

# CONNECTION

CONNECTICUT/NEW YORK DISTRICT

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BISHOP ERNEST S. LYGHT, BISHOP  
REV. JANE ALLEN MIDDLETON, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
BARBARA STINSON, EDITOR

SEPTEMBER 2003

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NO 6

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## FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

“Revive and Renew NOW!”

“R” you ready? At 7:30 p.m. on **November 10, 2003**, we will gather as a district for reviving, renewing, rekindling, resurrecting, re-energizing our relationship with Jesus Christ! Plan now to be there for an inspiring worship service at New Milford United Methodist Church – a “new-fashioned” indoor tent revival.

This very special service will include a district-wide choir, a parade of banners, liturgical dancers, the testimony of our District Superintendent and the opportunity to rekindle our relationship with God and to recommit ourselves to ministry. Bishop Ernest S. Lyght and all of the members of the Cabinet will be present.

The people of New Milford UMC are serving a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations are suggested for dinner and can be made by calling the church at 860-354-4596 or emailing the church at [nmumc@aol.com](mailto:nmumc@aol.com).

During the afternoon Ernest Swiggett and Ann Pearson will offer workshops for those who are interested. Watch for further information and put the date on your calendar now!

Grace and peace,

*Jane*



FIRST  
*at*  
FIRST  
*at*  
FOUR



*A Four Concert Series  
Featuring Four Outstanding Vocalists*

Enjoy a season of great music at  
First United Methodist Church  
42 Cross Rd. (next to Lord & Taylor)  
Stamford, CT

4:00 PM

**Sunday, September 7 – Kristin Hoffmann**

*“Divided Heart - The New Sound of Pop/Rock”*

**Sunday, October 5 – Vaneese Thomas & Friends**

*“Gospel Fest”*

**Sunday, November 2 – Teresa Vicario**

*“Classics by European & American Composers”*

**Sunday, December 7 – Alicia Hall**

*“A Journey into Christmas”*

***Single concert tickets – adult/\$25; youth 11-15/\$12.50;  
children 10 & under-free***

***Subscribe to all 4 concerts and save 25% – adult/\$75; youth 11-15/\$37.50***

*For tickets and information, please call  
First United Methodist Church at 203 324-1323 or visit our website  
[www.fumestamford.org](http://www.fumestamford.org)*

## CT/NY Lay Speaker Annual Report 2003

The Lay Speaker should complete this request form in accordance with the requirements set forth in the United Methodist Church 2000 Book of Discipline.

*To be presented to the District Superintendent (or designated substitute) at the Church's Annual Charge Conference. If not presented at the Annual Church Charge Conference, please have your pastor and the Chairperson of the Church Council sign the form and mail it to the CT/NY York District Committee on Lay Speaking, CT/NY District Office, P.O. Box 3007, Stamford, CT 06905*

Please print clearly and attach additional pages where more space is needed,

Lay Speaker's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church where you are a Member: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Has any of the above information changed since your report last year?

**YOUR CERTIFICATION REQUEST IS FOR** (check only one):

Local Church Lay Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ or Certified Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ \*

In what year did you complete the Basic 'Lay Speaker Course'? \_\_\_\_\_

\* **ADVANCED CLASSES, CURRENT YEAR:** for Certified LS only - at least one is required every 3 years

In what year did you last attend an approved Advanced Lay Speaker class?: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the name of the course(s) or subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Official Advanced Lay Speaker courses are recommended; however, is there an activity that you have coming up in the next year where you will take an **active leadership role** (5 hours +) and would like to request it as a substitute for the advanced class next year? (All substitutes must be pre-approved.)*

**YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE: What were the most influential resources that helped you develop in your ministry, mission, or spiritual life during the past year?** (September 1 2002 to August 31 2003).  
(include key activities, courses, books, events, pastors, mentors, web sites, radio stations, tapes, CDs, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH:**

a) What is the focus or main passion of your personal ministry or mission service at your local church?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How have you participated in Worship Service during the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_

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c) **Caring:** Briefly describe any one-on-one or small group situations where you were able to lead in administering a caring ministry of grace ... prayer, visitation ministry, phone calls, personal visits, or community events.

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d) **Communicating:** Briefly describe any occasions where you offered witness of your faith to others, explained Methodist Heritage and belief, gave a personal testimony, and/or interpreted Scripture.

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e) **Leading:** Briefly describe any small groups, training sessions, talks, classes, or discussions that you led:

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f) In what area, if any, do you have a "gift", "expertise", or "experience" where you might be able to help another church if they were to contact you (e.g. Teaching Youth, architecture, technical, Web design?)

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g) How has the Lay Speaker course and/or advanced courses helped you in ministry or spiritual path?

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**\* ADVANCED LAY SPEAKERS ONLY - MINISTRY BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH:**

a) What is the number of times that you preached in other churches this year? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_

*Afterwards, what coaching or feedback tips did you learn from the experience?*

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b) Where there any district events, workshops, community groups, or organizations that you participated this year? \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

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c) Briefly describe any visitation ministry work that you have done outside of your local church. (Include district, mission, evangelism, or community involvement).

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d) What advanced lay speaker course subjects would help you ? .. What are the key learnings for others?

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**Recommendation to the CT/NY District Lay Speaker Committee:**

I request recommendation by the Church Charge Conference or Church Council of my church for renewal as \_\_\_\_ Local Church or \_\_\_\_ Certified Lay (advanced course) Speaker for the forthcoming year.

Lay Speaker's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

I have reviewed and discussed this report with the Lay Speaker and therefore recommend certification as

(chose one:) \_\_\_\_ Local Church \_\_\_\_ (District) Certified Lay Speaker - for the next year.

Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Charge Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of District Superintendent, otherwise, the Chairperson of the Church Council)

Signature of Chairperson of the Administrative Board or Charge Conference \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By December 31, 2003 - please send the following to:

***United Methodist Lay Speaker Certification***

c/o Jim Fleegal  
22 Wendover Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611-1530

- This completed (and legible) application, including appropriate signatures
- A brief description of your Christian and Church experience (attached)
- A \$35 fee for registration (checks should be written for payment to: *CT/NY District UMC*)
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**A Brief Description of My Christian and Church Experience**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Section XI. Paragraph 266 from the The Book of Discipline, 2000, Lay Speaking Ministries:

1. A lay speaker (local church or certified) is a member of a local church or charge who is ready and desirous to serve the Church and who is well informed on and committed to the Scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church and who has received specific training to develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, and care-giving ministries. An applicant must be active in the support of the local church or charge.
2. Lay speakers are to serve the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship, including the interpretation of the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of the church.
3. Through continued study and training a lay speaker should prepare to undertake one or more of the following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church or charge.
  - a) To take initiative in giving leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church.

- b) To lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay speaking.
- c) To conduct, or assist in conduction services of worship, and present sermons and addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay speaking.

To relate to appropriate committees and ministry areas in providing leadership for congregational and community life and foster care-giving ministries.

- 4. Lay speaking training courses shall be those recommended by the General Board of Discipleship or alternates approved by the conference committee on lay speaking. Such training should enable ministries with all language and cultural groups as appropriate.
- 5. It is recommended that a service of commitment be held for persons recognized as local church or certified lay speakers.

# METHODIST MINISTERS' MISSION MARATHON

Wayne Lavender, pastor of the New Milford UMC and Brian Schofield-Bodt, pastor of the Golden Hill UMC will run the Baltimore Marathon this October. They have been training since January and will use the marathon as a fundraiser for international mission projects.

The Baltimore Marathon will be Rev. Lavender's fifth marathon and the Rev. Dr. Schofield – Bodt's first. Following a stress fracture in his left foot last fall, Rev. Lavender was unable to run for almost 4 months until given clearance from his doctor on December 17th. In a conversation the week after Christmas Wayne challenged Brian to complete a marathon with him this fall and the rest, as they say, is now history. Brian's training has netted a 35-pound weight loss while Wayne has dropped the 10 he gained during the period of inactivity and an additional 10. Their goal is to finish the marathon and raise funds for mission.

The New Milford United Methodist Church has been deeply involved in our conference's Sister Conference, the United Methodist Church of Mozambique, since Rev. Lavender's initial visit there in 1998. Mozambique was declared the poorest nation in the world in 1996 following years of revolutionary and civil war, and is still considered one of the poorest countries on the planet. Since 1998 ten other members of the NMUMC have traveled to Mozambique, including a team led by Rev. Lavender last summer. From that trip the Lavender family has been led to adopt a young boy from the Teles orphanage (Candido, who has been in the United States since January), and the church has been leading a project to move the Teles Orphanage to Cambine away from the malaria ridden swamp and towards better health care, education opportunities and other children. Funds given to New Milford will go towards the orphanage move.

The Golden Hill UMC has a long history of mission work around the world with four years of involvement with the mission to Bolivia through the CT/NY District. Golden Hill members Bob and Ginny Stevenson and Jack Middleton have been part of several trips to Cochabamba in central Bolivia, and Bob and Ginny are leading the January, 2004 mission. Chagas' Disease, prevalent in the nearby mountains, is an incurable, and painful, life-shortening parasitic illness carried by the thatched roofs and adobe walls typical of houses in that area. Replacing these houses with homes having metal roofs, plastered walls and concrete floors eliminates the beetles' access. Funds given to Golden Hill will go to this new housing.

Checks may be sent to either church with the memo line indicating "Mission Marathon," and sent to either:

The New Milford UMC  
68 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 354-4596

The Golden Hill UMC  
210 Elm Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
(203) 336-0152

# BACK TO SCHOOL BACK TO BOLIVIA

The arrival of the first advertising circulars for back-to-school sales is a reminder not only that school will begin soon but also that the next CT/NY District Bolivia VIM Team will be leaving for Cochabamba on January 9, 2004, and - like it's predecessors - will be carrying suitcases packed with badly needed school supplies for our young Bolivian friends. Rather than wait for the Fall when the District campaign to collect school supplies for

Bolivia formally begins, members and friends of all District congregations are urged to take advantage of pre-season school supply sale prices to stock up for Bolivia. (If you need storage space, contact Bob & Ginny Stevenson by e-mail at [manofnotes@snet.net](mailto:manofnotes@snet.net) or by telephone at (203) 380-8622 and they can arrange space.)

While you are at it, please consider joining the 2004 Bolivia VIM team and/or encouraging others to join.

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## VIM TRAINING EVENT

On Saturday, September 13, at the Conference Center there will be a one-day Volunteers in Mission training event led by Greg Forrester, our Jurisdictional VIM Coordinator. Greg is passionate about and committed to strengthening the church through missions. His story is a great one. He is a former NY State Trooper whose life was changed through a VIM trip to Haiti ten years ago. He left the police force and has worked in the area of mission-outreach ever since. If your church has not participated in a VIM trip this is a great introduction. If your church has, then this is a great way to make connections and perhaps plan new ventures. Please make every effort to send a representative from your church to this event.

*Tom Vencuss, Disaster Response Ministries*

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## EMMANUEL BAKERY

*The following message was sent by Wilson boots, who most of you know with his wife Nora is a missionary in Bolivia. During our Mission trip last February when I learned that there was a dream to start a bakery at Emmanuel Methodist Church I was able to contribute \$600 which had been give to me for mission. The note describes what has been made possible so far – a miracle! Jane*

Wonderful new spirit ministry at Emmanuel. The special gift you shared with us, and additional monies from Marc, have made possible the creation of the Emmanuel bakery, provider of "Emmanuel (God with us) bread," as well as desperately needed employment for four men of our congregation. Through connections, a top drawer local baker is acting as teacher/advisor, and the bread is terrific (maybe you can imagine the divine smell all the way up in CT). Demand is so great that they are sold out by 8:00 a.m. We are working to get them a larger oven, and kneading machine. The men come at 3:00 a.m. and their lives are being transformed (all were without work leading to serious domestic problems/relationships).

I had the Service/sermon at Emmanuel last week (our new Pastora, Luisa, has a 2-point charge and only with us ever other week) - we did Communion with a bountiful table for 5 kinds of bread beside the communion loaf. After we communed, we made commitments to take the bread to neighbors, lapsed members, etc.

Extraordinary moment. I asked the man in charge if he would say a brief word of witness as part of the sermon. After his witness (through the Holy Spirit), which was powerful, he invited the other 3 men to also come forward if they wished. Amazingly all three came and spoke, and it was indeed a God moment. This tie I had enough sense to cut out the rest of my stuff and end the sermon right there.

Nora asked me to share her special thanks and deep gratitude for your gift that enabled Emmanuel to begin this journey. It is bringing new energy and life to all of our ministries.

How amazing the way God does “a new thing” with bread and faithful people.

*Wilson*

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**It is hoped that this bakery can be expanded with \$2000 additional in equipment. To contribute to this, please send checks noted Emmanuel Bakery and made out to the CT/NY District, PO Box 2007, Stamford, CT.**

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## **CT/NY DISTRICT UMW FALL GATHERING**

Guest Speaker:

***Myung-Rae Kim Lee***

Korean Language Coordinator for the NY Annual Conference United  
Methodist Women

***“SHARING THE JOY”***

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**9:30 A.M. – LUNCH**

**FIRST UMC, STAMFORD**

### MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Love Offering to be taken or
- Bring a NEW baby item for Mary’s Cradle, an infant and maternal resource center in Bluefield, West Virginia

Registration: Please respond by September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to: Lisa Terfehr,  
192 Idlewood Drive, Stamford, CT 06905 (203) 329-2120

COST: \$7 per person (includes lunch)  
Child care available

\* \* \* \* \*

# ADVANCED PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

Advanced Pastoral Care Training for clergy in congregations sessions will include two case presentations and didactic. Eight hours of one-to-one consultation will be available to each participant. Guest presenters include: Dr. Armin Thies, Senior Clinical Faculty Member in Psychology at Yale Child Study Center; Rev. John Twiname, Past Co-President of HealthCare Chaplaincy in NYC & Doctor Margaret Kornfeld, Past President of the American Assoc. of Pastoral Counselors. Group sessions will be held on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m., Oct. 9,22; Nov. 5, 10; Dec. 10; Jan. 7, 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 6, 24; April 14 and May 5, 19. If interested call: Noroton Presbyterian Church, 2011 Post Road, Darien, CT.

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## The Role of Faith Communities in Pastoral Care, Healing and Wholeness

A workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 19 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Noroton Presbyterian Church and led by Dr. Margaret Kornfeld. Dr. Kornfeld is an American Baptist Minister, is Past President of the American Association of pastoral Counselors and holds status of Diplomate. She has been a faculty member at Union Theological Seminary and the Graduate Residency Program of Blanton-Peale Institute. She maintains a private practice of psychotherapy and family therapy in NYC. She is the author of "*Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Counseling in Faith Communities*" which is used as the text in seminaries throughout the US in pastoral counseling courses.

This free public presentation is designed for clergy, lay caregivers and Stephen Ministers. For information contact Frances Unsel at 203-655-9414

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## The United Methodist Men *of the New York Annual Conference*

**Cordially Invite You to Our First**

***Gala Benefit***

**On Sunday, October 12, 2003 at 6:00 PM**

at the

**HOLIDAY INN**

440 West 57th Street

New York, N.Y.

***Music By: Ron Anderson***

***Honoring: Rev. Dr. Randolph W. Nugent***

***Rev. R. Randy Day***

**Donation: \$90.00  
Black Tie**

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***For Information and Tickets***

Dr. C. A. Anderson	(212) 870-3084
Bro. Samuel Phillips	(914) 592-6835
Bro. John Lemon	(718) 535-6468
Bro. John Lewis	(212) 426-8784
Bro. Joseph Lorde	(718) 365-4019
Bro. Preston King	(212) 645-7336
Bro. James McClay	(203) 888-0332
Bro. Paul Jefferson	(718) 658-8436
Bro. Royston Bailey	(516) 485-3723
Bro. Michael Campbell	(718) 325-4064

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## YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE

- Do you have enough money?
- Are you spending enough time with family and friends?
- do you have enough savings to see you through 6 months of living expenses?
- Are you satisfied with the contribution you've made to the world?
- Are you at peace with money?

If you answered NO to any of these perhaps it's time to look at your relationship with money.

A Workshop with Monica Wood, New Road Map Foundation and based on the national best-selling book, **Your Money or Your Life** will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at the Poughquag UMC, 21 Church Street, Poughquag, NY (845) 724-3912. The cost is \$30 (\*\$25) per person - or- \$50 (\*\$45) per couple. The registration includes: 1 copy of the New York Times best selling book, **Your Money or Your Life** and a catered lunch. \*If received by 10/15/03.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 13** Volunteers in Mission Training  
10-3 Learning Center, White  
Plains
- September 15** Fall Clergy Mtg-9:30-1:30 p.m.  
Newtown UMC
- September 27** Worship with Pizzazz! -  
Learning Center NY  
Conference, White Plains
- October 2** Order of Elders Day Apart -  
David Lowes Watson
- October 4** District UMW Fall Gathering,  
First UMC, Stamford
- October 5-10** Upper Room - 5 Day Academy
- October 18** Special Session Annual  
Conference - White Plains HS
- October 27-28** Fall Bishop's Retreat-  
St. Alphonsus
- November 10** "New Fashioned" Revival  
New Milford UMC  
6 p.m. Diner  
7:30 p.m. Revival
- December 6** District Clergy Christmas  
Party-District Parsonage

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