

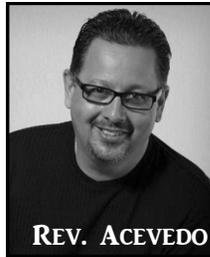
WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Ballot results released on GC resolutions

Due to time constraint during the 2015 session of the Upper New York Annual Conference, a motion was approved to include 11 resolutions and petitions for General Conference on a postally-mailed ballot that was sent to each eligible voting member of the Conference. Of the 950 ballots returned to the Conference by the July 17 deadline, 945 were valid ballots; five were unsigned and declared invalid. Go to www.tinyurl.com/gcballot to view the results.

Be inspired to rethink evangelism this fall with the Rev. Jorge Acevedo

The Rev. Jorge Acevedo, lead pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Coral, Fla., will conduct four workshops for clergy and laity in Upper New York from Oct. 14-16. The workshops will cover topics including leadership, multi-site ministry, and evangelism. For full details, visit the Conference website at www.tinyurl.com/AcevedoUNY15.



REV. ACEVEDO

Young Adults gather for 2015 picnic

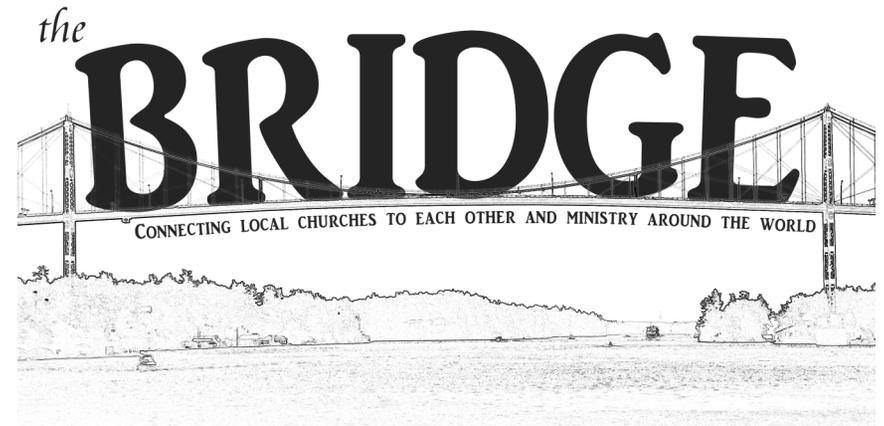
The 2015 Young Adult Picnic took place from 4-7 p.m. on Aug. 8 at Gillie Lake in Camillus. Approximately 20 people enjoyed worship, great food, fellowship, and water balloon fun. Ashley Riddell, Upper New York Conference Multimedia/Web Coordinator and Convener of the Conference's Young Adult Council, briefly spoke at the picnic, encouraging everyone to make time for the little things in life, pick a few activities to do in the last few weeks of the summer, and "soak up life."



The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Conference and the world.

www.unyumc.org

AS SCHOOLS RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION, PLEASE DRIVE SAFE!



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A LOOK INSIDE!

| | |
|--|--------|
| Creative summer fundraisers for <i>Africa 360</i> | Page 2 |
| Celebrate 'Our Legacy' at UMW annual meeting | Page 2 |
| Register now for UMM's <i>Moving Forward</i> retreat | Page 2 |
| Be inspired to rethink evangelism, vital ministries | Page 4 |

AUGUST 2015, VOL. 2

Creative summer fundraisers for Africa 360

It's easy to fundraise – and “friend-raise” – in the summertime. On mild evenings, your neighbors are already spending time outside. In the heat of the day, they're looking for indoor activities they can do with their kids. You might have a chance to meet them at a local festival or parade. Don't let this opportunity slip by!

Here are a few easy ways to raise money and awareness in your neighborhood for *Africa 360* – the Upper New York Conference's holistic plan for health and education initiatives in Africa – as the summer wraps up.

- 1) Participate in a local festival. For example, the Rethinking Missions Team from the Syracuse Urban Churches is participating in the Westcott Street Cultural Fair on Sept. 20. They'll hand out wristbands and flyswatters and “clearing the net” of mosquitos to raise funds.



- 2) Set up a lemonade stand at a busy street corner, festival, or parade. (*Read example at far right*)
- 3) Camp out on the church lawn under bed nets. Go to www.tinyurl.com/A360-bed-nets to find instructions.
- 4) Here's an idea from the Medina United Methodist Church: Count your mosquito bites every Sunday and make a “thanks offering” for each one because those bites can't give you malaria. Just imagine how

profitable this could be if combined with a campout!

- 5) Be a part of a local parade. Picture a giant mosquito on top of a pickup truck or covered in mosquito netting. Once people's curiosity is piqued and information distributed, invite them to a fundraising dinner or other fun event. Several churches in the Conference have already sent pastors and leaders out in mosquito costumes – what fun along a parade route!
- 6) Host a barbecue for the neighborhood. You could charge admission, but a goofier way to raise money is by making it a competition. Ask each person to bring their favorite summer picnic recipe, and then vote with your dollars for which dish is the most delicious. Make sure to have an awesome prize for the winner. Remember to set up games – including a balloon toss,

watermelon seed-spitting contest, or a cornhole tournament – for the kids.

- 7) If you don't have air conditioning, you can beat the heat by taking refuge in a bowling alley. A bowl-athon can be very successful as a way for people of all ages to get involved.



When the temperature in South Georgia soared past 100 degrees, William and Lauren Greene sold lemonade, raising more than \$660 for Lifeline Adoption Agency and Stand for Orphans. *Photo courtesy the South Georgia Advocate*

Come celebrate 'Our Legacy' at UMW annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Upper New York Conference United Methodist Women will take place Oct. 2-3 at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Malone. This year's theme is “Our Legacy.”

The cost to attend is \$25 for both days or \$15 for a single day, and registration is due Sept. 25. Visit www.tinyurl.com/UMWAM2015Reg to download the registration form. Send the completed registration form to: Melanie Keith, 299 Edwards Road, Wynantskill, N.Y. 12198. Visit www.tinyurl.com/UMWAM15 for more info about the meeting.

Register now for *Moving Forward* men's retreat

Take part in fellowship, worship, breakout sessions, a campfire, and more at *Moving Forward* – a Christian men's retreat for ages 13 and older – Sept. 18-19 at Camp Hickory Hill, 2790 Kohler Road,

Varysburg. It's sponsored by the Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Men and costs \$50 per person (\$125 maximum per family).

Visit www.tinyurl.com/UMMMFRetreat for a flyer and registration form. Payment is due by Sept. 12. For questions, contact Niagara Frontier District UMM Vice President Ron Mullen at (585) 813-4819 or Ronald.mullen@enersys.com.

Summer issue of the *Advocate* available soon

The summer issue of the *Advocate* will be available in churches within the next few weeks. This themed issue focuses on *Africa 360*, the Upper New York Conference's holistic plan for health and education initiatives in Africa that benefits *Imagine No Malaria* and Africa University. Learn more about the initiative, find out what other churches are doing – from hoagie drive-thrus to church vs. church challenges – and discover creative ways to fundraise for *Africa 360*.