

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW-POINT
In the Midst of Mountains...
On the Forefront of Disciple-Making
June 17 2010

Yesterday I had the privilege of having lunch with a friend/mentor/colleague. When our lunch was served at a wonderful table overlooking a gorgeous day, she took my hand and asked if I would offer grace, which I did. The young woman who was assigned to our table commented on how touched she was to see us praying together before our lunch. She commented that sometimes she felt as though only her family did that and how encouraged she felt having witnessed us praying together.

I don't think we often understand the witness we provide for those around us when we do what we do. I don't want to make light of the importance of having lunch with a dear person in my life and having the chance to pray together. We rarely have the chance and don't live anywhere near each other. However, our comfort in taking hands and praying together is a celebration of not just the food, but the young woman serving us, our friendship, our families, the world. Some in our environment might consider this to be "showy" Christianity, and there are even those who might be offended.

I believe, however, that more often than not, what people observe is a closeness, where the Holy Spirit binds two people together in a way that awakens an ache, a longing, a desire to have that kind of closeness.

Having grown up in a family who joined in praying a rote prayer before dinner, with no holding hands and no sense of even what we were praying and why, I have grown to understand that the hands held, the words shared, over food, in fellowship, in times of pain or loss, fear or anxiety- is so much more powerful than the words that manage to find their way out of our mouths.

Spiritual friendships- places and spaces where any number of people- two or more- can find their lives connected in a way that is life giving, Spirit breathed, and God created. I have been blessed with many of these friendships over the years, some are still a vital part of my everyday life, others have faded into miles between us, the chaos of separation or differences in life patterns. I believe I can say that not one of them is forgotten, by me or by the others. I truly believe that our shared relationship with God, even if it's over the struggles, questions, challenges of faith, is something that changes us, on the inside, where we cannot see, but occasionally can feel.

Such a gift this is, one that we, you and I can freely offer along the way. I feel as though I have had many such encounters with you on this journey in the Mountain View District

and Annual Conference- not to be forgotten, distance cannot change what has been bound by the Holy Spirit.

This weekend, when I might feel overwhelmed in the midst of so many faces and places that I do not yet know, the coming weeks when I move into a community of new faces and places that I do not yet know...I pray that I will remember:

- To greet each one as an invitation
- To walk and encounter with a sense of joyous anticipation around the relationships that will come
- That each face I see, each person I encounter, each church represented, comes together with us as a blessing, as someone who is also encountering chaos and newness, possibility, and maybe some anxiety.

My prayer for myself would be- Lord, let me be used, let my countenance be one of welcome, hospitality, and an openness to hear and cherish the stories and introduction of others. Lord let me be used, in quiet, in speaking, let my face be up so as to see, let my ears be open as to hear, and let nothing in my life need more attention than the one who walks before me in the joy and triumph of this June 19th finally, finally arriving. May I truly rejoice in the gifts given that got us here, truly be humbled by those gifts given in service to you, truly certain that this is sacred ground upon which we walk. So be it, Amen.

Cathy

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

JUNE 19 UNITING CONFERENCE - SYRACUSE

CATHY'S CALENDAR

JUNE 18 North Central NY Annual Conference
JUNE 19 Uniting Conference
June 21 DLT – Garwoods UMC – 7 p.m.

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

JUNE 19 (Saturday) Uniting Service of Four Annual Conferences (On Center Syracuse) 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 19, 2010 – Syracuse OnCenter:
8:30am – Registration
9:30 am Worship for Opening Session of UNY Conference OnCenter
12:30 pm Lunch (included in registration fee) OnCenter
1:30 pm Holy Conferencing On Center
4:00 Service of Ordination – Bishop Hassinger preaching Civic Center
6:00 Reception for Ordinands Civic Center

MORE THINGS TO KNOW

ABOUT THE UNITING CONFERENCE OF UPPER NEW YORK June 19, 2010

Attendance and Registration

All clergy members and Lay Members to Annual Conference as elected by their local churches should attend the Uniting Conference, as well as Equalization Members as named by the District Superintendents and those who are positions in the annual conference designated as Lay Members by Virtue of Office.

Fees are as described on the Registration Form, and include lunch. These fees are necessary because the Upper New York Conference does not yet have an apportioned budget from which to pay for the facilities, personnel, audio/visual, etc. Lunch is included because there few restaurants in the area, and our time for a lunch break is limited. Persons who wish to attend as a visitor may do so. Visitors who will be having lunch at the Conference must register. Visitors who do not require a lunch, may attend without registering. All visitors will be seated in a visitors' section.

Registration is available at: www.uppernewyork.org ; go to UNY Sessions. A late fee will be charged after May 31. Refunds on cancellations will not be made after June 11.

Hotel Arrangements

Group rates are available at three hotels in the downtown Syracuse area by indicating you are attending the United Methodist Conference. Those hotels are the Genesee Grande (1060 E Genesee St.; 315-476-4212),

Renaissance Syracuse (701 E Genesee St.; 315-479-7000), and Parkview Hotel (713 E Genesee St.; 315-701-2600). Persons desiring hotel lodging need to make their own arrangements.

What to Bring

The Plan of Union will guide our actions at the Uniting Conference. This document will NOT be distributed. If you desire a printed copy, it can be downloaded from the UNY website (see above). Since it is a long document (107 pages), you may wish to print only the first 51 pages, which is the Plan, as the remainder of the document is supporting exhibits. Overhead screens will be used to facilitate our work. Clergy should bring robes with red stoles for the Ordination Service.

Getting There and Parking

The Uniting Session will be held in the Convention Center at OnCenter, which is located at 800 State Street, Syracuse NY. The Ordination Service will be held in the Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter, which is located at 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse NY, two blocks from the Convention Center. (See Map)

The parking garage has been reserved for our event at a special \$3 rate (NEW). The OnCenter has assured us that there will be adequate spaces in the parking garage and lot. The shuttle bus from Holiday Inn-Liverpool is sold out. Persons who purchased tickets for the shuttle should park in front of the CNA Building, which is to the far right when entering the Holiday Inn parking lot. Park on the front side of the building, closest to the Thruway entrance. The shuttle will run from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. from the Holiday Inn to the Convention Center, and then from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. from the Convention Center (State Street side) to the Holiday Inn.

What To Expect Upon Arrival

CCRM staffers will be inside and outside the building to provide direction, assistance and hospitality. They will point the way and/or assist anyone who has mobility issues, and provide a morning snack. Please make your needs known! There will be a Robe Check. Clergy should bring their robes into the building upon arrival in the morning. Instructions will be given for the location of robing for the Ordination Service when checking in and prior to the close of session.

At 8:30 a.m., one hour prior to the Opening Worship, Bishop Matthews will lead any persons present in a time of prayer – outside -- encircling and bathing the Convention Center building in prayer. Registration materials will be available in the Convention Center Foyer. Attendance will be taken via Roll Call card, which will be in the materials received by registered participants. Coffee and Tea will also be available in the Foyer prior to the start of the session.

Child Care

CCRM Staffers will supply child care in the lower level of the Convention Center. Please indicate your needs on the registration form so that we may plan adequately. Once registered, you will be contacted regarding details closer to the event.

The Plan For The Day

Opening Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. This will be followed by presentation and adoption of the Plan of Union. No scheduled breaks will be taken. Lunch will be served in the room adjoining the Session room and instructions will be given to facilitate the process. The session will reconvene following lunch to complete any unfinished business. The session will close by 3:00 p.m. The Hospitality Team will direct lay participants and visitors to the Mulroy Civic Center, while clergy will be directed to the Ballroom for robing. The Bishop, Full Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, all Clergy, and the 34 persons being ordained or commissioned will process two blocks to the Civic Center for the Service of Ordination. An alternate plan will be communicated in the case of inclement weather. Following the service, there will be a reception to greet and recognize the new clergy members. Chartered buses should provide instruction regarding re-boarding location. The shuttle to the Holiday Inn will board at the Convention Center building on the State Street side following the Service and reception.

To download in printable format go to:

<http://www.ncnyumc.org/AC2010/MORE%20THINGS%20TO%20KNOW-UNY%20SESSION.pdf>

Uniting Conference for the Upper New York Area - Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. June 19, 2010 - [OnCenter, 800 S. State St, Syracuse NY](#). The Complex is the OnCenter. The Uniting Conference is in the "Convention Center at OnCenter" . You can also scroll down for directions and maps.

Ordination Service - 4:00 p.m. - June 19, 2010 - [Crouse Hinds Theater, 411 Montgomery Street, Syracuse NY](#) - *The Mulroy Civic Center is within a short walking distance , approximately one block north of the Convention Center Complex.*

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

CAMP ASBURY LOOKS TOWARDS THE FUTURE

As we come together to form a new Conference, Camp Asbury is looking towards the future and working to gather together a group of people who have a special interest in and a passion for seeing Camp Asbury develop into a first class facility. This will be a group of volunteers who care about improving Camp Asbury.

We are looking for carpenters, electricians, painters, flower planters, leaf rakers, dirt shovelers, kitchen help, dish washers, seamstresses, window washers, tree cutters, wood splitters, and more. Over the past 5 years much has been done to improve the camp, but much more can and needs to be done.

This group of people, that for now we will call "The Awesome Asbury Associates" (the AAAs), will gather at Camp Asbury 2 weekends a year to work at the camp, once in the fall and once in the spring. Those available will gather on Friday evening for songs, fellowship and food; and we will all begin work on Saturday morning at 8:30 am, going until about 4:00 pm Saturday afternoon. Overnight accommodations and food will be provided.

Upcoming dates are: Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16, 2010 and Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7, 2011.

We hope that you feel that the future of Camp Asbury is important and will want to be a part of this new group. If you would like to be a part of this special support group for Camp Asbury (even if you are not able to help on one of the weekends), please fill out the form below or contact the Camp Asbury Director at asburydirector@rochester.rr.com, or call 585-237-5262 for more information. This way we can keep you informed. Mail the form to: Camp Asbury, P.O. Box 218, Silver Lake, NY 14549.

"The Awesome Asbury Associates"

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Local Church: _____ District: _____

Particular skills you have (this will just help us know what skill sets are available in this group):

(please fill out one form per person)

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Camp Asbury and Camp Findley still have camp scholarship funds available to assist with the cost of summer camp. We will provide up to \$75.00 in matching funds from a local church for a child to attend either Camp Asbury or Camp Findley. If there are special needs and more financial assistance is needed, you can contact Larry Wiliford at ccmexecdiretor@wnyumc.org.

There are also additional funds to assist economically depressed families and ethnic campers. For more information, contact Larry Wiliford.

Camp Asbury still has plenty of room for campers this summer so as an incentive to those who have already registered, we will give you a \$25.00 Camp Store credit if you recruit someone to come to camp this summer. Just have that person write on the top of their Registration Form the name of the camper who recruited them to receive your Store Credit. If you have questions, contact Camp Asbury at 585-237-5262 or asburymanager@rochester.rr.com.

Rev. Lawrence J. Wiliford
Executive Director CCRM/
Director of Camp Asbury
P.O. Box 218
16 Lakeside Ave.
Silver Lake, NY 14549
585-237-5262

2010-2011 LOCAL PASTOR'S MODULAR LICENSING SCHOOL FOR THE UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE

An updated schedule and registration for those interested and eligible to attend Licensing School is available online at <http://www.ncnyumc.org/vflpam/UpperNewYork.pdf>. The modular program is a seven month program comprised of six educational modules hosted at the Casowasco Conference and Retreat Center. Modules are held on a Friday evening and Saturday during the months of October, November, January, February, March and April. For further information, please contact Dr. Brian Homan at 315-298-5454 (PulaskiUMC@aol.com) or Dr. BJ Norrix at 315-457-9382 (BJNorrix@ChristCommunityUMC.com)

School of Christian Mission registration form now available

Adults and youth are invited to come to Daemen College the last weekend in July, 2010, for a Cooperative School of Christian Mission event. July 29-31, both lay and clergy will engage in a spiritual

growth study For the Love of God: the Letters of John. Participants will choose between a geographic study The Beauty and Courage of Sudan, which was offered in 2009, or a new study Joy to the World:

Mission in an Age of Global Christianity. Overnight accommodations are in private air-conditioned rooms in suites with a living area and kitchenette. Delicious buffet-style meals are included. The entire facility is handicap accessible with plenty of free safe parking. A one-day overview of these mission studies will be offered on Saturday, July 31.

New this year is a planned Youth Day at School of Mission with an emphasis on the Sudan also on Saturday July 31. Heartfelt worship, displays, mission project of health kits, and just plain fun round out the schedule.

For more information contact Dean Leona Peterson of Gerry at 716-985-4652 or email Lpeterson@netsync.net.

To download a registration form go to: http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oEvent_Calendar_EUXQLB/2010

CELEBRATING OUR WISDOM AND STILL LEARNING NOV. 6, 2010. An Older Adult Ministries Conference is planned for November 6, 2010 for everyone in the Upper New York Area. It will be held at the New Hartford United Methodist Church, 105 Genesee St., New Hartford, NY 13413. "Celebrating Our Wisdom and Still Learning" is the theme for this opportunity to learn and to share how older adult programming can be a vital ministry in your local church. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Bruce who is the Northeast Jurisdiction Representative to the National Older Adult Ministries Committee. Barbara is an expert on brain fitness and will speak on "Highly Effective Ways to Keep Your Brain Fit."

A variety of workshops and a show and share session will be included. There will be opportunities for feedback from the attendees which should help all in attendance return to your church with an expanded vision of older adult programming.

For a downloadable brochure to register go to:
http://wny.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/celebrating

LOCAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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