



THE NED CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT C & MA

GETTING ALONG

David B. Linn, Superintendent

We all read reports of cool and big things happening in churches. Some pastors become prominent. Some Christian leaders discover a remarkable open door for the gospel. Some Christian writers go mega and get inundated with speaking engagements. Some Christian musicians generate music for worship and enjoyment that we want to hear again and again.

I think about the explosive growth of the first-century churches in Asia Minor (modern day Türkiye (name changed on 5.26.22)), and I wish I could be in the middle of something like that. But then I think that the rapid growth phase of those churches cannot have gone on forever. At some point, the regions around those church must have become saturated with the gospel. Christian leaders in those places would have been forced to switch modes from: *Everything we do works!* to *Everything we do stays pretty steady!*

I am most familiar with the second of those modes. And, especially in my first few decades of ministry (now over 44 years), I found myself with a pretty big dose of discontent in my heart. Maybe not totally pure, but mostly I just wanted to see great things happening in my churches and communities.

Three feelings kept pestering me: *There must be some ministry I should be having other than the one I have now. There must be some Christians I can serve with other than the ones I have now. And there must be some community for me to evangelize other than the one I have now.*

Three wise words from the uber-successful Apostle Paul speak to these thoughts. First, he writes: **“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am”** (Philippians 4:11 NAU). Not everything always went great for Paul! And his God-determined circumstances led him to discover that he could learn contentment in Christ. He does not say it was automatic, and he no doubt had to fight for it again and again.

Second, if we feel that we just cannot go on in our current place of ministry, Paul proclaims that we indeed can do just that: **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”** (Phil. 4:13). There is a mystery to how these kinds of things work. For example, repentance is chosen by us, but also is granted to us by God. So strength to stay steady in whatever ministry God has given us is given to us by Christ. But we also choose to do like David who **“strengthened himself in the Lord.”**

And third, God is raising up compadres, co-laborers, brothers and sisters, colleagues, confidants, team members, and all manner of the beloved to walk the long road of faithfulness with us. Even as Paul affirmed his contentment and sufficiency in Christ, he affirmed that he did not stay in the fight alone: **“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction”** (Phil. 4:14). There is a golden nugget of wisdom in that verse. Perhaps the best way to get our focus off the genuine struggle of our own discontent is to find someone who needs us and go help them in Jesus’ name. When we do that, everything changes.

It’s not wrong to yearn for the kingdom to advance, to seek the greater spiritual gifts, and to earnestly desire to be a useful servant to our Lord.

With the Lord’s help and the fellowship of his servants, we can not only **“get along”** in our ministries, we can thrive.

Blessings to you all!



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NED NOTICES



OPEN CHURCHES

SENIOR/LEAD PASTORS

- ⇒ Saranac Lake, NY
- ⇒ Waverly, NY
- ⇒ Macedon, NY
- ⇒ Walton, NY
- ⇒ Rochester, NY (Trinity)

STAFF POSITIONS

- ⇒ Lockport, NY—(Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Youth)
- ⇒ Vestal, NY—Valleyview (Youth and Worship)
- ⇒ Arcade, NY - CrossTown
- ⇒ Greece, NY—CrossTown (Children's Min. Director)

With Deepest Sympathy

Mrs. Mary Mandigo

May 2, 2023

Wife of former district pastor

Rev. Brian Mandigo

Rev. Chungsoo Suh

April 29, 2023

Father of district chaplain Rev. Inho Suh

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT!

Sara Violet Richter

May 3, 2023

David and Abigail Richter

GREAT COMMISSION FUND

2023 year to date giving to the Great Commission Fund from our District churches of \$486,782 is 106.4% compared to 2022.

Christian Based Counseling Services

Mr. James F. Lewis, LMHC

2700 Bellevue Ave., Syracuse, NY 13219
315-425-1943

Christian counseling for Individuals
(Adult & Adolescent),
Marriage & Family, Mental Health & Addictions.

For I am
NOT ASHAMED
of the Gospel—it is the
POWER
of **GOD** for
Salvation
to everyone who
BELIEVES

Romans 1:16

Lots of
information
on p. 8-11!



DELTA LAKE

BIBLE CONFERENCE CENTER

To the Glory of God: Touching Hearts...Enriching Lives...In a Relaxing Atmosphere



Rev. Philip R. Barner
Pastor, Andover, NY
psbarner@juno.com

I was talking with my brother about someone who prayed to receive Christ as Savior and he asked me if I believed that was all that it took to go to heaven. I said yes but he was unconvinced. He had seen far too many who turned away from the faith. Surely a simple prayer was not enough.

Skeptics will point out that "the sinner's prayer" is not in the Bible. Yes, we see all the parts of "the sinner's prayer" in the Bible. We need to admit that we are sinners (Romans 3:23). We need to ask forgiveness (I John 1:9). We need to believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us our sins (John 3:16). We need to choose to live for Jesus with Him ruling our lives (John 1:12, Romans 10:9). I'm sure that you can mention plenty more handy verses that can be used.

There are plenty of helpful evangelism tools. There is Evangelism Explosion. There is the Romans Road. There are the 4 Spiritual Laws. There is the Master's Plan of Evangelism. Most of these evangelism methods end in leading the person in some form of "the sinner's prayer". We may even quote a few verses to encourage assurance of Salvation (I John 5:13). But is that all there is?

I compared "the sinner's prayer" to a wedding ceremony. When you say "I do" you are legally married even when you don't feel like it. But my brother argued that the couple can always get a divorce.

I have talked to others who have seen enough people walk away from the faith that they have grown cynical about "the sinner's prayer". Maybe you feel the same way. Maybe you have been hesitant to pray with someone because they may walk away from the faith later.

Here's what bothers me. Salvation is more than assurance of heaven. David sang of being set on a rock and having a new song in his mouth (Psalm 40:2-3). Salvation is a close, personal relationship with almighty God. Does that mean that we're perfect? Of course not. But we should be growing more like Jesus the more that we walk with Him.

Do you think that the Prodigal son ever wandered away again? If he did, do you think that the father would have run to greet him again? Jesus told us to forgive 77 times (or 70 x 7 times depending on your Bible version). It would be hypocritical if God wasn't willing to do the same for us. Never underestimate the power of prayer and God's faithfulness. Both are far greater than our waywardness.

So is a prayer enough? I say yes. But I also say that we shouldn't stop there. We should encourage people to grow in their faith. Like the old hymn, "Come, Thou Fount " sings, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;" But it goes on to sing, "Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it - Seal it for Thy courts above."

I'll leave the rest up to God. What do you say?



Alliance ESL Luncheon

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023

Place: Syracuse Alliance Church, 3112 Midland Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205

Time: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

The ethnic landscape of our communities is undergoing rapid transformation, with an increasing number of individuals seeking safety, freedom from persecution, and a better life in Upstate New York. In light of these changes, it is crucial that we find ways to assist our new neighbors in meeting their most significant needs and demonstrate God's love to them. Moreover, we have an opportunity to share the Good News with them, and one highly effective method is by offering English classes.

Recognizing the growing presence of non-English speakers in many Upstate New York communities, Alliance ESL aims to inspire, equip, and guide local churches in launching academically sound, evangelistically focused, cost-effective, and self-sustaining ESL ministries. Through this initiative, we can actively engage with the nations that have come to the United States.

To introduce Alliance ESL to our District churches, the Northeastern District in collaboration with Syracuse Alliance Church is delighted to host a **FREE LUNCHEON** on June 24, 2023, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. We are privileged to have Bruce Lyman, a Certified ESL Teacher Trainer and the director of Alliance ESL, joining us to showcase the transformative impact we can make in our communities by teaching English as a new language. By attending this luncheon, you will gain valuable insights into how Alliance ESL can provide critical opportunities to spread the gospel in your community.

Alliance ESL has been specifically designed to train volunteers within your church, enabling them to launch and lead ESL programs. We invite you to join us in reaching the nations that God has brought to us, following the words of Acts 17:27: "so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

I personally extend my invitation and highly recommend that you send representatives from your church to attend this event and discover how you can contribute to reaching the least reached through Alliance ESL. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about Alliance ESL to join us.

To secure your spot, please register [here](#).





How to Start and Sustain Your ESL Ministry

STEP
1

SEE THE NEED. FIND YOUR ESL DIRECTOR.

The ethnic composition of your community is rapidly changing. Listen to the languages spoken in stores.

STEP
2

GET LEADERSHIP ON BOARD.

Don't move ahead until your Pastor, Governing Board, Mission Committee, etc., are behind you.

STEP
3

CREATE A PRAYER BASE

Prayer is critical for an effective ESL School. Ask "everyone" in your church to pray!

STEP
4

MAKE KEY DECISIONS

Where? Day & Time? Curriculum?
Number of classes? Childcare?



Lisa L. Vogan, CWM
Disciplemaking Specialist
Lvogan@nedcma.org

Disciplemaking conversation you will want to be a part of...

Training Ground 2024

Keynote theme: Disciplemaking in a politically charged culture.

“Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it...” (Gen. 1:28a, NLT)

In all truthfulness, I have avoided all things “political.” I figured it was someone else’s job—those who were called and educated in that arena. It seemed too big to get my head around let alone find something helpful to contribute. So, I disengaged. Or so I thought.

The reality is I can’t disengage. I live in community. Every community requires governance. I have opinions and beliefs, strong beliefs even of what I think would be good for everyone. I also have blind spots and need to be challenged in areas where I need to be more concerned about what would be helpful for my marginalized neighbors—those who are in need or may be different from me.

So in fact, I *am* “political”. It would appear I just don’t like *conflict*. The question for me becomes---

What does God really mean by “govern... subdue... reign...and be fruitful” in Gen. 1? As one who loves and follows Jesus, where do I find myself today in this world God intended for His Kingdom to reign in grace, love, truth, life, freedom.? What is my role? How am I to engage in a world that seems to have drifted so far from His purposes? How do I to respond? And how can I be better at navigating conflict that comes from living in the tension differences ultimately create?

This is the conversation our District will be having for Training Ground 2024. (See the Save-the Date flyer included in this newsletter). ***We have invited Kaitlyn Schiess*** to help us navigate this discussion. She will walk us through a Biblical framework on how political engagement fits into spiritual formation and the truth of the gospel. You can find more on ***Kaitlyn here: kaitlynschiess.com***. Dave Linn and Sally Fry will fill out our adult track breakouts by presenting how to navigate conflict including *within* the church.

Plan now to “come to the table” for this discussion January 27, 2024. We look forward to seeing you.

In Grace,

Lisa and the District Disciplemaking Ministries Team (DDMT)



TRAINING GROUND

- 2024 -

DISCIPLE-MAKING IN A POLITICALLY-CHARGED CULTURE

JANUARY 27
9 AM - 4 PM

Registration:

Early bird opens Oct. 15: \$40
Regular price after Dec. 15: \$55

Location:

Beartown Road Alliance Church
21 Beartown Rd,
Painted Post, NY 14870

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KAITLYN SCHIESS



Kaitlyn Schiess is an author, speaker, and perpetual theology student. She is the author of *The Ballot and the Bible: How Scripture has been Used and Abused in American Politics* and *Where We Go from Here* (Brazos, 2023) and *The Liturgy of Politics: Spiritual Formation for the Sake of Our Neighbor* (IVP, 2020). She has a ThM in systematic theology from Dallas Theological Seminary and is currently a doctoral student in political theology at Duke Divinity School.

BREAK OUT TRACKS

KIDS



Jen Veitch

Director of Children,
Youth, and Family
Ministry at New Life
Fellowship Church

ADULT



Sally Fry

Leadership
Development
Specialist, NED

ADULT



Dave Linn

District
Superintendent,
NED

YOUTH



Erik Williams

Youth Ministry
Coach

For more information visit TrainingGroundNED.com





FAMILY CAMP

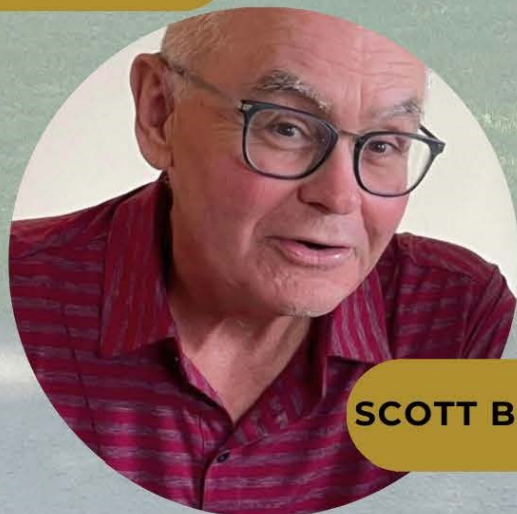
JUNE 30-JULY 8, 2023



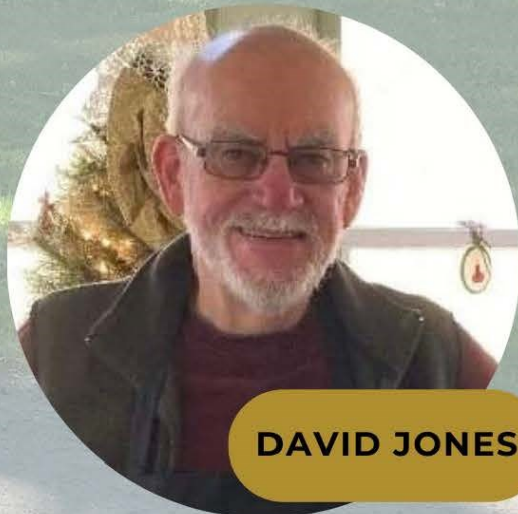
TIM MEIER



JULIAN PACE



SCOTT BORDEN



DAVID JONES

You won't want to miss our Main Tabernacle speakers!

Opening Weekend: Tim Meier, Vice President for Development with the C&MA.

Monday-Friday Morning: Julian Pace, Pastor of Central Alliance Church in Mt. Airy, GA.

Tuesday-Friday Evening: Scott Borden, former Pastor of Pine Knolls Alliance Church in South Glens Falls, NY.

Sunday Evening Centennial Service: Rev. David Jones, author of "A.B.-the Unlikely Founder of a Global Movement", former International Worker, and former Director for Missions Mobilization with the C&MA.

DELTA LAKE

FAMILY CAMP 2023

Join us for another exciting, fun,
refreshing, and renewing
Family Camp!
We have activities and programs
for all members of your family.

JUNE 30-JULY 8

- ✓ Programs for children and teens of all ages
- ✓ Engaging activities
- ✓ Speakers and inspiring messages
- ✓ Beautiful and relaxing atmosphere

Delta Lake Bible Conference Center
6420 Pillmore Drive, Rome NY 13440

Register at:
www.deltalake.org

For More Information:
(315) 336-7210





DELTA LAKE

Men's Retreat

Refreshment, fellowship, and spiritual encouragement

**SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2023
AT DELTA LAKE BIBLE
CONFERENCE CENTER**

**\$75 Registration Fee
for meals, lodging, and program**



**Keynote Speaker:
Dan Richter**

Register at www.deltalake.org/delta-men



Men's Retreat 2023

September 22-23

Registration Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME CHURCH: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

\$75/Person

CREDIT CARD: MASTERCARD VISA DISCOVER

CARDHOLDER'S NAME: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP DATE: _____

SECURITY CODE: _____ AMOUNT TO CHARGE: _____

Or send a check or money order to Delta Lake (checks can be made out to DLBCC)



6420 Pillmore Drive, Rome, NY 13440 www.deltalake.org
office@deltalake.org phone (315) 336-7210 fax (315) 338-0909

**Mercy Market items will
be available for sale on
Monday at Family Camp**

SUMMER RENEW

NED IW, Laura Hopkins
**Updates from some
of our other NED
International Workers**
**New Alliance Women
Theme & Project**



**Sunday, July 2nd
3:00 p.m.
Delta Lake Bible Conference Center**

NED RESOURCES BULLETIN BOARD

Calendar

June

May 29 - 2	General Council - Spokane, WA
13	10 am - SGT @ CrossTown Greece 2:00pm Evangelism Comm. Zoom
24	11 am - Alliance ESL Luncheon @ Syracuse Alliance
27	10 am - DEXCOM meeting @ District Office
30 - July 8	Family Camp @ DLBCC

July

1-8	Family Camp @ DLBCC
2	3 pm - AW Summer Renew @ DLBCC
11	9:30 am - LO&CC @ DLBCC 2:00 pm- Evangelism Comm. Zoom
18	9 am - Missions Comm. Zoom
31- Aug. 3	RESONATE @ National Office

Our **District Committees** are ready and available to offer resources and support to NED churches!

EVANGELISM

Mrs. Bonnie Koonsman (Chair)

bjgable@gmail.com

(215) 518-2508

MISSIONS

Rev. Stu Burton (Chair)

sburton@crosstownalliance.com

THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT OF THE C&MA

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Rome, NY 13440

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Lisa L. Vogan

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Alliance Women Director

Terri A. Groh

terrigroh@yahoo.com

The NED Web
nedcma.org

NED Connection Articles

for the July edition are
due by June 22, 2023.

office@nedcma.org

Membership Certificates

Please contact the

District Office at

315-336-4720 Ext. 201

or office@nedcma.org

to request church

membership certificates.

District Prayer Chain

Lorraine Regnier

District Prayer Coordinator

Prayer requests will be distributed
throughout the Northeastern District
family by contacting Lorraine directly

at lorregnier@aol.com

or 518-356-1098.

NED Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



NORTHEASTERN
DISTRICT C&MA
UPSTATE NEW YORK