

THE CHIMES

May 16, 2012

**Next Chimes
deadline:
May 30**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Time to play offense, defense	2
Outreach/Mission: Summer Volunteers Needed	3
Outreach Staffing	4
Finance Corner	4
Update at Luncheon	5
Creation Stewardship	6
People/Prayer Connection	7
Altar Flowers	8
June 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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SYRACUSE MAY 31-JUNE 2

Rev. French and Ted Finlayson-schueler are UUMC's representatives to Annual Conference later this month at the Oncenter.

The conference, whose theme this year is "Planting God's Future in Hearts and Neighbors: Called to Till," runs May 31-June 2, but a pre-conference briefing and laity workshops are this Saturday, May 19, at the War Memorial. The briefing is 9 a.m. to noon.

Workshops, which all laity are invited to attend, are 2 to 5 p.m. on the following topics: "Camps and Retreats: The Next Generation"; UMM/UMW: the Dynamics of Gender-specific Groups"; "Lay Speaking Ministries: Empowered by the Spirit & Energized for the Mission"; and "Annual Conference Orientation."

Email Rebecca Kohler at RebeccaKohler@unyumc.org, with Laity Workshops in the subject line and

include your name, address, phone, email, church district, title at church and your choice of workshops.

The opening session is 6 p.m. May 31 followed by opening worship with Communion at 7 p.m.

Rev. Tiffany Steinwert will lead Bible study 8 to 9 a.m. Friday, June 1. The Laity Address will follow at 9 a.m. An Urban Ministry lunch is set for 12:30 p.m. Reservations are required—see Rev. French. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, June 2, the reading of clergy appointments begins at 8 a.m. A Methodist Federation for Social Action luncheon will be at noon—see Rev. French for reservations. The concluding ordination service starts at 2 p.m. All sessions are open to the public.

To watch through live streaming on your computer, go to unyumc.org.

Dennis Triggs back for an encore as our organist

Dennis Triggs, who was our organist for 10 years during the pastorates of Jim Lange and Hal Garman, has returned to that position.

Dennis most recently has been the organist at DeWitt Community Church for 17 years.

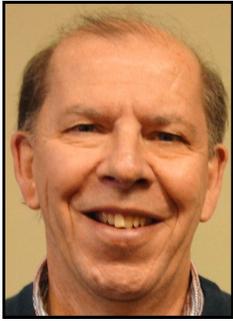
A native of Syracuse, he studied organ at Syracuse University with David N. Johnson. Dennis has served as accompanist for the Onon-



Dennis Triggs

daga Community College voice department, organist and pianist for Syracuse Chorale, accompanied a local singing group, The Master's Touch, in two performances at the White House in See **DENNIS**, Page 6

Time for us to play both offense and defense



Rev. Craig French

Years ago I read a book by Ken Callahan on “Twelve Keys to an Effective Church.” Today there’s a new book with a similar-sounding title and theme published every other day or so. (Everybody’s got their own idea and favorite prescription for how to “fix” the church.)

But back then, Callahan’s book was one of the first ones I remember on church management and administration, and certainly one of the first ones I read on the subject. It was more than a book about ecclesiology (what it means to be the church) or pastoral leadership.

It looked at the local congregation as a complex and integrated system where attention to (or neglect of) one part of the system would have a direct bearing on the well-being of the entire system.

Callahan’s 12 keys included high visibility; stirring, helpful worship; adequate space and facilities; a strong leadership team; landscaping and parking; a solid decision process; one major program; a major form of outreach; significant relational groupings; and so on. There’s really nothing surprising about that list. What struck me was how he divided the list into two groups — in my words, “defense” and “offense.”

That is to say, half of the list consists of items that people will take for granted; they simply expect them to be part of a well-run church. The other half are features that they might not necessarily expect to find in a church, but which will wow them and impress them and give them reason to come back.

The first group of items (such as a solid financial system or a well-maintained building) will never, all by themselves, be the reason why people choose a particular congregation; but the absence of these things can well discourage or deter persons from attending.

On the other hand, the second group of items (such as life-transforming mission, lively small groups, exciting educational opportunities or

excellent music) are ones that exceed people’s expectations and have the ability to attract persons to a church; they are the reason(s) people choose to attend one church and not another.

Callahan’s insight and construct have proven to be valuable and helpful in my years of ministry. We need to pay attention to both offense and defense ... both the things that can give us an identity and put us on the map, and the things that can sink us or blow us out of the water before we know it.

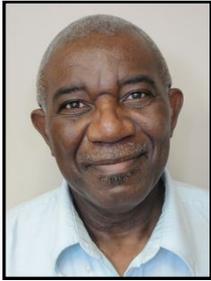
What might some of those challenges look like for us right now?

As a church, we’ve been blessed and been given much by God. And as such, there’s so much more expected of us, so much more for us to be and do.

- ◆ A video projection system (to go along with our upgraded sound system and compatible with our sanctuary), so that we can link our worship directly to people and places around the world
- ◆ Exterior lighting and landscaping, new signage and a spruced-up entranceway that will allow the church to put its best foot forward amidst all the new construction in the neighborhood, along with the Connective Corridor and redesigned East Genesee Street
- ◆ Mission trips, both national and international, for youth, young adults and not-so-young adults (Maybe even a trip to Nepal to visit and work with the Zimmermans?)
- ◆ Interfaith and intrafaith encounters, helping us learn how to be good neighbors to those from other faith traditions ... to those who profess no faith ... and maybe hardest of all, to those who may share the name of Christian and United Methodist, but whose beliefs and views seem so different from our own
- ◆ Seizing the opportunity we have for promising new ministries with young adults and young families — and the energy they bring
- ◆ Re-thinking our Christian education and caring ministries
- ◆ Creating more cross-cultural and multi-generational activities, like the recent drumming class
- ◆ Developing a new generation of leaders
- ◆ Partnering with other churches
- ◆ Continuing to work for a church that is fully

See **WE CAN’T**, Page 3

OUTREACH/MISSION



Thanks for serving as volunteers for the year.

This time of the year, the regular volunteers are planning to share

with relatives and friends, in state, out of state or out of the country. Wherever you go, I want you to know that your work is highly appreciated and we anticipate you will return with much vigor and ideas for the fall operations.

Since others will be absent we need replacements. I am, therefore, inviting members of the congregation, students or friends who desire to experience working in the pantry as a volunteer to take that step.

The persons desiring to volunteer should bear in mind that the pantry operates on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. You are, therefore, encouraged to arrive at 9:30 a.m. When you ar-

rive early you will allow yourself time to get acquainted with the operation and the other volunteers.

In addition, you will obtain an early training and be assigned to the area of work or be directed to the area you feel most comfortable to serve.

For the ones seeking to serve food, I remind you that after an initial introduction to the area, you will be assigned to one of the seasoned workers who will help you through the process.

In essence, those serving food will be sharing of themselves with the families they will meet with during the time of service. These friends will share some details about their lives with you that I believe will leave you wondering whether it is true or not.

I suggest that you remember that the facts they share are theirs.

I encourage you to remember that these friends are persons who have feelings, hurts

and joys and they will teach us a few things about how they live their lives.

Finally, I encourage volunteers to learn to listen and remember that because you are new these friends will seek to know about you. Be willing to share with them to the level that you feel comfortable.

At the end of the day, I am sure you will be glad you shared with everyone. I look forward to you serving some days in the summer. The dates for volunteering are:

June 8, 15, 22 and 29

July 6, 13, 20 and 27

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

We look forward to hearing from you as well as seeing and working with you. Call Marsha, our office manager, at 475-7277; me, at 472-1715; or fill in the request slip on Sundays and state when you are available. We need at least three new volunteers each week. Blessings.

— Joseph Smythe
Interim Outreach Coordinator

We can't be comfortable settling for something less

CONTINUED from Page 2
inclusive at all levels

- ◆ A fledgling partnership with under-achieving students at east side's Nottingham High School, to give them a future with hope (coupled with our existing outreach initiatives: food pantry, community breakfast, community garden and Circles@ campaign)

An ambitious and mixed bag of sorts? Absolutely. Even I know we can't tackle them all at once. But neither can we be comfortable settling for something less.

As a church, we've been blessed and been

given much by God. And as such, there's so much more expected of us, so much more for us to be and do. I wouldn't want it any other way!

— Craig

P.S. One of the ways I hope we'll show leadership is by welcoming and providing hospitality to United Methodists from across New York State, who'll gather at Syracuse's Oncenter for Annual Conference, May 31-June 2. Syracuse churches have been asked to serve as hosts, ushers and greeters. Five persons from UUMC have already signed up. Let me know if you want to help, too.

Church leaders and donors double up on staffing of Outreach ministry

After the decision earlier in the year to employ a mission intern to coordinate — and expand — our outreach work beginning in September 2012, questions and concerns arose about:

- How best to introduce and integrate the new intern into our outreach work (food pantry, Sunday breakfast, etc.)
- How best to maintain the effectiveness of our existing outreach ministry during the initial leadership transition (plus future transitions in following years)
- How best to continue to care for our neighbors (pantry and breakfast guests, etc.), including spiritual care, as we go through this transition

Four major steps have been taken to address those questions:

1. Members of the church's Governing Board and Outreach Committee have met together to develop a common plan for making the transition as smooth and seamless as possible
2. The Outreach Committee has begun carefully documenting, on a step-by-step basis, all of the procedures and activities that make up the food pantry operation
3. The Outreach Committee has reviewed and clarified the responsibilities, expectations and workload of the pantry coordinator
4. Donors have stepped forward with new funds to continue the current pantry coordinator position through the end of the year to provide continuity

as the mission intern comes on board

The work of planning for the new mission intern is not yet complete, but these steps have set the stage for the future, including continuing the pastoral care dimension for pantry and breakfast persons. In the past year, Joseph Smythe has visited the sick and persons in jail, counseled, and referred persons to appropriate social service agencies. He has conducted a marriage ceremony for two pantry volunteers and has dedicated a newborn child of another.

The intern, who will be from Grace House through Grace Episcopal Church, will serve for 11 months and will work 32 hours per week. UUMC has made a two-year commitment to this arrangement, so a second intern will follow the first in September 2013.

The current work of Outreach Ministries will be divided between the pantry coordinator and the intern and supported by the dozens of volunteers. The intern position will also allow us to expand our outreach efforts by providing linkage among the Friday Pantry, Sunday breakfasts and Circles program and by recruiting young adults and others to become more involved.

Governing Board and Outreach Committee members who have been meeting are: Lynn Steenberg, Ernie Hemphill, Vito Sciscioli, Beth Drew, Margo Kotten, Katie Flynn and Ted Finlayson-Schueler, with Craig French serving as convener.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: \$203,760. Amount paid to date: \$67,571. Pre-paid pledges: \$13,900.

"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 \$26,078. Total pledges received are \$32,293. The project is likely to cost at least \$40,000. Checks should be made out to University UMC with a notation of "SOS."

Stephen Ministry Series Finale

The date for the final Stephen Ministry presentation for the 2011-12 program year has been changed to Tuesday, May 22. The topic is "Suicide Prevention." Two community-relations representatives from Contact Community Services will give this presentation 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the parlor of DeWitt Community Church.

Planning for Pecans

Spring has sprung and the Outreach Committee is thinking about . . . PECANS!

That's not a typo. We really are starting to organize our annual pecan sale. We are planning on gathering once in June for a brief informational meeting and then sales will begin in the fall.

If you have room in your schedule for a short-term commitment and would like to help us advertise, package or sell our pecans we would love to hear from you. Please call Johanna MacDonald at 474-3608.

Where UUMC's been and where we are headed

UUMC members who attended the spring luncheon after worship on Sunday, May 6, were updated on activities and highlights of UUMC life since the last luncheon in November.

The program opened with a review of the structure and responsibilities of the Governing Board and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Governing Board Chair Lynn Steenberg then led a PowerPoint on progress and developments relating to the church's key goals. Among them:

- The hiring of Dennis Triggs as permanent organist and a highly successful intergenerational drumming workshop in February.
- Plans for a May 20 meeting of families with young children to discuss our Safe Sanctuary goals; and a second meeting of this group to be scheduled in the coming month to facilitate dialogue on diverse needs and expectations during worship and how we can best accommodate those needs to everyone's satisfaction.
- Progress on the Sounds of the Spirit campaign, which had raised \$20,000.
- The addition of 11 new members since November and the need for cultivating membership among 18- to 35-year-olds. Plans to reach out to our new neighbors at Copper Beech Commons and the Ronald McDonald House are under way.
- A budget update and report



UUMC members and friends gather for the congregational spring luncheon and meeting on May 6 in the Pettengill Center.

Together: An affirmation recited at the luncheon

Leader: Together, yes we can ...

People: Working together—with God and with each other—we can meet today's challenges and so ensure a strong and stable UUMC long into the future. Yes we can!

Leader: Together we can ...

People: Celebrate our past and present ministries and develop new leaders for tomorrow. Yes we can!

Leader: Together we can ...

People: Working together—with God and with each other—we can find solutions that are better than what any of us can create on our own. Yes we can!

on church tenants. Vito Sciscioli reported on the possibility of expanding the space leased to the Bishop and the Upper New York Conference.

- An agreement with Grace House to hire a young adult intern to work 32 hours coordinating UUMC's diverse and wide-ranging outreach efforts.
- Update on several community-engagement events, including a partnership with Not-

tingham High School and a well-attended Creation Stewardship workshop at Hendricks Chapel in partnership with SU's Lutheran Campus Ministry and its Eco-House student group.

The luncheon concluded with the entire group joining in affirmation of our shared goals and the vital importance of working together to achieve them.

— Carol Boll

Earth Day Lobby Day efforts bring results in Albany

On April 25 I represented Creation Stewardship on Earth Day Lobby Day to advocate for the adoption of key environmental legislation in Albany

I joined with other members of New York Interfaith Power and Light, a nonprofit organization that supports congregations of all faiths in their efforts to halt global warming.

We met with state legislators and urged them to vote for bills that would safeguard our environment and public health.

Of utmost concern was the issue of hydrofracking. While most of us were in strong favor of a ban on this activity, we focused on pushing for a law that would define the wastewater generated by gas drilling as hazardous waste, which would be subject to much more stringent requirements for transportation, treatment and disposal.

Without this law in place the highly tainted wastewater would pose a grave threat to our streams, rivers, and lakes, and greatly tax municipal water treatment systems.

We also lobbied for other bills, including one that would require an 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



Friends and members of UMMC stand in front a green roof at the Syracuse Center of Excellence May 6 proclaiming that spot with a green dot that signifies positive environmental action. The photo was sent to 350.org, a global grass-roots effort to solve the climate crisis that sponsored a day to cite positive and negative impacts worldwide.

from all sources by 2050, and another that would keep toxins out of children's products.

While the fate of some bills is still unclear, we know that the Assembly took action on climate change and passed the Global Warming Pollution Control

Act, affirming that the joint efforts of many — including people of faith — can lead to tangible and positive social and environmental change.

– Stephanie Hitzler, co-chair of Creation Stewardship

Dennis says: 'Being in your midst ... I truly feel at home again.'

CONTINUED from Page 1
2002 and 2004, has served as sales representative for L.A. Carlson Co., a regional pipe organ builder in the Capital region, conducting organ and church music workshops and recitals on new instruments and dedications and

currently serves as funeral organist at St. Daniel's Catholic Church in Lyncourt and Wednesday service organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Syracuse.

Dennis says: "Thanks for your warm [second] welcome! Being in your midst, seeing the

familiar faces, enfolded once again by the glorious, sacred walls of University Church's stupendous sanctuary with its outstanding organ, history and mission to the city, I truly feel at home again. What can be better than that? Thank you."

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- From **Rosemary and Charles Chappell Jr.:** Thank you for the beautiful Easter flowers
- From **Freda A. Kirkley:** The lovey flowers delivered on Easter by Lee and Ed Potter are still beautiful. Thank you for being so thoughtful.
- For NY Interfaith Power & Light and its influence in involving people of faith in legislative processes to promote environmental legislation
- Thanks to God for all his blessings, his grace and his peace. Thanks to God for success, from **Claudette**
- Thanks for successful changes within family lives, for forward progress for Mission/Outreach activities and for a glorious day in Syracuse, from **Grandma Ann**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- My sister, Louella, my mom and all my friends, from **George**
- Bless my husband, Richard, for his effort to ban drugs from his life, from **Elise**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Mulligan**, from **John**
- Rosewood and Van Duyn, from **Leigh Safford**
- All motorcyclists today, for the blessing of the bikes, from **Sharon**
- The family of **Joseph Milazzo**, a dear friend and neighbor, who died unexpectedly yesterday, from **Roger and Johanna**
- I pray that my mother has a wonderful year ahead of her as her birthday comes tomorrow, from **Lilly**
- To think positive thoughts

- The human universal of hospitality, of welcoming all to the table, from **Peter Swords**
- **Don Koten**, who will have knee surgery Tuesday
- **Bill Anderson**, 82, in need of food and assistance defending his rights
- Strength for my grandfather and wisdom of how to take care of him
- My wife, that she gets well soon
- A friend about to begin radiation and chemo treatments this week
- Healing for **Marcia**, an SU student struck by a car on Wednesday, from **Martha**
- The small group of colleagues that has come together to carry on **Cheryl Spears'** work on advocacy for students with disabilities at SU, from **Peter Swords**
- Safe travels for **Chi** and me to and from home
- For **Shirley Murray**
- Those grieving
- I pray that I get my son and get my life together
- The United Methodist Church in the wake of the harmful language and actions of General Conference. May we learn to live with one another in love for LGBT United Methodists around the globe, that they might know God's love for them. May we become advocates for all those who experience marginalization and discrimination
- My God grant peace and joy to my family and also grant my late husband eternal peace
- The men at the Oxford Inn

men's shelter. Send your Holy Spirit to these men

- The healing of my friend **Hootie**
- Prayers for justice and love
- I pray to stay off drugs and not relapse. God, know the pain in my heart
- Be with **Charles and Rosemary Chappell** as they are helping Charles to recover
- **Genn Thuma**, who is experiencing back pain due to a compression fracture
- **Julian**, a 1-month-old with E. coli infection
- Students facing tests at the end of their classes soon
- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**

BIRTHS

- **Jaxon Russell Steenberg**, 9 pounds, 3 ounces, and 22 1/2 inches was born May 2 in Rochester. Jaxon is son of and **Ryan Steenberg and Asleigh Burkhardt** and the third grandchild of **Lynn and Matt Steenberg**.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Betsy Wiggins** received an Outstanding Alumna Award from her alma mater, Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., for service to the community.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **June 3:** Jamesville, Mark Harrison
- **June 10:** Delphi Falls, James Austin; Mexico, Bill Palmer
- **June 17:** East Syracuse, Elizabeth Quick
- **June 24:** Fayetteville, Robert Sherburne; Onativia, Clair Mosher

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Rosemary DeHoog, Mattie Hightower, Bob Laubach, Marg McDivitt, Marilyn Sims and Bruce and Deborah Borenstein.

Flowers were given to Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Don Koten, Mary Wilson, Bernie Hinds, Ed and Lee Potter, Bob and Ginny Dewey, Rosemary DeHoog, Genn Thuma, Marilyn Sims and Mary Klepper.

Flower deliverers were Barb and Jerry Cargo, Judith Bowers and Bruce and Deborah Borenstein.

Flower coordinators were Judith Bowers, Barb Cargo and Mar-go Koten.

For All Women in UUMC

Trish Torrey, who has written a column for The Post-Standard and is a nationally known speaker, will be at Marjorie Carter's home at 7:30 p.m. May 23 for the Evening Guild meeting to speak on "How to Get the Health Care You Deserve." All women are invited. Call Rita Soufleris, 299-7702, for details.

Picture Directory

The Care & Share Committee and church staff put together a new picture directory. The address pages are inclusive of active church members and friends, affiliations and our church administrative information of groups and committees. We produced the directory without added expense to our church family--no pictures to buy. Picture directories are available in the church office, one per family, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may buy additional copies for \$10 each. Our total expense was \$884. Donations are greatly appreciated to help defray the cost. Please make your check payable to UUMC with "Picture Directory" on memo line.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material



WEEK OF MAY 20

Sunday the 20th

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Orchestra rehearsal

Wednesday the 23rd

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

5:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

Friday the 25th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

WEEK OF MAY 27

Sunday the 27th—Pentecost

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

No Christian Education classes for children

10:30 a.m. Worship (wear red)

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day, church office closed

Wednesday the 30th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 1st

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

JUNE 3

Sunday the 3rd

10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Baptism

Noon Orchestra rehearsal

Wednesday the 6th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 8th

10 a.m. - noon Food Pantry

June birthdays

5th – Angela Tillapaugh

7th – Audrey Benton

Jerome Weah Jr.

11th – Caroline Tompkins

15th – Rachel Boll

16th – Rev. Edwin A. Potter

Charles Chappell III

Ruth Orvis

17th – Sophie Finlayson-

Schueler, Leah

(Threatte) Bojnowski,

Stephanie Hitztaler

18th – Barbara Matthews

19th – Rev. Dr. Kris Best

20th – Leigh Safford

22nd – Ted Finlayson-Schueler

Martha Sutter

Deborah Bradshaw

Christine Doran

25th – Steve Bacon

28th – Aaron Sarkodie-

Mensah

29th – Elisa Skeeter



Spring flowers in bloom in front of our sign.



Nate Medford helps with Community Garden prep work. Planting will begin 9 a.m. on May 26.



Bruce Simmons pitches in at the Community Garden at Spencer Park.



The UUMC table at the ACTS banquet April 19.



Rev. Darryl Barrow, Christine Doran and Rev. French at the ACTS banquet.



A brass quintet plays during worship on May 6 honoring the life of John McDivitt.



Christine Doran receives a congregational blessing before heading off as a delegate to General Conference in Tampa, Fla.



UUMC children getting ready to rehearse the production they will present at worship on June 17.