

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT NEWS

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The Connecticut District Office of the United Methodist Church
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JULY/AUGUST 2009

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Superintendent:

Jeremiah Park
Reverend Kenneth Kieffer

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INTRODUCING...

A couple of weeks ago, I was in the midst of packing up my stuff from my church office when I came across one of my favorites installments of one of my favorite comic strip series, "The Far Side". In it, Tarzan was swinging through the jungle on his way to meet Jane for the very first time.

Sensing the magnitude of the moment, Tarzan began experimenting with his all-important opening line on the trip over to her place: "Jane, I'm pleased to make your acquaintance, my name is Tarzan"; "Hi Jane, I'm Tarzan, your date for the evening"; "Tarzan here, you must be Jane." But as it turned out, Tarzan became so anxious about his initial introduction to his future partner that when he finally introduced himself to her, all he could come up with was this now-immortal line: "Me Tarzan. You Jane!"

I find myself in a similar situation right now. Sensing the magnitude of this moment, I hope that I can do better by way of introduction to my partners in ministry than "Me DS. You Pastor!"

Seriously, when it comes to introductions, I've noticed that the more I have in common with the other party, the less awkward they are. Fortunately for us, regardless of whether or not our professional paths have yet crossed, we already have a great deal in common. We both believe in the same Bible. We both support the private and public worship of the same God. And we both claim that the resurrection of a carpenter's kid has granted us eternal life.

All in all, that's not a bad way to start a relationship, is it? I am sure that our list of commonalities will grow over time, and I pray that they will become fruits of the Kingdom.

In the meantime, here's a brief bio: I was born and raised in Islip, on the south shore of Long Island. I was baptized and confirmed in the Islip United Methodist Church. After receiving my Bachelors Degree from Florida Southern College, a small United Methodist College in Lakeland, I came back to my church to marry my junior high school sweetheart, Karen.

I did my seminary work down in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, during which time I also graduated from the Navy Chaplains' School. I was then ordained as a Deacon and later as an elder by Bishop C. Dale White. My first appointment was as an associate pastor, at the Stratford United Methodist Church. Subsequent appointments included the United Methodist Church of Glendale, New York, the East Avenue United Methodist Church in Norwalk, and the First United Methodist Church of Greenwich, where I've been doing ministry with the tireless support of Karen and our daughter, Olivea, for the past 9 years,

Obviously there's more I could share with you, but in the spirit of brevity (and mercy), I will be glad to fill in those blanks in person. Until then, take care. And God bless. **Ken**

CHANGES IN OUR DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST.

WELCOME TO:

AVON

BAKERVILLE

EASTON: JESSE LEE

PLEASANT VALLEY

YALESVILLE

FLORENCE T. EDDINS

WESTLEY VILLAZON

GEORGE C. ENGELHARDT

CARL FRANSON

ANNE M. BRACKET

THOSE WHO RETIRED THIS YEAR: SOLOMON PARMAR (Bakerville)

FAREWELL to the following pastors who are leaving our District for other appointments effective July 1st:

Jim Hoffman (Avon) who has been appointed to Darien

Ariel Ferrari (Easton: Jesse Lee) who has been appointed to First UMC in Greenwich

Lynne Severance (Pleasant Valley) who has been appointed to Bellvale & Sugar Loaf

Eric Fjeldal (Yalesville) who has been appointed to New Canaan

**NEW AREA CODE OVERLAYS COMING TO CONNECTICUT
HAVE YOU READ THE INSERT IN YOUR BILL FROM AT&T LATELY?**

According to our most recent AT&T insert, two new area code overlays will be in place in Connecticut during the next year or two. An overlay is an area code in addition to an already existing area code in an area. **Presently CT has two area codes: 203 and 860. Starting in December 2009, area code 475 will be added into the same area as 203. THIS WILL NOT CHANGE YOUR PRESENT AREA CODE OR PHONE NUMBER.** In the near future, the new area code 959 will be added to the same area as 860. **AGAIN, THIS WILL NOT CHANGE YOUR PRESENT AREA CODE OR PHONE NUMBER.**

NEW DIALING PROCEDURES: Starting this past May 15th, we all have been asked to start dialing the area code, and then the number for all local calls. This will become mandatory by November 14, 2009.

* 911 will still be 3 digits

*if these numbers are available in your area: 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 & 811 they will remain 3 digit numbers.

* All local calls now will remain local calls BUT you must use the AREA CODE

*There will be no change in charges for local calls

Starting now, be sure to include your area code on all business stationery, advertising materials, personal checks and your personal or pet ID tags. You will need to update programmed equipment ie: cell phones, alarm systems, etc. to be sure area codes are included.

QUESTIONS? Call AT&T at the customer service number on your bill.

New York Annual Conference
2009 Cooperative School of Christian
Mission

July 23rd - 25th, 2009

Western Connecticut State University

University Blvd., Danbury, CT 06810

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

The subjects for will be;

Spiritual Growth

Food & Faith

General Studies

Giving Your Heart away: Native

American Survival

Geographical Study

Sudan

To Order Text for all Classes write, call 1-800-305-9857 or go on line to: <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store/>

Mission Resource Center, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247

For registration form go to: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/nyaccscom>

**PASTORS SAVE THESE DATES:
FALL DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

**WATERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
250 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, WATERBURY, CT**

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

**All appointed clergy are expected to attend.
Retirees and AIEM are always welcome.**

**BISHOP'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2009
AT
MOUNT SAINT ALPHONSUS**

**BAREFOOT SUNDAY RESULTS IN 700 PAIRS OF SHOES
FOR THE NEEDY**

MARY TAYLOR UMC IN MILFORD had shoes of all shapes and sizes lined up on the altar as the church celebrated its first Soles4Souls Sunday. Shoes will go to Soles4Souls, an organization formed in Alabama after the Southeast Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, that delivers shoes all over the world to needy people. Congratulations to the members of Mary Taylor who did such an outstanding job collecting the 700 pairs of shoes!!!!



- ✚ How is your spiritual life?
- ✚ Do you know your spiritual gifts?
- ✚ Is there a ministry for your talents?
- ✚ Is the Spirit moving you in new directions?

Sign up for the Basic Lay Speaking Course!

The Connecticut District Lay Speaker Ministry Course prepares laity to provide a ministry of Caring, Leading, and Communicating God's word. This course is for all lay people to open new doors for ministry and energize your church.

According to our Methodist Book of Discipline, a "Lay Speaker is a professing member of a local church or charge conference who is ready to take the next step on their spiritual journey as it leads to spiritual development and service."

The program includes classes on Planning and Developing a Sermon, Teaching and Preaching the Old and New Testaments, Public Speaking, Healing Ministry (in the Methodist tradition), Discerning Spiritual Gifts, How to Pray, Methodist History, Interactive Preaching Styles, Methodist Doctrine and Polity, and Evangelism. You will receive instruction and mentoring from people who are very passionate about this wonderful life-changing program.

Not everyone who takes this course is being called by God to preach from the pulpit, but everyone in the class can benefit from learning how a worship service evolves and how Caring, Leading and Communicating are the action parts of John Wesley's three simple rules: **Do no harm, Do good** and **Love the Lord with your whole heart.**

**Six Saturdays from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm
September 19 & 26; October 3, 17 & 31; November 7**

**Location: First UMC of Shelton 188 Rocky Rest Road Shelton, CT
Cost: \$35.00 (Deduct \$5 if traveling over 20 miles)**

You may bring a lunch or donate \$5 each week for pizza and salad.

Please make your registration check payable to The Connecticut District and send to the District Office, 20 Broadfield Road, Hamden, CT 06517.

This program will empower you to be a better and more confident disciple of Jesus. Just ask any lay speaker who has taken it!

**Questions: email or call Mary Brevigleiri mbrevigleiri@perrytechnology.com
860-738-2525 days 860-307-4611 cell**

***** NEW THIS YEAR: Local and Certified Lay Speakers may sign up for individual courses for re-certification hours. Class Schedule will be posted in early September. Cost is \$10 per course.

Retreat for Spiritual Renewal

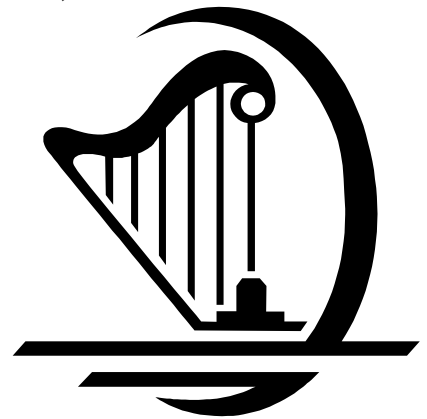
“PASSION AND PRAISE” (In Tune with the Universe)

*A weekend experience for men and women
based on the Psalms*

**WISDOM HOUSE
229 East Litchfield Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759**

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2009
(Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday after lunch)

The Book of Psalms is a rich treasury of devotional literature, a favorite for many centuries and remains so today. This collection of prayers, poems and songs helps us touch a wide range of human emotion and experience. The Psalms express praise, thanksgiving, wonder, doubt, faith, lament, grief, trust, and hope. Experience renewal through music, worship, study, solitude, and community, as we connect our human spirits with God's Holy Spirit.



Led by Reverend Caroly R. Gibson
Total Cost \$225.00 includes 5 meals, room, program and materials

Register Soon – Space in Farmhouse is Limited

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Special Diet: _____

**Mail Registration with \$150.00 deposit to:
Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Circle Trumbull, CT 06611
Balance due by August 31st**

Questions or Further Details, call: (203) 380-1260 email: cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com

MISSION AT WORK

A LETTER FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Dear Ds

Greetings from North Annual Conference. We are grateful to know you and we as North together with our Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala are expressing gratitude because of fund raising done by you to help on Bishop's parsonage (Conference Center) in Beira. We pray for those Brothers and Sisters at all that God can protect them and show that their Brothers and Sisters in Mozambique led by Bishop Nhanala are praying for them.

We would like to tell you that this dream is becoming reality at the moment. I knew by Annette (Griffith) that you have contributed over \$8,000.00 for the Beira building.

Together, as Brothers and Sisters, we can make a difference in the World. In Mozambique we have a slogan which says " ONE finger can't kill the louse" . It is needed to join yours and our fingers on this side so that we are able to kill those insects.

If we finish building this parsonage (Conference Center), it will service millions of people in Mozambique especially our Bishops

I, Rev Jacob Jenhuro, de Director Council on Ministry in the North Annual Conference, hope that one day I will see you in Mozambique.

Thank you Brother

Rev.Jacob

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ACTUAL FIGURE DONATED BY THE CT DISTRICT FOR MOZAMBIQUE ACTUALLY WAS \$10,000. THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO RALLIED AROUND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT GEORGE ENGELHARDT'S REQUEST TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT.

Churches donating: Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport: Golden Hill, Clinton, Durham United Churches, Forestville: Asbury, Gaylordsville, Georgetown, Hamden Plains, Hartford, Hartford: North, Litchfield, Long Ridge, Middlefield Federated, Milford, Monroe, New Fairfield: New Life Community UM, New Haven: First & Summerfield, New Haven: Saint Andrews, New Haven: Westville, New Milford, Newtown, North Canton, North Haven, Plainville, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, West Hartford, West Haven: First & Wesley, Westport, Wethersfield, Yalesville; and all the individuals who

donated at District Conference, the Lay Speaker's Dinner and George's Farewell Event. Last but not least to George and Carolyn Engelhardt for their very generous personal donation.

**“We wouldn't have come back,
if y'all hadn't come down to help us.”**

Those were the words of an Ocean Springs resident when she realized why this group of Connecticut men were in Biloxi, MS.

We were enjoying a beautiful cool evening on the Gulf Coast last week. Our day had been filled with taping and mudding walls, priming and painting, tiling a bathroom floor, hanging doors, installing cabinets, and hooking up sinks. All of this in someone else's house. After dinner we piled into the old green NYAC van and drove around some of the neighborhoods hardest hit by hurricane Katrina in August 2005. We saw houses that are abandoned and boarded up, houses that had been recently built or renovated, houses that had partial repairs but still need work. We marveled at the huge areas of open lots where houses and commercial buildings had once stood. The only sign of their one-time existence are the chilling “stairs to nowhere,” cement slabs, empty driveways, pipes and wires sticking out of the ground. All of this is a sad reminder of lively neighborhoods and thriving businesses that once filled this area. As we drove through the streets we waved at the folks sitting on their porch or standing in the yard talking with neighbors. We also pointed out to each other the houses that we had worked on in the past or were presently in the midst of repairing. We spotted FEMA trailers and MEMA cottages that are scheduled to be removed shortly.

Our path took us down by the Gulf, in front of the casinos and over the new bridge into Ocean Springs, just across the back bay. Once on the other side we located a favorite drive-in, Sonic. It is a great throwback to the 50's—curb service with waitresses on roller skates—fun! We sat around the tables and enjoyed our various ice cream deserts, talking, laughing, relaxing and just enjoying ourselves in this culture that is foreign to us New Englanders. We happened to be here during the local election season. We had seen multitudes of yard signs and billboards everywhere, all shouting out the names of various politicians. That's when two friendly ladies walked over to our tables. They had just come from a meeting with their candidate and were wearing campaign T-shirts and handing out, of all things, emery boards with “Vote for Connie Moran for Mayor.” We all had a good laugh and some great jokes as they passed out their political emery boards to these eight working guys. They were disappointed when we told them that we would not be voting because we don't live in Ocean Springs, but were from Connecticut. We talked for a while about their candidate, and about how Katrina had effected this side of the bay where they live. During the conversation one of our new friends realized that we were not professional builders, rather we were volunteers who had traveled from CT to MS to give our time and effort to those that needed help. When this realization hit her, her eyes filled with tears, her lip trembled she walked over to Pastor Skip and hugged him saying, “Thank you, thank you, thank you!” And then she stood back and said, “We wouldn't have come back, if y'all hadn't come down to help us.” At that moment she was speaking for the whole Gulf Coast region and thanking all of the volunteers, from across the country, who had left their homes and jobs to come here to clean up, repair, renovate, and rebuild. We found this same grateful attitude where ever we went, from so many different people.

Our week was filled with emotional highs and lows. We enjoyed the pride of a job well done and the satisfaction of completing our assignments, but we also realized the frustration of so much more that has to be done. We met new friends among the 100 Habitat For Humanity volunteers who shared the facilities at Seashore Assembly for the week. We enjoyed catching up with old friends at Hope Center: Brian, Jimmy, Rich, and Jim the director, and site managers. We were welcomed like returning family by our wonderful hosts at Seashore: Miss Ann and Art Steinway, Cathy and Joey. As always Loyce

Searight was at the airport to greet us and set up our transportation. Pastor Robinson graciously welcomed us as we checked out the NYAC tool trailer behind St. Paul's UMC.

The Lord even blessed us with wonderful weather. We had been warned that this time in the Spring would be muggy and buggy. Instead it was very comfortable with a constant breeze blowing the bugs away. The Lord allowed this group of eight men to reach into the lives of hurting people, to use our skills, or lack thereof, to meet existing housing needs. Also, to show these residents that God loves them and He is using regular folks to carry out His will in the Gulf Coast area. **Pastor Skip**



Race for Mission

The Bishop's Fund for Mission

Saturday, October 10, Bushnell Park, Hartford, 8:00am

Choose from Marathon (26.2 miles), Half Marathon (13.1 miles), 5 K (3.1 miles),
Relay (26.2 miles divided by 4 or 5 runners) and Kids Run (up to 1 K)

Go to: www.hartfordmarathon.com for registration.

Not a Runner? Please support Bishop Park in his 5K run by
visiting www.active.com/donate/umc or sending your check made
payable to "New York Annual Conference";

attn: Ernest Swiggett; New York Annual Conference
20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY 10606.

(Write in memo "Hartford Marathon" and the runner's name.)

As a sponsoring organization, we are looking for 25 volunteers
to serve the day of the event.

Youth groups and adult chaperones are invited to stay
overnight Friday at Wethersfield UMC for fun and fellowship.

For more information, please contact Heather Sinclair
(heathersinclair@umcshelton.org or 203-929-3537).

Pre-Race Carbo-Load Pasta Dinner & Fellowship

Friday, October 9th at 5:30—7:00 pm

United Methodist Church of Hartford

571 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06105

RSVP: Rev. Bryan Hooper (860.523.5132,

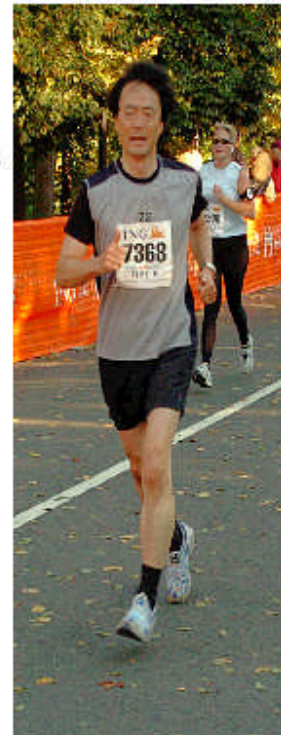
bryan@umcofhartford.org)

Post-Race Barbeque

Saturday, October 10th

West Hartford United Methodist Church

1358 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110



RETIRED MINISTERS BREAKFAST

The Retired Ministers Breakfast is held each **third Thursday at 9:30 a. m.**, including the summer months, at Denny's Restaurant, 621 Queen St. (Route 10) in Southington, just off I-84, exit 32. The coming dates are: **July 15, and August 19.** For additional information contact Ralph Roy at Ralphroy@aol.com or 860-620-1711.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Prayers for:

Don Rackliffe (R) and his family. Don's wife Lucille died May 12, 2009 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. She was 78. Expressions of concern can be sent to Don at 22 Hampton Court, Bristol, CT 06010.

Chuck Ferrara (New Fairfield: New Life Community UMC) and his family. Chuck's mother died at Griffin Hospital on June 5, 2009.

Maggie Carr who is at home recuperating from hip surgery. Maggie is the wife of John Carr (R).

William DeSousa and family. Bill's father died at the age of 93 in Meriden on May 30th. Bill is the husband of Susan DeSousa, pastor at Meriden: South Trinity.

Continued prayers for:

Fred Clark (R), Ginny Wilcox (Derby) and Sandy Koppmann (Newington)

Congratulations to:

Ferdinand and Rosemarie Serra (Georgetown and Long Ridge). On May 19th, Rosemarie gave birth to a son, Josh Hesus. Josh weighed in at 8 lbs. and 14 ounces. Francis and Lyza have enthusiastically welcomed their new brother.

David Piscatelli (North Haven) and Won-Geun Kang (Westville) who were ordained Elders at Annual Conference this year.

Ximena Varas and Lisa Bosworth who were certified by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry as Certified Lay Ministers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR JULY/AUGUST 2009

Ken will be out of the office July 16-30 (Vacation) and August 23-28 (District Superintendent Training). In case of an emergency, please contact one of the following District Superintendents as indicated:

July 16-26 Noel Chin, Metropolitan District.
Phone: 212-870-2045
e-mail: mnyac@aol.com

July 27-30 Adrienne Brewington, Long Island East
Phone: 631-366-2396
e-mail: lienyac@aol.com

August 23-28 Jim Moore, Catskill Hudson District
Phone: 845-679-6350
e-mail: cathudnyac@aol.com

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

FALL CLERGY MEETING	September 22, 2009	Waterbury UMC 10-12
BISHOP'S RETREAT	September 28-29	Mount Saint Alphonsus
KEN'S CELEBRATION AS DS	October 25	Stratford UMC

**REMINDER TO CLERGY PAYING QUARTERLY PERSONAL INCOME TAXES:
SEPTEMBER 15TH IS THE DUE DATE**

**DEADLINE FOR September/October DISTRICT NEWS:
August 20, 2009**