

OCTOBER 2009

FINGER LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 10



The Finger Lakes District of the United Methodist Church

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From the District Superintendent

An Invitation to the United Methodist People of the Finger Lakes

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For some time now we in the United Methodist Church have been talking about ‘Making Disciples for Jesus Christ’ as our core mission and purpose. With ‘Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors’ we have hoped to bring people into the church to tell them about Jesus. And now we are asking everyone to ‘Rethink Church’. All of this is about disciple making.

Many of you have seen and commented on the little fishhook lapel pin I often wear. It too is a reminder that we have all been called by Jesus to “come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. As I have begun to really know you, I see dedicated Christians hard at work around the district. All sorts of great ministries are going on. All sorts of missions are underway. There are projects, dinners, rummage sales, prayer meetings and prayer chains, Bible studies and meetings beyond counting. Even so, with all of this input there is very little output for our core mission. We are so busy with the work of being the church the reality is that very few of us are fishers of men, or of women or of children. We are just not making very many disciples for Jesus Christ.

We have plenty of good stuff going on to invite people to if we are not comfortable about asking someone to ‘church’. The hard question we all need to face up to is who have we invited? The follow up questions go like this: How have we personally been a disciple-maker? Who are we praying about leading to Christ? Who will we reach out to include? How? When? The irony in all of this is that to really make disciples for Jesus we need to work on is the one most important disciple we need to make, or remake. Ourselves!

Just think about it, pray about it, and imagine what could happen.

Prayerfully,

Dick

From the Christian Education Coordinator

The Finger Lakes District Education Team Invites all Christian Ed Teams to:

Advent and Beyond

November 7th – 9:30 Registration Begins – 2:30 p.m.

A Host of Ideas to take home for Advent *Plus* – Information Sharing for the next step

\$10.00 per church for materials –Bring a team!

Snacks and Drinks provided – Bring a bag lunch

Please register by November 1st so we have enough supplies -

Name: _____ Address: _____

e-mail: _____ Home Church: _____

Number in the church attending _____

Send to Lorrie Spence, 13 Pleasant St., Clifton Springs, NY 14432 or revspence@juno.com

Lorrie Spence
CSUMC Ministries Coordinator
13 Pleasant St, Clifton Springs NY 14432
315-462-7192 315-462-7192
revspence@juno.com

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.

Concepts in Leadership I

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

Laity Celebration Registration Tops 400!

The Laity Celebration to be held at the Watkins Glen Community Center this Sunday, October 4th will include the recognition of more than 50 lay persons from 46 churches, as well as recognition of a variety of special ministries from churches across the Finger Lakes District. Groups from many United Methodist churches throughout the district will be present for this celebration.

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***.

ANNUAL FINGER LAKES DISTRICT GLEANING PROJECT

It is time again for the Gleaning Project, we have done here in Seneca Castle for several years. It is planned for Sat Oct 17th. We will gather at Castle Harvester at 9AM. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring water & lunch. We will again be harvesting butternut squash, and maybe carrots. All are welcome, men women boys & girls. Last year we had approximately 30 people participating. The product goes to the Food Bank in Rochester to be distributed locally.

Any questions, contact Clifford Kunes 585 526 6238 or castlekunes@frontiernet.net

Directions:

West on 5&20 from Geneva, turn North on Seneca Castle Rd, at the Landfill, we are on the east side, blue buildings.

*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

From the United Methodist Women

The Finger Lakes District Annual meeting of United Methodist Women was held Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the Horseheads UMC. There were at least 80 women in attendance from churches all over the district. The theme was: *At the Table/Feeding America*. Each woman brought canned food to be collected for local food pantries. After a welcoming by Rev. Robert Sherburne, pastor of Horseheads UMC, in the morning we had worship led by Deaconess Bev Welch, followed by a business meeting chaired by President Cindy Ellis, and the election of 2010 UMW team officers. See the officer list below.

UMW member, Ruth Wheat performed a very meaningful installation ceremony for the officers. We also recognized the dedicated service of outgoing members, Carol Preston, Essie Barnes, and Paula Wilson (2008).

In the afternoon a speaker from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier spoke about the hunger in our upstate areas and how we can support our local Food Banks and Food Pantries. This was followed by a Memorial Service - remembering UM Women who have died during the year. We concluded our meeting with Communion, led by The Reverend Kathleen Turnbole, pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Corning.

Our next event is the North Central New York UMW Conference Annual meeting on October 3, in Watertown.

We are beginning to look at going to the national UMW Assembly, St. Louis, MO - April 30 - May 2, 2010. Everyone is invited to both events. Check with any UMW president for information.

Respectfully submitted
Lucinda R. Ellis, President

2010 Finger Lakes District UMW Team Officers

President: Cindy Ellis
Vice President: Kathy Doty
Secretary: Kim Snyder
Treasurer: To be determined
Secretary of Program Resources: Myrna Flatt
Communications Coordinator: Engelke Heggie
Mission Coordinators:
Spiritual Growth – Deaconess Beverly Welch
Social Action – Peggy Beckwith
Education and Interpretation – Shirley Reed
Membership Nurture and Outreach – Doris Knowles
Committee on Nominations:
Class of 2011 – Ann Rouse
Class of 2012 – Judy Jansen
Class of 2012 – Connie Glover
Class of 2013 – Judy Aho
Class of 2013 – Claudia Sullivan

Dr. Mark Zimmerman and his wife Deirdre are GBGM missionaries serving in Nepal. Dr. Zimmerman did his residency in Internal Medicine at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. His most recent church affiliation was with the State Street UMC in Fulton, NY. He has been working in Nepal since 1986. He was medical director of Patan Hospital in Kathmandu from 1998 to 2005, but now is the director of the Nick Simons Institute whose mission is to train and support skilled, compassionate rural health care workers.

Mark, Deirdre, and their young sons Zachary and Benjamin just returned to Kathmandu from a five-month furlough. During this time they spoke in 55 places, most of them United Methodist Churches in the USA. Anyone who would like a glimpse of life in Kathmandu, the place the Zimmerman family calls home, can write to them at markz@wlink.com.np and ask for their recent, most interesting and informative newsletter.

Mark describes in this newsletter how someone mentioned to him at one of those meetings that she prayed for him and his family every day. He answered: "Thank you. That's one big reason we've remained as missionaries. We spoke to groups large and often small, our primary hope being that someone in our audience would become a regular pray-er for our work."



Be one of the supporters of the Zimmermans' labor and include them and their tasks in your prayers.

**F.U.Y.T. (First United Youth Team of Newark, NY)
Raises over \$3,300 to help end World Hunger!**

FUYT, headed by Youth Directors Rich & Mary Rose Pieters, is the Jr. & Sr. High Ministry Team at First United Methodist Church of Newark, NY.

Since this team was first implemented in August of 2008, they have weeded yards, mowed lawns, painted a building, transformed an empty space in the church into their lounge and meeting *SPACE (Some Place All Can Enjoy)*, cooked for visiting groups, baked for charity, visited shut-in congregational members & nursing home residents, (the list goes on...and all of this in one year, mind you!) but nothing has made more of an impact on this group than **World Hunger**.

Beginning on July 31st, the team participated in a 30 Hour Famine. During this Famine, they were made aware of what kids all around our world feel when there's nothing to eat. This made them stronger community members! They then went out and scoured the neighborhood around the church for food...coming back (in one hour!) with over 140 items - donated to the local Food Closet. They also raised more than \$2700 that day (donated to World Vision, feeding and caring for children in the US and all around the globe).

But that wasn't enough! They desperately wanted to break the \$3k mark and feed as many children as the team possible could. That's when **Hope Sunday** came to light.

The entire team asked their parents, relatives, friends and neighbors to donate items to their cause. For 2 weeks, donations piled higher and higher in the church's Bell Tower - to the point it was impossible to walk into that large area any longer! Praise God!

Then on Sunday, September 20th, 2009, **FUYT** sponsored "**Hope Sunday**". On this beautiful, warm, and sunny day, the Team held a yard sale - in the church's front lawn. (*Matthew 12:12 "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath"*) They made signs explaining their cause - had one table solely designated for child sponsorship (including pictures and information on children in need of sponsorship) - and raised \$512 that day.





Combined totals donated to World Vision? \$3,311.23. This translates to feeding 9 children for one year; not including the 6 who were sponsored for life.

And so they smile!
 And we are proud.
 We all United and gave Hope...*one child at a time.*

*For more information on FUYT, please feel free to call
 Rich or Mary Rose Pieters at 315/331-3895.*

From the United Methodist Men

Mission Trip Opportunities

Dates	Location	Anticipated Work
October 18-25, 2009	Gowanda and Silver Creek, NY (near Buffalo)	rebuilding homes following flooding in summer, 2009 We have been told that those needing help are low income residents.
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 desparate 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

Events at Corning Grace UMC:

Please join us at Grace UMC of Corning (191 Bridge Street) on Sunday, October 11 at 10:30 AM for our first “Second Sunday” worship service. Experience a different style of worship based on interactive praise.

Grace UMC of Corning (191 Bridge Street) will have a Blessing of the Pets Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 PM. We will be gathering in the parking lot for this event. All pets are welcome – but please make sure that they are on a leash or able to be restrained.

Here are a couple of articles from Corning First UMC

MONKS WITHOUT ORDERS

Are you looking for a good laugh? Come to a special performance of “Monks Without Orders” with Rev. Rick Sivers portraying Brother Harmonious at 7:00 PM on Friday, October 30, in the Corning First UMC sanctuary (144 Cedar Street). Joining Brother Harmonious will be a chorus of “nuns” who will offer a variety of parodies to help tell Brother Harmonious’ story.

Rick has been performing Brother Harmonious for a number of years at various church venues. Using a flare for the irreverent, Brother Harmonious will recount how he became a monk and what life is like in the monastery.

Come enjoy a good laugh at this Halloween treat for everyone. There may even be a special surprise guest appearance. A free will offering will be received.

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium

The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium is set for Saturday, October 24, from 9:30am-4:00pm, at First United Methodist Church in Corning (144 Cedar Street). This initiative of the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition and the Corning Vicinity Faith Communities (STIC/CVFC) will educate, encourage and inspire participants “to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet as the guiding principal of our time.”

We're looking for 50 to 75 local people of all ages who desire to see these three goals met in their lifetime, and who will spend the day with other extraordinary people to determine local issues and actions. Using video clips from some of the world's most respected thinkers along with inspiring leading edge information and dynamic group interactions, ATD offers new insights into the nature of our time, and the opportunity we have to impact the future of our planet through our everyday choices and action.

In addition, at noon that day we will ring the bell at FUMC three-hundred and fifty times to sound the alarm and to step up for climate change prior to the upcoming Copenhagen Conference of world leaders. To find out about this action, go to www.350.org.

The ATD Symposium is open to all. Register at www.awakeningthedreamer.org at the link for the Corning, NY October 24th event. For those who can assist, a suggested donation of \$20 for adults; \$10 for students or seniors. will be gratefully accepted at the door. Scholarships are also available. Participants will bring their own bag lunch. Snacks will be provided. Find parking on First Street or in Walgreen's parking lot. For more information, contact Jenny Monroe at 607-524-8439 or jmonroe@stny.rr.com.

Hope for Africa Children's Choir



Come and enjoy this vibrant children's choir as they dance and sing their praises to God.
Wednesday, Oct. 14 - Bishop's Retreat at Casowasco

Friday, Oct. 16 - 7:00 PM - Sandy Creek UMC

Saturday, Oct. 17 - 6:00 PM - Watertown: First UMC

Sunday, Oct. 18 - 11:00 AM - Worship at Sandy Creek UMC

Monday, Oct. 19 - 7:00 PM - Rome: First UMC

Wednesday, Oct. 21 - 7:00 PM - Geneva: First UMC

Friday, Oct. 23 - 7:00 PM - Liverpool UMC

Saturday, Oct. 24 - 7:00 PM - Syracuse: Christ Community UMC

Sunday, Oct. 25 - 11:00 AM Worship at Clay Trinity UMC

Monday, Oct. 26 - 7:00 PM - Fayetteville UMC

A love offering will be accepted at each concert. The choir will have DVDs and other products for sale.