

## IN BRIEF

### Architect chosen for Conference Center renovation

The Upper New York Conference has selected architectural firm King + King Architects to work on the new Conference Center. The firm is headquartered in Syracuse and will help the Conference as it renovates the property at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool into the new Conference Center. "The UNYAC Board of Trustees are delighted to have King + King Architects join us in renovating our new building slated for Conference offices and mission located on Henry Clay Boulevard," said Pastor Barbara Brewer, chair of the Build Out Team. Read the full story at [www.tinyurl.com/hqu5yk2](http://www.tinyurl.com/hqu5yk2).



### Conference staff hosts office clothing drive

This fall, Clergy Care Assistant Linda Houmiel organized the Upper New York Conference staff to gather winter outerwear for people in need in the Adirondack District. The donations were collected in a winter wonderland cubicle. The staff contributed a total of 162.4 pounds of warmth. For more information on the clothing drive, check out the first page of the Fall 2015 *Activate* newsletter at [www.tinyurl.com/Fall-Activate](http://www.tinyurl.com/Fall-Activate).



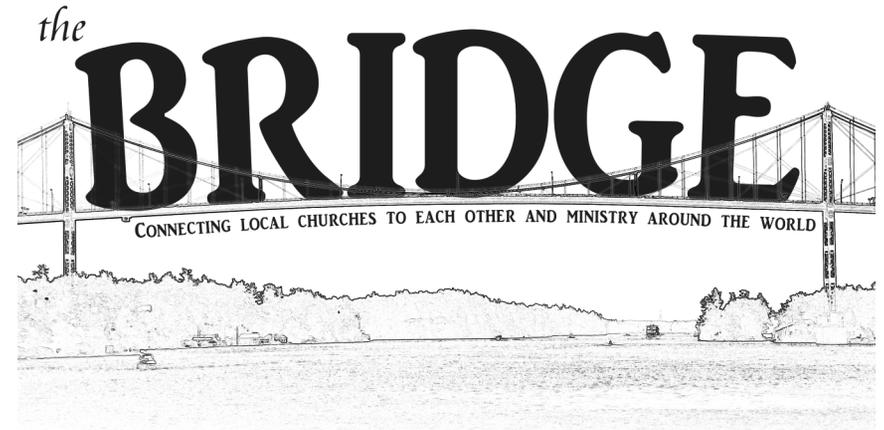
### Test your knowledge with this Advent quiz

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — How much do you know about the traditions and symbols of the Advent season? Take this daily Advent quiz to find out: [www.umc.org/what-we-believe/advent-quiz-2015](http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/advent-quiz-2015).

*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](http://www.unyumc.org)

ST. NICHOLAS DAY? TELL ME MORE: [TINYURL.COM/STNICHOLASDAY](http://TINYURL.COM/STNICHOLASDAY)



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.

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# Mission unites the Syracuse United Methodist Churches

By Kathleen Rubino

When a letter from the former Crossroads District Superintendent the Rev. Darryl Barrow announced the Syracuse city churches – University, Saint Paul’s, James Street, Hope Korean, Gethsemane, Erwin First, Brown Memorial, and Bellevue Heights United Methodist churches – would combine to form the Syracuse UM Churches, members from these churches gathered.

The congregants developed a group to help the churches work together: the Rethinking Missions Team. Each congregation has a few representatives who serve on the Rethinking Missions Team, which meets to discuss upcoming missions and work the churches can do together.

In August 2014, the Syracuse UM Churches members had their first group mission. They harvested fresh

vegetables at Matthew 25 Farm in Tully to be handed out following Sunday worship.

The Rethinking Missions Team wanted to work on a project that could incorporate all the churches, so they decided to fundraise for Africa 360 – the Upper New York Conference’s holistic plan for health and education initiatives in Africa.

“We felt that it [*Africa 360*] was something that all the churches could relate to, that it was the best thing we could put our efforts toward a mission, and we could all do together,” said Evelyn Disinger, chair of the Rethinking Missions Team. This

past September, the Syracuse UM churches set up a booth at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair, where members sold pipe cleaner mosquitos they had made (*see photo below*), hosted a craft for children, and handed out *Africa 360* literature. Pastor Alicia Wood, serving at the Syracuse UM Churches, said the group aimed to raise not only funds but also awareness for Africa 360 at the fair.

“I think that it’s [*Africa 360*] united us in that we were able to have a focus,” said Pastor Wood. “It wasn’t necessarily about our individual neighbor-

hood. It was a focus that was greater than Syracuse so it was easy for us

to get behind it and work together as a group.”

While the Syracuse UM Churches have worked together in mission for *Africa 360*, they’ve also hosted individual events. Rev. Davis Matovu – a preacher from Uganda and President at Nexus Seminary in Uganda – discussed his experience with malaria at a meeting at Erwin First UMC, and James Street UMC held a mosquito net fashion show that raised more than \$200.

And one Syracuse UM church received recognition for its *Africa 360* fundraising efforts.

Laurel O’Connor, field coordinator for *Africa 360*, presented the first golden flyswatter to University UMC this fall. The golden flyswatter is awarded to churches that raise more than \$2,000 for *Africa 360*, and University UMC was the top fundraiser at the 2015 session of Annual Conference.



## BobbleWebbs are in

Bishop Webb has met BobbleWebb.

The *Africa 360* Steering Team commissioned the creation of a bobble head of Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb, more affectionately known as “BobbleWebb,” that serves as a fundraiser for *Africa 360*. “It’s amazing what technology can do now. These ‘BobbleWebbs’ are certainly unique, but if it helps to raise money for *Africa 360*, I’m all for it,” Bishop Webb said in reaction to meeting BobbleWebb for the first time.

If you would like a BobbleWebb of your own, you can receive one for a donation of \$100 or more to *Africa 360*. If you happen to see BobbleWebb at an event, take a picture with him and upload your photo with #BobbleWebb. Read more and watch a video of Bishop Webb meeting BobbleWebb for the first time at [www.tinyurl.com/BobbleWebb](http://www.tinyurl.com/BobbleWebb).



## UNY kids (try to) define leadership terms

The Upper New York Conference’s Communications Ministry Area conducted an informal poll that revealed the top 15 least known leadership terminology, which are featured in the fall *Advocate’s* Leadership Glossary Quiz ([www.unyumc.org/news/advocate](http://www.unyumc.org/news/advocate), pages 22-23) available now at churches. So, to help everyone better understand these terms, we visited the Sunday schools at the Camillus Immanuel and Cicero United Methodist churches and asked the children to give us their best definition of each word. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/leadership-terms](http://www.tinyurl.com/leadership-terms) to read more and watch the video.

