

# CONNECTICUT DISTRICT NEWS

Published bi-monthly by:

The Connecticut District Office of the United Methodist Church  
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Web: [www.gbgm-umc.org/ctcentral](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ctcentral)

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER2009

Resident Bishop: Jeremiah Park  
Superintendent: Reverend Kenneth Kieffer

Editor: Dorothy Chamberlain  
Volume 26, Issue 2

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### No shoes, no service?

I'd like to blame it on the Yankees. Were it not for them and their extra inning extravaganzas in the last round of the playoffs, I never would've stayed up so late on a Saturday night (read: Sunday morning). But it's been years since my team has had even a decent shot at making it to the World Series, so I sorta had to watch the game in its entirety. It's fan law.

But slumber does not come easily after such a nail biter. One does not simply turn off the television, hit the lights, slip into bed and fall fast asleep following a seesaw contest. Instead, a true fan marches around the otherwise quiet home with arms raised like it was V.E. Day, exorcising the dastardly demons that have tormented the team since the last millennium while simultaneously burning a couple of the calories that accompany a 6-hour snack fest of Cheez Doodles and Coke. Finally, as the big hand approached the 6 for the second time that Sunday morning, I decided to call it a night. You see, I was scheduled to preach at the EARLY service of the Wethersfield UMC first thing in the morning.

Now, in my defense, I did have the foresight to preemptively place my clergy robe, my holy Bible, and my sermon in the back seat of my car before turning in for the evening. So that when I rose the next morning after only a few short hours of sleep, I could be certain that everything I'd need to lead worship was already safely stowed in my vehicle. **What could possibly go wrong?**

It wasn't until I pulled up to the befuddled parking lot of the church on that very rainy morning and prepared to exit my car that I came up with an answer. I had forgotten to wear my shoes! With the worship service set to start in 15 minutes and my freshly shined loafers more than a half hour away, there was no way I could drive home and retrieve them from my closet. By the same token, there was also no way I could cross the soaking wet asphalt in my stocking feet to lead a couple of services.

What would Jesus do? Choosing the lesser of 2 awfuls, I decided to be like Jesus and walk across the water toward the church building. Alas, I ended up being more like Peter, whose fading faith was insufficient to keep his tootsies dry as he attempted to traverse the tops of the waves.

Ever the gracious host, Pastor Tom Vencuss not only welcomed his humiliated and barefooted DS into his office, but raced home to get a pair of dress shoes that he had only worn once, along with a pair of clean, dry socks (now that's radical hospitality!).

That, my beloved, is what Jesus would do. First, he'd have compassion. Next, he'd share. And then he'd invite the needy sojourner into his Father's house, and offer to him the seat of honor.

Go now, and do likewise.

# **STEEPLE RESURRECTED AT CLINTON UMC AFTER 121 YEARS**

By Dorothy Chamberlain

Friday, October 23, 2009 will be a memorable day in the history of Clinton United Methodist Church. On that date, the church steeple was hoisted back on to the church after an absence of 121 years. When I first heard about it, I wondered why did it come down in the first place. A hurricane? No, it seems that back in 1888 because it was heavy, unstable, deteriorating and it appeared to be causing roof leaks it was removed. Actually, the leaks continued for another 100 years even though the steeple was long gone. What took so long? Apparently it never seemed to be a priority over the years probably because of the cost and work that had to be done. About 15 years ago, it started to become a major goal of the church members. A restoration committee was formed and the "leg" work began. When Reverend Craig Fitzsimmons came to the church, he also felt it should become a priority. He worked with the restoration committee and an engineer on the committee named Gerald Cotter. With the help of church members through fund raisers, donations and bequests, they were finally able to afford to get the project completed. Bishop Jeremiah Park came on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> to dedicate the steeple and now once again, it stands tall and proud, a beacon to travelers on land and sea. Great job Clinton!

## **AMONG OURSELVES**

**Let Us Remember and keep in our prayers the families of:**

**Bryan Hooper (Hartford).** Bryan's father, Samuel Edward Hooper, died on Friday, October 9, 2009 in Houston, Texas.

**Howard Newton (Retired).** Howard's wife, Frances, died on October 5, 2009 in Port Orange, Florida. She was 79. Howard and Frances were at Mary Taylor UMC in Milford from 1984-1994. Howard can be reached at: 911 Silverleaf Place, Port Orange, Florida 32127

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**HyoungDock Yoo (East Berlin and Kensington) and JungHee Yoo on their marriage Sunday, October 11, 2009.**

**Bryan Hooper (Hartford) on his engagement to Baylah Tessier-Sherman. A New Year's Day wedding is planned.**

**Virginia Hoch who has legally changed her name back to her birth name, Virginia Gail Carle. Please be sure to change your records to indicate her new (old) name.**

**METHODIST HOSPITAL PASTORS' CLINIC**  
**ALL DISTRICTS: April 12-16, 2010 and November 8-12, 2010**

In 2010 things are a bit different in that both clinics are open to pastors and their spouses in **all** Districts. They can come individually or together. Pastors can obtain a brochure by going on line to the Conference website [www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com) or calling the District Office (203-288-0286).

**RETIRED MINISTERS' BREAKFAST**

The retired Ministers' Breakfast will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 9:30 a. m. at Denny's, 621 Queen St. (Route 10) in Southington, just off I-84, exit 32.

The December breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, same time and place. For additional information, contact Ralph Roy at (860) 620-1711 or [Ralphlroy@aol.com](mailto:Ralphlroy@aol.com)

**DISTRICT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:**

- Page 3**      **Bakerville** Westley Villazon's preferred e-mail address is a new one:  
PasterWes@BakervilleUMC.org
- Pages 5 & 7**   **East Berlin and Kensington:** HyoungDock Yoo – add wife's name JungHee
- Page 8**      **Milford:** Mary Taylor   Virginia Hoch has legally changed her name to  
her birth name: Virginia Gail Carle. Please make correction.
- Page 10**     **Pleasant Valley**  
Carl Franson's church e-mail address is: carlfranson@yahoo.com
- Page 19**     **Ed Dobihal- new address:** Chestnut Hill South Apts., 865 Mix Avenue, Apt.  
310 Hamden, CT. 06514
- Page 20**     **Robert Hamilton – new address:** Paradigm Health Care, 310 Terrace  
Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516   Telephone: 203-931-1123
- Page 28**     **Ximena Varas e-mail** should read ximev@snet.net
- Page 37**     **Carolyn Engelhardt – Street number** should be 34 Charlton Hill

**CLUSTER NOTE:**

**Page 31 – District Directory:** The Northern Cluster has broken down into two sub-clusters.

**Naugatuck Valley:** Barbara Schaffer, Convener      Churches are: Bakerville, Litchfield/Thomaston, Pleasant Valley, Torrington and Winsted.

**Farmington Valley:** Robert Sorozan, Convener      Churches are: Avon, Bloomfield, North Canton/W.Hill, Simsbury and West Granby/Copper Hill

## CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT WITH WEB SITES

There were changes in the District Website section of the Directory (pages 39-40). Here is the completed corrected copy of it thanks to our webmaster, Bud Cochran

### CT District UMC

CT District Webmaster: Bud Cochran

### New York Annual Conference

Ansonia

Avon: Memorial

Bethel

Bloomfield

Branford

Bridgeport: Golden Hill

Bridgeport: Summerfield

Bristol

Cheshire

Clinton

Durham Federated

Derby

Easton: Jesse Lee

Fairfield: Grace

Forestville: Asbury

Gaylordsville

Hamden Plains

Hartford UMC

Hartford Korean

Higganum

Huntington

Kensington

Litchfield

Meriden: First

Middlefield Federated

Middletown: First

Middletown: South

Milford: Mary Taylor

Monroe

Naugatuck

New Fairfield: New Life Community Church United Methodist

New Haven: First-Summerfield

New Haven: St. Andrews

New Haven: Westville

Newington

New Milford

Newtown

North Canton

North Haven: Faith

Plainville

Pleasant Valley

Rocky Hill

Seymour

Seymour: Great Hill

Shelton

Simsbury

Southington: Grace

Stratford

Thomaston

Trumbull: Nichols

Trumbull: Long Hill

[www.gbgm-umc.org/ctcentral](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ctcentral)

[bccochran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bccochran@sbcglobal.net)

[www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/ansoniumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ansoniumc)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/mumc-avon](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mumc-avon)

[www.bethelmethodist.net](http://www.bethelmethodist.net)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/bloomfieldumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/bloomfieldumc)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/umcbranford](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umcbranford)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/goldenhill](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/goldenhill)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/summerfieldct](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/summerfieldct)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/cheshireumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/cheshireumc)

[www.clintonumc.org](http://www.clintonumc.org)

[www.ucdurham.org](http://www.ucdurham.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/derbyumc/Default.htm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/derbyumc/Default.htm)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/jesselee-eastonct](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/jesselee-eastonct)

[www.fairfieldgrace.org](http://www.fairfieldgrace.org)

[www.asburyumcforestville.com](http://www.asburyumcforestville.com)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/gaylordsville](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/gaylordsville)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/hamdenplainsumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/hamdenplainsumc)

[www.umcofhartford.org](http://www.umcofhartford.org)

[www.hartfordkumc.org](http://www.hartfordkumc.org)

[www.ForMinistry.com/usctumetchumch](http://www.ForMinistry.com/usctumetchumch)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/huntington](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/huntington)

[www.kensington-umc.org](http://www.kensington-umc.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/litchfield/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/litchfield/)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/fumc-ct](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/fumc-ct)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/mfc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mfc)

[www.fumcmiddletownct.com](http://www.fumcmiddletownct.com)

[www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org)

[www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org)

[www.numcct.org](http://www.numcct.org)

[www.newlife-umc.com](http://www.newlife-umc.com)

[www.fsumc.org](http://www.fsumc.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/saintandrewsumc/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/saintandrewsumc/)

[www.ucwestville.org](http://www.ucwestville.org)

[www.umnewington.com](http://www.umnewington.com)

[www.newmilfordumc.org/](http://www.newmilfordumc.org/)

[www.numc.us/](http://www.numc.us/)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/northcantonumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/northcantonumc)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/faithumc1](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/faithumc1)

[www.plainvilleumc.org](http://www.plainvilleumc.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/pleasantvalley](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/pleasantvalley)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/rockyhill-umc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/rockyhill-umc)

[www.seymourumc.com](http://www.seymourumc.com)

[www.geathillumc.org](http://www.geathillumc.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/sheltonumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/sheltonumc)

[www.simsburyumc.org](http://www.simsburyumc.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/gracechurchct](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/gracechurchct)

[www.sumcct.org](http://www.sumcct.org)

[www.gbgm-umc.org/thomaston/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/thomaston/)

[www.nicholsumc.org](http://www.nicholsumc.org)

[www.longhillumc.com/](http://www.longhillumc.com/)

**Churches in our District with Websites continued-**

Wallingford	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/fumc-wallingford">www.gbgm-umc.org/fumc-wallingford</a>
Washington Hill	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/washingtonhillumc">www.gbgm-umc.org/washingtonhillumc</a>
Waterbury	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/waterburyumc">www.gbgm-umc.org/waterburyumc</a>
Watertown	<a href="http://www.watertownmethodist.org">www.watertownmethodist.org</a>
West Granby	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/wgum">www.gbgm-umc.org/wgum</a>
West Hartford	<a href="http://www.westhartfordumc.org">www.westhartfordumc.org</a>
West Haven: First and Wesley	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/fawumcwh">www.gbgm-umc.org/fawumcwh</a>
Wethersfield	<a href="http://www.wethersfield.org">www.wethersfield.org</a>
Windsor: Trinity	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/tumcwindsor">www.gbgm-umc.org/tumcwindsor</a>
Winsted	<a href="http://www.unitedmethodistwinsted.org">www.unitedmethodistwinsted.org</a>
Woodbury	<a href="http://www.woodburyumc.net">www.woodburyumc.net</a>
Yalesville	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org/yalesvilleumc">www.gbgm-umc.org/yalesvilleumc</a>

**\*\*Please note that if your website is not listed or it is incorrect, contact our webmaster, Bud Cocchran at [bccochran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bccochran@sbcglobal.net)**

## **CT DISTRICT WEBSITE INFORMATION**

Flyers for various Conference/District events will be listed on the CT District's website. Please check it out. Our webmaster has suggested that you go the website as follows:  
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ctcentral/index.html> and click at **UPCOMING EVENTS**.

## **FIND-A-CHURCH**

Pastors and webmasters are reminded that churches should be sure their information is not only on the United Methodist Communications website [www.Find-A-Church.org](http://www.Find-A-Church.org) but that the information is updated on a regular basis. If you have trouble getting into your church's listing, call this toll free number for assistance 800-251-8140.

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**WESTPORT/WESTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
49 Weston Road, Westport, CT 06850**

**Audience:** Youth in the church who are "leader material"  
**Workshops:** Spirituality -- Leadership – Games  
**Lunch:** Pizza and Drinks (bring your \$5 donation) OR Bring your own

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 10 to:  
[numcpastoriwy@snet.net](mailto:numcpastoriwy@snet.net)  
203-375-5817 (office) or 203-378-0825 (home)**

# V I M TRIP TO ECUADOR JANUARY 8-19, 2010

## Cultural Experiences



Quito: The Colonial City



Market in Otavalo



Equator:

The Center of the World

### Daños



Volcán Tungurahua

Mineral Steam Baths

Various Trip Options

Day In the Jungle

Horseback Riding

### STEAM HEALTH BATH

LAJAS DE SAN PEDRO, OTAVALO

OPEN EVERY DAY FROM  
7:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

Info: Oscar Destruge 203-984-3625

E-mail: Juan316@aol.com

Rev. Judith Stevens

E-mail: Jas116@aol.com



January 8—19, 2010

\$1,500 / person

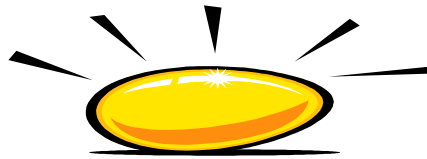
For more information about this trip e-mail: Judith Stevens at [Jas116@aol.com](mailto:Jas116@aol.com) or Oscar Destruge at [Juan316@aol.com](mailto:Juan316@aol.com)

# Financial Planning With a Christian Perspective Seminar



Presented by Fellow Members of the United Methodist Church – Dr. Keith A. Muhleman

Is this the size of your Nest Egg?



Would you like to see your Nest Egg grow to?



*Where: Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church*

*Time: Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM*

*(A light lunch will be served.)*

**For More Information: Call Bob Price or Maggie Harrison, 203-374-6528  
Email – [fairfieldgrace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fairfieldgrace@sbcglobal.net)**

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

**January 24**

**District Resourcing Day  
Bridgeport: Golden Hill UMC 3-5  
Details of workshops to be available soon.**

**May 2**

**District Conference                      Place TBA**

**DEADLINE FOR January/February DISTRICT NEWS:  
December 15, 2009**