and 80 acres of arable land. We at Epworth feel the need to carry out our roles as stewards by seeking to reduce the size of Epworth’s large energy footprint. We believe we can do both and improve the overall quality and efficiency of the camp in the process. (offered in the p.m. only)

7. A Study of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (*Marilyn Wakefield*)

This study will be useful for churches wanting to know more about United Methodist positions on social issues and for those seeking to be more active. Biblical and theological implications for the realities of today's issues will be important in our discussion.

8. Lay Speakers: Refresh and Recharge (*Pastor Steve Knutsen, Rock Hill UMC*)

Lay Speakers will receive credit and a certificate for this training: a total of ten classroom-contact hours. There is a part two to this training that will be offered at two distinct locations in our District. In the northern section of our district, it will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 10 am to 3 pm (the location of this session will be determined by the transportation needs of those who participate). In the southern section of our District it will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Rock Hill UMC. You must attend this workshop and then either of the part two classes to receive credit. **This is an all-day workshop.** (An hour and a half before lunch and three and a half hours after lunch). A check for \$20.00, made payable to Hudson North District (our old name) must accompany registration.

9. Hymnal Helper: Blending in THE FAITH WE SING (*Lee Stowe*)

In this workshop, we will examine in detail the manner in which THE FAITH WE SING is intended to be used. Using *The Faith We Sing Worship Planner* that accompanies the book, various hymns will be explored, sample worship services will be created, and much singing will take place! Highly recommended that you order a copy of *The Faith We Sing Worship Planner* by sending \$18.00 with your registration for this workshop. Make check payable to Hudson North District (our old name). Scholarships available if you indicate need on registration form.

10. Every Member in Ministry? More Than An Ideal – It Can Be Real ! (*Rev. Jeff Glassey (St. James UMC) and Pastor Dale Ashby (Southern Delaware Charge)*)

When people join a United Methodist Church, they pledge support through their “prayers, presence, gifts and service.” Yet few churches have enough of this kind of support to accomplish even the most basic tasks of ministry. This workshop will introduce principles designed to involve every member in a church's overall ministry and to increase the involvement of laity in the local church. Believe it or not, it is possible for today's church to double or triple lay involvement and ministry opportunities. Come, learn and grow in this exciting possibility!

11. Youth Ministry: Well-Rounded and Christ-Centered (*Neal Bowes, Conference Consultant for Youth Ministries*)

When we understand the mission of youth ministry, as outlined in Scripture, we can begin to maximize our efforts by building programs that intentionally work toward that mission – and tweaking or canceling those that don't. When we understand that every teenager is in a different place in his or her spiritual journey, we can begin to meet people where they are in an authentic way. When we understand both, we can begin to intentionally and significantly impact the lives of the teenagers we minister to (offered in the a.m. only)

12. Children in Worship (*Rev. Ann Pearson, Director of Connectional Ministries, NYAC*)

If we live under the basic assumption that all persons, *and that includes children*, are participants in the Body of Christ – then why do we exclude them from the worship experience designed to praise and to connect with God? This workshop will explore

ways to include rather than exclude people of all ages into an exciting worship experience!

13. Be a Youth L.E.A.D.E.R. (*Neal Bowes, Conference Consultant for Youth Ministries*)

Youth leaders are most successful in ministry when they enter into authentic relationships with teenagers. This workshop will examine some ways to develop and maintain these relationships. We will also discuss some qualities and practices of effective youth leaders, and talk about some of the ideas to implement and pitfalls to avoid in the administration of your youth ministry. (offered in the p.m. only)

REGISTRATION

(DEADLINE TO REGISTER: March 15th)

(Choose two workshops. You may mail this registration form to the District Office (Dru Chatterton, 71 Van Dale Rd., Woodstock, New York 12498). You may email your choices to the District Office cathudnyac@aol.com or you may call the District Office with your choices (845-679-6350). You may also fax your registration form if you call us first to turn on the machine (845-679-5692). Your registration *will be confirmed* by phone, mail or email. If the confirmation is not forthcoming, contact us. (there is always the possibility that we did not receive your registration).

Catskill Hudson District Workshop Training Day – Saturday, March 24th 9:30 am – 3:00 p.m. Federated Church of Kerhonkson, Kerhonkson, NY
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Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Name of Church _____

My choices are # and # 3rd choice in case of overflow: _____
(An all-day workshop means no other choice can be made.)

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 15th.

_____ I would like to have lunch at the event (free will offering). My choice of menu is the following:

_____ *Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes & gravy, salad, rolls*
_____ *Vegetable Lasagna, Tossed Salad, rolls*

_____ I will need childcare (please indicate names of children and their ages)

_____ I am disabled and will need my workshops to be accessible for the disabled.
(please register ASAP or by March 10th so that we may accommodate your workshop choices)

Directions to Federated Church of Kerhonkson (845-626-8160)

Kerhonkson is on Rt. 209. It's 15 miles north of Ellenville. (20 minutes on 209 South from the Kingston Traffic Circle.) Once in Kerhonkson, turn left at the only traffic light if coming from the north, and right if coming from the south. Church is

on the left. Go to the church first to check-in, have coffee and attend the Opening. To get to the firehouse (for lunch) pass the church, go over a small bridge and turn left. The firehouse is set back on the left. (Walking distance from the church). There will be signs and people to direct you.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

On January 10th Bridgette LeConey (White Sulphur Springs UMC) was approved to become an Associate Member at Annual Conference in June. Dottie Morris (Grand Gorge & Gilboa), Amanda Iahn (Bullville & Town of Esopus) and Lawrence Charles (Stamford & Harpersfield) were approved to be Commissioned at Annual Conference!! Congratulations!!

LAY SPEAKING

Lay Speaking Youth Basic Course at Epworth on Saturday April 21st, 2007

Lay Speaking Basic Course on Saturdays starting April 28th for 5 weeks ending on June 2nd 2007, location and instructors to be announced.

Spring Breakfast for Saturday April 14th at Saugerties UMC. Speaker to be announced.

If any Lay Speakers or Pastors have any questions about Lay Speaking Ministries in their churches, they can contact Rev. Joyce Wilkerson (cumc@surferz.net), Pastor Steve Knutsen (rockhillumchurch@in4web.com) or Phil Jacobs (pjacobs@mhicable.com) .

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 21st from 3:00-5:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC in Middletown. The first meeting of the Catskill Hudson District Council on Youth Ministries. Please invite all the youth from your church (grades 6-12). There will be some games and an opportunity to meet other youth from around the District. Most of this first meeting will be spent getting to know one another as well as talking generally about the vision that the youth have for youth events and youth ministry in the District. Questions? Call Natassia Velez: 845-541-5209 Email: thegravityidefy@cs.com

Tuesday, January 23 to Thursday January 25th The 57th Annual Bishop's Convocation WAKING TO GOD'S DREAM: Small is Big; the Power of Small Group Ministries. To be held at Hudson Valley Resort and Spa (Kerhonkson, NY). Speaker: Rev. Dick Wills. All clergy and families invited. This event qualifies for CEU's to be determined and continuing education funds from the local church can be used. Note: Due to fire damage, the Convocation is not at Villa Roma this year!

January 26 through January 28 Catskill Hudson District UMW Winter Retreat. Held at St. Joseph's Villa, Saugerties, NY. Theme: "Fill My Cup" from the book "Cup of Life" by Joyce Rupp. Leaders: Gail Erdie and Fran Reed. Cost: \$150.00 Checks payable to Catskill Hudson District UMW. Registrar: Cindy Davis, 39 Grove School Road, Catskill, NY 12414 518-943-2269

Thursday, February 15th Local Pastors Meet with D.S. 12:30 – lunch for those who want it at Johnny G's Diner. 1:30 – Meeting at Quarryville UMC. William Hoawes, presenting.

Tuesday, March 13th – Residents in Ministry – 2:00 – District Parsonage. Pastor Steve Peiffer presenting.

Saturday, March 18th District Mission Event (place to be determined) 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 24th District Workshop Training Day Federated Church of Kerhonkson 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Registration and workshop details enclosed in this newsletter.

Friday, April 13-Sunday, April 15th Conference Wide Retreat for United Methodist Women: "Resurrection Women" Stony Point Retreat Center, Stony Point, NY \$200. per person. For more information contact Joan Cordani, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, 845-855-5259 or Beverly Peck Risi, President, 845-878-4854.

April 17-20, 2007 are the dates for the Spring Order of Elders Retreat. Save the dates.

District Conference: Sunday, May 6th, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Overlook UMC in Woodstock. Ernest Swiggett preaching.

Annual Conference will be June 6-9, 2007 at Hofstra University.

Don't forget about our District Website, (<http://www.qbgm-mc.org/catskillhudson>) created and maintained by Sheri Bunt (SheriBunt@aol.com). If your church wants to publicize an event or fund raiser, email the information to Sheri and she will publish it on the website. Also, check your own church information on the website and make sure it is updated. If your church now has a website, make sure the address is on the website, listed with your church.

And also on the subject of updating/correcting/deleting/adding: Remember to contact Rev.Gene Smith (by use of the last page in the new Directory and in the

Journal) if you need to correct your church listing as it appears in those lovely new resources.

And another thing you can do: You can go to www.umc.org and look at the upper right-hand corner to Find-a-Church. Type in your church zipcode. See if your church has updated and/or correct information. Your GCFA number, which you need to enter to change information, is in the current Journal, next to your church name.

REMEMBER OUR DISTRICT MISSION PROJECT!!!

(passed at District Conference in May)

(The P.E.T. project will be displayed and demonstrated in the lunch room at the District Workshop Training Day March 24th.)

WHEREAS P.E.T. New York – East Jewett, Inc. is now incorporated as an independent mission organization, and

WHEREAS P.E.T. New York – East Jewett, Inc. is an affiliate of PET International, Inc., whose purpose is the promotion of Personal Energy Transportation vehicles for individuals with disabilities who have no appropriate means of mobility; to coordinate PET work sites where PETs are constructed; to assist in the dissemination of vehicles to international agencies/sponsors, and

WHEREAS PET New York – East Jewett, Inc. has been **designated as the official mission project of the Catskill Hudson District** and is within the bounds of the District,

Be it resolved that each Charge in the Catskill Hudson District set as a goal the sponsorship of one or more PETs per year at \$250. per vehicle.

DEADLINE for next issue (March/April) of the COURIER will be
March 5, 2007.