

CONNNECTION

CONNECTICUT/NEW YORK DISTRICT

BISHOP ERNEST S. LYGHT

REV. JANE ALLEN MIDDLETON, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

BARBARA STINSON, EDITOR

MAY 2004

FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

As you receive this issue of the Connnection General Conference will be in session. Serious issues confront our church, which is rapidly becoming a global church with the greatest growth taking place in Africa. In addition to the Methodist family being united through Central conferences, we are also united through the autonomous conferences. We are also a part of Pan-Methodism. Even these voices will be present at General Conference. We are indeed a very large family. This is the family reunion. Hopefully, this will be a time of Holy Conferencing.

Important issues face our church as we strive to be faithful to our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. As materials have poured in to prepare for General Conference I have become overwhelmed with wonder at the ways in which the church is truly making a witness in the world, It would be impossible to fully tell the story.

Some issues at General Conference will be enthusiastically debated, with strong opinions on all sides. It is my prayer that we can continue to find

Jesus' third way, the way that leads us to see possible points of agreement, the way that may mean that no "side" wins all, but in finding our mutual common ground, the church will be the victor.

In all Christian communities from the earliest ("who will sit on your right side, Jesus?") until today, from the smallest group in the local church to the largest gathering have struggled to truly live out our oneness in Christ. Our Christian maturity is measured by how we disagree. Can we do so in love?

My prayer not only for General Conference but for every place in which two or three gather in the name of Jesus is that in our agreements and in our disagreements others will say of us, "see how they love each other"

Grace and peace,

Jane

GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY

May 9th is the day our annual conference traditionally observes "Golden Cross Sunday" at which time we lift up the ministry of our eight United Methodist facilities affiliated with the NY Conference. The eight facilities that continue to offer essential services to people with special needs, care for children, the elderly, women in crisis and those addicted to drugs are: Anchor House, Bethany Methodist Home of Brooklyn, Bethel Methodist Church Home, Brooklyn Methodist Church Home, The Children's Home, Methodist Church Home for the Aged, United Methodist Homes of CT and Women's Advocate Ministry.

Please put an announcement in your church bulletin explaining the Golden Cross offering, the services offered by the facilities, and how the funds are

used. All undesignated offerings are distributed equally to the eight United Methodist facilities. Please send your offerings to the Conference Treasurer for proper credit. Envelopes may be ordered by calling the Conference Center at 888-696-6922 or by E-mail at smitchel@nyac.com.

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DISTRICT WEBSITE

Did you know that CT/NY District has a website highlighting district activities and information?? If not, then you may be pleased to learn that we do!

The CT/NY District website may be found at United Methodist Churches website domain of <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/cnynyac>. Click on this link and you will be directed to the district website where your viewing and surfing of the website is encouraged. When surfing, note that current news of district events is included in "Current District News (<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/cnynyac/distnews2s.htm>)...and a directory of District Newsletters for a 12 month period has been initiated and will be maintained. In addition, you may note that there are links for Missions, Lay Speaker, and a District Calendar. You may also note a slide show of some district churches along with links to UMC InfoServ and Daily Devotionals from The Upper Room. An attempt is being made to provide current and pertinent information to you regarding our district and our churches. If you would like to include a picture of your church, include event, missions, or activities at your church, or have suggestions, changes or other comments about the website, please send your updates to the District Superintendent's office(cnynyac@aol.com).

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HELP WANTED

YOUTH DIRECTOR WANTED - DREW UMC, CARMEL, NY

Applicants should possess strong faith in Christ, mentoring/leadership/organizational skills, and availability on Sunday at least twice a month for worship attendance and programming for two groups: a junior and senior high group.

Youth Director will build parental support and involvement through newsletter, phone calls, and parent meetings as needed. For more information or to apply, please contact Dorothy Sinatra, Staff Parish Relations Chair, at (845) 225-4320 or fax resume to church at (845) 225-2904 or email to drewumc@bestweb.net. Thank you. Salary negotiable. Join our ministry team and make a difference!

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CHURCH SECRETARY - Part time Administrative Assistant/Secretary
Position: The United Methodist Church of Monroe is seeking a person with excellent clerical and organizational skills. Computer competence or willingness to learn advance computer skills required. Please call the church office at (203) 268-8395.

HEALING CONFERENCE AT JESSE LEE

The fourth annual healing conference sponsored by the Oratory of the Little Way will take place at Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 15, 2004 from 9:00am to 4:00pm..

The title of this year's conference is "Spiritual Healing as Medicine". The keynote speaker is Julie Mumford-Sheldon who is the sister of Nigel Mumford, Director of the Oratory. As a young woman, Julie suffered from a neurological illness called dystonia from which she was not expected to recover. In 1989 Julie experienced a dramatic healing that totally reversed

her condition. Five years after this event Julie's younger daughter Georgina developed a malignant brain tumor at the age of nine. These two incidents have had a dramatic effect not only on Julie and her family but also on the many lives they have touched. She is candid in talking about her pain, her faith, and the healing ministry of Jesus. Julie now devotes her time to looking after her daughter, writing and speaking. Julie has written about her experiences in several books including: "Dancer off Her Feet", "The Blessing of Tears", and "One Step at a Time".

In addition to Julie Sheldon, Dr. Lorraine Hartnett who is a physician practicing full-time at Middlesex Hospital in Connecticut will also speak. Dr. Hartnett believes that every physician, every nurse and every healthcare worker is called to this vocation by Our Lord and that their primary responsibility is to bring the healing love of Jesus to the patients they serve.

Music at the conference will be performed by nationally known gospel singer Adrienne Reedy. Adrienne has played the lead in several Biblical musicals and her premiere CD, "He Carries Me", which was released in November 2002, has sold over a thousand copies. Adrienne's ministry is her wonderful music and the conference is fortunate to have her perform.

Pre-registration for the conference is \$35.00 per person. Registration on the day of the conference is \$45.00. Check and registration form must be received by April 30, 2004. You may obtain a registration form in the church office or by contacting the Oratory of the Little Way at 860-354-8294.

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YOUTH RALLY

2004

The New York Conference will present "Cling," a worship rock band from Atlanta, Georgia, at three big events:

A concert at New Milford UMC at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 21.

A Youth Revival at St. Paul & St. Andrew in Manhattan on Saturday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

· Morning Worship on Sunday, May 23 at 11 a.m. again at St. Paul & St. Andrew

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2004 UNITED METHODIST BLUEFISH BENEFIT

Once again the United Methodists are sponsoring an evening at a Bridgeport Bluefish baseball game to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The game will feature the Bridgeport Bluefish vs Pennsylvania Road Warriors on Wednesday, July 28th at 7:05 p.m. at Harbor Yard, Bridgeport.

The tickets are \$9 and \$4.50 goes to Habitat. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, June 20. Send your money and a check made payable to Golden Hill UMC, memoed "Bluefish". Golden Hill UMC will purchase the block of tickets, assign numbers and distribute to each local church for local distribution. Your check should be sent to Rev. Brian Schofield-Bodt, Golden Hill UMC, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604 no later than Thursday, June 24. Lets fill the ballpark with United Methodists!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

"Missionaries on Call, Inc., the Greenwich based international humanitarian agency is looking for volunteers to be part of a mission trip to Costa Rica in

October. The group will leave Monday, October 11th and return on Thursday, October 21, 2004. The cost is \$1400 per person all included (round trip airfare, food, lodging, transport, exit tax, VIM insurance, tips building materials, excursion, etc.) The project will be building and working with school children in Vacation Bible School. No particular skills needed, just the will to want to help and a positive team spirit!

For more details, contact:

Roxana Bowgen, Missionaries on Call, Inc.

29 Sachem Lane, PO Box 4434

Greenwich, CT 06830; (203) 550-2222 or email missionariesoncl@aol.com

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EAST AVENUE UMC FUNDRAISER

A group of nine people from the East Avenue UMC in Norwalk, CT will be traveling to Livno, Bosnia this summer for two weeks. They will be working to construct a barn so that a minority family can receive a cow through UMCOR program to help with their food needs.

On Sunday, May 16 the church will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts in support of this ministry. If you would like to order donuts please call the church office at (203) 866-6757.

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CONGRATULATIONS NEW LAY SPEAKERS

The following persons were dedicated at the District Conference at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC on Sunday, April 25th :

Wayne Schwartz, Golden Hill UMC, Bridgeport

June Gordero, Drew UMC, Carmel

Don Loveland, Drew UMC, Carmel

Kerry O'Conner, Drew UMC, Carmel

Bob Clark, Danbury UMC

Keith McGivern, Danbury UMC

Nina Kellogg, Katonah UMC

Steve Arnold, Monroe UMC

Bet-z Ellis, New Fairfield UMC

Ben Hines, New Fairfield UMC

Patricia Postupack, New Fairfield UMC

Greg Russo, New Fairfield UMC

Pierette Schnell, New Fairfield UMC

Rich Schnell, New Fairfield UMC

Diane Stafford, New Fairfield UMC

Matthew Winward, New Fairfield UMC

Gary Diehl, Newtown UMC

Bra Tefft, Newtown UMC

Katherine Williams, Pawling UMC

Thelma Van Tilburg, Pound Ridge Community

Elizabeth Wund, Pound Ridge Community

Lisa Adams, Stevens Memorial, South Salem

Betty Gannon, Stevens Memorial, South Salem

Patricia Gannon, Steven Memorial, South Salem

Carl Hansen, Nichols UMC, Trumbull

Trevor Hansen, Nichols UMC, Trumbull

Steve Otfinoski, Nichols UMC, Trumbull

Wade Shafer, Nichols UMC, Trumbull

Glenn Davis, Woodbury UMC

David LaManna, Woodbury UMC

Sue Vindigni, Woodbury UMC

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "ON THE ROAD"

The Connectional Ministries of the NY Conference is hoping to take VBS "on the road" this summer. Our "HERO QUEST" van will visit six locations bringing a director, equipment and expertise for a one week program for community children.

WHAT WILL WE NEED TO MAKE IT WORK?

A Summer VBS director (with Christian Education experience) to work 12 weeks, June-August, 2004.

A van or small panel truck to transport the project.

Church hosts who have a heart for community ministry and a willingness to open their doors to their neighbors and are ready to make a community connection beyond the VBS experience.

Church partners who would be willing to volunteer with the host church as VBS staff - one week at a time.

Funding sponsors willing to help with the expenses to provide VBS materials for one child at a time.

Call Ann Pearson (888-696-6922, ext. 230) with your questions ...do you find yourself as a part of this "out of the box" project? This could be the connection at its best!

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WORKING WITH OLDER ADULTS

Wesley Village in Shelton, CT works with older adults in a variety of settings. The Director of Spiritual Life, Rev. Jim Stinson is available to come to your church and present a program that will help you start a new ministry or hear some new ideas for working with the older adults in your congregation.

If you are interested, call Jim at (203) 929-2787. Jim is also available to preach on Sundays.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21-23 - Youth Rally 2004

May 16-21 - Order of Elders Development Institute

Saturday, May 22 - Conference Confirmation Rally, Valhalla UMC

District Pre-conference meeting May 24, 7 p.m. in Danbury

Wednesday, June 2-5 - NY Annual Conference at Hofstra University.

Saturday, June 19 - DCOM Planning Day - Stamford Parsonage

Wednesday, July 28 - Bridgeport Bluefish Game to benefit Habitat.

July 29-August 1 - School of Mission

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Keeping in Touch:

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