



March-April 2009

The Courier

**Catskill Hudson District
New York Annual Conference**

Bishop: Jeremiah J. Park

Pastor and District Superintendent
Rev. James Moore
71 Van Dale Rd., Woodstock, NY 12498
Phone: 845) 679-6350
FAX (call first) (845) 679-569
cathudnyac@aol.com.

Administrative Assistant: Holly Moore
cathudnyacholly@aol.com
Website editor: Sheri Bunt SheriBunt@aol.com
<http://www.gbqm-umc.org/catskillhudson>

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A Word From Your DS: On the Road with the Risen Christ

I write as Lent is about to begin, but I am already looking ahead to its culmination – the wonderful, awful, sacred, tragic week we call “Holy Week”, and the celebration of God’s victorious love that will come on Easter. I’m preaching this Easter – filling in for Rev. Jae Joon Lee who will be going to Korea for the 40th anniversary of a church he founded – and I am thankful for the privilege of once again proclaiming the best news this needy world has ever heard, and already rehearsing and savoring the various gospel accounts.

The gospels give us a number of different narratives about the resurrection of Jesus, each of which helps us to understand the Easter miracle in a particular way, but **one of my favorite passages is the story of Jesus’ appearance to two followers as they walked along the road from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus.** The narrative is found at Luke 24: 13-35.

One of these followers was named Cleopas, and the other’s name is unknown. It was Easter afternoon, but they were unaware of Jesus’ resurrection. All they could think of, as they trudged along, was their terrible grief in the aftermath of Jesus’ death. Anyone who has endured a shattered dream can imagine their pain, and their hopes which had been crucified with Jesus on the cross. **“We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel,” they said, but the cross seemed to be an absolute nullification of such a hope.**



But as they walked along, Luke says, they were joined by a third walker. For some reason – Luke doesn’t tell us why – the travelers couldn’t recognize him, but this stranger was Jesus. He asked them what they’d been discussing, and they poured out their story, telling this supposed stranger about their terrible loss. Jesus listened, and then he began to teach, citing Old Testament teachings that indicated that the Messiah would suffer and then enter his glory. Cleopas and the unnamed man or woman, though still failing to recognize Jesus, began to feel an easing of their pain.

They arrived at Emmaus, and Jesus appeared to be going on his way, but the travelers asked him to stay with them, as evening had arrived. They sat down for dinner, and Luke’s narrative says, **“He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.”** (Luke 24:31)

Suddenly, **as if seeing a final puzzle piece that makes the whole picture clear, the travelers understand what has happened. They know that Jesus is alive.** They know that God and love and hope were not defeated at Calvary. They are filled with an excitement that has to be shared, and they get up immediately to hike back to Jerusalem, anxious to tell the disciples about this amazing news. They find the 11 surviving disciples (all but Judas), hear that Jesus has also appeared to Peter, and then tell their uplifting story.

I love that narrative for a number of reasons. It says that **the resurrection is good news for everyone – not just an inner circle of disciples** but for all who love Jesus, including these who are otherwise not mentioned in scripture. The risen Christ came to them, and he can come to insignificant folks like us too ,, It says that **resurrection faith can touch us anywhere and at any time in our lives.** They weren’t in the temple, or in the midst of scripture study, or doing anything “religious” when Jesus arrived ... It says that **joy and “positive thinking” aren’t prerequisites for Jesus’ appearance.** He came as they were mired in gloom ... It acknowledges a reality we often know, namely that **God may be at**



work in mysterious and unrecognized ways ... But it also points us to some places in which this incognito God can be seen more clearly. **Teaching from scripture, the breaking of bread (both in a Eucharistic sense and in the ordinary sense), and in the companionship of other believers – these are ways in which the unperceived Christ may be brought into focus.**

As we walk along our roads to whatever “Emmaus” lies ahead of us, we know that we need not walk alone. Our Easter faith proclaims the companionship of a risen Lord. He is with us. We live as Easter people. What a glorious hope, and what a privilege it is, to be the people of God!

May God bless you, and the churches of which you are a part, as you make your Easter journeys this year.

Your D.S. and friend,
Jim Moore

Wanderings ...

Lenten greetings.

Every year I remark to myself about the appropriateness of entering the season of Lent while the anticipation of spring is in the air. As the final dreary days of winter descend upon us, the time is right for serious self-reflection, knowing that the promise of new life is not far behind.

I have just returned from visiting family in Arizona where I was struck by a piece of framed artwork on the wall of their home. In simple lettering on a neutral background it suggests, “Make time for the quiet moments in life, as God whispers and the world is loud.”

Amid the recent clamor of our nation’s political events, the economic crises, and daily news stories chronicling our inhumanity and intolerance for each other, God can be heard whispering! At home in my small community, I witness immeasurable acts of kindness freely given: the driver who allows a confused tourist to move into the proper lane at the traffic light; the shopper in line at the checkout who offers an elderly person the extra \$3 needed to pay for her groceries rather than give up some items. In the workplace, there is a continual outpouring of support for those who struggle with illness, tragedy, and the loss of loved ones; there is an equal outpouring of celebration for those experiencing family joys—wedding, births, and graduations.

Together with our Christian neighbors, we are living the New York Annual Conference mission:

The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

It makes me proud to be a Methodist!

May this Lenten season quietly warm your heart and soul to God’s whispers.

Diane Meredith
Catskill Hudson District Lay Leader

Save the Date and Plan to Attend: Camp Meeting, May 16th

A great highlight for Methodists on the early American frontier was a Camp Meeting – a time when they would come together by the hundreds or even thousands for meeting old friends, listening to inspiring preaching, sharing in powerful music, and meeting new friends. These camp meetings would last a few days or a week or more, and for lonely pioneers, or people living far from any established church, they must have been a terrific shot in the arm – a great burst of spiritual encouragement and uplifting friendship.

That's what we are hoping to experience as we gather for our Catskill Hudson Camp meeting at Camp Epworth, on May 16th. Though we'll be there only for the afternoon and perhaps part of the evening, we hope that hundreds of people from our churches will gather, that our faith will be lifted up, that we'll have a lot of fun together, and that by evening we will be saying to each other, "It's been great to spend this day with so many Methodist Christian friends!"

Here's the basic schedule for the day as it's been planned thus far:

12:30: Registration begins

1:00 - 2:15: Meeting under a tent for music by Glory Road, an inspiring word from Bishop Jeremiah Park, and gathering of offerings in support of the PET (Personal Energy Transport) mission.

2:15 till 4:30 or 5:00: Activities and Socializing

Kids and kid-like adults can do the Epworth ropes course, explore Epworth's caves, go for a canoe ride (an adult has to be in each canoe), and do a "nature scavenger hunt." Basketball and other outdoor sports equipment will be available.

Tours of the camp and presentations on Epworth's ecological farming and no-energy-use house will be given. There will be an area where people can sit and play board games together, and a labyrinth will be set up for those who would like to quietly walk this spiritual path.

For those who would like to do a bit of work, volunteers will help re-line one of the camp nature trails with wood chips. And for those who don't want to do anything organized there are hundreds of acres of beautiful scenery to walk, explore and appreciate.

4:30: Gathering for more music

5:00: "The Shortest District Conference in History"

5:30: Barbeque prepared by Epworth's staff

Cost will be approximately \$5 (partly underwritten by the district)

6:15: Campfire for those who would like to stay until early evening.

A small but efficient committee has been doing the planning and organizing, but many volunteers will be needed as the event takes place. Perhaps you'd like to help? Among the tasks to be covered are: parking guides, taking registration, supervising for an hour at the canoes, ropes course, and caves (Epworth will provide the actual leaders for the ropes course and caves), setting up chairs in the tent, helping to serve the meal and/or cleaning up.

If you'd like to help, please contact Jim Moore (cathudnyac@aol.com), Karen Ogborn (kkogborn@stny.rr.com), Gene Knoth (knothheat@yahoo.com), Fran Reed (pegall_40@yahoo.com), or Lynne Taylor (mlynnnetaylor@go.com).

We will need to take registrations so Epworth can make the meal plans, and a registration form will be sent out with future publicity materials. For now, just save the date, and plan to attend this special gathering.

(Note: We have reserved May 23rd as a rain date, but that will be only in the event of a major, several-day rainstorm. We can still have a good time if there happen to be a few showers, though we are hoping for, and praying for, a glorious day.)

To see pictures of Camp Epworth, go to <http://www.epworthcenter.com/>

Rethink Church - What if Church was a Verb

The buzz has begun. Even before the first ads hit the pages of national magazines or TV commercials begin to air, United Methodists are talking about a new awareness campaign.

United Methodist Communications is calling it Rethink Church. As United Methodists take on the challenge of rethinking what it means to be church and to do church, they will also rethink what it means to advertise and market the third-largest denomination in the United States.

Rolling out on May 6th, Rethink Church will be unique because digital media will be a priority. Along with TV and print ads, Rethink Church messages will appear on YouTube and iTunes and through cell phone text messages.

"The idea is to provide a way for people to connect with the church in as many ways as possible," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, general secretary of United Methodist Communications. "Rethinking church and denominational marketing calls for an ability to tell the church's stories in many, many different ways, through many media and with different audiences." [Read more...](#)

Soon all pastors of local churches will receive a DVD from United Methodist Communications containing an introduction to Rethink Church. Additional resources will be added to the Rethink Church web site at www.RethinkChurch.org. Check the Web site frequently!

We don't have complete information as this Courier is being published, but the New York Conference will be hosting representatives from UM Communications who will be leading workshops on Rethink Church. More details will be provided as plans are firmed up.

This Worked for Us: A Hands-on Mission with Homeless People

Upon learning of budget cuts at the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless in Monticello the people of the Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church sought the guidance of their Pastor Randy Yerkes. As the budget cuts had resulted in the discontinuation of Federation's hot breakfast program, Pastor Yerkes suggested that the Church could provide and serve a hot breakfast once a week. Facing financial difficulties of its own, the Church nonetheless enthusiastically embraced this opportunity to serve.

The Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless greeted the offer with graciousness and thanksgiving. On Wednesday February 4, three church members and the pastor brought eggs, hard rolls and cheese to the Federation. The Federations' cooks prepared the meals and the Church served the people.

Together with the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless, The Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church will be serving a hot breakfast every Wednesday at the Federations' facilities in Monticello.

Pastor Yerkes said, "For a few dollars and a couple of hours of time anyone can make a difference." He also encourages any other groups or organizations to consider providing breakfast on the remaining days. Pastor Yerkes can be reached at Randoyerkes@yahoo.com.



Lay Speaking Ministries

As we announced in the last edition of the Courier, the Third Annual Youth Lay Speaking Day will be held Saturday, May 2nd at Camp Epworth. We are in the final planning stages and expect that the Registration Form will be available within the next week. There is still time to volunteer to help with this event. Contact Gene Knoth at knothheat@yahoo.com.

We will begin a series of Lay Speaking Workshops on Saturday, April 18th from 8:30 to 12:30. They will be at St. Mark's Church in Napanoch. You will commit for 4 Saturday mornings from April 18 thru May 9th. Courses being considered – final offerings will be on the Registration Form – are Basic Course (this is a totally revised course and will be the first time it is taught in this District), Local Church Lay Speaker Refresher Course – for those Local Lay Speakers who have not taken any courses in the last years, Lay Speakers Tell Stories, Lay Speakers Lead in Evangelism, Lay Leaders Lead Bible Study. At this time these courses are subject to change as we confirm the leaders. If interested in participating in any course, please contact Margaret Howe at howemarg@aol.com.

I hope you are all aware that this year's New York Annual Conference to be held June 10- 13 will celebrate Lay Speakers. It is Bishop Park's desire to have as many Lay Speakers as possible in the arena at Hofstra on Saturday, June 13. Very shortly you will receive an invitation from him. In addition, the Annual Conference Board of Laity is looking at some creative ways to celebrate Lay Speakers with some event(s) on Friday afternoon and evening. These are still in the planning stages. Your District Lay Speaking Committee, in consultation with those of you who want to attend Annual Conference, will be working out plans to get you from "here to there"! Watch for details or email me at howemarg@aol.com.

I wish all of you a Lenten season of preparation and reflection. I hope you will find time for a Lenten study or discipline during this time.

Blessings,
Margaret Howe
Co-director Lay Speaking Ministries

District UMW

Please save these important dates:

May 2- District UMW Day Apart

July 23-26- Cooperative School of Christian Mission (see flyer below)

September 26- District Annual Meeting

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

Catskill Hudson District United Methodist Women Winter Retreat, January 2009

The wondrous, fearsome power to create was highlighted at the District UMW Retreat in Saugerties this January. Sheila Peiffer presented sessions concerning the History of Christian Art, Telling the Story in Art, Christian Symbols, Ways to See Jesus, and a brief walk through the beautiful stations of the Cross surrounding the chapel at St. Joseph's Villa.

The whole event provided ways to enrich the spiritual disciplines introduced during the previous retreats and practiced by women at home and during the retreat.

Hundreds of views of painting, sculptures, and architecture as well as books and references to such items at churches and institutions within a day's travel distance were presented. God's creation of light (Genesis 1:1-4a) provides the human capability to see and envision life and to be able to rejoice in the artists who dare to use their gift to create the beauty which casts this world into a more whole and holy dimension.

Mark your calendar for the January 2010 retreat dates: January 29, 30, and 31.

via Jean B. Guice, CH District, Spiritual Life Coordinator

Sunday School Resources

Tina Kelder, the Christian Education Chairperson and VBS director at Samsonville UMC, has let us know that their church has several (4-6) **VBS programs** in their closet that they would be happy to donate to anyone who thinks they could use them. Leaders manuals, DVD's, CD's etc are included. The only things that would have to be recreated or substituted would be the actual student materials such as books, handouts, crafts, bible buddies, etc. Any churches are welcome to use them, and she would be happy to make arrangements for delivery or bring them with her to the VBS workshop in New Paltz on March 8. This is her contact information:

Tina Kelder
skelder@hvc.rr.com
845-657- 6727

If there are other churches with extra VBS or Sunday School materials, please contact the District Office, and we will be happy to let folks know that the materials are available. cathudnyac@aol.com or 845-679-6350.

The UM Children's Fund for Christian Mission is a way to help teach children about discipleship through mission by engaging them in study and support of four projects, two of which are domestic and two international. To learn more and to download the packet, go to www.gbod.org/children and click on the link to 2009 United Methodist Children's Fund.

Youth News

Visit the website of the Youth Ministry of the NY Annual Conference at <http://www.umyouth.com/> for the latest Youth news from our Conference!

For those who work with youth/young adults. Do the leaders who work in the life-changing, soul-shaping work of God with young adults and youth need help and encouragement for their ministry? If so they might be interested in "The 'Source'" which is a networking and training opportunity for all who work with young adults and youth! For registration and more information about the event, visit us online at: www.gbod.org/thesource .

Conference Council on Youth

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) wants to thank everyone who attended Ignite last month! It was a wonderful event and we can't wait until next year! Save-the-date for Ignite '10, January 29-31.

CCYM also announces 2 exciting opportunities for youth in our conference.

- July 11-17, middle school youth groups have the opportunity to join with 8 other Annual Conferences who are sending groups to Nassau, Bahamas on mission this summer. The poverty of the Bahamian and Haitian refugee people of Nassau goes unnoticed because of the effectiveness of the tourism business. These are the people that will be given care by the volunteers of the 2009 United Methodist Nassau Youth Mission.
- We will also hold our second annual Camp Lead at Epworth Camp & Retreat Center this summer, August 16-22. This camp will offer leadership training (and lots of fun) to rising 8th-12th graders for the 09-10 school year and is planned by CCYM.

For more information on these exciting programs, please visit www.umyouth.com or call or email Rev. Emily Peck-McClain (rev.epm@gmail.com 718-273-9666).

Confirmation Rally

The date for the 2009 Bishop's **Confirmation Rally** will be Saturday, May 2 at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield, CT, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. It will be a fun day of worship, workshops, games, and fellowship. Bishop Park extends an invitation to all those who are being confirmed this year to join him (and have a photograph taken with him!).

Save the date! The 2009 Confirmation Kick-off will be November 13-14 at Camp Epworth.

Free Money from GBHEM

The Scholarships Office of the General Board of Higher Education is now accepting online applications! Students may go to <http://www.gbhem.org> and complete an application from their home computer. They will then receive an email detailing the additional steps to complete the process. GBHEM is expecting a record number of applicants this year and strongly urges students to complete the application process early, rather than waiting until the deadline date.

Student Scholarship/Loan Information

Student Loans Available For Fall Term

GBHEM is proud to report that more than \$1.9 million was loaned to 430 students in 2008. The online loan application process for the fall and spring term has been a huge success. The loan office was "just a little" worried about the potential for problems with the new application; however, there have been few glitches. The downside is that the site needed to be closed early when all available loan funds were quickly exhausted. The loan applications will be available for fall 2009 term beginning May 1. Students are urged not to delay their loan application.

For Students of the New York Annual Conference

Do you know a United Methodist Student who needs financial assistance for college or graduate school? Help us give them some money! Click on [New York Education Society](#) for more information. Be sure to download the [NYES Application](#).

Masonic scholarships

High school seniors and continuing college/graduate students might consider applying for a Masonic scholarship. They need to be either children or grandchildren of a Master Mason, in a full-time program, and maintaining a 2.75 (80%) academic average. Applicants need to contact their father's/grandfather's Lodge preferably, or if that's not possible, a Lodge close to their residence. Any questions, please contact Bill at billhunter@juno.com.

United Methodist Men Host Luncheon

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie will be the speaker on Saturday, March 21, at the annual Bishop's Luncheon sponsored by the conference United Methodist Men. For details, go to the [UMM Luncheon](#).

Taizé 2009



Join Gene Ott and other young adult United Methodists from the New York Conference on a unique spiritual adventure this July 16-27 to Taizé, France, with highlights of London and Paris. This trip is being organized by Educational Opportunities Tours. Please email Gene Ott at geneott34@yahoo.com to discuss any questions you may have. Download a flyer by clicking on [Taizé 2009](#). To learn more about Taizé, visit their web site at <http://www.taize.fr/en>.

New York Annual Conference

2009 Cooperative School of Christian Mission

July 23rd - 25th, 2009

" This is My Body, BROKEN for You!" (Luke 22)

Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT

Spiritual Growth: *Food & Faith*

General Studies: *Giving Your Heart away: Native American Survival*

Geographical Study: *Sudan*

To Order Text for all Classes: write Mission Resource Center, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247 or call 1-800-305-9857 or e-mail <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store/>

Information & Forms for Attendees:

- Registration form -

- [English](#)
- *Korean (in the works)*
- *Spanish (in the works)*

- Jo Gibson Scholarship form (For first timers)

- Required forms for ALL Youth

- 2009 Program Schedule of Events

- Directions to Western Connecticut State University

- Pictures from 2008 Cooperative School of Christian Mission (PDF)

Dell Computer Discounts for United Methodists

United Methodist Communications announced on December 1 that Dell is offering an additional 7% off the discounted prices already available through the UMC Member Purchase Program, an exclusive discount program available to United Methodist churches, members, employees and volunteers. The additional discount is available on Dell laptop or desktop computers – including featured systems, as well as those customized to fit specific needs. It is not necessary that the computers be purchased for a church. They can be for home use or purchased as gifts by anyone who is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Through the UMC Member Purchase Program, discounts are also available on electronics, printers, digital cameras, televisions and other items. For details, go to www.dell.com/umc and follow the link for a home computer purchase. You'll need to actually type in the address, rather than just using the hyperlink here.



Round and About the District



- The **Town of Esopus** UMC is having Taize services on the second Tuesday of the month. Contemplative Taize worship includes the repetitive singing of songs in a meditative way. All are welcome at attend.
- The **United Ministry of Delhi** is now a distribution site for Angel Food Ministries, touching many people as they help families put good food on their tables for a reduced cost. Angel Food is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief to communities throughout the USA. A box of Angel Food can be purchased for \$30, but would normally retail for anywhere from \$45 to \$75. A box of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week, or a single senior citizen for almost a month.
- **White Sulphur Springs** UMC has placed an “I Admire You Because ... “ notebook in their church on Sundays. The purpose is to raise up ‘ordinary’ people who do ordinary things and yet touch lives in some way by their simple deeds. The entries are printed in the church newsletter.
- **Colchester Community** UMC held their annual Mardi Gras celebration – the perfect opportunity for an evening of family fun. People dressed up in costumes, beads, and masks and there was food, music, and games for all ages. The entire community was invited.
- **New Paltz** UMC shared love through song to folks within their community who can’t get out to worship by going Valentine Caroling on Valentine’s Day. They brought valentines that had been made at church the Sunday before and sang special Valentine carols. A wonderful time was had by all – the carolers and the listeners.

- At the **Walton** UMC you can sponsor a bulletin for \$5 or a monthly newsletter for \$10 as a way to recognize an important event, honor a loved one, or send a surprise message to someone.
- **Reservoir** UMC held their capital funds campaign event on the 12th Day of Christmas. As Epiphany celebrates the Three Kings coming to worship the Christ Child and bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, faithful people of the Reservoir UMC came to bring the pledges that they had made as the members of Reservoir begin their journey with their second Capital Campaign. The evening included music, the fragrance of frankincense and myrrh, and wonderful food.
- The Sunday School at **Catskill** UMC purchased four P.E.T.S. (Personal Energy Transport Systems), two for children and two for adults. P.E.T.S. is our District Mission Project, providing transportation for individuals with disabilities who have no appropriate means of mobility and underdeveloped in poor countries.
- The lay speakers at **Saugerties** UMC are creating a weekly devotional to be distributed via e-mail. Each week one of the Lay Speakers will write a devotional which will then be sent out to members of the congregation, along with the names of those people on the church's prayer list.
- Each issue of The Bridge (the newsletter of the **Catskill** UMC) includes an article called "Church Leadership" in which various committees of the church and their responsibilities are highlighted. Readers learned about what the Discipline of the United Methodist Church says about the Board of Trustees, who the church trustees are, and projects that are planned. Another issue highlighted the role of the Committee on Staff-Parish Relations, giving a description of its function, naming its members, and encouraging folks to communicate with members of the committee.
- **Stamford** UMC held a Game Day, collecting items for the local food bank and money to go to UMCOR for World Food and Hunger. They enjoyed soup, bread, and lots of cookies, as well as a variety of games.
- From the **Hobart** UMC and **Township** UMC Churchmouse: "Pastor Lorraine opened the (Council) meeting with three questions: "Have we done any harm in the time we have spent together? What good have we done? Have we shown our love for God?" These questions are questions we might all ask ourselves as we go through our daily life, not only in a church board meeting." What a great way to open a church meeting!
- The UMC of **Greenville and Norton Hill** has a new website that includes a Blog and a Podcast/Webcast. They'll be posting a new website video once a week with thoughts on scripture or words of encouragement. Members can subscribe to be notified when new videos have been added. Check it out at www.greenvilleumc.com

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.

Calendar

March 7: “Spring Ahead” (District Training Seminars), 1:30-5:00, Margaretville UMC

March 8: “Spring Ahead” (District Training Seminars), 1:30-5:00, New Paltz UMC

March 16: Camp Meeting planning team, 4:30, Shandaken UMC

March 20-21: NYAC Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Retreat, Mt. St. Alphonsus

March 31: Local Pastors’ Group, 2:00-4:00, Quarryville UMC

April 4: Camp Meeting planning team, 2:00, Camp Epworth

April 17: District Council on Ministries, 6:00, District Parsonage

April 18: Lay Speaker workshops, 8:30-12:30, St. Mark’s UMC in Napanoch

April 21-24: Order of Elders Retreat at Mt. St. Alphonsus

April 25: Lay Speaker workshops, 8:30-12:30, St. Mark’s UMC in Napanoch

May 2: Bishops Confirmation Rally: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Jesse Lee, Ridgefield, CT

May 2: Third Annual Youth Lay Speaking Day, Camp Epworth

May 2: Lay Speaker workshops, 8:30-12:30, St. Mark’s UMC in Napanoch

May 5: Local Pastors’ Group, 2:00-4:00, Quarryville UMC

May 9: Lay Speaker workshops, 8:30-12:30, St. Mark’s UMC in Napanoch

May 16: District Camp Meeting, District Conference, 12:30, Camp Epworth

May 23: Rain Date for District Camp Meeting

June 6: Local Pastors’ Group, 10:00-12:00, District Parsonage

June 10-13: Annual Conference, Hofstra University

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

The deadline for the May-June 2009 Courier will be April 20th. Thank you.

New York Annual Conference Camps

As spring arrives, thoughts turn to summertime fun. Have you considered sending your kids to one of our Methodist church camps? Quoting Greg Nissen, Director of Quinipet: *The mission of the Camping and Retreat Ministries of the New York Annual Conference follows the footsteps of Christ, calling forth new disciples, bringing them into a relationship with the Living God, identifying and nurturing their gifts, and sending them forth in service to the world. We would like parents and youth to know that we plan to meet campers where they are in their own faith journey. Our program is designed to open minds, not to intimidate or overwhelm. We cannot promise your child (our camper) will have spiritual awakenings, but we can promise to take the very best care of them while they are here and give them many opportunities to share and discover a Christian Faith they are comfortable with.*

Kingswood Campsite

Make time this summer for a week of camping at Kingswood. Make time for hiking in fern-covered woods, eating hand-cranked ice-cream, participating in an owl-prowl, stargazing, meeting new and old friends, learning about plants and animals, joining in campfire discussions, going on scavenger hunts and more. Join us for the adventure that is **WOODSMOKE 2009** at Kingswood!

WOODSMOKE is a true camping adventure! Young people learn a variety of outdoor skills, learn about the surrounding environment, live and work in a community, and develop spiritually.

Find out more at

<http://www.kwcamp.org/woodsmokecampforkids.html>



Counselors Sought for Woodsmoke Events at Kingswood

Camp Kingswood, a 766 acre campground operated by the NYAC, is located in Delaware County, New York approximately 150 miles northwest of New York City. During the weeks of July 19-25 and July 26-August 1 one week camping events known as “Woodsmoke” will provide small-group rustic camping experiences for up to forty boys and girls, ten each in four age-specific sites (youngsters entering grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 in September).

Female and male counselors are needed to work with returning counselors in sites each week. Experienced program staff includes a Program Director, chaplain, nurse, lifeguards, and food service personnel. The 9-10 and 11-12 youngsters will participate in construction projects under skilled adult leadership.

Each Woodsmoke unit has two platform tents, one for boys and one for girls, with six beds apiece. Counselors may sleep in the tents or in separate dome tents pitched on the site. Counselors are expected to participate in an orientation/training event to be held on the site the weekend of either May 29-30 or June 5-6 that will be based in the Kingswood Farmhouse.

A \$300 stipend is available for each week served. In lieu of the stipend, that amount may be applied to the fee of a child enrolled in the program. Scholarship funds also are available.

Persons interested should contact Cynthia Price, Program Director, at caprice@liberty.edu for additional information or to receive an application form. Please also see our website at www.kwcamp.org. An Equal Opportunity Employer

Photography Camp for adults at Kingswood: Monday, June 29th – Friday, July 3rd

Amateur and seasoned photographers... this is an event for you!

A 4 ½ day program focused on learning how to take pictures in the natural environment, suitable for commercial reproduction. Led by Christie House, editor of the GBGM New World Outlook Magazine, you'll shoot flora and wildlife in a variety of settings: woods, fields, overlooks, trails, and from a boat on the lake. You'll download and share your images with the other participants, and learn how to frame, crop and prepare for professional re-use.

The event includes lodging at a completely equipped tent site (or you can rent your own site at added cost, or stay at the nearby Hancock Hotel). We'll provide all campsite-cooked meals, campfires, a hay ride, swim and boat time.

More information at <http://www.kwcamp.org/specialevents.html> .

Camp Quinipet

Or maybe you'd like to camp at our Camp Quinipet, located on beautiful Peconic Bay. Overnight camping here is less rustic than at Kingswood., since there are comfortable cabins and a dining hall. There are many activities and various camps to choose from. Check it out at <http://www.quinipet.org/index.html>



Summer Jobs and Summer Events at Quinipet

Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island is in search of college-age student for the summer camp program: go to <http://www.quinipet.org/staff2009.html>. Click here for the [Awesome Summer Program Schedule](#), for the [All Women's Learn to Sail Week](#).

Honoring the Evangelists Among Us

The New York Annual Conference is seeking nominees for the 2009 Harry Denman Evangelism Award. After carefully reading the [Denman Award Brochure](#) to understand the intent of the award and criteria for submitting nominations, individuals and church must use the official forms (one for clergy and the other for laity), and submit the forms to the New York Annual Conference, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606, Attention: Rev. Sandra Mantz, Denman Award Chairperson.

Begun in 1981 to honor United Methodist clergy and lay persons in each annual conference who exhibit unusual and outstanding efforts for the work on Christian Evangelism, the Harry Denman Evangelism Award helps draw attention to evangelism in your conference by honoring one clergy person and one lay person who are reaching others effectively for Christ.

Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in helping persons to experience the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ. Each annual conference is encouraged to honor one lay person and one clergy person from their conference each year.

In 2008, The Foundation for Evangelism celebrated together with 46 conferences the awarding of 94 Denman Evangelism Awards.

For more information about the Foundation for Evangelism, please visit their web site at <http://foundationforevangelism.org/home60th/>

VIM BOLIVIA
JUNE 19 - JULY 4, 2009
THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Have you been feeling a nudging in your heart for international missions, a desire to be in relationship with our brothers and sisters outside of the United States?

The 8th VIM Bolivia team to Cochabamba leaves on June 19,
and you can be a part of this spirit-filled experience!

Don't miss this opportunity for an Encounter with Christ
that will change your life forever!

Contact Team Leader Rev. Carl Franson asap:
860-596-4159 cfranson417@comcast.net



Our "Encounter with Christ" currently is planned to include (but we are always flexible!):

- Work on one or more construction projects at Methodist churches
- Help with training daycare workers, sewing co-op members and others
- Vacation bible school
- Work with a medical clinic
- Worship and study opportunities
- Fellowship, team building
- Contacts with many of the people we support on an ongoing basis including:
 - Financing materials for houses to fight Chagas disease in rural villages
 - Sales of hand-sewn and hand-woven goods in our Bolivia Boutiques
 - Seed money for self-help businesses of community members

We need people with all kinds of skills who have a passion for mission --including those who think they don't have skills we can use, because the Spirit always finds a way--such as:

- Daycare and/or nursery school teaching
- Construction
- Spanish language fluency
- Music (vocal and/or instrumental—for informal worship, VBS, teacher training, etc.)
- Medical or EMT background

I WILL GO LORD, WHERE YOU LEAD ME—

I WILL HOLD YOUR PEOPLE IN MY HEART.