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# FINGER LAKES DISTRICT

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Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2010

## From The District Superintendent

Dear friends,

Bishop Marcus Matthews has announced the realignment of districts in the New York West Area of The United Methodist Church to be implemented July 1, 2010 following the closing sessions of the North Central New York and the Western New York Annual Conferences. This is the result of a planned reduction of one district in the North Central New York Annual Conference. These changes will mean that as many as 55 of the churches in the current Finger Lakes District will become part of other districts. All of our District Committees will need to be re-formed. Below you will find the Bishop's full statement and a tentative list of the churches that will be in the realigned Finger Lakes District.

Because I have worked closely with many of the pastors and leaders from those churches that will become parts of other districts I am keenly aware of the impact of these changes. While we had not anticipated any changes in district boundaries there were growing concerns about the nature of our work load as superintendents and the cost of maintaining too many districts. By the reduction of two districts, one from the Albany Area and one from the NCNY Conference we are able to present a balanced budget for the new Annual Conference. This will allow us to keep the

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### Finger Lakes District 7.1.2010

1. Aloquin-Flint
2. Alpine
3. Alton
4. Auburn
5. Benton
6. Bluff Point
7. Branchport
8. Burdett
9. Butler
10. Caroline Valley Fed.
11. Cayuga
12. Cayutaville
13. Chapin
14. Clifton Springs
15. Clyde
16. Cortland: First
17. Cortland: Homer Ave.
18. Countryside
19. Danby
20. Dryden
21. Dresden
22. Dundee
23. East Homer
24. Erieville
25. Jacksonville
26. Fleming Federated
27. Freeville
28. Friend
29. Geneva
30. Gorham
31. Harmony
32. Homer
33. Italy Valley
34. Ithaca: Forest Home
35. Ithaca: St. Paul's
36. Jacksonville
37. Lansing
38. Ledyard
39. Lyons
40. Manchester
41. McGraw
42. Mecklenburg
43. Middlesex

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Shared Ministry costs to each church unchanged until July 1, 2011.

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2010

Bishop Marcus Matthews announced the realignment of districts in the New York West Area of The United Methodist Church to be implemented July 1, 2010 following the closing sessions of the North Central New York and the Western New York Annual Conferences. The realignment is in response to a report from a task force empowered by New ACT (New Area/Conference Team) to explore how the superintendency might best be carried out in regard to the vision and mission and core values adopted last June.

The work of this task force established some guiding principles that will continue to inform and guide our understanding of superintendency in the new annual conference. The first of which is: "The focus of the work of the District Superintendent is mission. Another way of putting this is: The DS is a conference *Missioner*. The emphasis is on the DS as *leader*, and less as *manager*." A complete report of the task force and all seven of the guiding principles will be posted to [www.uppernewyork.org](http://www.uppernewyork.org). Their work supports a recommendation to reduce the number of districts in the new annual conference.

Because the new alignment will take effect in the new conference of the Upper New York Area, the cabinet and Bishop Matthews looked across the boundaries of our current conferences to create a balanced distribution of churches and charges. Among the criteria considered were: geography, sociological attributes, traffic patterns, and culture. With the desire to strengthen the district by natural relationships, the cabinet specifically looked for functional, natural, relational connections between communities.

In addition, New ACT and those preparing the second half 2010 budget and the full budget for 2011, made a commitment to not increase local church ministry shares/apportionments for the second half of 2010. The realignment of districts in both the Albany and New York West Areas will assist in this commitment.

Bishop Matthews invited the nine district lay leaders, chairs of district committee on ordained ministry, chairs of district United Methodist Women, chairs of district United Methodist Men, chairs of district committee on superintendency and the nine New York West Area District Superintendents to gather for an informational meeting on April 14, 2010 regarding this announcement. In a related development, Bishop Matthews announced the appointment of the Rev. David Underwood to Wesley UMC in Rochester, NY, effective July 1, 2010.

D.S. Underwood served as the Crossroads District Superintendent in Syracuse for 5 years and as the Central

Lakes District Superintendent this past year. Bishop Matthews met with the Central Lakes District Committee on Superintendency to inform them of Rev. Underwood's request to be appointed to a local church. The committee was also advised that the churches of the Central Lakes District would be realigned with existing districts. For now, current district names will remain the same; however, Bishop Matthews encourages all the districts to consider a new name to reflect the changes that will occur in the months ahead.

Bishop Hassinger in a similar announcement for the Albany Area stated:

*In the "Imagine" statement of what we feel God calling us to be as United Methodists in Upper New York, several of the lines include the invitations: 'opening to new ways of being and doing Church' and 'trusting the ambiguity and messiness of change.' These matters of changes in district leadership and relationships illustrate this invitation to openness and trust, and demonstrate a call for us to adapt. It is my hope and prayer that other leaders in the conference and in congregations will risk the kind of thoughtful changes that the district superintendents have pursued. I recognize that these shifts in district superintendent responsibilities and district connections had not been anticipated. For some there will be a sense of loss and for many there will be challenges. Pastors, lay leadership, and congregations, as well as district superintendents who are increasing their workloads will feel losses and challenges. It is important to be able to name that, and then to ask where God is leading us into the future.*

Bishop Matthews stated, "As we seek to grow in our relationship with God in being the body of Christ within the world, engaging, equipping and empowering local churches to be in ministry with our neighbors in all places, it is my hope that new directions will emerge at every level within our church. I will continue to encourage cabinet and conference leaders, along with our pastors and laity, to explore and consider new models for superintending in our ministry for Jesus Christ. Let us move forward seeking the Lord's guidance, confident that we are being led by the Holy Spirit to a bright new day. "

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## District UMW news:

We will be having two Mission Study days.

### **Food & Faith**

May 25, 2010 - 9:30am - 2:30pm  
at New Beginnings Church, Elmira  
Karren Harter will be the leader  
Bring your Bible and a bag lunch

### **The Sudan**

June 9, 2010 - 9:30am - 2:30pm  
at Newark First UMC, Newark  
Karen Peterson will be the leader  
Bring your bag lunch

Both women are excellent leaders. Do try to attend one or both events. Also remember to send in your registration for School of Christian Mission, July 16-18 at Mohawk Valley Community College. For further information contact Cindy Ellis, (607)739-5185

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### From Corning Grace UMC:

**JEWELRY SALE**—SATURDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 10 AM TO 2 PM.  
BROWSE THE BOUNTIFUL COLLECTION OF “GENTLY USED” JEWELRY, OFFERED AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES. A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING - INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; NECKLACES, BRACELETS, EARRINGS, FASHION PINS AND SO MUCH MORE.

Caton UMC invites you to join in a  
Pig Roast with all the trimmings  
Saturday, May 22  
From 4-7pm

Proceeds to support Red Bird Mission Team



**Red Bird Mission Work Camp  
April 18 - 24, 2010**

44. Milo Center
45. Moravia
46. Mottville: St. Andrews
47. Newark: Emmanuel
48. Newark First
49. Newfield
50. New Hope: Midlakes
51. North Rose
52. Ovid
53. Penn Yan
54. Phelps United
55. Pine Valley
56. Port Byron
57. Red Creek-Westbury
58. Reynoldsville
59. Rose
60. Rushville
61. Scott
62. Seneca Castle
63. Seneca Falls
64. Sterling
65. Sodus
66. Sodus Point
67. Starkey
68. Trumansburg
69. Truxton
70. Tyre
71. Van Etten
72. Varick
73. Varna
74. Virgil
75. Victory
76. Waterloo
77. Weedsport
78. Wolcott: Faith
79. Yatesville

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### **From Finger Lakes to Genesee Valley**

1. Canandaigua
2. Cohocton
3. Farmington
4. Naples Federated
5. North Cohocton
6. Palmyra
7. Port Gibson
8. Pultneyville
9. Vine Valley
10. Williamson

### **From Finger Lakes to Mountain View**

1. Addison
2. Avoca
3. Bath
4. Beaver Dams
5. Big Flats: Hillview
6. Breesport
7. Cameron Mills
8. Campbell
9. Catharine

## Mission trip to Red Bird

The Clifton Springs United Methodist Church once again will be sending a mission team to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky September 27<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>. We have several openings for adults. The cost is \$280 per person which covers food, housing and basic project supplies at Red Bird. There will be some extra for travel expenses. Projects could be anything from painting, ramp building, basic carpentry, organizing in the clothing rooms or counting soup labels. If you have questions you may contact Lorrie Spence at [revspence@juno.com](mailto:revspence@juno.com) or 315-462-7192. To apply to go you must send \$140 with the application below to save your spot by **June 10<sup>th</sup>**. The other \$140 will be due **September 10<sup>th</sup>**. All fund raising will be done on your own but we will get together as a group to plan for travel etc. Praying you come and join us - together we can do so much more for the Lord.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut off for registration is June 6<sup>th</sup>

Lorrie Spence  
 CSUMC Ministries Coordinator  
 13 Pleasant St, Clifton Springs NY 14432  
 315-462-7192  
[revspence@juno.com](mailto:revspence@juno.com)

### Penn Yan United Methodist Church

**COMET** (*Community Outreach and Mission Experience Team*) continues to seek ways to enable our congregation to reach out into the community, meeting needs with the love of Christ. Last month, the team sponsored the first Community Café, a new outreach to those in need from our own community. Community Café is a dish-to-pass supper in our fellowship hall for those in our community who may appreciate fellowship and a hot meal. It's not just a

hand-out, but an opportunity for all kinds of people to be a part of this ministry by **gathering** at the table, **growing** our relationships with others in our community and **going**, knowing that we've made a difference in each others' lives. COMET hopes to host these dinners on the last Tuesday of every month from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Table settings and beverages will be provided. The next one is scheduled for May 25. So mark

your calendar, bring a dish-to-pass, and enjoy dining with members of our local community for the next Community Café.

### From Finger Lakes to Mountain View

10. Catlin
11. Caton
12. Chemung
13. Coopers Plains
14. Corning: First
15. Corning: Grace
16. Elmira Heights: Oakwood
17. Elmira: New Beginnings
18. Elmira: Riverside
19. Elmira: Westside
20. Erin
21. Hammondsport
22. Hicks
23. Horseheads
24. Kanona
25. Lowman
26. Mitchellsville
27. Montour Falls
28. North Chemung
29. Odessa
30. Painted Post
31. Pine City: Penn. Ave.
32. Pine Valley
33. Prattsburgh
34. Presho
35. Rathbone
36. Risingville
37. South Corning
38. Sullivanville
39. Tyrone
40. Watkins Glen
41. Webb Mills
42. Wellsburg
43. Wheeler
44. Wilawanna (PA)
45. Woodhull

### From Central Lakes to Finger Lakes

1. Alpine
2. Auburn
3. Butler
4. Caroline Valley Fed.
5. Cayuga
6. Cayutaville
7. Clyde
8. Cortland: First
9. Cortland: Homer Ave.
10. Countryside
11. Danby Federated
12. Dryden
13. East Homer/Erieville
14. Fleming Federated
15. Freeville
16. Harmony
17. Homer
18. Ithaca: Forest Home
19. Ithaca: St. Paul's
20. Jacksonville
21. Lansing
22. Ledyard
23. McGraw
24. Mecklenburg
25. Moravia
26. Mottville: St. Andrews
27. New Hope: Midlakes
28. Newfield
29. North Rose
30. Port Byron
31. Red Creek-Westbury
32. Rose
33. Scott
34. Seneca Falls
35. Sterling
36. Trumansburg
37. Truxton
38. Tyre
39. Van Etten
40. Varick
41. Varna
42. Victory
43. Virgil
44. Waterloo
45. Weedsport
46. Wolcott: Faith

**You're invited to a...**

## ***Celebration of Fatherhood!***

A multi-faceted conference that celebrates the roles of Fathers, the importance of Fathers, and the need for positive, caring Fathers and males in the lives of children. Door prizes will include Dad-friendly gifts.



## **"Fatherhood Summit"**

Open to all parents and people who care about families & kids!

Location: Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm

Reception & Presentation by  
Kenneth Braswell

Director of the NYS Fatherhood Initiative

(free Child care with refreshments and activities will be available for children ages 2-12)

Friday, June 11, 8:00 am-3:45 pm

Key Note Speaker and Workshops

(Sorry...no child care is available on this day.)

### **Topics to Include:**

- > Parenting in Technological Times
- > Stages of Sexual Development
- > Reconnecting with Our Kids
- > Navigating Family Court
- > Fathers and the Mass Media
- > Faith and Fatherhood
- > Fathers in Education
- > Legal Support and Custody
- > Military Families on the Frontlines
- > Parenting through Separation and Divorce
- > Who Guards the Gate?
- > Fathers and Daughters
- > Healthy Relationships

Fees: \$10/for parents and non-agency caregivers

\$50 per registrant from agency or human service community

(A limited number of scholarships will be available.)

For Registration information, contact Pastor Ed Spencer, Reverb Ministries  
@ 607-769-0767.

Or @ PastorEdSpencer@yahoo.com

## From Lyons UMC

Love God, Raise funds, Feed the world

ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!!

30 Hour Famine 2010

On April 9&10· 21 youth from Lyons, Clyde and Sodus and 5 adult leaders took part in the 30 Hour Famine at the Lyons Methodist Church . Aaron Conlin, Kris Vanderlinde, Amber Clarke, Penny & April Vanderlinde, Kyle Iddings, Garrett & Richelle Coons, Alexis and Drew McUmbler, Meaghan Hansen, Davina Smith, Paige Lainhart, Travis Smith, Tim Wadsworth, Emily Landuyt , Jacee Cavaris, Maura Chapell, Kaila Kise, Carla Lash, Alexis Smith, Jamal Newson , Kierra Parker, Sierra Pritchett, Frank Clarke and Pastor Ellen Knight went without food for 30 hours, drinking just juice. They raised \$933 for the starving children in our world through the organization World Vision

The group was kept busy the whole time they spent together at the church. They started fasting at 12:15 on Friday in school after lunch. At 4:30 they arrived at the church, baggage and all.

Each was given the character of a child from a Ethiopia for the game “Tribe”. The game consisted of 6 activities to learn about the conditions in Ethiopia such as health problems, food and water problems and poor agricultural land conditions.

Each participant made a fleece blanket to donate to Project Linus which distributes the blankets to children in hospitals. After the midnight candle light service to the tune of “Give Me Your Eyes” and prayers for the needy and homeless in our world, and towns the group set up their cardboard box “village” to sleep.

The group participated in 3 Bible studies during the famine. They viewed video segments of children from the countries they are helping.

On Sat. afternoon the group cut out 2106 orange paper hearts (orange being the color of hope) and taped them around the sanctuary representing the number of children who die from hunger during one worship service. It was an eye opener!

For a couple hours on Saturday the group volunteered their time at Be Thrifty in Lyons packing boxes of clothes, dusting shelves, hanging clothes and getting the shop “looking good” for spring shoppers!

The group also participated in a mile walk to fill their 2 gallon jugs with water and then walk back to the church with the full jugs. They realized how easy we have it to just turn on the faucet!

At 6:15 they broke the fast with a meal of rice and beans prepared by men of the church. Each participant had to give a testimony about the famine before receiving a meal ticket to eat.

Tired but well-fed physically as well as spiritually the participants departed at about 7:00 for their homes with the idea of “what now”

This leader feels so blessed to be able to organize and be a part of this 30 Hour Famine every year. I come away with a renewed sense of helping and serving. I look forward to next year when I can again be a part of this great mission.

Kris Vanderlinde Lyons Youth Leader 521-9530



Richelle Coons



Alexis Smith, Kaila Kise, Maura Chappell



“Village”