

THE CHIMES

April 18, 2012

**Next Chimes
deadline:
May 9**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Jesus' return comforts, unsettles	2
Outreach/Mission: Children's Clothing, Feinstein Challenge	3
Finance Corner	4
Easter flower delivery	4
Music for life of John McDivitt	4
People/Prayer Connection	7
Earth Day Lobby Day	8
Fight Cancer	8
May Birthdays	8

Articles for *The Chimes* must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: uumctb@twcny.rr.com or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Rev. Craig French, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

GENERAL CONFERENCE START JUST DAYS AWAY

General Conference, a gathering of United Methodist clergy and lay delegates from around the world, is held every four years.

This year's session runs April 24 to May 4 in Tampa, Fla. Lay delegates from the Upper New York Annual Conference are: Scott Johnson, delegation chair; Christine Doran, UUMC member; Julius Archibald Jr., Michael Huber, Stephanie Deckard, Shirley Readden, Greg Forrester and Paul Sweet. Clergy delegates are: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Darryl Barrow, Larry Baird, Sherri Rood, Theodore Anderson, Rebekah Sweet, Michelle Bogue-Trost and Holly Nye.

Christine Doran will be blessed during this Sunday's worship service as she prepares to head to Tampa next week.

During the 11-day session the 988 delegates will:



Christine Doran

- Revise *The Book of Discipline*, setting policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures
- Revise *The Book of Resolutions*, a volume declaring the church's stance on a variety of social justice issues
- Approve plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years
- Elect members of the Judicial Council and the University Senate.

Most of the legislation comes See **APPOINTMENTS**, Page 5

Keep those Easter begonias going for months!

Members of the congregation received beautiful begonia plants on Easter Sunday in memory of my grandparents, Mary Clark Taylor and Kenneth Taylor.

In response to some questions, I thought I would share some of my begonia secrets:

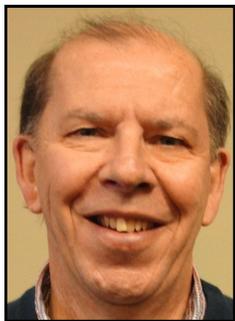
- Remove the foil wrap and place plant on a plate with some direct sunlight (morning sun is best).

- Water plant **only** when the soil feels dry.
- Periodically feed the plant with liquid fertilizer. (I use Miracle-Gro weekly.)
- Plant outside after any danger of frost.

I hope that your plant will carry Easter blessings long into the fall.

—Lynn Steenberg

After Easter, Jesus returns and comforts, unsettles us



“The time has come,” the Walrus said,
“to talk of many things:
of shoes — and ships — and
sealing-wax — of cabbages —
and kings . . .”

—Lewis Carroll

The story of Jesus’ resurrection does not end on Easter morning. Over the next seven weeks, Jesus keeps showing up in strange, unexpected ways and places. Almost always, his appearance is both comforting and unsettling.

It causes them — and us — to reassess everything they thought they knew or understood. So, in the spirit of the playful verse of Lewis Carroll (aka, the Rev. C. L. Dodgson), here are some of the places where new life is emerging right before our eyes.

General Conference: Every four years, elected United Methodist delegates from all over the world gather to make decisions about the denomination’s structure, budget, policies, social principles and overall direction. The latest version of that gathering goes from April 24 to May 4.

For a large, well-established institution, change does not come quickly or easily. Even so, there is a sense in many quarters that we are lurching toward some significant changes that are intended to shake or wake the Church up.

From the perspective of the average church member, it may seem like much ado about nothing and the impact of the decisions barely noticeable. Or worse, it may appear that the Church is more divided, more polarized than ever, with its witness and mission thereby compromised.

Whatever the outcomes may be, I find myself praying more and more urgently that, somehow, the delegates in Tampa will experience a fresh in-breaking of Jesus and his powerful message: “Peace be with you.” If that happens, all will be well. All will be well.

(See the front-page story for additional details about General Conference and how to fol-

low it online. My sermons over the next few weeks will focus on the challenges that face this General Conference and the Church as a whole.)

Nottingham High School: “The Spirit blows where it will.” That continues to be true. None of us anticipated that concern for the state of public education in Syracuse would lead us to Nottingham High School. But that appears to be the case — with great energy and interest from both sides of the budding partnership.

Along with Ernie Hemphill, I recently spent a couple of hours at Nottingham, enjoying their annual multicultural festival. What an experience! It was a wonderful introduction to the students and to the incredible diversity that marks the student body. Several of us are making plans to volunteer our time at the school. I hope you’ll join us!

Copper Beech Commons and Grace House: The apartment complex next door to the church is rapidly taking shape. When it is completed this summer, some 300 upperclass and graduate students will become our next-door neighbors. Talk about high energy and great potential! That’s one of the prime reasons we decided to contract with Grace House for a “young adult mission intern,” starting in September. It’s also why I’ve begun pulling together a group of folk from the congregation to start thinking about and planning ways to reach out to our new neighbors. Stay tuned!

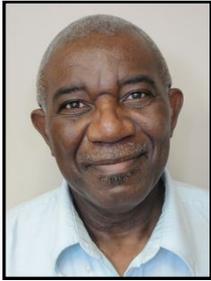
Governing Board: Just recently elected, our new Governing Board hasn’t wasted any time getting down to work. You might even say that theirs has been a baptism of fire, starting with a couple of issues that have been difficult and complex, plus decisions that have not been uniformly popular.

Nonetheless, I have watched this new team come together and make their way forward as a calm, deliberative and conscientious group of leaders. A church like ours needs a group like this. I’m grateful to be able to work with them.

— Rev. Craig French

...Here are some of
the places where
new life is
emerging right
before our eyes.

OUTREACH/MISSION



Easter is gone and soon it will be summer. This brings home one point: Extra individuals will be needed to volunteer and replace volunteers who

will be taking a needed summer break. I anticipate there are those who will be available to fill in periodically. In the event you desire to serve, please think about it and within the next few weeks submit your names to either me at 472-1715 or Marsha, in the church office 475-7277.

Children's Clothing

At the beginning of the month we were blessed with children's clothing from Sweet Little Repeats through Give to Others.com. Sweet Little Repeats is a children's consignment sale that took place at ShoppingTown Mall March 30-31 and April 1. After the sale was over, all the clothing, shoes and other children's items were taken to us.

Sweet Little Repeats is managed by two busy mothers, Lisa and Julia, who know the meaning of a dollar. With four children between them and basements overrun with lots of baby items, clothing and kids gear, they came to Syracuse to sell. I am indeed thankful for these valuable items.

To date we have distributed them to at least three congregations, two organizations and several parents. The children's clothing and other items are worthwhile additions to our clothing distribution. We thank them very much and those who receive



Children's clothing received from Sweet Little Repeats.

these items have been grateful.

Feinstein \$1 Million Giveaway

As I was about to submit my article I received an email with the concept of contributing to the Feinstein Challenge. The general idea is to raise money for an organization to fight hunger. In our case it is the pantry. From March 1 to April 30 any money, pledges or food received toward the **Feinstein Challenge** will be reported to the Feinstein Foundation along with certain documentations. The Feinstein Foundation will then divide \$1 million proportionally among all agencies complying with the requirements. Agencies will receive a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$35,000 in August. The challenges have raised over \$1.25 billion for more than 2,000 agencies and houses of worship.

I shared this information with Pastor French and he agreed that we should make an attempt even though we have just a few days left in April.

I invite as many persons as possible to participate and be-

lieve that we will receive some financial support. Let's take up the challenge and see what happens. For more information, go to: feinsteinfoundation.org.

Working Together for a Purpose

As we anticipate the summer, one question I hope each person will ask is: What special thing may we do together as a team? We could think about educating others about gardening, doing a walk to raise funds for the pantry, joining with a school or other organization that is doing something special. How about spending a few hours reading for a child in the school setting? We could also set aside a day to focus on some aspect of community development. How about sharing your thoughts with me and let us see where it will go.

Nothing is impossible for us if we make up our minds and get it done. May this summer be a time for relaxation, involvement and development in some areas of our lives.

— Joseph Smythe
Interim Outreach Coordinator

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: \$203,760. Amount paid to date: \$56,539. Pre-paid pledges: \$13,900.

Update on "Sounds of the Spirit"

We are making progress! Approximately \$40,000 is needed to upgrade our antiquated sound system. Special thanks to all who have contributed so far. Current balance is \$19,958. Total pledges received are \$26,172. The project is likely to cost at least \$40,000. Checks should be made out to University UMC with a notation of "SOS."

Special Offerings

Easter Offering: \$1,608

Lenten Offering: \$385

Music on May 6 to honor life of John McDivitt

On Sunday, May 6, the Syracuse Brass Quintet, comprised of musicians from the former Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, will play during the 10:30 service.

The performance is in honor of the life of John McDivitt.

The group will play a variety of music for the prelude, anthem, offertory and postlude.

Thanks to who prepared the sanctuary before, and delivered flowers after, our Easter service

Members of the Altar Guild want to thank the following persons for preparing the sanctuary for Easter Sunday services and/or delivering flowers to members of the congregation: Sue Bambacht, Tom and Carol Boll, Barbara Cargo, Starke Donnelly, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Margo and Don Koten, Johanna MacDonald, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Barbara Nunn, Ed and Lee Potter, Lynn and Matt Steenberg and Peter Swords.

Those receiving flowers included: Gregory Bayne, Rosemary and Charles Chappell Jr., Ila and Thomas Christoff, Barbara and Tom Cook, the Dahal Family, Bernie Hinds, Bud and Ruth Houser, the Hso Family, Freda Kirkley, Mary Klepper, Dot

Logan, Arlene Musilli, BJ and Larry Myers, Marion Rush, Rita and George Soufleris, Don Steenberg, John Swords, Diane Tarbell, Genn and Ted Thuma, Betsy Wiggins, Kay Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson and Clara Windsor.

Each member of the church and musical staffs was also given a flower.

Other Altar Flowers

Flowers were given by Dot Logan, Dr. Bob Laubach and Don Steenberg.

Flower recipients were Fred Willard, Brian Webb, Bob and Ginny Dewey, Ed and Lee Potter, Nancy Hough and Don Steenberg.

Flower deliverers were Gale Youmell and the Altar Guild.

Next congregational luncheon set for May 6

The Congregational Spring Luncheon is scheduled for after church Sunday, May 6, in the Pettengill Center.

Come and hear the latest exciting UUMC news. All are welcome. A freewill offering will be taken.

Fair Trade Coffee Sale

Because of the congregational luncheon on May 6, Fair Trade coffee will be sold after worship on April 29.

All Breakfasts Accounted For

An article in last month's Chimes reported that five Community/Church Breakfast sponsorships were still needed for 2012. They are now taken. The additional sponsors are as follows: Joyce Flynn and Dick Hunt, Ed and Lee Potter, Beth Drew, Cheryl Brown and the Bolls.

Household Items Needed

The Center for New Americans is sending out a call for furniture, small household items, blankets and towels.

Fifty families arrived last month and more arrivals are expected in the next few weeks.

For large item pickup, call Patrick, 474-1261, extension 203. For small items, call Margo Koten, 446-0649.

Stephen Ministry Series

The final session for the Stephen Ministry Continuing Education Series is 7 p.m. May 15 at DeWitt Community Church's parlor. The topic is "Suicide: What Can I Do?" A CONTACT Crisis Line representative will speak.

Appointments, ordination, sexuality on agenda

CONTINUED from Page 4

In the form of petitions and proposals from church agencies and organizations. Approximately 1,200 pieces of legislation are expected this year.

Top issues for this session include:

Restructuring agencies

Legislation from the 60-member Connectional Table proposes consolidating nine of the denomination's 13 general agencies into a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

The center would be governed by a 15-member board of directors, which would be accountable to a 45-member advisory board called the General Council for Strategy and Oversight.

The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial progressive caucus, also has submitted legislation for a restructure proposal titled "A New UM Administrative Order."

The federation legislation would replace the Connectional Table with a Coordinating Council of 43 voting members and 24 non-voting members that would direct four new ministry centers.

Clergy appointments and ordination process

- The 2008-2012 Commission to Study the Ministry is recommending eliminating appointment guarantees for ordained elders in good standing, while retaining the ability of bishops to move clergy to different assignments and churches.
- One recommended change to *The Book of Discipline* would be that elders in good stand-



ing who honor their covenant to the itinerancy, effectively fulfill their ministerial duties and attend to continuing education requirements "may" be continued under appointment.

- The commission also recommends each Annual Conference determine a clear definition of and method for evaluating clergy effectiveness.
- Another proposal seeks to ensure that women and racial-ethnic clergy are treated fairly
- The commission recommended streamlining the candidacy process, meaning candidates could be eligible for ordination as soon as they complete their educational requirements; they would be eligible for full conference membership after serving at least two years as a provisional elder or deacon.

Budget

The General Council on Finance and Administration and Connectional Table are proposing a budget of \$603 million for the 2013-2016 operations of the denomination's general agencies. The figure represents a 6.04 percent reduction from 2009-2012 and is the first time a smaller budget will go before GC.

The Global Church

Delegates will consider recommendations to make the

denomination less U.S.-centric and strengthen its worldwide connection. The 20-member Committee to Study the Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church of international church leaders recommends three actions:

- Adopt "A Covenant for the Church as a Worldwide Church"
- Streamline *The Book of Discipline* to focus on law and doctrine applying to the entire church rather than dealing with predominantly U.S. issues.
- Renew conversation about restructuring the denomination so GC can concentrate solely on issues affecting the church worldwide.

The legislation specifies areas of the *Discipline* that apply to all United Methodists.

Regional entities could create their own supplements to the *Discipline* covering issues and processes that relate directly to their part of the world.

The group calls for discussion of creating "continental conferences," new bodies in North America, Africa, Asia and Europe, to focus on regional church issues. Under such restructuring, the GC's role would narrow to include only issues of global relevance.

Action is not expected on these new body changes until 2016 at the earliest.

Sexuality

More than a dozen U.S. Annual Conferences are petitioning GC on the church's stance and statements on homosexuality.

See **PETITIONS**, Page 6

Petitions submitted on environment, gender, divestment and immigration

CONTINUED from page 5

ty. More than half urge delegates either to remove discriminatory language from or add inclusive language to the Social Principles. At least one Annual Conference seeks to uphold the current language regarding homosexuality.

Membership

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is asking GC to add “gender” to *The Book of Discipline* where it states all people “without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition” shall be eligible to attend worship, participate in programs, receive sacraments, be admitted as baptized members and “upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith” become professing members in any local church in the connection. One Annual Conference is urging delegates to include “sexual orientation, gender choices and gender identity.”

Abortion

One Annual Conference is asking GC to end the church’s financial support of and membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and to revise a Social Principles statement to allow abortion, if deemed necessary by medical professionals, “when life conflicts with life.”

Divestment

The General Board of Church and Society is seeking the immediate divestment by general agencies from “Caterpillar, Motorola and Hewlett-Packard until they end their involvement in the Israeli occupation” of the Palestinian territories.

Immigration

The Women’s Division is petitioning GC to urge the U.S. government to stop racial profiling, raids and wrongful imprisonment and institute legalization programs for migrants that protect civil and labor rights, keep families together and strengthen communities. The petition also urges United Methodists to build alliances between citizen communities of color and new migrant communities, challenge police engagement in immigration enforcement and provide needed local ministries.

War and Peace

- The Women’s Division and at least one Annual Conference want GC to advocate for the end of the war in Afghanistan.
- A petition from the General Board of Church and Society asks United Methodists to expand their peacemaking efforts globally by encouraging worldwide disarmament of nuclear/conventional weapons.

Financial Reform & Equality

In the wake of the worldwide economic crisis, delegates will consider petitions from the General Board of Church and Society that attempt to safeguard the “most vulnerable members of society” by urging governments to “reapportion national revenue diverted from military spending, to prioritize domestic programs to reduce social inequalities, and to



Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler made 50 rainbow-colored stoles for the Reconciling Ministries Network to take to General Conference. RMN supplied her with the material and the pattern. RMN will give them away free to delegates in its efforts to make the church fully inclusive.

establish fair and just tax structures globally.

Environment

- One Annual Conference is petitioning GC to urge congregations to evaluate their carbon footprint.
- The Women’s Division is seeking advocacy to governments to reduce atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases.

Bullying

At least two Annual Conferences want delegates to affirm their opposition to bullying, while the General Board of Church and Society is urging the church to take specific steps to reduce bullying in society.

(Excerpted from UNY Annual Conference bulletin insert)

General Conference Updates

The GC website, www.gc2012.umc.org, offers information, news and petition-tracking. An **app** for iPhone and iPad and one for Android phones are available. You can also view *The Daily Christian Advocate*, on the Annual Conference website: www.unyumc.org.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- From **Rita Soufleris**: I want to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, cards and phone calls. Your prayers and good wishes are most helpful at this time. Many thanks.
- From **Charles Chappell Jr.**: Thank you for your prayers and good wishes and the flowers. Hope to be home at UUMC soon.
- Thank you for the visit of **Brian Webb** and his family and the chance to have meaningful conversations with students at SU and SUNY-ESF

JOYS

- As **Dick** is grateful and proud to be **Katie's** grandfather, we are all proud of her and all the grandchildren

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Friends of **Kay Leinweber**, who died March 16 at her home in Moscow, Idaho. She was a member of UUMC for many years, from **Barb Cargo**.
- Better relationships, from **Dakota**
- God, please bless us all as we seek you at home, outdoors, in Jerusalem and all around the world, from **Cynthia Steinem**
- Lord, help me to remove useless debris from my home and cleanse my soul with serenity. I give praise to God for a humble home and loving family, from **Elise**
- **Fred Willard**, whose father, a retired United Methodist minister, died on Easter, from **Martha**
- My heart. It is not where it should be, from **Rebecca**
- A prayer in the memory of

- **Kay Leinweber**, a former member of UUMC who recently died
- With the psalmist, "Hine Ma tov" — "How beautiful it is for people to dwell together as brothers and sisters — and to know that "you don't have to be wrong for me to be right." For the beauty of the spring, and the liberation it brings to our hearts leaving behind the worries and pain, from **Peter Swords**
- The leaders in all of this world. Prayers for all churches. May their doors remain open to all persons, from **Russ and Valerie**
- For my family as we mourn the loss of our uncle and brother **Bill**, from **Stephanie**
- **Jasmine and Priscilla**, for healing and wholeness
- Survivors of sexual abuse and assault and the healing of perpetrators
- Continue to bless this church in its outreach efforts
- Special prayer for my friend **Sarah**, that God will give her a spirit of boldness and confidence
- The people of Syria, all those suffering oppression
- A major decision our family is making
- Uplift the pastoral staff and members of UUMC to continue spreading the Good News
- Friends of **Bruce and Tita** facing cancer
- Raise awareness for all the teachers who struggle daily with their teaching demands and frustrations that take a toll on their private lives. Keep teachers in our prayers,

- from **Barb Cargo**
- Bless the needy and hurting. I am grateful for the Lord's provisions, from **Elise**
- My daughter **Chris**, experiencing cardiac issues, and the adjustment she needs to make. For all others needing to adjust to their lifestyles, from **Grandma Ann**
- **Russ and Valerie**, who feel "brokenhearted," and for our congregation, that we may be truly welcoming to all, from **Nelson Price**
- **Horace Washington** and his wife, that they may find the right words to say to their troubled daughter
- My friend **Laurie**, who is on life support
- My mother and grandmother, who are not well
- Those living in grief
- Save me, help me, free me. Stop me from resisting God's will and allow me to find his will in my day-to-day life
- The leaders of our church and the delegates of General Conference
- The work of Blessed Earth as it seeks to inspire us all to protect God's creation
- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **May 6:** Cicero, Everett Bassett, Jack Keating
- **May 13:** Caughdenoy, Robert Dean
- **May 20:** Collamer, Caroline Simmons
- **May 27:** Cornerstone, Terry Millbyer

Earth Day Lobby Day

Mark your calendars and plan to come together with other people of faith on Earth Day Lobby Day, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Albany. We will ask state legislators to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create protections from hazardous waste produced by hydrofracking, and promote solar energy and jobs. This is free, but you must register to attend. Register with New York Interfaith Power & Light at nyipl.org or call 256-0078.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material

WEEK OF APRIL 22

Sunday the 22nd

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 24th

10 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 26th

5:30 p.m. Governing Board

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Friday the 27th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

WEEK OF APRIL 29

Sunday the 29th

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 1st

10 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 3rd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Friday the 4th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

WEEK OF MAY 6

Sunday the 6th

10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion

11:45 a.m. Congregational Spring Luncheon, Pettengill Center

Tuesday the 8th

10 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 10th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Friday the 11th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

WEEK OF MAY 13

Sunday the 13th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Wednesday the 16th

10 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 17th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal

Friday the 18th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

Fight back against cancer on June 8

Dear Friends,

Many of you may remember that in September I traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

While I was preparing for my trip I was blessed with the support of the UUMC congregation.

Each of you gathered around me to show how important funding for cancer research is to all of us.

We have already made a difference but our work isn't done until we find a cure for cancer!

On June 8 the Solvay-Geddes-Westvale community will continue to fight back against cancer at its eighth annual Relay for Life.

I'd like to invite all of you to join us!

For more information please see me or visit www.relayforlife.org/solvaygeddeswestvaleny.

—Katie Flynn

May birthdays

2nd – Melissa Pedro

3rd – Dick Hunt, Bunny Hannum

4th – David Bacon, Ethel Phillips, Marg McDivitt

6th – Bethany Boll

13th – Stephanie Threatte

17th – Dale Fryer, Caroline Brack-

ett

19th – Ted Thuma

25th – Allison Virgo, Benjamin Virgo, Kirstin Coutts

26th – Eileen Schell

30th – Marsha Plucinik

31st – Sara Bergan



Dr. Artemus Gaye and Rev. French point to a map of Africa during children's time on Africa University Sunday.



Dr. Artemus Gaye tells us his story of surviving the Liberian civil war and going on to Africa University and beyond.



Caroline Brackett and sons Tajmier and Aiden, and Ben Virgo, rear, listen during children's time on Palm Sunday.



Kevin and Jacob Upcraft give out palms on Palm Sunday.



Children distribute palms on Palm Sunday.



Brian Webb of Blessed Earth speaks on Palm Sunday as Rev. French listens.



We celebrate Communion on Palm Sunday.

Easter Sunday 2012 Breakfast and Worship



Jim Wiggins scrambles dozens of eggs.



Breakfast utensils and napkins are readied.



Mike Fay and Claudette Brown-Smythe prepare cereals.



Janet Sciscioli, Kayla Myers and Rachel Boll cut fruit for the fruit salad.



Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler keeps a watchful eye as pancake batter is stirred.



Josh DeHoog flips those flapjacks.



Starke Donnally divides up the scrambled eggs.



A moment of grace before serving our guests for breakfast.



The altar in all its botanical splendor on Easter.



One section of our full sanctuary on Easter.



Dan Magowan conducts the orchestra before the March 25 service.



From left, violinists Gian Vidali, Peter Smith, David Magowan and Kirsten Magowan.



Jacob Upcraft helps his mom, Corinne, play a hymn.



Kevin Upcraft plays the euphonium.



From left, Deb Frank and Corinne Upcraft on the clarinet and Mary Magowan on the oboe.



Nate Medford on the trombone.