

# CONNECTICUT DISTRICT NEWS

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The Connecticut District Office of the United Methodist Church

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## MARCH - APRIL 2009

Resident Bishop:

Jeremiah Park

Editor: Dorothy Chamberlain

Superintendent:

Reverend George C. Engelhardt

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## Superintendent Perspectives:

### A TIME OF TRANSITION!

I join in extending an enthusiastic welcome to **Ken Kieffer** as our in-coming Superintendent. And because we are Conference Superintendents as well as District, I also welcome **Kenny Yi** to the Cabinet as Superintendent of the Long Island West District. Ken will bring a deep love and understanding of pastoral ministry to us. Both our new Superintendents will add valuable perspective to the work of the Cabinet, in partnership with Bishop Park. Certainly I will extend every effort in the next few months to assist in assuring a good transition for Ken.

Entering now this new appointment season, I will be meeting with SPRCs and clergy, putting into place new ministry partnerships as directed by Bishop Park and the Cabinet. I do so this season with a new appreciation of what it is like to be in transition as I join the ranks of clergy, waiting to see what my place and presence for ministry will be.

I ask for your prayers for Ken and Kenny, and for all clergy and their families who will hear of their new appointment. I ask for your prayers for our churches as they prepare for and receive new pastors. Let any of us imagine that such prayers are only for the few, recall the words of Bishop Nichols some years ago, that every year, every church deserves a new pastor, and every pastor deserves a new church! May the Lord help us all fulfill those faithful expectations.

#### **I hope to fulfill a few more goals over the next four months:**

- I will give every prayerful effort into the appointment process entrusted to me, for every clergy and every church to which that applies.
- I will continue to value collegiality as we work together to strengthen ministry in our connection and in the local church. Our time together on March 24<sup>th</sup> exploring together "raising the bar on membership" is one such event I look forward to.
- I will continue to rejoice in the renewed heart for mission we have experienced as a Conference and across our District. I am continually inspired by the generosity of our churches in their awesome support of our Haiti initiative. In April, Bishop Park and Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii will join a VIM team missioning in Furcy and other Haiti sites. That can only bode well for our on-going commitment there.

**A Time of Transition continued-**

- I especially hope and pray for a like response to our mission opportunity to make a difference for Christ in Mozambique as we try to make completion of their conference center a reality. It will take about \$12,000 to make it happen, and we have proven we can do that! I renew the invitation for each of our churches to offer at least \$200 to that cause. Some have responded with that and more. Will you think of creative ways of being a partner congregation in this District missional effort?

George Engelhardt	\$ 500
New Haven: United Church of Westville	\$ 200
Westport	\$ 200
Monroe	\$ 585
Middlefield Federated	\$ 200
Bloomfield	\$ 400
Newtown	\$ 200
New Milford	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total to date	\$2,485*

\*In addition, we also have the pledge of North Haven (\$200) and Hartford (\$300)

- I will continue to always find time to talk with and pray with any of my colleagues in ministry who want to share joys, challenges, successes and anxieties about where God is leading them and their congregations.

Beloved colleagues, there is still much to do. There is always much to do! But God does not call without equipping! So let us continue the race together, knowing the pioneer who goes before us! Amen. **GE**

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**DISTRICT CONFERENCE  
APRIL 26, 2009  
3PM  
TRINITY UMC IN WINDSOR**

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**UNITED METHODIST RETIRED CLERGY BREAKFAST**

**Thursday, March 19 - 9:30 a. m.**  
Denny's Restaurant, 621 Queen St., Southington (Route 10)  
Just off exit 32 on I-84.

A retired UM ministers' breakfast is held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a. m. at Denny's Restaurant in Southington, just off Exit 32 on I-84. All are welcome. The dates for the spring months are: March 19, April 16, and May 21.

Please contact Ralph Roy if you have questions or suggestions a  
[Ralphroy@aol.com](mailto:Ralphroy@aol.com) or 860-620-1711

## **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](mailto:caprice@liberty.edu) for additional information or to receive an application form. **Please also see our website at [www.kwcamp.org](http://www.kwcamp.org)** An Equal Opportunity Employer

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### **ATTENTION: SR HIGH YOUTH AND YOUTH LEADERS TRIP TO SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY May 8, 2009**

To register for this trip, please e-mail Iwy Patel-Yatri at [numcpastoriwy@snet.net](mailto:numcpastoriwy@snet.net) with names and ages of those attending. There should be an adult for every 5 youth attending. (Please be mindful of safe sanctuaries, which might possible require both a male and female adult advisor.)

Registration fee is \$46 per person. Checks should be made payable to: Connecticut District with a memo in the lower left-hand corner "District Youth, May 8<sup>th</sup>, St. John Divine trip" and mailed to: The Connecticut District Office, Attn: Dorothy, 20 Broadfield Rd., Hamden, CT 06517.

Each church should have permission forms/medical information for your youth. Each youth group will be responsible for arranging transportation to and from St. John the Divine. Arrival time is 6:30 p.m. on Friday and departure time is 10 a.m. on Saturday. Feel free to car pool if your churches are in close proximity. For detailed information about items to bring (sleeping bags and toiletries) and food, please visit [www.stjohndivine.org](http://www.stjohndivine.org) and look for Sr. High "nightwatch".

# CT DISTRICT'S HAITI INITIATIVE BENEFITING THE FURCY CLINIC 2008 - 2009

(Revised 2/17/09)

The Connecticut District is sponsoring a doctor to visit the Furcy Clinic in Haiti once a week for over a year. We started on June 1, 2008! In addition to sponsoring a doctor, each church has been assigned a week to keep the Clinic and the Haitians in their prayers. Those who donated two weeks (\$400) or more have been given extra weeks which takes us through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Once again, thanks to all the churches and individuals who made this happen. GE

## 2008

June 1-7	George Engelhardt
June 8-15	Simsbury
June 16-23	New Fairfield: New Life Community
June 24-30	Clinton
July 1-7	Rocky Hill
July 8-15	New Milford
July 16-23	Huntington
July 24-31	Hartford: North
August 1-7	North Canton
August 8-15	Bristol:Prospect
August 16-23	West Hartford
August 24-31	Westport
September 1-7	Seymour
September 8-15	Meriden: South Trinity
September 16-23	Yalesville
September 24-30	Branford
October 1-7	Long Ridge/Georgetown
October 8-15	North Haven: Faith
October 16-23	Waterbury
October 24-31	Middlefield Federated
November 1-7	Middletown
November 8-15	Woodbury
November 16-23	Bloomfield
November 24-30	Pleasant Valley
December 1-7	Milford: Mary Taylor
December 8-15	Higganum
December 16-23	Fairfield: Grace
December 24-31	Litchfield/Thomaston

HAITI INITIATIVE 2008 - 2009 (Revised 2/17/09)

2009

January 1-7	New Haven: Westville
January 8-15	North Canton United Methodist Men
January 16-23	New Haven: St. Andrews
January 24-31	Stratford
February 1-7	Ansonia/Hartford Korean
February 8-15	Watertown/Torrington
February 16-23	Easton: Jesse Lee/Hartford Korean
February 24-28	Ernest Swiggett/Seymour: Great Hill
March 1-7	Gaylordsville/Copper Hill
March 8-15	Windsor: Trinity
March 16 - 23	Bridgeport: Summerfield
March 24-31	Southington: Grace
April 1-7	Cheshire/NH: First & Summerfield
April 8-15	Plainville/Newtown Men's Club
April 16-23	Newtown/Winsted
April 24-30	Shelton/Naugatuck
May 1-7	Monroe/West Haven: First & Wesley
May 8-15	Rocky Hill/Hartford
May 16-23	Clinton
May 24-31	Newington/Long Ridge
June 1-7	New Milford/Hamden Plains
June 8-30	George Engelhardt
July 1-15	Simsbury
July 16-31	New Fairfield: New Life Community
August 1-15	Simsbury
August 16-31	New Fairfield: New Life Community
September 1-7	Simsbury
September 8-15	Windsor
September 16-23	Huntington
September 24-November 7	Newtown
November 8-22	Hartford
November 23-30	Easton: Jesse Lee
December 1-7	Windsor
December 8-15	Bloomfield

## MUSIC DIRECTOR WANTED

**Great Hill United Methodist Church in Seymour, Connecticut** is seeking a part-time Music Director/Pianist/Accompanist with Clavinova experience. Successful applicant will prepare and provide music for each 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service and provide music, direction and accompaniment for each Wednesday night choir practice and Sunday morning practice prior to 10 a.m. Service as well as all special occasions. Applicants must be capable of sight reading moderately difficult choral music compositions and be motivated to grow and develop the music program. **Interested applicants should submit their resumes by March 15, 2009 to [office@greathillumc.org](mailto:office@greathillumc.org) or Great Hill United Methodist Church, 225 Great Hill Road, Seymour, CT 06483.**

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## FROM HAITI A REQUEST FOR CHOIR ROBES

A request from Ginny Hoch, at Mary Taylor UMC in Milford: Our cook in Furcy, Loulou, needs about 30 choir robes for her church in Haiti. Anyone having gently used robes to spare might consider making this a gift to the church in Haiti. Thanks, and bondye beni ou! Ginny Hoch [pastor@mtm-umc.org](mailto:pastor@mtm-umc.org)

## PERSONNEL UPDATES

**Prayers for:**

**The family of Euna Lee Benson** who died December 28, 2008 in Massachusetts. Lee was the widow of James J. Benson, Superintendent of our District from 1981-1987 who died in 2006. She is survived by her daughter, Judy and son Jim and two granddaughters.

**David and Holly Piscatelli** (North Haven) and their family. Holly's father, Clarence "Bud" Hardin King Jr, died January 24, 2009 in Nicholasville, KY at the age of 86.

**Continuing prayers for Ginny Wilcox (Derby)** - Ginny slowly improves. She is out of the hospital and in a convalescent center. We keep her in our prayers.

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## Can You Help Support a Student in Mozambique?

**Annette Griffith, Volunteer in Mission to Mozambique, Africa and the Mozambique/New York Annual Conference Connection** is looking for support, in part or in full, for four students who have been identified as potential leaders in the United Methodist Church in Beira, Mozambique. To find out more information and/or help, contact Annette at [annettegriffith@earthlink.net](mailto:annettegriffith@earthlink.net)

## **DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING**

**MARCH 24, 2009**

### **RAISING THE BAR ON MEMBERSHIP RE-THINK CHURCH**

**All clergy** are invited to attend a special District Clergy Meeting on **Tuesday, March 24th** at **Shelton UMC** from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Topics for discussion will be: **Raising the Bar on Membership** led by **George Engelhardt** and **Re-Think Church** a new publicity campaign video put out by United Methodist Communications. Discussion will be led by **Heather Sinclair**.

Please let the District Office know at [ccnyac@aol.com](mailto:ccnyac@aol.com) or 203-288-0286 if you will be attending so we can plan for Coffee "and" when you arrive.

### **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](mailto:cfranson417@comcast.net)**



**Bolivia continued -**

**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.”**

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**CONNECTICUT MISSION OF MERCY  
FREE DENTAL CARE  
APRIL 16-19, 2009 NEW HAVEN ATHLETIC CENTER**

This spring a wonderful event will take place in New Haven. It is called the Connecticut Mission of Mercy. (CTMOM) Mission of Mercy are held in several locations around the country providing free dental care to those who cannot afford even basic dental services such as cleanings, fillings, and extractions. This will be the second annual event in Connecticut.

Last year the CTMOM was held in Tolland, CT and 1,200 people received care. We expect to serve close to 2,000 patients this year. Last year we had 700 volunteers - dentists, hygienists, physicians, nurses, high school and college students as well as others from community. We would greatly appreciate your help.

The CTMOM event will take place at the New Haven Athletic Center at 480 Sherman Parkway from Thursday, April 16 to Sunday, April 19. On Thursday, we will be setting up the equipment and getting organized for the two days of dental treatment, Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18. On Sunday, April 19, we will be breaking down the equipment and cleaning the facility.

**We need volunteers to make this event a success.** The Connecticut State Dental Association website has a terrific 9 minute video describing last year's event. The video can be viewed from this website: [www.csda.com](http://www.csda.com). Volunteers are needed to help set up equipment on Thursday and tear down equipment on Sunday, escort patients during the two days of dental treatment, run errands, help with administrative procedures and serve as translators. In order to volunteer you simply fill out the online registration form at [www.csda.com](http://www.csda.com) It's easy. **The deadline for registration is March 15.**

**Please contact Bruce Cha via e-mail [bruce.cha@snet.net](mailto:bruce.cha@snet.net) if you have any questions.**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR MARCH/APRIL 2009

### MARCH

1	West Haven: First & Wesley CC 10:30 a.m.
2	Durham United Churches CC 7 p.m.
4-5	Cabinet
5	District Council on Ministries Shelton 7:30 p.m.
8	Simsbury CC 9 a.m.
11-12	Cabinet
15	Rocky Hill CC 10 a.m. Lay Speakers Dinner –Shelton 4 p.m.
18-19	Cabinet
21	BOOM Plenary
22	Monroe CC 10:00 a.m.
24	District Clergy Meeting 9 a.m.
25-26	Cabinet
29	Windsor CC 10 a.m.
31	District Committee on Ordained Ministry 9:30 a.m. Hamden

### APRIL

1-2	Cabinet
10	Good Friday
12	Easter
15-16	Cabinet
19	Trumbull: Nichols CC
21-24	Elder's Retreat
26	West Hartford CC a.m. DISTRICT CONFERENCE 3 p.m. Windsor
28	District Committee on Ordained Ministry Hamden
29-30	Cabinet

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

March 24	District Clergy Meeting - "Raising the Bar on Membership" and "Re-Think Church"
April 21-24	Elder's Spiritual Renewal Retreat
APRIL 26 (Sunday)	DISTRICT CONFERENCE
JUNE 10-13	ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUNE DISTRICT NEWS:  
APRIL 15, 2009**