

NOVEMBER 2009

FINGER LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 11

From the Chairperson – Kim Snyder

We are quickly moving into autumn. The beauty of God's creation is evident all around us in the changing leaf colors, the flocking birds, and the cooler, starry nights. Your Finger Lakes District has lots of events coming up for you to attend.

If you would like to get involved in activities with other Christians like yourself, think about joining United Methodist Men or United Methodist Women. These are two wonderful groups for men and women to be involved in. Not only do they do mission work, but they offer other things such as book clubs, breakfast gatherings, retreats, supportive fellowship, educational events and much more. United Methodists are loving, welcoming people and would love to have you be a part of UMM or UMW. You only have to be involved as much as YOU want to be. Give it a try!

Please keep Dawn Carr in your thoughts and prayers. Dawn is the wife of Retired Pastor, Jim Carr, serving Wellsburg/Lowman churches in the Finger Lakes District. She has undergone emergency surgery at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. and will be there for at least 10 days. Please hold Dawn and her family in prayer for continued healing during this difficult time.

From The District Lay Leader

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the annual laity celebration. On October 4th, 2009 the Community Center in Watkins Glen came alive with over 400 United Methodists from our Finger Lakes District. Forty six churches responded or roughly 54 % from our district, and I personally wish to thank all of them that took the opportunity to honor individual laity and ministries within their churches. My hopes for the upcoming year would be that seventy five percent of our churches choose to honor its members at the celebration. As always the celebration will likely take place in early October 2010 and I am requesting that you begin your selection process soon, as I would like the bios to me by May 31st, 2010. This will give us an opportunity to make 2010 the biggest and best celebration yet. Every church certainly has members that are worthy of this honor and I ask that you take the time to lift up those deserving. I praise God for this year's success and again thank everyone who made it possible.

My blessing to all,

Mike Kelly

Finger Lakes District Lay Leader

From the Christian Education Coordinator

We regret to say that the November 7th Advent & Beyond Workshop to be held at Penn Yan UMC is **canceled**. However, we won't give up on trying to get Christian educators together. Watch for a different format in the near future. **CEC** – Christian Educators Chat.

From the District Lay Speaking Ministries Team

Our team will offer two courses this fall, both related to Basic Lay Speaking and Local Lay Speakers.

Basic Lay Speaking

• **Description:** Learn what Lay Speaker's roles are as defined by the Book of Discipline. Delve into the concept

of "call". Explore how we are all called by God to use our gifts and graces in proclaiming the Gospel.

Students

will use the newly developed course for Basic Lay speaking with emphasis on leading, living and witnessing by

the Spirit rather than preaching. This reflects the new membership vows which say that we will support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts and **our witness**. There are excellent sessions on our Wesleyan

heritage, Spiritual gifts, servant leadership, caring ministries and communication.

• **Instructors:** Rev Babs Steinert and Donna Crouse

• **Where:** Seneca Castle

• **When:** Nov 7 and 14; 9:00AM - 3:30PM

• **See below for registration information ***

The 2004 General Conference made a significant change relating to the ministry of lay speaking. In addition to completion of the

Basic Course, Local Church Lay Speakers are now required to take a refresher course once in each three-year period. Our first

offering of a Basic Refresher course in the southern part of the Finger Lakes District will be offered this fall.



Finger Lakes District Lay Speaking Ministries Team
presents

A Basic Refresher Course

November 21, 2009

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

at

Painted Post UMC

201 N. Hamilton Street

Painted Post, New York

[click here for brochure](#)

Concepts in Leadership I

- At the end of this course the participant will be able to:
 - o Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of prayer in the life of a spiritual leader.
 - o Formulate a prayer appropriate for a group and lead prayer in a group.
 - o Prepare an agenda for a meeting to ensure time for Christian conferencing.
 - o Demonstrate the use of small group dynamics, including use of conflict transformation principles.

- **Texts** (provided with course)

- *What Every Leader Needs to Know about Leading in Prayer*
- *What Every Leader Needs to Know about Leading Meetings*,

- **Instructors:** Rev. Mark Flandreau and CLS Vida Johnson

- **Where:** Painted Post UMC

- **When:** Saturday, November 21, 2009; 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Any Lay Speaker who has taken the Basic Course may take this refresher course. It will NOT fulfill the Advanced Course

requirement for District Certified Lay Speakers, but may be taken for informational purposes. This course may also be used for leadership development for anyone.

*Finger Lakes District Lay Speaking Course

- Saturdays, November 7th and 14th 9:00 – 3:30 pm at: Seneca Castle United Methodist Church

- Leaders are Rev Babs Steinert and Donna Crouse

- Registration form must be returned to Lorrie Spence,
13 Pleasant St, Clifton Springs, NY 14432

with appropriate recommendations of church council, pastor and SPRC chair by **November 1st**

- If you have questions, you may call at 315-462-7192 or email: revspence@juno.com

- Cost \$10.00

- Registration Form is Below:

Lay Ministries Application and Recommendation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Local Church and district: _____

Course Name: _____

To be taken for Lay Speaking Credit ___yes ___no

1. Please state personal goals/expectations for this class.

2. Please list briefly your Christian and Church Experience.

I wish to be approved for courses in Lay Speaking in the United Methodist Church. I have read Paragraph 268 in the 2004 Book of Discipline and will complete the required training.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Signature: (required) _____ Date: _____

Chairperson of Church Council or SPRC _____ Date: _____

If registering by E-Mail, please bring this signed application to first session.

Send completed application to the address given on the offered class registration.

Rev. 4/07

Fall Youth Gathering

Who: All WNY & NCONY Youth

What: Fun & Games, Music & Singing, Bible Study and Youth Service Fund, Friends Old & New.

Where: The Radisson Riverside Hotel, Rochester NY

When: November 20-21, 2009

To register – contact your United Methodist Church Pastor or Youth Group Leader. Or go to:

http://www.wnyumc.org/event_detail.asp?PKValue=1908 for registration information.

WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED!

The District Council on Ministries is working to coordinate several training events for both laity and clergy on our district. **PLAN TO ATTEND BY SAVING THESE DATES FOR YOUR TEAM:**

November 7th, 2009 A **Christian Ed workshop 'Advent and Beyond'** is to be held at the Penn Yan UMC. See Registration info below in this newsletter.

Jan 23, 2010 A **Rethink Church Workshop** will be led by Marilyn Kasperek at Penn Yan UMC. More details are to follow soon.

Feb 26th & 27th, 2010 A **Healthy Congregations Workshop** with Richard Blackburn will be held at the Geneva UMC. More details to follow soon

April 10th, 2010 the Conference Educational Resource Ministry will bring the Rev. Dr. Robert Pierson, author, pastor, and founder of Leadership Nexus to the Clifton Springs UMC to conduct a workshop on **Workable Evangelism**.

From the United Methodist Men

November 7-15, 2009 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

rebuilding homes following

flooding in June, 2008

There was city wide flooding

here, and many of the residents

are still in desperate need of help

so they can return to their homes.

January 8-17, 2010 Dulac, Louisiana

repairs to homes of Houma

Indians, most of whom are poor

and/or elderly and who have

suffered damage from hurricanes

in recent years

For more information, please contact: Bill Beebe

RR1 Box 173

Wyalusing, PA 18853

570-746-3435

wbeebe@epix.net

From the United Methodist Women

Attention: We are coming to the end of the year and we need:

1. 2010 Unit Officer list – to Engel Heggie as soon as possible
2. Pledge money – to Carol Preston by December 1
3. End of year reports – to Cindy Ellis by December 15
4. Special Recognition bios and photos to Kathy Doty by April 1

We have dates and places for the 2010 calendar:

Enrichment Day – February 15, at Bath UMC

Day Apart – March 13, Dundee UMC

1. UMW Spring District Dinner – May 11, Club 86, Geneva
2. Mission Studies:
Food & Faith – May 15, Addison UMC
Sudan – June 2, Newark UMC
3. Fall District Meeting – September 25, Penn Yan UMC

Your District Team wishes each unit and members a very happy Thanksgiving.

Cindy Ellis, President

From The Missions Coordinator

"HERE I AM LORD" MISSION RALLY

Can anyone resist God's nudge as they sing the inspiring hymn "Here I Am Lord" or read Jesus's admonition to feed the hungry, give the "cup of cold water" to the thirsty, clothe the naked, or minister to the sick or imprisoned? That's what has inspired and driven me (and many others, I'm sure) to respond to God's call to get involved and committed to missions. Mission commitment, whether it's local, national or international, changes lives.

I sincerely believe that in every church, as the congregation sings "Here I am Lord, Is is I Lord" that at least one person feels that little nudge that says, "Yes, Here I am Lord"; but then doesn't know how to fulfill that call. Fortunately, most all of our churches, large and small, have wonderful local community mission projects in which all can be involved. Few churches offer the opportunity to participate in missions, as Jesus put it, "on the other side of the boat" or "in deeper waters". There isn't enough personnel to make up a team, enough information to find a team or leadership to organize a team. And so, the call and the dream dies.

The Finger Lakes District Council wants to address and solve these problems. We would like to bring neighboring churches together, so that multiple church involvement can produce teams and leadership for state, national and international mission teams.

We invite EVERY church in the district to send at least one mission-minded representative to our "Here I Am Lord" Mission Rally at the Geneva UMC, Sunday afternoon January 10, 2010 (Snow Date-Jan 24) to learn the... Whats, Wheres, Whens, Whys and Hows of mission teams. There will be testimonies and displays by those who have been there. There will be power point presentations and open time to answer questions; so that anyone sensing that call to missions can find how their skills and gifts can be put to use in Christ's commission to take His Word to the ends of the earth. Age is not a limiting factor, as there are opportunities for all; youth and seniors and everyone between. We invite all churches or individuals with mission experience and stories that they would be willing to share at the rally to contact the Finger Lakes Mission coordinator, so we can put you in the program.

Let's make 2010 a new start in growing missions in the Finger Lakes District.

Don Snyder, Missions Coordinator
6081 Unionville Rd.
Bath, NY 14810

Phone (607) 776-3781
e-mail dgsnyder@linkny.com or
dongrace52@hotmail.com

Announcements: Disaster Relief Team (in process)

Contact: Diane Albright, Hammonsport UMC
(607) 868-3945

Site: Gowanda/Silver Creek (Western NY)

Flood relief Proposed Dates: Feb 14-20 and April 18-24 (School Winter/Spring

Breaks)

Red Bird Mission Teams

Avoca, Bath and Clifton Springs (in planning stages)

Common Good Radio

This month <http://www.commongoodradio.org> was unprecedented in its listenership. New friends in Brazil, Jamaica, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates join listeners in Korea, Turkey, India, Netherlands and the USA, by the thousands. We are reaching the people of the planet.

Since we have no marketing budget and operate as a mission of love, we can only praise God that the movement of the Holy Spirit sends the music, scripture, prayer and witness all over the planet.

Please consider a missional partnership with Common Good Radio when planning your fall stewardship of resources. A little goes a long way. We operate at minimum expense and reach thousands of listeners a month. Praise God! Help us raise the needed \$10,000.00 to cover the website, programming and royalties. The children are listening, thank you for your prayers, donations and contributions to the faith formation of children and families.

For more information, contact: Rev. Robin Blair pastorrobin@commongoodradio.org

Local Church News

December 4 (during StarShine) we will host a Nativity Walk in our Memorial Building from 6 – 8 pm. Come in from the cold, enjoy a little coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and light snacks while you meditate and enjoy viewing the many Nativity Scenes on display. This is also an opportunity to tour the beautiful old building that houses our offices, meeting rooms, and Sunday School rooms.

After going through the Memorial Building, why not stop by the church Fellowship Hall to finish your Christmas Shopping. Our Christmas Bazaar will open at 6 pm for your shopping pleasure and will reopen Saturday morning at 9 am. Most items are hand-made by our congregants. You will find knitted, crocheted, and sewn merchandise. Baked goods and candy will be offered. Participate in our Cookie Shoppe, buy a box and fill it with as many cookies as you can from a wide selection. Join us for our famous ham loaf luncheon served between 11:30 and 1:30 for \$7.50. Tickets are available in advance. Check it out - you'll never know what you'll find!

Diana Wetmore, Secretary
Penn Yann United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 242
166 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
(315) 536-6711
www.pyumcd.org



Sunday, November 22, 2009
4:00 pm

Grace United Methodist Church
191 Bridge St., Corning

featuring:

Dr. Jim Hudson
Claire Gonta Smock
Jamie Smith

Open to the Public

*a Freewill Offering will be taken to benefit the
Corning-Finger Lakes Chapter of the
National Lyme Disease Association.

United Methodists in Upper New York have decided to:

RETHINK CHURCH
RETHINK CHURCH

Upper New York

Contact us:

Upper New York

uppernewyorkarea@gmail.com

or uppernewyork.org

Upper New York United Methodists are on the Web!

Facebookers: **Become a Fan** of Upper New York Area United Methodists, share thoughts and photos, at <http://facebook.com/uppernewyork>

Connect also through MySpace and Twitter:

<http://myspace.com/uppernewyork>

<http://twitter.com/uppernewyork>

And visit www.uppernewyork.org

Annual Conference Name Proposed – Conference Would Share Area Name

The Upper New York Annual Conference is the proposed name for the new Annual Conference which will come into being in 2010.

Name suggestions for the new Conference – which brings together United Methodists in the New York State portions of Troy and Wyoming Conferences and North Central New York and Western New York Conferences – were solicited in email blasts, on Conference websites, at Annual Conference sessions, and in Conference publications earlier this year.

The suggestions were reviewed by the Communications Planning Team, which includes members from all four of the existing conferences. Some proposed names included metaphors touching on the theological and the geological, including: Mighty Waters, Living Waters, and Koinonia. Others were more descriptive geographical names, such as Upper New York, Upstate New York, and Adirondack.

The Communications team recommended to the New Area Conference Team that the conference adopt a geographic name, which does not “lock in” one metaphor, but leaves open the possibility of attaching ministry-focused tag lines in keeping with vision and mission. In other words, a simple Conference name allows for statements such as: *Upper New York Conference - Rethinking Church Together*, or *Upper New York United Methodists: Being God’s Love, Living in the Way of Jesus*.

New ACT agreed with the team’s recommendation and asked the communications team to announce Upper New York as the possible new name and to solicit comments.

You are invited to send your comments to uppernewyorkarea@gmail.com, to share them with others on Facebook, <http://facebook.com/uppernewyork> or on [blogspot](http://blogspot.com).

The Episcopal Area to be created from the New York West Area and parts of the Albany Area has already been named the Upper New York Area. The College of Bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction, meeting in July 2008, had the responsibility for naming the Area. The Annual Conference name, however, will be adopted by the uniting session of the new Annual Conference, meeting June 19, 2010 at the ON Center in Syracuse.

The Ladies Circle Publishes Cookbook

Phelps – In August of 2008 a group of women at The United Church of Phelps gave a bridal shower for Pastor AJ Tierson's fiancée Alicia Alvarez. Over sixty women attended and afterwards the group talked about how they enjoyed working together and realized they were all available on Wednesdays during the day. The Ladies Circle was formed and has met once a month for the past year.

The name was chosen with the idea that TLC also stands for "tender loving care", the purpose of the group being to provide service and social activities for the church. There are 10-15 members at each meeting, opening with a devotional reading and prayer followed by coffee and dessert. A Christmas luncheon, Family Fun Night, Mother Daughter Dinner, Church Family Picnic, organization of the church library, assistance to the summer program at the local community center and a Focus on Fitness program were all part of the first year.

The main project for 2009 was Recipes From the Heart, the first cookbook published in the 35 year history of The United Church of Phelps. The cookbook, a three-ring binder with a full – color cover, contains 230 recipes contributed by 65 members of the Church family, has Bible verses on the dividers, 16 pages of useful information and helpful hints. It makes a wonderful gift for a bridal shower, housewarming, Christmas or anyone who likes to cook. Funds raised from cookbook sales will go towards purchasing new equipment for the fellowship hall, where meals are served throughout the year during special events, memorial services, breakfast meetings and most recently Wednesday Night Free Supper open to the community.

Recipes From The Heart is available by mail order. Send \$12 plus \$4 for shipping and handling per book to The United Church of Phelps, 58 Main St., Phelps, NY 14532. For more information contact the Church through email to unitedchurch@fltq.org.

From The District Communicator

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has welcomed me so warmly into this position. It is my hope and desire to have these District Newsletters shared with the congregation members of your local churches. As the Lay Leader for my home church, it is my responsibility to gather the District information and share it with my congregation, so that they understand what is going on with the Greater Methodist Church. That is my hope with this newsletter, that it will get into the hands of the majority on the congregants in our district. I am aware that it may take time and skills that we currently do not possess, but if you are having difficulty trying to figure out how to do it, Please send me an email. I will send instructions for setting up your own network of email addresses, so that you may help get the news out.

This newsletter is also posted on the District Website, which also has become simpler to find. Now you can reach the Finger lakes District Website by typing www.fingerlakesdistrict.org. It is our hope to start updating and upgrading the website very soon. I will be asking the local churches for content to fill the website with all of our District and Local Church events, as well as bringing Conference news as our new Conference takes it's shape.

1. The Erin-Sullivanville UMC charge celebrated a One Year Anniversary on 20 September, 2009. The two congregations entered into co-operative ministry 22 months ago. One year ago they brought the elements of worship, including altar accessories, flags and cherished items, to the Sullivanville building in a grand ceremony and procession. Since then, the two congregations worship together in one building. All have realized the joy of being together. All have also recognized that the "Church" is the people, not the building. The Erin Building is not used right now for weekly services but we are brainstorming creative new ways to be a presence in the Erin community. Services at the Sullivanville building are on Sundays at 11 AM with fellowship following.
2. The Erin-Sullivanville and Breesport UMCs completed another summer of Adult VBS. Eight Sundays of fun, the Word and Praise. The eight weeks of digging into the archeology of scripture culminated in a graduation service with diplomas and lunch. Well done by all!!
3. With Advent fast approaching, Erin-Sullivanville and Breesport are beginning to recruit members/attenders for the Christmas cantata and Bethlehem dinner play. Stay tuned !!

Upper New York Area Food for Our Neighbors Ministry Survey

Many churches in the four conferences of the new Upper New York Area are serving those in need through Food Pantries. The Communications Team is seeking to assess and describe the impact of these ministries. Will you participate by providing the following information?

The survey can be [downloaded in Word format](#), or simply copy to an e-mail, complete, and e-mail to hnye@troyac.org . Thank you.

On Average per month...

Number of families served _____ Adults served _____ Children served _____

Senior citizens served _____ Total number of persons per month _____

Are you seeing a percentage Increase _____% or decrease _____%?

Number of meals provided per family unit _____ Total meals served _____

Cost per family _____ Total cost per month _____ Total annual cost _____

Do you consider your congregation Urban ___ Suburban ___ Small Town ___ Rural ___

Annual Conference _____

Funding sources:

Congregation \$ _____ Grants \$ _____ Others \$ _____ Food Bank \$ _____

Staffing:

Paid staff: No. of hours per month _____ Cost per month _____

Volunteers: No. of volunteers _____ Hours contributed per month _____

What other poverty related programs/ministries does your church provide? Please give details.

Church Name: _____ Contact _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____