

North Central New York Conference
of the New York West Area
of the United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Violet Fisher
Bishop of the New York West Area
1010 East Avenue, Rochester NY 14607
585-271-3400

The Rev. Dr. Stephen T. Deckard
Director of Connectional Ministries
8422 North Main Street, Cicero NY 13039
315-699-8715, Ext. 316
E-mail: steve@ncnyumc.org

Conference Website: NCNYUMC.org

Connections Editor:

Sharon Fulmer, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039
315-699-8715, ext. 318; e-mail: SRFulmer@ncnyumc.org

Central Lakes District:

DS: The Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater
Administrative Assistant and Editor: Lisa Grinnell
Suite 104, Metcalf Plaza, 144 Genesee St., Auburn NY 13021
315-258-0756; fax: 315-258-0758; e-mail: Centrallakes@verizon.net
District web page: <http://www.Centrallakes.org>

Crossroads District

The Heart of New York

DS: The Rev. David Underwood
PO Box 505, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
315-635-4873; fax: 315-635-5005;
e-mail: David@CrossroadsDistrict.org
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Spurchise
e-mail: Kathy@CrossroadsDistrict.org
Editor: Sharon Fulmer, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039
1-800-699-8715, ext. 318; e-mail: SRFulmer@aol.com
District web page: <http://www.CrossroadsDistrict.org>

Finger Lakes District:

DS: The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. W. Fassett
PO Box 232, Hector, NY 14841
607-546-7723; e-mail: FassettWWW@empacc.net
Editor: Raymond Finger, 145 Daffodil Dr., Horseheads NY 14845-1805
607-796-2956; e-mail: RayFinger@yahoo.com
District web page: <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/fld>

Mohawk District:

DS: The Rev. Carl Johnson
Administrative Assistant: Cindy Muder
105 Genesee St., New Hartford NY 13413-2387
Voice/Fax: 315-797-1777; e-mail: MohawkDistrict@aol.com
Editor: Annette Tongue, 401 Park St., Herkimer NY 13350
315-866-3274; e-mail: annette.tongue@verizon.net
District web page: <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/MohawkDist/>

Northern Flow District:

DS: The Rev. Beth Benham
Administrative Assistant: Susie Jones
PO Box 272, Heuvelton, NY 13654
315-344-6493; fax: 315-344-6494;
e-mail: nflowdistrict@yahoo.com
Editor: Penni Farrington, PO Box 129, Philadelphia NY 13673
e-mail: packerfan1952@yahoo.com

Casowasco Camp, Conference and Retreat Center
158 Casowasco Dr. Moravia, NY 13118
phone: 315-364-8756 fax: 315-364-7636
e-mail: info@Casowasco.org
Website: www.Casowasco.org

Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center
PO Box 367, Brantingham, NY 13312
phone: 315-348-8833 fax: 315-348-4297
e-mail: info@AldersgateNY.org
Website: www.AldersgateNY.org

United Methodist Resource Center
Darryl Barrow, director
A lending library for all your media needs
8422 North Main St., PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039
phone: 800-699-8715 or 315-699-3042
e-mail: Darryl@ncnyumc.org
website: www.ncnyumc.org/resource_ctr.html

Sharing the Vision of the North Central New York Conference

Connections, the newspaper of the North Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church, is published monthly by the North Central New York Conference. Postmaster: Send address changes to United Methodist *Connections*, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039. To subscribe or make address changes for the NCNY United Methodist *Connections*, write to NCNY Conference, Attention: Circulation, 8422 North Main St., PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039. Subscriptions are \$15 yearly payable to: NCNY Conference. We welcome letters to the editor. They must be signed and kept to 300 words or less. You are asked to include your telephone number so we can verify information if necessary. Send letters to Sharon Fulmer, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039, or e-mail SRFulmer@ncnyumc.org.

From the DCM by the Rev. Dr. Stephen T. Deckard

Changes is not just two dimes and a nickel

If Princeton Theological Seminary didn't get it through my head, life constantly forces me to acknowledge the movement and changes of life. I recently went to my grandson's sixth birthday. What a fine, active and changing boy! My mother is recovering from a severe bout of shingles as she approaches her 92nd birthday. How do we make the most of these and all the other transitions?

Transitions are not only something new; they also mean something ends. William Bridges has written an essential book *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change*. He writes: "Before you can begin something new, you have to end what used to be. Before you can become a different kind of person, you must let go of the old identity. Before you can learn a new way of doing things, you have to unlearn the old way. So beginnings depend on endings. The problem is, people don't like endings.

Yet change and endings go hand in hand: Change caused transition, and transition starts with an ending. If things change, at least some employees and managers are going to have to let go of something. . . ."

NCNY and the other three annual conferences in New York State are in a time of transition. Change and uncertainty surround us. I won't raise your stress level by naming them all. How will we cope as we move through this time? There will be losses and there will be grief. That goes with any transition, even the most desired and pleasant transition.

Think of your life and reflect on some of the transitions. Reflect on the transitions in your community, your

church. Are there ways to cope with the losses and grief?

As you see friends and colleagues around the conference and around the state take time to talk about the losses and the grief. There will be time to build the new and establish new structures and friendships; but first is the challenge to let go of the old.

At annual conference this year there will be a Graffiti Wall. Use this as you wish – perhaps a place to remember the past: Pastor's School at Watson Homestead, former Bishops, Saints who shaped your life and ministry, folks who have died, good times, sad times, bring a photo, or write a brief memory. It may also be a place to dream, question the future and begin to shape the life that will be. The Graffiti Wall will be available throughout conference and is a visible, public place to spark other conversations and memories.

"He that lacks time to mourn lacks time to mend."
William Shakespeare

God holds the future and most of us have experienced that moving into the future requires transition.

Take time as you move into God's future. This is a good lesson for every aspect of the church. I believe it is essential for our BODY, MIND and SPIRIT.

Blessings abound, the journey continues,
Steve Deckard



That's Life by Sharon Fulmer

Remember G-Nome?

If you were at annual conference last year, you'll remember the guy pictured at the right – G-Nome.

He first appeared a year or two before, if I remember correctly.

Actually, we first met at a youth gathering where he was auctioned off to raise funds.

Bishop Fisher purchased it that first year, and when G-Nome came to NCNY, Chuck Forbes became the next owner.

Last year one of our clergywomen ended up the winner.

If you watched any of the streaming video of General Conference, you'll discover that the Northeastern Jurisdiction this summer in Harrisburg, Pa. will feature a fundraiser for Nothing But Nets. Maybe G-Nome will help us come up with a generous contribution!

PS

I spent a good deal of April in St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

While I will still be hobbling around with a walker, I plan to attend annual conference later this month!

And if you found something missing in April, e-mail me at SRFulmer@aol.com. We'll get it in the June edition.

