



## *Sharing the Good News!*

Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

### **Abundant Opportunities ABOUND!!!**

Grace and peace to you from Nancy E. Azar - your new Associate Conference Minister for Christian Education and Youth Empowerment.

As I write this, my first *Sharing the Good News*, I have officially been on the staff of PNEC for a mere 37 days. Whenever someone asks me how things are going I typically answer that "I have hit the ground running and have been baptized by fire." My transition from local church ministry to Conference ministry has happened so very quickly!

I am so very appreciative of the warm welcome and support I have received from Alan and Toby, as well as Barbara, Beverly, Patty and Fran. Our Conference is truly blessed to have such a knowledgeable, skilled, and wise staff. Also, I am very grateful for the many cards, emails, phone calls, conversations and words of welcome I have received from many of you.

In these first 37 days I have had the opportunity to do ministry and experience ministry in a variety of places – in the offices and resource room in Palmerton, at a UCC Regional Youth Gathering in Philadelphia and at the annual Mid Atlantic Regional Conference Ministers meeting in Pittsburgh. I have also shared in ministry in the sanctuaries of several PNEC churches, the offices of local church educators, in cars traveling to events, in meetings with individual pastors, in a training event with educators and in PNEC committee gatherings.

In and through all of these experiences I have more fully discovered what a rich abundance of educational and youth opportunities we are blessed to have here in Penn Northeast Conference.

I pray that you remember the rich, abundant opportunities in which we share:

- A resource room filed with a multitude of things for you to utilize and assist in your ministry!
- A dedicated group of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Coordinators serving to carry out their ministries in local churches and also in programs at the conference, regional and national levels.
- A variety of experiences in 2009 for children and youth to participate in – Unity Camp, the Winter Retreat, General Synod, Come to the Well, and the PNEC Annual Meeting.
- A new technology coming in the spring for youth and young adult ministry which will be a UCC version of "Facebook."
- A new educational piece entitled "Faith Practices" which our Partners in Education will be contributing to thru a new "Wiki" internet site.
- A renewed focus on resources for Adult Education and Small Group Development.
- A Youth Action Team dedicated to carrying out the PNEC mission statement for youth and young adult ministry.

Please feel free to contact me about any of the opportunities I have mentioned above. You can reach me at the Conference office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I look forward to serving you in ministry and sharing in ministry with you in this corner of God's realm which we call the Penn Northeast Conference. May we experience the rich and abundant fullness of life which Christ offers as we share the Good News in our education, youth, and young adult and adult ministries.

#### **TO CONTACT US OR TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS**

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