

# THE COURIER

Catskill Hudson District  
New York Annual Conference  
**May/June**  
**2007**

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## *FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT*

Dear Friends:

Seven years are fast coming to a close. I have never worked harder. I have never enjoyed my ministry more. My greatest joy has been in making a good appointment where both the pastor and the church blossom. In seven years I have made over 84 appointments.

I am proud of our District. We are blessed with dedicated pastors and faithful laity. We lead the Conference in paying our fair share of ministry and mission. We have the most local pastors and we are overwhelmingly Town and Country. Even in urban settings we are doing creative ministry: Monticello and Kingston: Clinton Avenue are two examples that come to mind.

One of the strengths of our District is the laity and clergy who serve on the numerous District and Conference committees. We are blessed with very talented people who give generously of their time and talent. The District is only as strong as its Committee Chairs.

I want to thank my wife and Administrative Assistant, Dru. Her faithful and dedicated service to the District has been nothing short of amazing. She has handled her work with humor and competence. She has worked until the job is done – not until the hour is up. She has transformed the sometimes overwhelming job of the Superintendency into a possible ministry.

When a pastor leaves a church, he or she is concerned about who will follow. I am very pleased that Jim Moore will be your next superintendent. Jim has a wonderful record in rural and small town ministry. He is the singer I have always coveted to be! Jim will lead you with integrity and with ability. His wife, Holly, who will also serve as Jim's

Administrative Assistant, will be freshly retired from teaching, and bringing her considerable gifts and inspiring faith to the job.

I have one concern for the District. More and more churches are moving from full time to less than full time. Finances are forcing this change. At some point, we are going to face an appointment crisis. Where are we going to get pastors who are willing and able to serve ¼ or ½ time?

This year was (and continues to be) my toughest appointment challenge. It will get even more difficult in the years ahead.

I am excited to return to the local church. I love the church in all its woundedness. The church is where God's love is incarnated in ordinary people. It is where Grace abounds. Thanks be to God.

Sincerely, Mark

### **New Appointments to Date.....**

Five pastors on the Catskill Hudson District are re-retiring. They have served a church in their retirement, but are now going to retire "again":

**Phyllis Skidmore**

**Ellen Oliveto**

**Al Liberatore**

**Ken Rodgers**

**Howard Velzy**

**Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney** is ending her interim service at Athens Federated. She will now serve as an interim in a Baptist church.

**Rev. David Jolly** to Kingston:St. James UMC

(**Rev. Jeff Glassey** is appointed to Incapacity Leave but will be serving High Hill ¼ time and Athens Federated ½ time)

**Pastor Joaquin (Jack) Polin** will be serving Rock Hill UMC

(**Pastor Steve Knutsen** is going to Pleasant Valley and Bangall in the CT/NY District)

Stamford and Harpersfield: TBS

(**Pastor Lawrence Charles** will serve Jamaica:First in the Long Island West District)

Jefferson and Blenheim Hill: TBS

(**Pastor Frank Adams** has sought secular employment)

Mamakating: TBS

(**Pastor Randy Yerkes** will be serving Town of Bethel UMC)

Bloomville: TBS

(**Pastor Dick Lenz** will serve Windham-Hensonville & Ashland 2/3 time and Durham:Oak Hill 1/3 time)

**Rev. Karen Monk** will serve East Jewett ¼ time as well as her current ¾ time appointment to Kaaterskill UMC.

Olivebridge and Samsonville: **Rev. David Houston**

(**Pastor Anne Rossini** will be appointed to AIEM ½ time as a chaplain in Residence at Albany Medical Center)

**Thank You's which were intended for the District Conference (and in my notes) but were never spoken due to the frenzy of too many notes in front of me and a scattered mind! I wanted to thank District Lay Leader Diane Meredith, for her efforts on the District, her creative and connective column in the COURIER, her willingness and positive attitude over the years. I wanted to thank Bob Johnson for his years of fine service as chair of the Board on Church Buildings and Locations (Rev. Robb Hewitt is stepping in to take over) and I wanted to thank Sheri Bunt for her supreme efforts in creating and maintaining our District Website (<http://www.gbqm-umc.org/catskillhudson>). So many of our pastors and laity freely and willingly give up their time and talents and put a lot of effort into volunteering their leadership to make our District what it is. Thank you, Thank you! - Mark**

*United Methodist Center In Far Rockaway  
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**Bernadette Logan**  
Executive Director

**Denis Stuart**  
Chairman of the Board

Dear Laity,

The past year has been one of progress for the Center, in spite of our moving into our temporary facility located at 1521 Central Avenue, Far Rockaway and our final destination is going to require more participation to serve God's under privilege. We have improved our networking capability with other agencies, especially for our substance abuse and shelter referral operations. Because of these excellent interagency connections, people who seek services at the center can now be assured of the best possible care

It is human nature to protect and provide for those we hold most precious, and that's especially true when it comes to those that are homeless, unemployed, underemployed, disabled, and franchised. However, helping them to fulfill their potential and teaching them to be responsible, successful adults has become an enormous challenge. In today's world, they face a host of negative influences from the outside. The United Methodist Center in Far Rockaway is deeply grateful for the continuous interest and firm support provided by your local church's Outreach Teams, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Youth Groups, Vacation Bible School groups, Sunday school students, and thrift shops. We are doing the best with what we have, but the journey to the next level requires a collective connectional effort with God and our local churches. It is with your support that the United Methodist Center is still providing services to those in the Far Rockaway community.

We would like to request that you place the United Methodist Center on the top of your Mission list for support this fiscal year 2007-2008. It is with your generous giving and volunteer support that we are able to supply the amount of food, clothing, and hot meals to those that we serve. Please consider sending a donation to the United Methodist Center. We express our gratitude to you for your continual support and we look forward to receiving and hearing from you soon.

Yours In Christ,

*Bernadette Logan, Executive Director*

## *Wanderings . . .*

*By Diane Meredith  
District Lay Leader*

With spring in the air, and the promise of the resurrection newly revived in our hearts, we are reminded of the countless wonderful gifts with which God has blessed us. As the temperature begins to climb into the 50's and 60's, and the daylight hangs around until early evening, there is no better time to wander around the district, connecting and reconnecting with each other.

I attended a beautiful memorial service for long time Grand Gorge UMC lay leader, Roger "Pete" Johnson, who lost his battle with cancer in early March. He will truly be missed in that church, in that community, and in this district. Witness after witness spoke of Pete's faith and his comfortable way of drawing others into faith-based conversations. I was reminded of the opportunities we as Methodists have in a system that so values and empowers laity.

Shandaken UMC was my next visit—for The Singing Waiters concert. It was a cold, rainy night, but the sanctuary was humming with some familiar Southern Gospel tunes. This was the second in a series of concerts scheduled at Shandaken. Kudos to Gene Knoth for his efforts!

I *almost* made it to Rowe UMC in mid-April, but circumstances stalled it at the last minute. I had several email communications with friend Donna Jolly over the course of a week that made me feel as welcome as if I'd actually worshiped there!

And, finally, I must tell you about the success of this year's annual district training event held in Kerhonkson in March. The District Council on Ministries brought together a great slate of sessions and presenters, and the attendance was near, or perhaps slightly beyond, capacity. Lunch at the Fire House was nearly SRO! I extend a warm thank you to Dru Chatterton for the organizing and planning of that training day that she has so willingly and capably undertaken over the past several years. Rev. Sara Thompson-Tweedy and Lay Leader Alice LaClair were charming hostesses. Thank you, Ladies! And to our beloved DS Mark whose vision launched the district training day concept—your leadership has cultivated many quality events, has encouraged connectionalism across this district, and provided a source of happy memories for your clergy and laity.

Until we meet again, perhaps at the Annual District Meeting on Sunday, or perhaps at the Farewell to the Chattertons party in June, or perhaps as we visit one another's churches, may God richly bless you with good health and safe travel.

Peace, Diane Meredith

## **12 Bike Riders From Platte Clove Earn At Least TEN P.E.T. devices for District Mission Project**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 riders (11 youth and one adult) rode their bikes 82 miles in a bike-a-thon to raise money for the District Mission Project – P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) devices for the immobile. The money they earned has made possible at least (probably more than) ten PET vehicles! The riders started off from Platt Clove at 7 am and rode to Grand Gorge and then Rt 28 to Phoenicia, back through Lanesville and onto 23A to Haines Falls. WELL DONE! *(Each charge on the Catskill Hudson District has been encouraged to donate \$250. for one PET vehicle as a mission project.)*

<p style="text-align:center"><b>CATSKILL HUDSON DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES</b></p>
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Rev. Joyce Wilkerson Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

**18 Local Church Youth Lay Speakers were committed to service at the District Conference on May 6<sup>th</sup>. These young people have taken the required course to be considered and affirmed as a Local Church Youth Lay Speaker. Upon completion of their Report to their Charge Conference and affirmation of the same, they will be listed as Local Church Lay Speakers:**

### **Catskill UMC**

Levi Fiske  
Olivia Fiske  
Emily Komaromi

### **Craryville UMC**

Dylan Proper

### **Margaretville UMC**

Kristi Gavette  
Matthew Gray  
Brianna Hunt  
Garrett Johnson  
Amy Filupeit  
Erin Filupeit  
Kelly Filupeit

### **Phoenicia UMC**

Jennifer Neal

Jessie Moriarty  
Iona Scully

**St. Paul's UMC Middletown**

Tarrah Charles  
Chole DeRocker  
Michael Hull  
Michael Worden

**DISTRICT COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY – Catskill Hudson District**

Also in attendance at the District Conference were the members of the District Council on Youth Ministry (Natassia Velez, Youth Convenor and Maggie Colan and Beth Capen, Adult Co-Cordinators.)

All youth (grades 6-12) from the Catskill Hudson District are invited to attend the Catskill Hudson District Council on Youth Ministry (DCYM). Please encourage the youth in your local church to attend! The youth will have fun, they will get to know other youth from the District, and they will be involved in planning our District's youth events and retreats. **YOUTH MINISTRY IS MINISTRY BY YOUTH AND FOR YOUTH.**

DCYM generally meets from 2:30-5:00 on Sundays at various places around the District. (Check the District calendar to confirm the place and time).

Fri-Sat., June 29-30, 2007 "Lock-in" Retreat/Event

Sunday, September 9, 2007

Sunday, October 14, 2007

Fri-Sun. November 9-11, 2007 Conference Youth Retreat at Camp Epworth. DCYM meeting on Sunday afternoon November 11.

Sunday, December 9, 2007

Sunday, January 20, 2008

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Sunday, April 13, 2008

Sunday, May 11, 2008

Sunday, June 22, 2008

For more information, contact Natassia Velez 845-695-1096.

<b>Upcoming Events:</b>
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**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 by the Bishop. RSVP your attendance to the District Office (679-6350) or call St. James directly.

**June 2 Farewell to Mark and Dru Chatterton** 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Reservoir UMC. A program and potluck supper. Contact Lucy Jones 845-657-2326 or 845-657-5107.

**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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.gbmg-umc.org/nyaccscom>

<b>And Looking Ahead:</b>
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**September 7** Conference-wide Candidacy Mentor Training at the Conference Center in White Plains, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

**September 15** Orientation for all Pastors Serving a new Church or Charge. (at Asbury Crestwood UMC in Tuckahoe, NY. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 pm. RSVP to District Office.)

**September 27** Boundaries & Dual Relationships Workshop (*if you have not already attended this training, it is a mandatory training for all appointed clergy.*)

**October 1, 2** Bishop & Clergy Retreat for Northern Districts at Mt. St. Alphonsus.  
**October 21<sup>st</sup>** 4 p.m. Installation of new DS Jim Moore at Overlook UMC at Woodstock  
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**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

To Register: Download Registration and Health Forms at [www.Epworthcenter.com](http://www.Epworthcenter.com) or receive forms by calling 845-687-0215 or writing [info@epworthcenter.com](mailto: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.

This is the last COURIER newsletter until the summer edition. Rev. Jim Moore and his spouse and administrative assistant, Holly, should be contacted here at the District Parsonage and Office after July 1<sup>st</sup> if you have material you would like to include. Welcome to your office and home, Jim and Holly!