

If you want to go fishing, you're going to need

BAIT

Welcome to your Casting Your Nets support guide. Four times each year, your CYN Steering Committee offers direction and ideas to help you grow CYN in your church.

www.uccny.org/CastingYourNets/ SPRING 2011

The UCC churches in the White Plains area are teaming up together to reach out to their community and at the same time raise an awareness of the UCC by hosting three community events. Are there other UCC churches in your area that you can partner with and reach out into your communities?



Did you know that the United Church of Christ has three churches in White Plains? Do you know what the United Church of Christ is? Would you like to know more about us?

The United Church of Christ is a denomination of 5,600 churches and 1.2 million members. The denomination was formed in 1957, from a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. The Pilgrims were the first Congregationalists in this country. The Christian Church, founded in New England in 1801, united with the Congregationalists in 1931. The Evangelical and Reformed Church, itself a union of historic churches of German background, was founded in 1702. As a denomination, we believe in God's continuing testament. We are known for arriving early on issues of inclusivity and justice. For example, the UCC was the first to ordain an African American pastor (1785) and a woman (1853), as well as many other "firsts".

Congregational churches are free of overhead control. Each local congregation owns its property, calls its minister and governs its affairs by means of democratically elected leaders. There are three UCC churches in White Plains. While each is unique, we three congregations have a wonderful relationship and often gather for special events. This year, we would like to invite you to join us for the following justice-focused series:

*** Sunday, February 27, 3:00 p.m. ~ A Celebration of Black History Month**

Featuring: Speakers from AAMW (African American Men of Westchester)

and AWAH (American Women of African Heritage)

Chatterton Hill Church, 85 Chatterton Avenue, White Plains

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Miller, pastor

Phone: 914-997-7322 E-mail: bonni333@aol.com

Website: www.chattertonhillchurch.com

(note: snow date – March 6, 3 p.m.)

*** Sunday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. ~ A Celebration of Women's History Month**

Ridgeview Congregational Church, 12 Ridgeview Avenue, White Plains

The Rev. Dr. Robert Everett, pastor

Phone: 914-949-0334 E-mail: raereb@yahoo.com

Website: www.uccwebsites.net/ridgeviewcongwhiteplainsny.html

*** Sunday, May 1, 3:00 p.m. ~ A Celebration of Earth Day ~ Greening White Plains**

The Church in the Highlands, 35 Bryant Avenue, White Plains

The Rev. Melanie Miller, pastor

Phone: 914-997-2023 E-mail: info@churchinhighlands.org

Website: www.churchinhighlands.org

To learn more about us, call us, write us, VISIT us on our websites, or IN PERSON. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in our churches!

It is our hope that as your congregations work to “cast your nets on the other side”, church members would willingly embrace the opportunity offered through CYN to take what works and make it better and leave what isn't working and develop the new movements of the Spirit that are waiting to be articulated to a new generation. Sometimes, however, members of the most congregation view CYN projects as outsiders (even though many on our CYN teams have been church members for decades). Some fail to see CYN is aimed at the entire church (old and new). They may think CYN is only for attracting new people. Suspicion and jealousy lead to efforts to undermine CYN. How can you fish when half the boat is pulling oars in the opposite direction?

St.Paul's UCC (Attica, NY) gets their members involved by hosting “THINK TANK” gatherings several times a year. The “THINK TANKS” encourage members to “reach deep and find their passion” for their church and to offer their time and talents in service to their congregation and community. While these gathering were initiated by St.Paul's CYN team, “THINK TANK” gatherings encourage the participation and input of the entire congregation.

What are you doing to involve your congregation in Casting Your Nets? Do you have an idea that you would like to share? Let us hear it! Email Jen at jenmazur@roadrunner.com .



You are a TEAM, not a committee.

Labeled “just another committee”, you get ignored. Call yourself a team. Unlike a traditional church committee, CYN puts Jesus' teachings into action, building up the body of Christ in our midst. The CYN team is the conscience of a church, witnessing to God's “new thing”. Not something separate from the people in the pews, CYN is about being church together.

Upcoming Regional Events

Southeast Region—Saturday, April 9 at Garden City

Upstate Region—Saturday, April 9 at Central Square (Syracuse)—Mission Possible

**Feeling overwhelmed by the Retreat materials? Stuck on what's next? Need a hand?
Your consultant is just a phone call or email away!**

SOUTHEAST REGION

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