

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT NEWS

Published bi-monthly by:

The Connecticut District Office of the United Methodist Church

20 Broadfield Road, Hamden, CT 06517

E-mail: ccnyac@aol.com

Web: www.gb-gm-umc.org/ctcentral

MAY - JUNE 2009

Resident Bishop:

Jeremiah Park

Editor: Dorothy Chamberlain

Superintendent:

Reverend George C. Engelhardt

Volume 25, Issue 5

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

These past months have been a time of privilege and closure for me. I have visited almost every church in our District, and will complete that round within the next few weeks. I have been reminded again of the faithfulness of the vast majority of the congregations in the CT District. So many are committed to service beyond their own walls, be that in food sharing ministries in the community or neighboring municipality, in providing day care for children, in the countless 12 Step programs that are housed in our churches, in specialized ministries offered to various people with special needs. Ministry at our own doorstep is happening in remarkable ways.

And so also is ministry happening in more far away places. I lose count of the number of congregations who have gone to Biloxi. I see increasing numbers of churches involving their youth in ASP and UM Army. And of course, we have our on-going mission presence in places of need outside our own borders.

Even in the midst of financial challenge, a large majority of our churches have been faithful to our connectional covenant, making 100% shared apportionments.

I have experienced varied and exciting worship, nurturing our relationship with the Lord and keeping us centered.

I have rejoiced in the presence of the remarkable commitment of so many of our laity. There are many, many gifted church folk in our congregations. We could not be the church that we are without this solid partnership in ministry between our clergy and laity, all of whom have embraced so fully our common ministry, bestowed at our baptism.

There has and continues to be conversation among us around NCD and practices of healthy congregations. In one way or another, visioning has been widespread in our churches, resulting in a strengthening of ministry through prioritizing opportunities, intentional facility expansion, and, in some cases, deliberate down-sizing. Over the past years, that has even meant the closing of churches. But that has been in the faith that something new comes out of the old. In other cases, it has resulted in increased co-operation among congregations

Superintendent's Report continued –

sharing a pastor. Ours is a District of churches unafraid of being attentive to the Spirit, and going where it leads.

For all of this, I am so very grateful. It has been an honor to serve as your Superintendent.

So now we are on the very threshold of transition. Over the past few months, I have gotten to know **Ken Kieffer** as he has sat with the Cabinet. I see his dedication to ministry. I grow in my admiration of his appreciation for our general ministry as he has led a strong congregation in fostering that. He is a confident, decisive pastor who will bring freshness and vitality to us. We will be in good leadership hands. Welcome him.

Now I return to the most sacred and fulfilling call in ordained ministry: to serve the local church in whatever new ways given me. How rewarding that will be!

Yours In Shared Ministry,

George

**DONATIONS AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE
FOR MOZAMBIQUE CONFERENCE CENTER
TOPPED \$4,000**

TOTAL COLLECTED SO FAR IS OVER \$8,000.

GOAL IS \$10,000

**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED AT DISTRICT
CONFERENCE TO THIS PROJECT IN MY HONOR
AND
TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED DIRECTLY TO THE
DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE.**

Counselors Sought for Woodsmoke Events at Kingswood

Camp Kingswood is a 766 acre campground operated by the NYAC. It 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 for additional information or to receive an application form. Please also see our website at www.kwcamp.org An Equal Opportunity Employer.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2009

REUNION/CLUSTER TEA	TBA
TEAM MEETING	6/20/09
SCHOOL OF MISSION	7/23/09-7/25/09
TEAM MEETING	9/12/09
FALL GATHERING/LUNCHEON	10/17/09 (FAIRFIELD GRACE)
TEAM MEETING	11/21/09

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/nyaccsocm>

Retreat for Spiritual Renewal

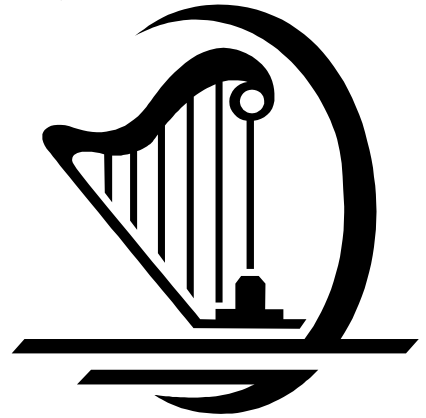
“PASSION AND PRAISE” (In Tune with the Universe)

*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
TWO EVENTS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

**CLERGY SPOUSES LUNCHEON
AND
FELLOWSHIP TIME**

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009
11 A.M. – 1 P.M.**

“WHAT’S BEHIND THE DOOR?”

**MEAL TICKET ACCEPTED -- NO MEAL TICKET \$12
DUES \$15**

**Makes checks payable to: Clergy Mates Association
Mail to: Ms. Flora Vernon, 725 South Sixth Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550**

**MISSION CELEBRATION DINNER
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY**

**HONORED GUEST:
Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala
Mozambique, Africa**

You will also meet: Mike and Sherri Morrissey, Missionaries from Thailand

Cost: \$15 per person

Make checks payable to: NYAC/MISSION

Mail to:
Joseph Ewoodzie, New York Annual Conference, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY 10606

For more information contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie: jewoodzie@nyac.com

1-888-696-6922 ext. 233

**COME JOIN US IN THE
CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY
OF
GEORGE C. ENGELHARDT
CT DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009
CHESHIRE UMC
4:00 P.M.**

The Superintendency Committee is planning a farewell event to honor George's eight years as Superintendent of the Connecticut District. Reverend Karen Cook is in charge of the event. **For more information, contact Karen at the First UMC in Wallingford, 203-269-9100 or e-mail her at fumc-wallingford@snet.net**

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: **May 21, June 18, July 15, and August 19.** For additional information contact Ralph Roy at Ralphroy@aol.com or 860-620-1711.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Prayers for:

The family of Nila Jean Scholten who died on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009. Nila Jean was the wife of retired minister, Albert Scholten. A memorial service was held on April 19, 2009 at First UMC in Middletown. Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, John and James and two daughters, Mary (Tew) and Dara (Parent). Expressions of sympathy can be sent to: Reverend Albert Scholten, 39 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

Lou Rackliffe who is undergoing re-evaluation for a liver ailment at Saint Francis Hospital. Lou is the wife of retired minister, Don Rackliffe.

Sandy Koppmann (Newington) who is home recovering from surgery.

Continuing prayers for Ginny Wilcox (Derby) - Ginny slowly improves in a convalescent center. We keep her in our prayers.

**WORKSHOP ON HEALING AND WHOLENESS
FOR
LAY SPEAKERS, PRAYER PARTNERS
AND
ALL WHO ARE BEING LED TO MINISTER
IN JESUS' NAME**

**MAY 30, 2009
9 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.**

**MERIDEN: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15 Pleasant St., Meriden, CT 06450
203-235-9620**

**WORSHIP AND HEALING SERVICE WILL BE LED BY
LINDA BEAGLE**

Linda served as District Chairperson of Healing and Wholeness for many years. She has conducted workshops and healing services throughout the state of Connecticut. Linda has generously donated her time and gifts to the Lay Speaking Ministries Committee. We are blessed that she is able to offer this class to **Lay Speakers for credit**.

To register for this class, **please call Linda Beagle at 203-421-4078 or email her at EK1061@aol.com** There will be a suggested donation of \$5 at the door to cover material costs for this workshop.

If you have any questions about this class, please do not hesitate to call **Mary Brevigleiri** District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries at **860-307-4611** or email **mbrevigleiri@perrytechnology.com**

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR MAY/JUNE 2009

MAY

2 Confirmation Rally - Ridgefield
3 Branford CC a.m.
Rethink Event - Cromwell 2 p.m.
4-7 Faith Finance Training
10 Middlefield CC a.m.
13-14 Cabinet
14 Kensington/E. Berlin 7:30 p.m.
17 Middletown CC a.m.
D.S. Celebration—Cheshire 4 p.m.
19 BOOM Plenary
20-22 Cabinet
24 North Haven CC a.m.
25 Memorial Day – Office Closed
27 Cabinet

JUNE

3-4 Cabinet
10-13 Annual Conference
17-18 Cabinet
24 Cabinet
Parish Development 6 p.m. WP
27 Cabinet Farewell

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

May 17 Celebration of *George's Ministry* as District Superintendent
Cheshire UMC - 4 p.m.
JUNE 10-13 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST DISTRICT NEWS:
JUNE 15, 2009**