

THE COURIER

Catskill Hudson District
New York Annual Conference

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Dear Friends:

Bishop Park challenged the Cabinet to begin Journaling with the scriptures in the method that was introduced to our clergy by Bishop Richard Wills at the Bishop's Convocation in January. I have begun in earnest. I usually read 3 to 5 chapters from the Bible every day. For example, today I read Deuteronomy 1 and 2 and Mark 12.

I then choose the scripture that resonates most with my soul and then I "journal" (write down) my observations, and I make applications to my life, my work and my ministry. Then I have a time of prayer. The entire process takes about half an hour to 45 minutes, sometimes more.

I like this for a very special reason. It feeds me. Bishop Wills made a statement that was an "ah-ha" moment for me. He said, "Sheep have to learn to feed themselves." I recognized in an instant that I had never realized that truth. I kept trying to feed my sheep (parishioners) through sermons and Bible study. Too often, when I left a church, the foundation for continued spiritual growth had not been laid for my parishioners.

We all need to be responsible for our own spiritual growth. We need to have the discipline to feed ourselves. It is tempting to be spoon-fed by the church and entertained and "led" on Sunday mornings but only for the short-run. Ultimately, we cannot live off the Biblical insights of others. We need to experience the truth of the Bible firsthand, every day. We need to feed ourselves with the Living Word of God.

Sincerely, Mark

**CATSKILL HUDSON DISTRICT
COMMITTEE ON LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES**

Rev. Joyce Wilkerson & Pastor Steve Knutsen, Co-Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries

YOUTH LAY SPEAKING DAY APART
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007

Time: 8 am - 6pm

Where: Epworth Camp and Retreat Center
8 Epworth Lane - High Falls N Y 12440
Phone: 845/687-0215

Who should attend: Youth grades 9 to 12
Youth leaders

Registration fee: \$12.00 (includes materials, lunch & snacks)

Registration deadline: April 10th

This will be a time of learning, fun and fellowship for youth in grades 9 to 12 and youth leaders. Youth have talents and gifts that should be acknowledged, shared and honored in all aspects of ministry. Our curriculum will be: **Lay Speaking Ministries: Youth Basic Course.**

*'...youth of the church are ready and willing to play an active part in the life of the church.
This course will help them understand their call to ministry as laity.'*

Sandy Ziegler, Director Lay Leadership Development, BOD

Please contact: Rev. Joyce Wilkerson, 518/943-2042 for additional information

Please return this portion of the flyer to: Rev. Joyce Wilkerson, Catskill United Methodist Church, 40 Woodland Ave, Catskill N Y 12414 along with the registration fee made payable to Rev. Joyce Wilkerson on or before April 10th, 2007.

Youth Lay Speaking Day Apart - Epworth Camp and Retreat Center - April 21, 2007

Name: _____ grade _____ age _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Church _____ Pastor's name _____

How are you currently involved in your church (i.e. youth group, choir)?

(for office use: date received _____ Registration fee: _____)

Wanderings . . .

By Diane Meredith

Greetings from sunny Arizona! This month I wandered much further from home than usual! I have just returned from a national education conference in Scottsdale and had a wonderful mini-vacation with my family. While visiting in Tucson, we attended Sunday worship at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Highlights were a baptism, a choir of 34 singers, and attendance numbering in the four hundreds. Despite their big numbers, everyone receives a personal greeting upon entering and exiting, and prayer concerns are collected and read. So, I never felt as if I were "just a one-time visitor." Rev. Paul Caseman offered a sermon on temptation and closed with an interesting thought: "Temptation is not always a bad thing. Some people actually say, 'I'm tempted to join the Bible Study or I'm tempted to try to be a better Christian!'"

Back here in the Catskill Hudson District, things are pretty happening, too! In January members of the youth group from the United Ministry in Delhi—PAC for Pretty Active Christians—were recognized at the Delaware County Youth Bureau Awards banquet where they were honored with certificates for their contributions to local missions. Congratulations to this fine group of young people and their advisors!

Congratulations to retired Andes Pastor Gerald Norris and his wife, Evelyn who recently celebrated 50 years of marriage!

As a member of the District Superintendency Committee, I had the pleasure of spending a morning with our soon-to-be-outgoing DS Mark Chatterton and our soon-to-be-incoming DS Jim Moore. It was a heart-warming experience to listen to these dedicated pastors describe their visions, goals, and reflections. Catskill Hudson District has been blessed by Rev. Chatterton's leadership, and Rev. Moore will continue that fine tradition. Committee chair, Pastor Bridgette LeConey, and the superintendency committee members are organizing special events in honor of Mark and Jim. Watch for details in the coming weeks and months.

I hope to see you at the District Workshop Event in Kerhonkson on March 24th.

In closing, may your Lenten Season reflections, readings, and experiences lead you further in your journey, building hope, faith, and understanding in your heart, mind, and soul. And may your temptations be a blessing, not a burden! For we are truly blessed through God's grace, and we are not alone.

Peace,

Diane Meredith
Catskill Hudson District Lay Leader

**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! (roast pork
or vegetable lasagna)**

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

**Workshop Descriptions and Registration forms should be posted and/or available in
your church.**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP TRAINING DAY IS
MARCH 15th.**

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. (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. **This is an all-day workshop**

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 the 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 (*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 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 the 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 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 FAX: 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**

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 my mobility needs.

(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.

Interesting idea from Olivebridge UMC: They collected (voluntarily!) the loose change from the pockets of parishioners on one Sunday every month since

September 2006. They raised \$500.00 to fund two P.E.T. machines in support of our District mission project. (Personal Energy Transportation device, demonstrated at several District events, which give the gift of mobility to those who have lost the use of their legs due to polio, landmine injury, amputation, etc.)

The Red Hook UMC will be in need of a part-time organist next September. Music is an important part of the church's worship service as well as special services at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The organ is available for almost unlimited practice time. (1998 Allen Renaissance organ). Paid forty weeks a year, September through July. Interested? Call 845-758-1244. If no answer, call 845-758-6283, or email fbrammer@prodigy.net.

For Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers (planned by NYAC Disaster Academy on trauma healing):

A 5 hour workshop: HOPE BEYOND THE HAMMERING (Physiological, psychosocial and spiritual effects of trauma) "Why Don't We Just Get Over It?"
This is one of two advance workshops required for certification as a NYAC Disaster Spiritual Care volunteer.

Both clergy and laity are invited to participate.

<p>Bethpauge UMC (192 Broadway, Bethpauge, NY 516-931-4345) on Saturday, April 21, 2007. 10 am to 3 pm REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00 Deadline to Register: April 16.</p>

<p>Also, this same 5-hour workshop is provided at Simsbury UMC (799 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 860-651-3356) Saturday, April 28th, 2007 10 am to 3 pm REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00 Deadline to register: April 24.</p>
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For Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers (planned by NYAC Disaster Academy on trauma healing):

A 2-day course on March 23 and 24th
Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support
Offered at Pathogue UMC, (10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 631-475-0381). Cost: \$47.00 (includes materials and lunch both days)

<p>Call the District Office (845-679-6350) to request registration forms for either one of the 5-hour workshops, (one on April 21st and the other on April 28th), and/or the 2-day course on March 23 and 24th.</p>
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Upcoming Events:

Friday, March 9 – Making Your Church a ‘Safe Sanctuary’ for Children and Youth. Reservoir UMC (3056 State Route 28; Shokan, NY) 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring your own lunch. Bring your copy of *Safe Sanctuaries* with you! Who should come? (Pastors, Sunday School teachers, Choir Directors, Youth Group leaders, Afterschool workers, Trustees). (What Do We Mean By Child Abuse? Why Do We Need a Plan to Prevent Child Abuse? Help! How Do We Write the Plan? How Do We Recruit and Do a Background Screening for Workers? How Do We Respond if Abuse Occurs?) To register: Call the Office of Connectional Ministries 888-696-6922, ext. 230 or 228 or email Ann Pearson apearson@nyac.com

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

Sunday, March 18 – District Council on Youth Ministry meets at Reservoir UMC 3-5 pm.

Saturday, March 24th District Workshop Training Day Federated Church of Kerhonkson 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. See above for descriptions of workshops and a registration form. Deadline to Register: March 15th.

Thursday, March 29th Bishop’s Talk to the Clergy in Our District – Federated Church of Kerhonkson – 10:00 a.m. Light lunch provided (\$5.00 per person) RSVP to Federated Church of Kerhonkson (845- 626-8160) Bishop Park will be speaking on three topics: Natural Church Development; Expectations around Bishop Wills’ Life Journaling; and Shared Ministry Apportionments. **All Clergy expected to attend.**

Saturday, March 31st Stewardship Academy 10 am to 3 pm Margaretville UMC. Bring your own lunch. Deadline to register is one week before the event. Pre-register by calling 888-696-6922, ext. 230 or 228. Or email: smitchell@nyac.com. \$5.00 per person or \$25.00 per church. Keynote Speaker: Lynda Byrd. Workshops Offered: Stewardship in Action; An Attitude of Stewardship; The Local Church Stewardship Campaign; Funding for Faith in Local Congregations; The Gift That Keeps On Giving)

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 14 – Lay Speaker’s Breakfast – 9:30 a.m. Saugerties UMC. Register (\$5.00) with Gerald Rosenberger, 40 Finger Street, Saugerties, NY, 12477. Checks made payable to Saugerties UMC. For lay speakers and pastors.

April 17-20, 2007 are the dates for the Spring Order of Elders Retreat at Mt. St. Alphonsus. “Building a Beloved Community for Such a Time As This” If you register by April 1st the discounted fee is \$350. and after that day, it will be \$400. Questions? Contact Constance Pak (516) 671-1847 or pastorconstance@msn.com. Deadline for registration is April 10th. Make checks payable to New York Annual

Conference and mail them (and your name/address/phone/email) to Rev. Thomas Theilmann, 214 Meadow Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770.

April 21 Youth Lay Speaking Day Apart (see above)

April 21 Stewardship Lifters Workshop – Christ UMC, New Rochelle, NY 10 am to 3:00 pm “How to Increase Congregational Financial Giving 15% to 30%” \$35. per church (for up to 6 attendees) Pre-registration deadline is April 13th. Call or email Jeff Rarich at 888-696-6922, ext. 238 or jrarich@umff.org

April 26th Meeting with Local Pastors Pastor Camille Regholec presenting 12:30 Johnny O’s for lunch (optional) and then 1:45 at Quarryville UMC.

April 28th “Just Us” Jump Off For Youth Leaders and youth organizations. From 9:30 am to 6:00 pm at the Webb Horton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Middletown, NY. (50 East Main Street). Speakers, Performances and Workshops! For more information, call Andres Chamorro at Rural and Migrant Ministry 845-485-8627 or on cell 845-518-9210. Or email Chamorro@ptd.net Call the District Office to receive hard mail all the details and the registration form. (845-679-6350)

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

Saturday May 19 Confirmation Rally with Bishop Park Memorial/Central Korean UMC 9:30 – 2:00 Tommy Woodard and Eddie James are the Skit Guys. They have been best friends since high school and have been communicating God’s Word and impacting lives through comedy, drama and teaching for over 15 years.

Sunday, May 20th A Workshop of Social Principles (*As John Wesley taught us, personal holiness and social holiness go hand-in-hand. Our Social Principles are an expression of that foundation of Methodism.*) 3:00 to 5:00 pm Reservoir UMC (Register with Rev. Lucy Jones) (845-657-2326 or 845-657-5107).

Thursday May 24th Bishop Richard Wills “Waking to God’s Dream – Small is Big – The Power of Small Group Ministries” 9 am to 4:30 pm at St. James UMC in Kingston. Lunch Provided. (For those clergy and guests who did **not** attend the Bishop’s Convocation and hear Bishop Wills’ presentation). Bishop Wills will share his inspiring vision of daily spiritual journaling and his vision of small fellowship groups within the church. Pastors who did not attend the Convocation are strongly encouraged to attend .

June 2 Farewell to Mark and Dru Chatterton 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Reservoir UMC.

June 6-9, 2007 Annual Conference at Hofstra University. Bishop Park is inviting more than 1,000 youth from around the Conference to attend Annual Conference on Saturday, June 9th. Encourage your youth to arrive at 9 am to the huge tent where there will be fun things to do! The Christian rock singer and recording artist Krystal Meyers will perform with her band. At 11 am youth programming will begin in the arena for a huge mission celebration with special emphasis on the NOTHING BUT NETS project. (Malaria kills 1,000,000 kids each year, UMCOR, Sports Illustrated, the NBA and the Gates

Foundation have partnered to raise money for MOSQUITO NETTING. For every \$10. donated, a whole family can be protected)
Lunch is free. Stay for the Ordination Service at 2:30 pm (Register with Anne Pearson - 914-997-1570, ext. 230).

July 26-29 Cooperative School of Christian Mission “Sing Across the Walls”
Western Connecticut State University 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

The 2007 studies will be:

Mission and Music;

Israel/Palestine;

Globalization: It’s Impact on Our Lives

There is also a “Saturday Sampler” for those persons who have never attended a School of Mission. It will be limited to about 50 persons. Those persons will take overviews of each of the studies.

Cost: \$250 for the full school; \$50.00 for the Saturday Sampler. To access registration form, go to <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/nyaccsocm>

And Looking Ahead:

September 27 Boundaries & Dual Relationships Workshop

October 1,2 Bishop & Clergy Retreat for Northern Districts at Mt. St. Alphonsus.

October 21st 4 p.m. Installation of new DS Jim Moore at Overlook UMC at Woodstock

EPWORTH RESIDENT CAMP IS BACK !!!!!

Epworth Outdoor Adventure I: (Grades 4-6) Sunday, July 8 through Saturday, July 14.

Epworth Outdoor Adventure II: (Grades 7-9) Sunday, August 5th through Saturday, August 11.

Do you love animals and nature? Looking for a way to deeply experience God’s creation? Epworth’s Christ-centered Adventure Camp is just the ticket! At Adventure Camp, activities will include hiking, orienteering, challenge course activities, canoeing, animal identification, caving, and many more exciting activities. You’ll gather wood, build a fire, and cook your dinner on it! Get to know our horses, sheep and chickens. Harvest lunch from Epworth’s permaculture garden. Learn which wild plants are good to eat, and which to avoid. Enjoy a star-gazing party, then sleep under the stars. Most important will be Godly encouragement provided by the staff, their example as Christ-followers, and the spiritual emphasis that will accompany every aspect of the program.

Cost: \$600., Deposit of \$300. required to reserve your space. Deposit includes a non-refundable \$100. processing charge. No refunds will be made after June 1st.

Early Bird Saving – Register before April 15th and save \$50. !

To Register: Download Registration and Health Forms at www.Epworthcenter.com or receive forms by calling 845-687-0215 or writing info@epworthcenter.com.

Send completed registration and health form and \$300. check or money order to:
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, 8 Epworth Lane, High Falls, NY 12440.

DEADLINE for next issue (MAY/JUNE) of the COURIER will be April
30, 2007.