

The Gatehouse Gazette

News from Camp Olmsted & Olmsted Center
Winter 2015

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Annual Fundraiser to Honor Reverend Dr. William Shillady and St. Paul & St. Andrew



The annual Five Points Mission event to help raise funds for our summer programs will be held on June 4th at Christ Church UM. Our honorees this year are The Reverend Dr. William S. Shillady, Executive Director/CEO of the United Methodist City Society, the parent organization of Five Points Mission, and the Church of St Paul & St Andrew (SPSA) in Manhattan.

Dr. Shillady has been the leader of the City Society for the past six years. Under his leadership the City Society has formed numerous partnerships with city agencies and government programs; expanded services throughout local churches; attracted new funders; and provided financial support to local ministries.

SPSA, located on West 86th Street, is a progressive, welcoming congregation on Manhattan's Upper West Side, serving God through worship, fellowship, and action.



Principal community involvement includes housing of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, an emergency food pantry, a program collaboration with Congregation B'nai Jeshurun that offers shelter and meals for homeless women five nights each week, a weekly homework assistance program, and a robust overseas mission program involving youth and adults.

The event will include a silent auction, exciting opportunities, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Cost is \$75 per person. For more information on the May event, contact April Callender at acallender@umcitysociety.org or (212) 870-3938.

Can You Believe It's Time for Summer Camp?

Summer camp registration for both the sleep-away and day camp programs at Olmsted began in October. Parents have been online securing their sessions and preparing their children for a summer camp experience. This year camp begins on Monday, June 29th and ends on Friday, August 7th. There is still time to reserve space so visit our website today! www.campolmsted.org



Campers enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities designed to build self-esteem, learn new skills and make lots of new friends. These activities include swimming (including lessons), singing, acting, ropes course, computers, camp-wide games, carnival, hiking, ice cream socials, themed party nights, and more!



2015 Session Dates

Overnight Camp

Choose from three 11-day sessions

One or all three!

\$395 per session

June 29 - July 10

July 13 - July 24

July 27 - August 7

Day Camp

9:00 AM - 5:45 PM

Extended hours available!

\$160 per session

June 29 - July 3

July 6 - July 9

July 13 - July 17

July 20 - July 23

July 27 - July 31

August 3 - August 6

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton Returns to the New York Annual Conference

As we reported to you in our last issue, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton has been assigned to serve as our Episcopal leader from January 1st, 2015 through August 2016.



A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Jane was ordained deacon and elder by Bishop Ralph Ward in the New York Annual Conference and served Connecticut churches in Simsbury, Naugatuck, and New Canaan. She was responsible for Spiritual Life for clergy and laity on Conference staff and served a Superintendent of the Connecticut West District from 1999 until her election to the episcopacy in 2004.

As a Bishop, she was assigned to the Susquehanna (formerly Central Pennsylvania) Annual Conference, where her emphasis was assisting churches in growth and in empowering clergy for effectiveness. She served for eight years and retired in 2012.

We welcome Bishop Middleton to the New York Annual Conference.

UM City Society Annual Meeting

The United Methodist City Society will hold its annual meeting at New Jerusalem United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 17th at 3:30 PM. New Jerusalem UMC is located at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn.



All member churches of the UM City Society from the Long Island East, Long Island West, Metropolitan, and the New York-Connecticut districts are entitled to a vote in conducting the business of the Society and are invited to attend.

The featured speaker will be the Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. Rev. Lewis is the Senior Minister at Middle Collegiate Church, New York City and the Executive Director of The Middle Project, Inc.

Epworth Camp & Retreat Center Sold

Sadly, after fifty years Epworth, the New York Annual Conference camp and retreat center located in High Falls, New York was sold to the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary.



The property, formerly known as Dreamland Farm, provided summer camp and retreat programs for participants in and around the Tri-State area. While owned by the NYAC, Epworth campers helped to maintain a small farm that included horses, cows, pigs, chickens, and other animals, one that provided fresh vegetables and eggs to enhance meals and to familiarize city children with the source of meals served at home. After years of declining enrollment and a need for additional resources the painful decision was made to offer the camp for sale.

In November of 2014 there was a conference-wide celebration commemorating the rich history of service that Epworth provided for children, families, and congregations.

Kingswood Campsite, in Hancock, N.Y., along with Quinipet Camp & Retreat center on Shelter Island will continue to serve as NYAC-owned camps.

New York Annual Conference Says Farewell & Thank you to Greg Nissen

After over fifteen years of service at Quinipet Camp & Retreat Center, Greg Nissen has resigned as Interim Acting Executive Director to accept the position as an estate and yacht manager in Long Island. Along with Quinipet he was responsible for Epworth and Kingswood. He was also committed to making Olmsted more visible as a retreat facility to those familiar only with the NYAC-owned camps. We will miss you, Greg, and wish you the best in this new venture.



Candlelight Dinner Sets Record

Our annual Christmas Candlelight Dinner took place at Kirkwood House on December 6th. A record number of forty-three persons were in attendance. Friends of Olmsted, Nancy and Richard Rice, along with staff transformed the building into a festive holiday setting. Chefs Carol Smith and Mark Carter prepared a delicious buffet meal and a variety of desserts. Nancy and Richard along with their daughter Martha Epstein closed the evening with a Biblical storytelling of the birth of Jesus as recorded in Luke's gospel.



We thank all whose presence helped make this the best Kirkwood candlelight dinner ever! A special thank you goes to Scott, Lori, and Kayleigh Suckling who graced us with their holiday music. We would also like to thank Helen Darling and her family for their generous offer to replace the older upright piano at Kirkwood House.

Olmsted Needs Your Support

There is always work to be done to help staff prepare our buildings and outdoor spaces for the arrival of the 1200 retreat guests and 300 campers that visit our facility on an annual basis. If you have the time, talent, and energy to help us by volunteering for a work project or other event at Olmsted please give us a call at (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11.



If you are not a fan of manual labor but have resources in the form of financial support or services that you would like to donate to Olmsted, please call us.

Aurora Downer Elected to Board



We are delighted to report that Ms. Aurora Downer has been elected to the Five Points Mission Board of Managers. Ms. Downer brings to the Board an expertise in education, program development, and community outreach. Aurora is not a stranger to Olmsted, having worked there during college. She served as the director of the Hobby Hut, our arts and crafts activity during summer camp. She has also been a frequent visitor to the facility both during camp and for the Candlelight Dinner. She brings an excitement and enthusiasm to the board. In her spare time Aurora enjoys landscape painting, a long-time avocation, and the planning of child-focused times.

Olmsted Hosts Mission Initiative Summit

The General Board of Global Ministries held its first Mission Initiative Summit at Camp Olmsted March 1-6. Attendees from a number of countries including Cameroon, Honduras, Mongolia, Russia, Senegal, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, and others gathered for the purpose of strengthening partnerships between churches in the US and their respective UM missions around the world.



Worship was also an integral part of the program. One evening Cornwall UMC hosted the group for a simultaneous, world-wide worship experience, using Skype to connect with other congregations.

FIVE POINTS MISSION – MANAGERS AND STAFF

MANAGERS

Mr. James W. Harbison, President
Mr. Siddharth Chadha
Ms. Aurora Downer
Mr. Wendell Harris
Mr. Damon Moore
Mr. David A. Taylor (Ex-officio)

Mr. R. Dyke Benjamin
Mr. Spencer C. Disher
The Rev. Vicky Fleming
Mr. Donald T. Kirby
James W. Perkins, Esq.

OLMSTED CENTER STAFF

Mrs. Carla Maisonet, Retreat Center Director
Ms. Carol Smith, Retreat Cook

Mr. Tom Lindemann, Caretaker
Mr. Mark Carter, Retreat Cook

UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY STAFF

The Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady, Executive Director
Mr. Simeon Saturn, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. April Callender, Associate Executive Director
Ms. Aisha Campbell, Director of Children's Programs