

# The Gatehouse Gazette

*News from Camp Olmsted & Olmsted Center  
Fall 2015*

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## Congrats on a Successful Summer 2015

The summer camp programs at Olmsted served 317 campers this year. This includes 180 overnight campers and 137 day campers.



The Camp Olmsted staff, led by director Mastura Medina, did a great job of delivering a program that was filled with fun and engaging activities for campers, including swimming, art & crafts, ropes course, sports, and more. We had outstanding performances on Manager's Day and throughout the summer. This year parents were invited for the closing performance during last session and had a standing room audience of over 60 attendees!

Once again, a generous amount of scholarship money was available this year. Thanks to our supporters, including local churches, agencies, individual pastors, board members and congregants who were touched by the ministry at Olmsted. This funding allowed us to assist families in need who would never have been able to afford a camp experience without this support.



## Summer 2016 Registration Underway

Online registration for Summer 2016 began on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents who register and pay in full before December 31, 2015 will enjoy the 2015 rates. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, our new rates will take effect. If you would like to register for camp visit [campolmsted.org](http://campolmsted.org) or call (212) 870-3084.



## Christmas Candlelight Dinner

This year's Christmas Candlelight Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Olmsted's Kirkwood House.



Plan to join us for an evening of delicious food and Christmas music that will usher you into the holiday season. Hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:00 PM followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00 PM. An array of desserts will also be served. Richard and Nancy Rice will present the telling of the Christmas Story from the Second Chapter of Luke and our traditional caroling will be part of the evening, as well.

The cost for the evening is \$30 per person. Bed and Breakfast is available Saturday night for an additional \$50 per person. For more information or to make reservations, call the Olmsted office at (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11 or email [info@campolmsted.org](mailto:info@campolmsted.org).

## New Director of Connectional Ministries



The Rev. Matthew T. Curry has been appointed Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) of the New York Annual Conference effective July 1, 2015. In announcing this appointment, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton described Matt as “a capable administrator, an enthusiastic team player and an engaged worship leader.” She added, “He brings many different gifts to the multi-faceted responsibilities of the DCM office.”

The DCM is the steward of the vision of the Annual Conference, a leader of the process of transformation and renewal; responsible for alignment of resources, and overseer ministries connecting local, district, Annual Conference, and the general church. The DCM is also instrumental in planning the Annual Conference sessions.

Matt has served as pastor at the Grace UMC (Valley Stream), UMC of Mount Kisco and as associate pastor of Mamaroneck UMC.

We welcome Matt and wish him God’s continued blessings in this new appointment.

## Behr Brothers Piano Needs a Home



We are looking for a suitable home for our more than century-old upright grand piano. If you would like more information, please email [info@campolmsted.org](mailto:info@campolmsted.org).

## Mrs. Leticia Saa-Johnson to Retire



After 26 years of service, Mrs. Leticia Saa-Johnson is retiring from her position of Executive Secretary/Office Manager of the United Methodist City Society.

Mrs. Johnson began her career at the City Society in 1989 as Ms. Leticia Saa in the combined position of Executive Assistant for both the Executive Director of the United Methodist City Society (at that time Reverend Dr. John E. Carrington) and the Superintendent of the Metropolitan District (at that time Reverend Dr. George Johnson). At the time she accepted the position she did not realize that her work with two of the most powerful and influential men in the conference would change her life forever. Dr. Carrington became her mentor and lifelong friend. After six months of working together, Leticia found her soul mate in Dr. Johnson and he would be her husband until his passing in 1998.

In her 26 years with the City Society Leticia worked with four Executive Directors, two Associate Executive Directors and countless other staff persons. She has been the constant - the friendly face who knew the operation of the Methodist Church both as a staff person and a lay person. She also made many friends among the clergy and lay persons she had the pleasure of working with during her career.

Leticia is leaving the City Society and New York City to spend more time with her beloved son Michael and his family in Florida. Mrs. Leticia Saa-Johnson we thank you for your dedicated service to the Society and wish you well on the next phase of your life! You will be missed.

The City Society will be having a Happy Retirement party for Leticia on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 475 Riverside Drive at 5pm. If you would like to join us as we celebrate her and say a fond farewell, please contact April Callender at [acallender@umcitysociety.org](mailto:acallender@umcitysociety.org) or [\(212\) 870-3938](tel:2128703938) to RSVP.



## Gift of Piano at Kirkwood House



We have received as a gift from Helen Darling and her family a Steinway piano that will vastly enhance the keyboard sounds at Kirkwood House. The piano was in their family for many years and was played by Helen's husband, the late Howard H. Darling, former Treasurer of the New York Annual Conference.

Howard was an accomplished organist and choir director, having served at Grace UMC, Newburgh; Summerfield in Port Chester; and Ridgeview United Church of Christ.

Mrs. Darling decided at last year's Christmas Candlelight Dinner that Kirkwood House should be the new home for the piano. We are very grateful to her for this special gift.

## Report on Buildings and Grounds

In recent months we have worked to make significant cosmetic and operational improvements to the summer camp and retreat facilities.

**Kirkwood House** – we have arranged for installation of a new range hood and fire suppression system.

**Lower Parking Area** – a new drainage system was installed to alleviate frequent flooding following heavy rains.

**Cabins** – Beds in the cabins have been primed and painted, greatly enhancing their appearance. Later this month we will be upgrading the furniture in the common rooms.

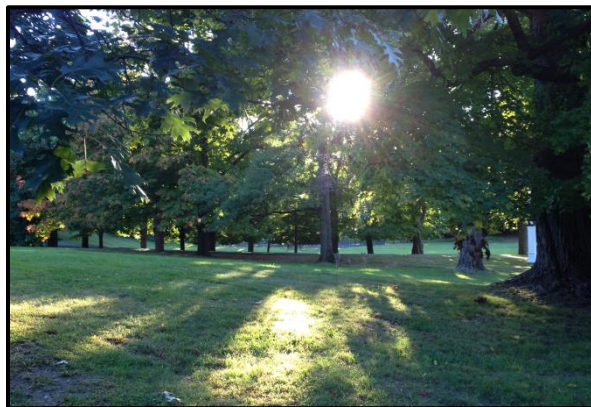
## Report on Retreats Held in 2015

As 2015 rapidly draws to a close, we are pleased to report that the following United Methodist churches have held retreats and/or work events at Olmsted. From New York City: Crawford, Park Avenue, Church of the Village, San Pablo, Fenimore, and Wakefield-Grace; from Connecticut: First-Stamford, Jesse Lee-Ridgefield and New Milford; from Westchester, Asbury-Yonkers; and from New Jersey, South Orange.



The Five Points Board will encourage churches in Northern Westchester and those West of the Hudson to also be recipients of what many believe to be incredible hospitality, a great natural setting at the foot of Storm King Mountain, comfortable sleeping and meeting accommodations, and more than satisfying meals.

We also hosted meetings of The Bishop's Cabinet, the Metropolitan District, the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Men, and the Kingswood Site Committee. We continue to serve churches of other denominations and other non-profit groups as well. We offer a special word of thanks to the pastors and members of Asbury UMC, Park Avenue UMC and Liberty Baptist (Fishkill), who participated in spring work events at Olmsted.



If you are considering a retreat for 2016, please call the office at (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11. We will be happy to work with you to make it a success.

## **FIVE POINTS MISSION – MANAGERS AND STAFF**

### **MANAGERS**

**Mr. James W. Harbison, President**  
**Mr. Donald T. Kirby, Secretary & Treasurer**  
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### **OLMSTED CENTER STAFF**

**Mrs. Carla Maisonet, Retreat Center Director**

**Mr. Mark Carter, Chef**

**Mr. Tom Lindemann, Caretaker**

### **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**