

**THE MOUNTAIN VIEW-POINT**  
**In the Midst of Mountains...**  
**On the Forefront of Disciple-Making**  
**March 4, 2010**

**“ maybe grace is figuring out it's not  
all about you.  
that people are doing what they're  
doing for their own reasons.  
not yours.**

**and maybe grace is accepting that. ” terri st. cloud**

When my children were teenagers, one of the parents in the congregation taught me the “it’s not all about you” statement, with hand motions. You take your dominant hand and make a circle around your head, like your head is the world and while circling, you say “it’s not all about you.”

That’s a great thing when it comes to two year olds and teenagers (both fall into the relatively self centered stage of development).

How about you and I? Do we ever get stuck in that place? We think things are our fault, that people are angry because of something WE did. As a pastor, as a friend, as a parent...I have been in that place. I have apologized for things that had nothing to do with me, I have sought people out, prepared to hear that their emotional distance must be related to my ministry. I have never felt as though these efforts have been wasted, and I would always choose to seek out reconciliation rather than assume that it’s not related to me.

There is, however, much grace and generosity involved in realizing that there are reasons beyond ourselves for things, that we are genuinely neither the cause nor the victim for all unsettledness around us. Grace is the space between ourselves and another that allows each of us to be content with who we each are and continue to become. It’s that place, at the end of the day where we rest, trusting, even knowing that we have set aside our preconceived ideas, our self-centeredness, removing ourselves from the center and allowing the world to unfold without us at the controls.

I continue to struggle with this, and maybe you do at times as well. When I put my thoughts on the rock tumbler in my head, rolling, rolling, rolling until either I can smooth those rough spots, or I can allow myself to be smoothed, soothed, cut loose from wondering whether another person’s wellbeing, attitude *might* be related to something I’ve said or done.

God’s gift to each of us is the grace to know that while we live in community, and must be responsible for our part in that community, that we are neither the owners or distributors of grace, that we cannot reconcile everyone to everyone else, and we cannot take responsibility for all of the feelings and actions around us. God’s gift to us is that we, *you and I*, are included as recipients of grace. Jesus took the sins of the world upon him, so that you and I would find blessed relief in forgiving and forgiveness.

I will continue to be a reconciler, I will continue to seek out those persons I very well might have offended and seek a deeper, more grace filled relationship. As I journey through this Lenten season, I seek to be smaller, to be more aware of what God can do around me, with me, within me, and quiet the insecurity that says that if something seems wrong or feels wrong that I must take responsibility for it and I must repair it. I pray that God will use me as an instrument of peace, grace and an ongoing journey of healing for this world, let me be empty- in order for me to be filled.

***Peace and Grace- for all of us Cathy***

**DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

**MAR. 11** Communion and Conversation – Machias UMC – 10 a.m.  
**MAR. 12** **R-SPACE** Youth Center 7 to 9 PM – Taco/Fiesta Night  
**MAR. 13** UMM Youth Honors Banquet – Houghton College  
**MAR. 26** **R-SPACE** Youth Center 7 to 9 PM – Glow Bowling Night

**CATHY'S CALENDAR**

**MAR. 6** Hinsdale/Ischua PPRC – 1 p.m.  
**MAR. 7** Limestone Worhsip 9 a.m., Leadership 10:15 a.m.  
**MAR. 8** Office appointments  
**MAR. 10** District Trustees 9:00 a.m.  
Office Appointment 2 p.m.  
**MAR. 11** Communion and Conversation – Machias UMC 10 a.m.  
**MAR. 12-13** Teaching Course of Study  
**MAR. 13** UMM Youth Honors Banquet – Houghton College

SAVE THE DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY 2010 DATES FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE – PASTOR'S PLEASE PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR AND DO NOT PLAN WEDDINGS OR OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THESE DATES

**NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE for Pre-Conference Briefings. You will need to attend one.**

**Saturday 5/15/10**

9:30-noon – Oneida St Paul's UMC  
3:00-5:30 pm – Gouverneur UMC

**Sunday 5/16/10**

3:00-5:30pm – Elmira: New Beginnings UMC

**Saturday 5/22/10**

9:30-noon – Olean: Christ UMC  
3:00-5:30pm – Henrietta: Faith UMC

JUNE 4 (Friday) Clergy Session and 6 pm Memorial Service at Asbury First

**JUNE 4 (Friday) Laity Session is at Covenant UMC, 1124 Culver Road, Rochester, NY 14609 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm**

JUNE 5 (Saturday) Annual Conference (One day session to bring us to a close) Asbury First, Rochester

JUNE 19 (Saturday) Uniting Service of Four Annual Conferences (On Center Syracuse) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11 (Saturday) Adjourned Session of Annual Conference and Uniting Worship Service (Empire State Plaza Albany) 9 a.m to 4 p.m.

**NEW: Buses:** I have a bus arranged for us for June 19 to go to Syracuse. We will be leaving from Olean with a pickup in Hornell. It will be a Motor Coach that will seat 55 people. If we get more than 55 people sign up we will look into a second bus. We will not stop for breakfast (you might have a couple minutes to grab something in Hornell) but we will stop on the way home on the Thruway for dinner. The cost per person is \$30.00 for the bus and then your money for your meal(s). Remember: This is the cost if we have all 55 seats taken!! I will let you know of the exact pick-up times now that I have received word from the Bishop's office of the start time and end time on the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in taking the bus please send your check for \$30.00 to: The Mountain View District Office, 1801 West State St., Olean, NY 14760 by June 1.

We will also provide a bus to Albany for the meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> so watch for the details in the coming months for those arrangements.

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Pastor Tim Middleton would like you to please keep his wife, Connie, in prayer as she continues her treatments for Breast Cancer.

An update on my cousin Wendy who was in the motorcycle accident . . . she had the halo removed from her head and appears to have healed well in her upper spinal column. She is now starting to do rehab for her legs to see if they can get any motion below the waist. Please pray that she will heal more than is expected. Thanks, Bill Allen

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES FOR HAVING ALL REPORTS IN TO OUR OFFICE: Arcade, Dalton, Machias, Nunda, Olean: Christ, West Sparta, Wellsville, Centerville, Rushford, Holland, Olean: Trinity, Hornell, Allentown, Friends in Christ, Alfred, Belfast, Caneadea, Cuba**

#### **NEW: YOU MAY BE ON THE MOVE!!**

WHAT: Managing Transition in a Spiritual Community  
WHEN: March 25th, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
WHERE: Clifton Springs UMC, 1 East Main St., Clifton Springs NY

This is an event that is for clergy and spouses, or anyone who is at least in their teens and affected by a possible pastoral change.

Many pastors will not know if they are moving by March 25 but a number of you are either changing status or have indicated a desire to move, so if you fit either of these categories your attendance at this event would be helpful for you.

You have received the brochure via e-mail. You can register by e-mailing or calling the Mountain View District Office.

#### **NEW: WYOMING CONFERENCE LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING SCHOOL**

The Wyoming Conference will be doing a Local Pastors Licensing School Sunday Evening April 18-Friday Afternoon April 23, 2010 and also Sunday evening May 2- Friday afternoon May 7, 2010. A copy of the brochure is attached to this email.

#### **NEW: ORDER OF ELDERS TO MEET**

Bishop Marcus Matthews will convene the Western New York Annual Conference Order of Elders following the retirement luncheon scheduled for **May 20**. The exact time and place will be announced later, but all ordained Elders serving in the Conference are asked to please hold the afternoon for the gathering. Thank you.

Rev. J. Paul Womack, Dean  
Pastor, Hurlbut Memorial Community Church PO Box 33 Chautauqua, NY 14722

#### **NEW: BISHOP CALLS FOR PRAYERS FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE**

Upon receiving news of the significant earthquake in Chile, the Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, resident Bishop of the New York West Area has called for prayers.

Bishop Matthews urges all to hold Chile and all involved in prayer and to give generously.

An 8.8 earthquake occurred this morning in central Chile. The Richter Scale is constructed geometrically so each 1.0 is ten times as strong as the one next lower. The January 12 Haiti Earthquake was 7.0.

"We can anticipate significant damage to housing and infrastructure miles away from the epicenter. Unlike in Haiti, recent construction standards are built to resist earthquake damage. Older buildings are more likely to have collapsed," the Rev. Carl Chamberlain, Western NY Disaster Response Coordinator, The United Methodist Church reports. "Additionally, there has been a tsunami warning issued for most of the southern Pacific that may extend as far as Hawaii."

To support those affected by the earthquake in Chile, please make a gift to [International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance # 3019041](#)

For updates and ways to respond watch: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>

Watch [http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc\\_id=739,1112&act=nav\\_loc](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc_id=739,1112&act=nav_loc) for worship resources from the GBOD.

#### **NEW: UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES INFOSERV CHANGE**

NASHVILLE: InfoServ, the official information service of The United Methodist Church, will become exclusively an e-mail and online information service effective April 1, 2010. At that time, telephone support services will be discontinued.

InfoServ is a ministry of United Methodist Communications, which announced in August some program and staff reductions in response to a growing budget deficit and a restructuring plan.

"In these challenging economic times, we must find ways to continue providing high-quality service in a more cost effective manner," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. "Telephone calls to InfoServ have been decreasing over the past couple of years as more people take advantage of the Web or use e-mail to request information. We're committed to continuing to provide answers quickly and accurately, but technology allows us to do so more economically."

Customers will be able to submit questions via e-mail at [infoserv@umcom.org](mailto:infoserv@umcom.org). Answers to the most frequently asked questions are also available online at [www.infoserv.umc.org](http://www.infoserv.umc.org). In addition, other customer-friendly options such as live chat and leaving a callback number will be explored during the transition period. Depending on the demand, some limited hours for telephone availability may be offered after April 1.

#### **NEW COLLEGE STUDENT MINISTRY – MARCH 2010 SUGGESTIONS**

One of the missions of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is to encourage our churches to be involved in ministry to college students. Churches near campuses can seek out existing campus ministries to see if and how you might help and support them. If no compatible ministry exists, check with the college administration to see if your church can invite students to attend your services. Offer transportation if needed. Make sure to welcome students when they do attend. All churches can keep connections with members away at college by sending their church newsletter, greeting cards, email,

letters and small gifts or exam time care packages, and making a point of inviting those members to events taking place when they may be home on vacation.

We are sending monthly suggestions to help you in your ministry to college students. These are not all original to us. Most of them come from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. We may make minor additions and revisions to fit our Conference program. We also welcome suggestions from our churches, so please communicate them to [wnybhecm@att.net](mailto:wnybhecm@att.net). If you would like to see the suggestions for the entire year, they are on our website at [www.wnyumc.org/bhecm](http://www.wnyumc.org/bhecm). This list is updated periodically.

March

- In cooperation with your pastor, invite a college president, college chaplain, or campus minister to speak in a worship service. Invite the guest to visit with a Sunday school class, too.
- Encourage your annual conference to invite a [Lina H. McCord summer intern or ambassador](#) to speak about their experience as a student at a United Methodist-related college and about the importance of the Black College Fund apportionment. Contact the Black College Fund Office, 615-340-7378 or [bcfumc@gbhem.org](mailto:bcfumc@gbhem.org).
- Public policy issues — such as who has access to higher education, how higher education is funded, what federal and state financial aid is available, daycare legislation for single parents who are students, tuition grant programs — are important issues for the church to understand. Ask someone from a local college or from your state legislature to come to your church and discuss public policy and higher education.
- Remind students about the upcoming Student Forum, held Memorial Day weekend. Begin helping raise funds for travel expenses. Encourage students to visit <http://www.wnyumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1137> for information about the event
- The 2010 Interfaith Understanding Conference will be held from April 11 – 13 at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. At IUC 2010 you will discover the intellectual energy, the spiritual passion, and the relational power of cutting edge interfaith dialogue and collaboration. For more information see <http://wnyumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1228>.

Blessings,  
Peter Crichton  
For The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

**NEW REGISTRATION FORM NOW AVAILABLE FOR LEONARD SWEET: “AWAKENING TO THE GOD WHO IS ALREADY THERE” MAY 1ST**

The Evangelism Ministry Team of the WNY Conference is now accepting registrations for the Leonard Sweet seminar on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 10am to 4:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church, Pittsford, NY. To download a registration form go to:  
[http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oEvent\\_Calendar\\_EUXQLB/EMT](http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oEvent_Calendar_EUXQLB/EMT)

**NEW: WE NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS! MORE PRECISELY, YOUR HAND PRINTS!**

The Worship Team for the Founding Conference to be held in Syracuse on June 19, has designed an opening celebration that will incorporate colored hand prints from across the entire Upper New York Area. Here's what you can do to help us:

Make your hand print with finger paint or tempera paint on plain white paper. Young and old alike are needed. Use your imagination when it comes to color combinations and the shape of the imprint from your hand--open palm, front of hand, back of hand, closed fist. Each 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper should have only the number of hand prints on it that do not touch or overlap. The handprints will be separated for...we'll you'll just have to come to conference to find out.

We would like as many hand prints from as many people and as many different churches as possible, remembering "many hands make light work" and in this case, many hand prints will make for a brighter celebration. There will be opportunities at upcoming pre-conference briefings for those in attendance to make hand prints at that time.

Mail your hand prints to Rev. Richard Sivers, First UMC, 144 Cedar St., Corning, NY 14830. Please DO NOT fold your papers to avoid creases, chipping and cracking. All hand prints should be received by Rev. Sivers on or before June 10. If you have any questions, you can email Rick at [fumchchurch@stny.rr.com](mailto:fumchchurch@stny.rr.com).

Make sure you have a hand in this monumental celebration as we become one new conference together.

## **MISSIONINSITE READY FOR UPPER NEW YORK AREA CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT!**

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders,

You may have heard that the Upper New York Area has been working to get Mission Insite up and functioning. Mission Insite is a web based demographics provider that you can use from your local computer. As we plan ministry it is important to know the context of that ministry. Mission Insite provides demographic data that is updated on a regular basis and reports that are user friendly to the novice or experienced demographer. The reports are free to the local church because the Annual Conferences is under contract with Mission Insite. But in order to access the website you will need to register your local church. The attachments provide instruction for you to register and establish the user name and password for your local church. Rev. Lauren Swanson and myself are designated administrators for this site and so if you have problems you can call Michelle Saxon at Mission Insite or either of us. Our contact information is:

Rev. Dr. Ronald Isaman at 716-397-9993 or email [ronisaman@wnyumc.org](mailto:ronisaman@wnyumc.org).

Rev. Lauren Swanson at 315-420-8852 or email [lauren@ncnyumc.org](mailto:lauren@ncnyumc.org)

A website has been set up for you to access this information. Please go to:  
<http://wnysite.brickriver.com/page.asp?PKValue=1251>

## **LISTENING SESSIONS PLANNED**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Western New York Board of Laity invites all laity in leadership roles to be a part of "**Stirring up the Gift.**" As all of our brothers and sisters have a part to play in fulfilling God's mission, we seek to be in conversation with all laity in leadership about how the new conference can help you achieve those goals. We look to celebrate your successes, answer your questions, and assist your ministries in any way we can. Many challenges are before us, but none is greater than the God we serve. Please come and share how the connection can bless you as you fulfill Christ's call.

The scheduled dates for listening sessions throughout the WNY Conference are as follows:

March 20, Sat 9-12 Noon @ Sinclairville UMC  
March 23 Tues 7-9 PM @ Emmanuel UMC in Rochester

For more information contact Scott Johnson at [JOHNSOSL@BuffaloState.edu](mailto:JOHNSOSL@BuffaloState.edu)

## **DISTRICT DAYS**

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION REGARDING THE UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE SHARED MINISTRIES, CLERGY BENEFITS (PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE), AND CLERGY MINIMUM COMPENSATION LEVELS

If you were not able to attend the District Days in the Mountain View District you can attend one of the two held in March.

Cornerstone District's is March 15 at Christ First UMC, 633 Lakeview Ave., Jamestown 14701 (starting time is 9:00 a.m.)

Genesee Valley District's is March 16 at Victor UMC, 106 East Main St., Victor 14564. (starting time is 9:00 a.m.)

If you have questions feel free to give the District Office a call.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing (March 14, 2010)**

When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) staff were already in country, strategizing how United Methodists could help improve the lives of the people there. Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses of those who bring healing and help in our name. It makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti, to know that 100% of our gift goes directly to where the suffering is happening.

Every year, but this year more than ever, I hope you'll give your people the opportunity to join with the faithful across the church to support the One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Call (888) 346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this churchwide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at [umcgiving.org/specialsundays](http://umcgiving.org/specialsundays).**

### **4WORD 2010**

The 6th Annual event for the youth in grades 7-12 of North Central NY, Troy, Western NY, and Wyoming Conferences! Bring your youth group to praise God and form new friendships!

WHERE? Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY (Syracuse)

WHEN? April 23-25, 2010

### **SPEAKERS: Youth . . . from each conference**

Registrations must be postmarked by April 9, 2010. To download a registration form or for more information go to: [http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oEvent\\_Calendar\\_EUXQLB/4WORD\\_Registration](http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oEvent_Calendar_EUXQLB/4WORD_Registration)

### **CHANGE THE WORLD - APRIL 24-25, 2010**

What if...on one weekend all around the world, 11 million United Methodists came together to work with their local communities? What if...as we serve people locally, we unite globally to eliminate a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds?

On April 24 and 25th, your congregation is invited to participate in Change the World, an event that will reveal the many ways that faithful Christians everywhere are serving God.

Getting Started:

**Consider how your congregation currently impacts its community. Do you have a food pantry, a clothing closet, an ESL program, a tutoring program, etc.?**  
**Schedule an activity for either an existing or new outreach ministry on either April 24 or 25, 2010.**  
**Invite both your congregation and local community to be involved.**  
**Use the Rethink Church World Malaria Day Sermon Starter coming soon to (<http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld>).**  
**Collect a special offering to combat malaria.**

There is one body in Christ and through the United Methodist connection, we can sense its heartbeat in a coordinated event such as Change the World. Go to <http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld> for more information, or send an email to [changetheworld@umcom.org](mailto:changetheworld@umcom.org).

### **GENESEEE VALLEY LAY SPEAKING MINISTRY COURSES BEING OFFERED**

The Genesee Valley District Lay Speaking Ministries courses that are being sponsored this spring are available for download.

Basic Lay Speaking information go to: [http://www.wnyumc.org/event\\_detail.asp?PKValue=2388](http://www.wnyumc.org/event_detail.asp?PKValue=2388)

Advanced Lay Speaking information go to: [http://www.wnyumc.org/event\\_detail.asp?PKValue=2389](http://www.wnyumc.org/event_detail.asp?PKValue=2389)

Registration Deadline is March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE**

The 2010 WNY Annual Conference Registration form will be emailed to all clergy and lay members to Annual Conference under a separate email. Registration is also available on-line by going to: <http://www.wnyumc.org/annconf2010>. You can also download a printable form to mail in with your payment to the WNY Conference Office from the same link. The registration deadline is April 21, 2010.

### **CAMPUS MINISTRY POSITION OPEN**

This is a part time position with an expectation of up to twenty hours per week fostering relationships with those already involved in the program as well as building new relationships in the interest of promoting and perpetuating the program. This campus ministry opportunity is located in Geneseo, New York on the SUNY Geneseo campus and is sponsored by Wesley Foundation of the Geneseo United Methodist Church.

The optimal candidate for the position of Wesley Campus Minister possesses:

-a bachelor degree from an accredited university

-the ability to develop and facilitate a program of worship, fellowship, and community outreach on a college campus that works toward and with the goals of the United Methodist Church

-organizational and communication skills that allow the candidate to effectively address budget and program concerns with the board of directors

Interested persons should contact the Geneseo United Methodist Church at (585) 243-3160 or e-mail [geneseoumc@frontiernet.net](mailto:geneseoumc@frontiernet.net)

## THRESHOLDS OF THE SPIRIT: WATER, WIND, RHYTHM & FIRE

A Five Day Academy will be **May 3-7, 2010** at The Trinitarians Retreat Center in Baltimore, MD.

"Thresholds of the Spirit" will follow the Academy rhythm with morning presentations by Dr. Bob Morris on Psalms as Thresholds of the Spirit. In the afternoon we'll be crossing creative thresholds that continue the daily theme, followed by Eucharist and evening options. Evening listening circles will draw us into the intimacy of the Spirit before concluding the day with Night Prayer and entering the Great Silence.

Go to <http://www.upperroom.org/academy/fivedayacademies.asp> for a registration form and brochure.

Save your place and get an early bird discount savings of \$70 by pre-registering before **March 1, 2010**.

Contact Donna Bryant, Coordinator of The Academy for Spiritual Formation, Upper Room Ministries, GBOD - The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004 at [dbryant@gbod.org](mailto:dbryant@gbod.org) or by calling 877-899-2781 ext. 7233, for more information or to pre-register by phone. All meals and lodging are included in the registration fee.

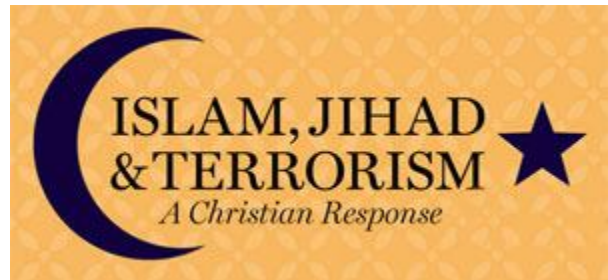
**Islam, Jihad & Terrorism – A Christian Response** Many Christians are puzzled by the rising profile and influence of Islam across the world and in the United States and Canada. They see much in the news about violence and terror in connection with Muslim extremism and find it disturbing.

It is increasingly common to have friends and family who are involved in the United States presence in Afghanistan and Iraq. Christians suspect there is more to understand about Islam than what they see in news clips or read in brief articles in papers.

Are all Muslims inclined towards terrorism? What is jihad? How should one think about Allah versus the God whom Christians worship? What is our responsibility as Christians in relation to Muslims we meet?

We invite church leaders to a conference at Houghton to consider these questions, on Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Take advantage of the expertise and experience of Houghton faculty and speakers. Strengthen your ability to respond knowledgeably to questions and concerns that arise within your own church family on this important topic.



*Islam, Jihad & Terrorism - A Christian Response*

Date: Thurs, March 18th, 2010

Time: 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

Find out more and register on the [conference website](#). Sign up by March 1st for our early registration discount!

We hope to see you there!

Office of Church Relations  
Houghton College  
Houghton, NY 14744

[churchrelations@houghton.edu](mailto:churchrelations@houghton.edu)  
800-777-2556

## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DAY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Bona Responds is having an International Service Day on March 27. Please note that Bona Responds is working with United Methodist churches, and UM members are encouraged to participate.

<http://bonaresponds.org/>

## **UMM YOUTH HONORS BANQUET**

Saturday, March 13 will be the 16<sup>th</sup> Youth Honors Banquet at Houghton College. The speaker this year is Nels Cremean, CEO (Chief Executive Oddball) of In Jest, Inc. Nels works to defy gravity (both the physical force, and graveness or "terminal seriousness") and spread joy. Also known as "the master of mirth," he enjoys sharing laughter and "holy foolishness." He'll demonstrate juggling and perhaps other "useless skills." A high-energy guy, he lives with his wife and their five young children in Buffalo.

The cost of the Banquet is: \$16 for adults, \$11 for youth under 12 years old, with reservations in by 2/24 (\$18 & \$13 after 2/24)

Please see your Pastor for the rest of the details.

## **UPDATING OFFICERS FOR 2010**

Church Conferences are over – you all have voted on your new slate of officers. Please remember to go onto the WNY webpage at [www.wnyumc.org](http://www.wnyumc.org) and login and update your Church officers for 2010. If you have misplaced your username and password, feel free to contact the district office. Accurate information is needed in order to ensure that materials being sent out from this office as well as the conference office get to the right people. Please make sure that your Lay Member to Annual Conference, PPRC Chair, Lay Leader, Trustee Chair, Treasurer and Administrative Board Chair are all correct. Also if you want to make sure your church receives information on the Summer Camps Offered at our Church Camps please make sure your Camping Coordinator is listed. Thanks in advance for your help!

## **CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED**

The Mountain View District will once again offer Camp Scholarships for children and Youth from our District attending one of our United Methodist Church camps this summer. If you need an application you can contact the District office and we will e-mail or mail you one. The deadline for the applications is April 30, 2010.

**SUMMER CAMP STAFF NEEDED:** Camp Asbury is now taking applications for 2010 Summer Staff. It appears that we will only need 3 new staff persons - 1 Kitchen Assistant, 1 Waterfront-Pool Lifeguard, and 1 Female Core Counselor. Interested persons should contact Rev. Larry Wiliford at 585-237-5262 or [asburydirector@rochester.rr.com](mailto:asburydirector@rochester.rr.com). Thanks.

Larry Wiliford  
Camp Asbury Director

## **NEWS FROM UPPER NEW YORK**

New ACT Convener Bill Gottschalk-Fielding offers new year's thoughts on his [Convener's Corner blog](#)

**WNY CONFERENCE EVANGELISM TEAM WORKSHOP PRESENTS LEONARD SWEET**

**“Awakening to the God who is Already There”**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Faith United Methodist Church, 174 Pinnacle Rd., Henrietta, NY

**COST:** \$35.00 per person – includes lunch

Professor and Author Leonard Sweet will be with us to give us a revolutionary look at evangelism; one which refuses to separate evangelism from discipleship.

To express interest in attending contact Rev. Keith Griswold at WNYEMT2010@yahoo.com

**Workshop Offered**

**“BUT WE’VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE”**

**If you’ve ever heard those words in your church - Have we got a workshop for you!**

RESHAPING CONGREGATIONAL CULTURE: From Staid Traditionalism to Healthy Responsiveness

PRESENTER: Rev. Tony Pappas

Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts  
Keen Interpreter of Traditional Church Culture  
20 Years Experience as Small Church Pastor

WHEN: Sat. April 10, 2010 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:30)

WHERE: Olean First Baptist Church, 133 S. Union Street 1-716-372-5151

TARGET AUDIENCE: For all pastors and church leaders who desire to bring about lasting change in their church’s health.

Members of all denominations are invited.

Spread the Word!

BENEFIT TO PARTICIPANTS:

- **Recognize the invisible force known as congregational culture.**
- **See how congregational culture can be used as a positive asset.**
- **Move from “Can’t do” to “Can do”.**
- **Gain insights and practical tools to move from traditionalism to healthy responsiveness.**
- **Articulate an exciting future vision.**
- **Lead more happily much of the time!**

COST: Includes Lunch/Snacks

Early Bird (Postmarked by March 22<sup>nd</sup>) - \$15

After March 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$20

TO REGISTER: Make checks payable to “First Baptist Church” and include list of attendees. Send to the address below.

QUESTIONS: Contact Rev. Larry Poelma at

First Baptist Church  
17 South Street, Cuba, N.Y. 14727  
585-968-1531  
Rev\_poelma@cubafirstbaptist.org

Hosted by The Stateline Straddlers 2 Together In Ministry Lay and Clergy Group

**2010 WNY SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS: IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Deadline dates for scholarship and Loan applications have changed, they will be earlier than in previous years. For more information see the web site: <http://wnyumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=885>

**Do Not Delay!**

**2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS WILL BRIDGE TWO DAYS**

Although the 2010 Western New York Annual Conference session will have a one-day agenda, all members are encouraged to plan to spend two days together at Asbury First UMC, Rochester, New York.

The last Clergy session will be held on Friday, June 4 followed by a Memorial Service Friday evening at 6 pm. The Laity session is scheduled Friday as well. It will be held at Emmanuel in Rochester from 3 to 4 pm.

Clergy and Laity will process in together for the Memorial Service for the bishops, bishop's spouses, clergy and clergy spouses who died since the last annual conference. Families and churches of those to be remembered will receive invitations.

This service offers the last opportunity the Western New York Conference has Communion together before becoming part of the new Upper New York Conference.

Those spending the night Friday will need to make their own room reservations, however a list of hotels where blocks of rooms will be available as will a list of restaurants nearby.

The Annual Conference agenda will include only those actions and reports necessary to close out the Western New York Conference and to facilitate moving into the new. All business should be concluded by 5 p.m. A list of those actions will be available as early as possible in the spring and pre-conference briefings are planned. All reports are needed by March 10.

Churches are reminded their budgets need to reflect funding for overnight accommodations, food, and travel to the Western New York Annual Conference in Rochester June 4/5, as well as the Uniting Conference in Syracuse on June 19 and the adjourned session and celebration in Albany on September 11.

Stories sought

All persons with stories to share about ministry in the Western New York Conference are invited to submit them. Watch for details as to how and when. This collection of stories will be brought together with stories from Troy, Wyoming, and North Central New York Conferences and will become part of the combined history of the Upper New York Area.

**LOCAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

**Alfred UMC will dedicate its new roof on March 14. A dedication service will take place at 4:00 PM, with a soup and sandwich meal to follow and after that a concert featuring praise groups from Panama, NY.**

Need church pews with cushions!! Excellent condition.  
Call Ed - 716-557-8354.

LENTEN SERVICES: February 25<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. Garwoods UMC, Pastor Terry Kelly Preaching  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. Swain UMC, Pastor Geri Rapino, Preaching  
March 18<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. South Dansville UMC, Pastor Gregory White Preaching  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. Bishopville UMC, Pastor Gary Wickard Preaching

LENTEN LUNCHES: February 24<sup>th</sup> Noon Friends In Christ (Fillmore) UMC  
March 10<sup>th</sup> Noon Caneadea UMC  
March 17<sup>th</sup> Centerville UMC  
March 24<sup>th</sup> Short Tract UMC

Pastor of the church will share a brief devotional. Come enjoy Soup, Sandwich and fellowship.

Friends in Christ UMC is holding a 5K Fun Run/Walk to help raise money for the repair of their stain glass windows.

Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010 11 a.m Runners, 11:15 a.m. Walkers  
Race Day Check in: 10:30 Runners, 10:45 Walkers – at the Fillmore Central School  
Proceeds go to: Friends in Christ UMC Stain Glass Window Repair  
Entry Fee: Adults \$10.00, Age 13-18 \$5.00 and 12 and under \$3.00  
Sponsor: Friends in Christ UMC, Fillmore NY  
Incentives: Giveaways will be handed out.

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