



July/August 2009

The Courier

Catskill Hudson District New York Annual Conference

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A Word From Your DS Transition Time: Thank You, God Bless You, Welcome....

As we move into a new appointment year there are a number of pastoral changes in the district. This is a good time for expressing our sincere thanks to those who have served, offering prayers for God's guidance in new beginnings, and extending our friendship to those who will be new colleagues among us. Here are the changes that are official as of July 1st:

Three of our pastors are retiring:

Louise Thomas is retiring from Ellenville and Westbrookville, in part because of the health difficulties she has experienced in recent years. She and Bill will continue to live in their home in Otisville, and my hope is that as her health improves she will find new ways to serve God among us.

Larry Powell, a local pastor who has served for three years in Liberty UMC, will be the new pastor in Ellenville. His home is in Wallkill, and he looks forward to a much shorter commute than the one he has had to Liberty. Westbrookville will be served by Jennifer Wilsford, a student local pastor at Drew – see below for more biographical details.

Bill Hawes is retiring from the Roxbury and Halcott churches in the Upper Catskill Larger Parish. He and Kay are moving to a newly-purchased home in Lancaster County, Pa. This is actually Bill's second retirement. He was a school music teacher and a church organist for 33 years before entering ministry and serving for 13 years as a pastor. The new appointee for Roxbury and Halcott is Peg Van Siclen, who has served for seven years in the Callicoon and Narrowsburg charge

Dick Guice is "re-retiring", having served the United Church of Roscoe for the last two and a half years, one of the numerous assignments he has had since his official retirement in 1996. We are blessed to have had this wise and experienced pastor among us, who has been willing to serve so generously. The Roscoe church will now be seeking a pastor from the UCC ranks, in accord with their local by-laws.

Two of our pastors are moving to other districts:

Mandy Iahn, who has served both the Bullville UMC and the Town of Esopus UMC will be the pastor at Trinity UMC in LaGrangeville, in the New York Connecticut District. Her successors will be Tim Henderson (Bullville) and Dora Odarenko (Esopus) - see below for more biographical details.

Sarah Diane Ford, who has been appointed to Kerhonkson Federated Church, will be appointed to Good Shepherd UMC in West Hempstead and to the South Floral Park UMC, both in the Long Island East District. We thank her for her service in our district, while giving thanks that this new appointment will allow her to be reunited with her husband Jerry who has continued to live and work in New York City. The Kerhonkson church will be served by lay speakers for an interim time as they seek God's direction for the future.

Five of our Pastors are continuing in their current ministries, but with changed responsibilities:

John Thomason will continue to serve Monticello, while also serving as pastor at Liberty (succeeding Larry Powell)..... Mark Del Giudice will continue to serve at First UMC in Walton while adding the Bloomville UMC to his duties..... Sallie Soltysiak, who has been at Bloomville and Stamford will now pastor only Stamford, and will be moving with her family to Stamford..... Camille Regholec will continue to serve the Malden Charge (Malden, Palenville and Quarryville) and will also lead evening services in Mamakating, her home community. Alice Laclair, a lay speaker who had been assigned to Mamakating, has moved to California where she has a new career working in the offices of a magazine..... Randy Yerkes, who had been appointed to the Town of Bethel UMC, a recently discontinued merger, will remain as pastor for one of the two congregations, Mongaup Valley UMC. The other, Kauneonga Lake Community UMC will be served by a lay speaker, Paul Minton – see below for more about Paul.

Five people are beginning new ministries among us in Catskill Hudson:

Jennifer Wilsford (Westbrookville) is a student at Drew Seminary and a member of the Texas Annual Conference. She is a graduate of Austin College (in 2002) and also did graduate work in Biblical Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Jennifer will be getting married on August 1st to Todd Pick, who is also a Drew student and the artist who creates the beautiful altars we have seen at Annual Conference in recent years. Jennifer and Todd will be residing in Highland Mills.

Tim Henderson is a local pastor who resides in Otisville, NY. He has been serving the South Highland and Cold Spring UMC in New York Connecticut District and is pleased to be appointed to Bullville, which is quite near his home. Tim and his wife Donna have two adult children. Donna is a registered nurse, and Tim's full-time employment is with the Asplundh tree company. Tim and Donna have been very involved in leading mission trips to Appalachia, and will be going there again this August, to an area known (interestingly enough) as Henderson Settlement.

Nelson Kalombo Ngoy, newly appointed to Callicoon and Narrowsburg, is an ordained elder in the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has served churches in Congo and Zimbabwe but is studying at Drew Seminary with a desire to be better equipped to be an evangelist in any part of the world. He is sponsored in this endeavor by our General Board of Global Ministries. Nelson's wife is named Lucy and they have four young children: 3 sons - Arcel (11), John (9), Charles (7) and one daughter - Lisa (3). Nelson and Lucy grew up speaking French in the Congo, but they are also fluent in English and in 5 or 6 African languages.

Dora Odarenko, who will serve the Town of Esopus UMC, is a candidate for ministry from the Connecticut District. Dora is new in ministry but rich in life experience, having taught English on the college level for many years. She is a recent graduate of Yale Divinity School. Dora will be commuting – usually at the church on Tuesday-Wednesday and Saturday-Sunday. She earns a part of her livelihood by tutoring homebound students near her home in Easton, Ct. Dora also has a small “rescue farm” called “Ducks in Row Farm,” which is home to several donkeys, sheep and other animals that have come into her life.

Paul Minton is a lay speaker from the Liberty UMC and will be serving as a district hire at the Kauneonga Lake UMC. Paul is employed by the Liberty High School and once was a professional bowler. He and his wife Valerie have two young sons, Samuel (4) and Benjamin (3). Kauneonga Lake has been served by a series of lay speakers since January '09, but Paul and the congregation seemed to have a good connection and the church requested that he be named as their lay pastor on a more permanent basis.

In this time of transitions, please join me in prayers and expression of thanks and welcome as these brothers and sisters, and the congregations to which they are connected, are entering new chapters of their lives.

Your D S and Friend in Christ.
Jim Moore

Superintendent's Vacation Time

Jim Moore will be on vacation, and the district office will not be staffed, from July 20th through August 9th. The centerpiece of this vacation time will be the wedding of the Moore's daughter, Katherine, on August 1st.

Should anyone need to consult with a Superintendent, these DS's will be providing coverage:

July 20-26: Rev. Noel Chin, 212-870-2045

July 27-Aug. 2: Rev. Adrienne Brewington, 631-366-2396

Aug. 3-9: Rev. Kenny Yi, 516-333-9868

The Following is the report prepared by DS Jim Moore, included in the written reports for District Conference, and summarized at the Camp Meeting.

In it he tries to answer some basic questions, like "Why do we have a district?" and "What are some of the ways a district can be useful?"

"Equipping, Collaborating, and Celebrating"

As we are gathering for our "Camp Meeting", and anticipating the largest gathering of people for any event since the Catskill Hudson District was formed from parts of the old Hudson North and Delaware Hudson districts, I am glad to reflect on a growing sense of identity for our district.

The district does occupy an odd place in the United Methodist scheme of things. The local church is obviously the most significant place of belonging for our members, and the place of greatest investment of energy and commitment for our pastors. The annual conference supplies the infrastructure and administration for most of our missional and organizational matters – arranging for pastoral appointments, mission projects, clergy medical insurance, supplemental salary support, camping and retreat ministries, etc. And then, somewhere in between, we have the district, and one of the gradual, ongoing tasks for me as a Superintendent has been a quest to find a realistic and helpful understanding of what the district can be and do.

I am very grateful for the expanded District Council on Ministries which was established in the Spring of 2008 and which has been working very creatively during the past year. Our DCOM has lifted up three verbs to describe its work, and the function a district may play: **Equipping, Collaborating, and Celebrating**.

The district can and should equip people from our churches to practice their faith and carry out their responsibilities in the congregations. To this end we have had workshops in the Fall and Spring (each held at two locations to compensate for our sprawling geography), with training in stewardship, spiritual disciplines, ministry with youth, children's education, use of arts and recorded music in worship, leading committees effectively, etc. These have been well received, and such workshops will continue in the coming year ... The lay speaking program is such an equipping ministry ... The three seminars led by Margaret Howe with regard to filling out the annual statistical tables were such an equipping function ... In the coming year we want to look for additional ways in which we can come together to help our congregations to be stronger and more effective. Stewardship education and guidance in establishing Safe Sanctuaries, are two significant areas in which we have a need, and in which the district will be bringing resources and leadership from the annual conference into our area to strengthen our work.

The district can and should help congregations to collaborate on projects which are too big for one church, or in which it makes sense for a group of churches to combine their efforts. Often this requires nothing more than common sense and no official leadership from the district, as when neighboring pastors join together for confirmation classes, Disciple Bible groups, or special holiday worship events, but sometimes the district can help ... Certainly the way in which some of our churches have assisted East Jewett in the PET project is an example of collaborating, and enabling individual churches' efforts to combine and accomplish something very useful for God and God's people ... One of the major new initiatives I hope to support in the coming year is pulling together a group of adults who are interested in youth ministry, and who can help the district to have occasional events that will bring together kids from various churches. In some cases existing youth groups may be invited to meet with each other; in many cases we have churches with too few youth to have their own group, but who might enjoy the chance to meet with larger groups from many churches.

Once in a while – in a way that enhances local churches, rather than duplicating their efforts – the district can and should bring people together to celebrate. The Camp Meeting we are holding, with several hundred people joining in inspiration, fellowship and fun is intended to be such a gathering, doing something that few of our churches could do on their own, at least to this scale ... Another celebration event, planned for early November, is a music festival in which we hope to have choirs and other musical groups from our churches coming together for a big day of inspiration ... Given our geography and the travel times involved it's not reasonable to have many all-district events, but occasionally we can all come together for big celebrations. We could also plan regional events of various kinds that might bring people together to celebrate in ways beyond the capacity of local congregations, and perhaps may do some of this in the future.

Much of my work as a superintendent is directed by these same verbs. I try to equip clergy and congregations to fulfill their tasks – through the appointment of appropriate pastoral leaders, through individual counseling and mentoring of clergy, and (to the extent that I am able to do so) giving guidance to congregations..... In the collaborative mode, I have brought together several pairs of churches to share pastors, not with a view to combining or merging the congregations but in hopes of making their costs for pastoral compensation more appropriate. My hope in these collaborations is that each church, now less burdened financially, may have a stronger ministry in its own community ... I have enjoyed coming to churches for celebrations – representing the larger UMC community at church anniversaries, weddings of pastors, and celebrating (in a way) at memorial services. I find my work to be most satisfying when it does contribute somehow to these tasks, and equipping, collaborating and celebrating - rather than bureaucracy alone - are the results of my labors.

Looking ahead to the coming year I know that I need to find a sensible way to combine some of the charge conference meetings. In 2008-09 I again visited every charge and found these meetings to be very useful, but squeezing 70 charge conference meetings into the October to mid-January time frame means that I neglect a lot of other responsibilities, both to the district and to my family. I would welcome suggestions about plausible pairings of charges or churches for charge conferences. A significant learning goal I need to address is to study models for cooperative parishes or other groupings of churches where finances and small numbers make it necessary to collaborate. I want to study what has worked elsewhere, to consider what might be useful in Catskill Hudson.

I am truly grateful to pastors and lay people who are willing to join me in the ministry of the district. Not as a substitute for our local churches, or for the annual conference, but in its own unique way our district has a role to play in accomplishing our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” I look forward to our efforts in equipping, collaborating and celebrating in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ's Service
Rev. James Moore

Camp Meeting/District Conference at Epworth

Camp Meeting was a joyful day. Over 300 people, of all ages, from all the corners of our district came together. We had uplifting music, an inspiring message from our Bishop, games and outdoor activities, time to reflect on the beauty of creation, fellowship and spiritual companionship, a chance to learn and contribute to PET (Personal Energy Transport) and a good barbeque dinner. Even the weather, which was threatening rain all day, cooperated. We also managed to have the shortest district conference in history.

Having had such a wonderful day, the District Council on Ministries (DCOM), is already making plans for a similar Camp Meeting next year. Some first time errors can be corrected, and new activities will be added, but the basic goal – bringing together all kinds of Methodists for a day of inspiration and enjoyment – will remain.

Hearty Thanks are in order to many people, including the members of the Glory Road Band, the volunteers for PET, numerous volunteers who stepped up to help on the day of the event, and the planning team of Lynne Taylor, Gene Knoth, Fran Reed, and Karen Ogborn.



Bishop Park addresses the crowd



Bishop and D.S. Moore



Ed Bishop and Glory Road



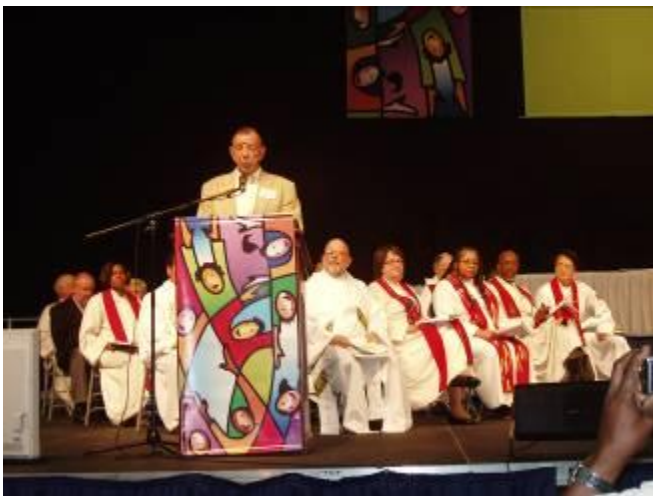
trying out P.E.T. vehicles



P.E.T. obstacle course

Annual Conference

Among the District-related highlights of the recent conference were the following: Richard Lnez was commissioned as a provisional member of the conference (en route towards ordination as an elder). Dale Ashby was ordained elder. Bill Hawes was honored on the occasion of his retirement (as was Louise Thomas, though illness prevented her traveling to conference). PET was the recipient of one of the conference offerings, and Don Muth spoke about PET's mission of giving mobility to third world victims of accidents, explosions and disease.



Don Muth presents the P.E.T. project



Pastor Bill and Kay Hawes and Bishop



Rev. Dale Ashby and D.S. Moore

UMW News

2009 Cooperative School of Christian Mission

Thursday, July 23 - Sunday, July 25, 2009

Western Connecticut State University, University Blvd. Danbury CT. 06810

The 2009 Theme is "This is My Body, Broken for You!" and the studies include "Food and Faith," "Sudan," and "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival." The Registration Form is ready to be downloaded and distributed. For more information, visit the School of Mission web site at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/nyaccsocm/>. Scholarships are available through the Conference and District.

This Worked For Us: (Stories of bright new ideas from our District Churches. If you have something to share in a subsequent *Courier* please let us know.)

What if your church earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support your mission? Well, now it can!

Rondout Valley UMC is participating in Goodsearch.com, a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenues, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Rondout Valley's members use it just as they would any search engine. They get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations to their church add up!

Rondout Valley UMC is listed on GoodShop.com, which is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37% of each purchase to users' favorite causes! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's, and Branes & Nobles have teamed with GoodShop and every time an order is placed, the buyer can support their favorite cause.

The Resource Library Now Online!

The Learning Center (at 20 Soundview Avenue in White Plains) houses thousands of resources including books, DVDs and curriculum kits, puppets, music and more which are available to borrow by churches in the New York Annual Conference. You may view a list of these resources by going to our conference website at <http://nyac.com>, and selecting Resources from the menu at the top of the home page. From there go to The Learning Center/The Resource Library. You may search for resources according to age-level, topic, title, or by description. When you click on "search," a list of titles will appear. Select a title to view, and if it meets your need, you may order it by clicking on the link and filling out a simple form. Your order will come to The Learning Center in an email. If the resource is currently in the building, we will send it to you. We are pleased to offer this service to the churches on our conference because of the faithful payment of shared ministry apportionments by our churches!



D.S. Jim Moore is at the Conference Center often. If you talk to him, he would bring any bulky items as far as Woodstock for you.

Our Methodist Camps

Epworth

Camp Epworth announces its "Creation and Spirit Retreat" on October 2-3, 2009. For more information go to [Creation and Spirit Retreat](#).

Camp Kingswood

Lifeguards Needed: contact Cheryl Winship at cwin1@frontiernet.net or 845-615-1542.

Consider family camping at Kingswood. Kingswood Camp Site is a 766-acre site in the Catskill Mountains at Hancock, New York with huge forests, open fields, stunning views, and rolling hills. It is a quiet, natural setting in which development of positive, cooperative experiences is encouraged. This setting provides opportunities for strengthening of families, nurturing of friendships, renewing of spirit, and growing in respect for God's Creation. Families, couples, and friends can rent one of our unique **campsites** anytime during the summer and hike the trails, swim and boat in the lake, or just relax! Visit www.kingswoodcampsite.org for more information.



Lay Speaking Ministries – Catskill Hudson District

Margaret Howe, howemarg@aol.com

Gene Knoth, knothheat@yahoo.com



Greetings – it is June 15th as I write this – and many of us Lay Speakers are back from Annual Conference – and I hope are energized! This was the year of the Lay Speakers as Bishop Park and others recognized the work that we do and the work we can do – for our churches, our community, our world, ourselves and our God – the beloved community of hope as such a time as this!

Another piece of good news – the Lay Speaking Ministries Committee has added grown in numbers – at our District Camp Meeting we added the following people- Sybilla Barrett, Judi Bathrick, Jeanne Christiana, Rev. Eileen Daunt, Rev. Kent Jackson, Rev. Richard McSherry, Joan Robinson. Other members of the committee are Lula Anderson, Lois Higgins, Margaret Howe, Ruth Kelder, Gene Knoth, Gerald Norris, Gerry Rosenberger, and Rev. Joyce Wilkerson.

The curriculum for Lay Speaking is undergoing some major changes. Most importantly at this time is the Basic Course for Lay Speakers has been totally refocused. Changes in the course will encourage all those who want to be involved in lay speaking ministries to take this course. At that point each can decide what their calling is – caring ministries, preaching, leading Bible studies - and take the appropriate next step. The committee is currently working on how to add the preaching segment to those who want to become Local Lay Speakers and be able to preach. So, we will be working throughout the summer!

Thank you to Gerry Rosenberger for putting together the Lay Speakers Spring Breakfast at Saugerties UMC on May 31. It was delightful – provided an opportunity for many to network and meet one another. Our program on Storytelling was wonderful – thank you Lula and Louise and Susan for you participation. At the end there were many who came forward and said they wanted to take the “Storytelling” course. Lula has agreed to teach, and we are looking at dates and places to have a course this summer. The best place to find out about this will be the District web site under Lay Speaking Ministries.

If you have been getting your emails and checking the web site you also know that we are getting ready to teach the Lay Speaking “Refresher” course for those Local Lay Speakers who have not had any additional training in the last two years. Gerry Rosenberger and Judi Bathrick are the facilitators for this course. Again check the web site.

We are all looking forward to a productive and challenging year!

Blessings,

Margaret Howe

Margaret Howe,

Co-director Lay Speaking Ministries

REVIVAL

CAIRO PARISH
Nightly, July 26th through August 2nd
7:00 p.m.

Speakers include Pastor Bob Johnson
Pastor Bill Haggerty
Pastor Steve Knutsen
Pastor Retta Lykens

Ending with a special healing service on August 2nd

Special music
Liturgical dancing
Signing
Drama

Come and get recharged, refreshed, renewed!

The Windham-Hensonville & Ashland Community United Methodist Churches

**Celebrating 200 Years of Mountaintop Methodist Presence
Beginning as the Batavia Kill Class in 1809**

200th Anniversary Celebration Events

Friday, August 14, Windham-Hensonville UMC

5296 Rt 23, Windham, NY 12496

**6 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper
(bring a dish to pass)**

**7 p.m. Chuck Gleason Concert
Christian Music Ministry**

Saturday, August 15, Windham-Hensonville UMC

6-8 p.m. "Old-Fashioned" Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 16 Worship Celebrations "Along-the-Circuit"

9 a.m. Ashland Community UMC

12216 Rt 23 Ashland, NY 12407

11 a.m. Windham-Hensonville UMC

5296 Rt 23 Windham, NY 12496

1 p.m. Covered-Dish Lunch @ Ashland

4pm North Settlement Church:

"The Historic 1826 Church:

the earliest Methodist Church built in the area."

(call 518-734-4122 for details/directions)

Richard Lenz, Pastor

Calendar

July 23-25: Cooperative School of Christian Mission, Western CT State Univ., Danbury, CT

Sept. 8 and Sept. 10: Pastors' Fall Meetings (time and locations to be announced)

Sept. 19: District Council on Ministries (DCOM) 2:30 at Reservoir UMC

Sept. 21: Pastors' Stewardship Training Seminar, session 1 (location in east part of district)

Sept. 22: Pastors' Stewardship Training Seminar, session 1 (location in west part of district)

Sept. 26- District UMW Annual Meeting, Saugerties UMC

Sept. 28-29: Bishop's Retreat, Mt. St. Alphonsus (beginning with worship 11:00 Monday and concluding with lunch on Tuesday.)

Oct. 3 and 4: Fall Training Events (one in northeast, one in southwest – places to be announced)

Oct 19: Pastors' Stewardship Training Seminar, session 2 (location in east part of district)

Oct. 20: Pastors' Stewardship Training Seminar, session 2 (location in west part of district)

Oct. 27: Local Pastors' Group, Quarryville, 2:00-4:00

Oct. 31: Conference UMW Annual Meeting, First UMC, Mt. Vernon, NY – Guest Speaker Bishop Jeremiah Park

Oct. 31: Advent Workshop, held in our District (organized through Conf. Office of Connectional Ministries – Ann Pearson)

Nov. 7: District Music Festival

Nov. 10-12: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

January 29-31, 2010: District UMW Winter Retreat, Saugerties



Round and About the District



- **Rondout Valley UMC** has a strange collection of objects which make light gracing their altar area. Some in the congregation have asked if it is an auction sale. It's not. There is a light of some sort, from whale oil lamp to Halloween pumpkin, for each person or family who has made a pledge to the Rondout Valley church for the coming year.

- **East Branch/Harvard UMC** will hold weekly worship services on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. during the months of July and August at the historic Harvard Church. The evening service offers an alternative for people in their community who may not always be able to make it to Sunday evening worship service during the hectic summer months. These worship services will feature more contemporary Christian music and a more informal style. People are invited to come as they are and spend time worshipping. The 6:30 Sunday evening worship service at East Branch will continue to be offered.
- Ladies at **United Ministries at Delhi** enjoyed a Spring Fling Ladies Night Out. They made “spring bonnets”, sat at seasonally decorated birthday tables, lit candles and sang happy birthday to all of them. When everyone was finished with dinner, some of the ladies shared their hobby, trip, collection, or project. All enjoyed the fun and fellowship. Some of the men washed dishes.
- The Andes UMC Sunday School children worked together to prepare chili and cornbread to bless their community. This free luncheon was held in March and meals were delivered for about 20 families, as well as meals served to friends and neighbors at the fellowship hall. This effort was a great lesson in how each of us can have a ministry to others.

Please freely **post** and **distribute** this copy of the COURIER. Contact the District Office (cathudnyac@aol.com) if you would like to delete yourself from or add yourself to our database for receiving the COURIER online.

The deadline for the September-October Courier will be September 1st.

