

## Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

31 January 2016

### ➡ Hart to Heart

- The 2015 Annual Church Profile report came out this week. In 2015 CNYBA churches had 4652 members, 189 baptisms, 3997 average worship attendance, 2543 average Sunday School attendance, and gave \$137,011.60 to world-wide missions through the Cooperative Program of the SBC. Of the 10 associations in the Baptist Convention of New York (BCNY), we were second to Metropolitan New York Baptist Association in every category except baptisms, where we were third behind MNYBA and the New Jersey Network (NJNet).
- The 2016 CNYBA Calendar has been posted to our web site – [www.cnyba.org](http://www.cnyba.org)
- I'm not sure if I reported both in this newsletter in the past, but two of our Pastors' families have welcomed babies into their homes recently – Zach & Rebecca Neyhard and Daniel & Hannah Song. Add these two families to your prayer list as they adjust to this new normal.
- While you're praying, don't forget to pray for the Mission Vision Trip to St. Croix, Virgin Islands scheduled for mid-March. At our CNYBA Mid-year Meeting on April 30, we will have details on how CNYBA churches can do some hands-on missions in an English speaking environment in coming months.
- ANNOUNCING: In April I will begin a free nine week on-line (via Go-to-Meeting) Discipleship Class. Don't worry if you've never done Go-to-Meeting. It is very simple. All you need is a computer and internet access. The only requirement is that you enroll by texting or emailing me your email address so I can send out the link to click to join the class each week. Right now I'm looking at Tuesday evenings around 7 PM. Spread the word by Facebook, other social media platforms, church bulletins, or word of mouth. We can have as many as 25 in the class. I already know of one out of state possibility.
- I think I mentioned already that one of our newest congregations, **Bhutanese, Syracuse** is sponsoring a new church plant in Scranton, PA. I recently had lunch with the young church planter (Bhim Rai) the sponsoring pastor (Stephen Mangar) and our Church Planting Catalyst (Tim Bissell) to answer questions they had about affiliation. Word came this week that they definitely want to affiliate with CNYBA. This will bring to 49 the number of congregations who have chosen to affiliate with our association. I'm not sure why or how this is happening, but we have churches located from Clifton Park, NY to Inlet, NY to Scranton, PA to Elmira, NY to Newark, NY who, for one reason or another, have not been able to

find a connection to a local association and have called to inquire how they might identify with CNYBA. What a joy and privilege it is to welcome them into our fellowship and seek to resource them as they have needs. We are adding congregations faster than I can get a chance to visit their worship services, but as the weather improves, I intend to worship with each of them.

- Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Lakeshore, Cicero**, where Karl Novak has been pastor since the church began in June 2000. At the pastor's invitation, I was privileged to preach this morning. My subject today was "The Danger of Resting on Laurels." After lunch, I met with the Church Counsel to discuss the future direction of the church and some things to consider as they move toward the next phase of their church's history. I look forward to working with their Pastor Search Committee.

### ➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** will show the film "War Room" in a Movie Matinee & Dish-to-Pass event on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Dish-to-Pass at 2 PM, Movie at 3 PM, and desert afterward. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- **Summit, Cazenovia** men's group is participating in a Sweetheart Breakfast in Cazenovia on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 10:30 AM. The event will feature a hot buffet breakfast and a message from Cazenovia Mayor Kurt Wheeler on "Building Marriages that Last." Dan Schallmo is Pastor.
- **Lakeshore, Cicero** pastor, Karl Novak, has announced his intention to retire as Pastor at the end of May and move back to Mississippi in order to be able to play with the grandkids more. I'm pretty sure Bonnie is moving back with him. They have bought a house near Columbus, MS. Having started the church and pastored it for the past 15 years, Pastor Karl says he feels like a parent letting the kids drive for the first time and he thinks they should have some drivers' education. He has ask me to serve as driving instructor, which I am happy to do. Please be in pray for this congregation as they seek God's will for their future.
- **Northstar, Clifton Park** plans an Open Nester Dinner Out on February 11<sup>th</sup> and a Newcomers Coffee with the Pastor on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Roscoe Lilly is Pastor.
- **Bible Fellowship, Lyons Falls** will host a date night with dinner and a comedy video on Feb 21 at 5PM. Following will be a 6 week couples Bible study on Sunday Nights. Jeff Ford is Pastor.

### ➡ **This Week in Preview**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Open Bible Fellowship

## ➡ **February Ministry Anniversaries**

- Mike Brown – Pastor @ Three Pines, Doraville since Feb 2007

## ➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Minnesota] JOSHUA and REBEKAH WHETSTINE, both passionate educators, enjoy life and ministry in the coldest metropolis in America—the Twin Cities. Joshua serves as lead church planter and Send City missionary in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. The Whetstines' church plant, The Why Church, meets in the New Hope YMCA in northwest Minneapolis, where they feel very connected with the community. Your giving through the Cooperative Program makes it possible for Joshua and missionaries like him to impact their communities for Christ by working to plant churches where there are few. Pray for new families to join in leading in ministry and church planting in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
- [Poland] IMB missionary TED HOLMES tells of a Pinglish (Polish- English) camp where 70 youth experienced daily Bible study, English classes, worship and community. Toward the end of the week, spiritual conversations were lasting long into the evening. Seventeen youth made commitments to follow Christ. Ted, members of a local church and other Christian workers continue to work with these teenagers. Some are now attending weekly Bible study. Pray that God will strengthen their faith and use them to bring others to Christ. Thank you for giving through the Cooperative Program so teenagers in Poland can have eternal life.

## ➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- As a young preacher, my small church had limited facilities, so we held baptisms in a creek. With alligators in the area, however, that was less than ideal. Then a minister friend suggested I bring my next group of baptismal candidates to his church for a joint baptismal service. Naturally, I accepted. The baptismal pool had a clear front so the congregation could see everything. When the baptisms were finished, curtains were drawn, and I was left alone in the pool for a moment. The building had no air conditioning, and it was quite hot. I thought how nice it would feel to take a little dip. I glided to one end, turned, and backstroked to the other end. Hearing a riotous uproar in the church, I looked toward the congregation. The curtain was down only to the top of the glass! An astonished and amused congregation had been watching my every move.