UUMC Strategic Plan Updated

The Governing Board at its January meeting completed its review and update of the UUMC Strategic Plan. The revisions bring the goals and strategies in line with current realities and resources while retaining several key aspirational goals.

**Goal 1.** To provide Sunday worship services that are lively and engaging; relevant; and spiritually, emotionally and intellectually stimulating.

**Goal 2.** Maintain an effective outreach ministry, focusing on elimination and mitigation of the effects of poverty and on other life challenges facing those living in poverty, as we grow more fully in relationship with our neighbors while continuing to attract members from across the city and county.

**Goal 3.** Make UUMC a “community of learners” by providing opportunities for people of all ages that will nurture their spiritual and personal development.

**Goal 4.** Increase membership and provide for long-term financial stability and sustainability of UUMC by inviting, welcoming, and integrating newcomers into the life of the church and by practicing wise fiscal stewardship.

The complete updated plan is on the church website at http://uumcsyracuse.org/?page_id=1067. A printed copy can be obtained from the church office.

The plan is scheduled for periodic review and update, and we invite your input for consideration in future reviews.

Also, if you have an interest in volunteering or providing leadership to achieve key objectives (i.e., expanding our network of outreach volunteers via SU and other faith communities; creating programs for young families and young adults; leading spiritual growth activities; forming new musical ensembles), please let Pastor Craig know.

**From the History Room...**

Church adds chapel, but 1914 fire destroys older part

*By Rosemary DeHoog, Church Historian*

Our last slice of the history of University Church dealt with the change in the relationship between Syracuse University and the church due to a change in student and faculty interest in Methodism from the consecration of the church in 1872 until the 1930s.

Yet, during this period of 35 years until 1906, the church had grown to where the original building was no longer adequate.

By 1909, the governing body had authorized the construction of not a new building but a $30,000 chapel at the rear of the church to house the Sunday School. By 1911, the new chapel was ready for dedication.

See TEMPLE, Page 4
The numbers last week were eye-popping. Bone-chilling, too. Zero degrees. -4. -11. Winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour, with gusts in excess of 40 mph. Windchills of -25 to -35.

Whether you’re a number person or not (I am), numbers are an essential part of daily life. I watch the numbers on the gas pumps, to see where to buy my gas. I watch the numbers on the sports pages, to see if SU won. I watch the speedometer to see how fast I’m going and the odometer to see how far I’ve gone.

Last week, in the middle of a snowstorm, I bought a lawn mower online, because the price was far better than anything I’d seen before. Then, the next day brought an email ad with a price drop of another $200, and I had to start all over again.

Numbers may not tell the whole story, but they’re an important part of it.

On one of those super-cold mornings, I was out early for a two-hour seminar on financial literacy for nonprofit leaders.

Fortunately, I was familiar with most of what was presented, but a refresher course in this area is a good thing.

(The morning was actually part of a series of classes for nonprofit leaders from a variety of community agencies. It got me to thinking how valuable it would be to have a series of high-quality classes like this for leaders from local churches.)

Later that same day, numbers were an important part of our monthly Governing Board meeting.

We reviewed the results of this year’s pledge campaign. We looked at the 2013 year-end budget figures. We perfected and approved a new budget for 2014.

For people who aren’t into numbers, that may sound boring, but it was really fairly exciting and gratifying.

First up was the Outreach budget. For the first time in recent memory, the Outreach budget ended the year in the black — through a combination of careful planning, generous giving, fortuitous savings and good management.

The good news continued with the overall church budget that, for similar reasons, also ended 2013 in the black with all bills paid, including 100 percent of our Conference commitments.

A couple of other numbers are worth highlighting: general church giving (pledges and other contributions) was greater than expected, and overall income came in at 99.9 percent of what had been projected.

All together, these numbers, coupled with the results of the pledge campaign, gave our church leaders the confidence to adopt a slightly larger, but still balanced budget, for 2014. Important as these numbers are, they are not the only ones that matter.

This is the time of year we fill out the Conference year-end statistical reports, tracking how we’re doing in key areas such as membership, worship attendance, Sunday School attendance, baptisms, number of persons served in the community, etc.

Not surprisingly, these numbers tell a different story from our (currently) stable budget picture — a story more in line with many other city churches, urgently in need of renewal and revitalization.

Both sets of numbers are part of who we are. In celebrating our budget numbers, we cannot grow complacent. In acknowledging our areas of decline, we cannot become fatalistic.

The church’s new strategic plan — adopted at last week’s meeting — provides a roadmap for congregational transformation and capacity building.

The year ahead will tell the tale of our willingness to do what’s needed — not just to balance the budget but to move toward health and vitality.

— Craig
Happy New Year!

This time of year gives us the chance to look back and look ahead at our Outreach Ministry.

Looking Back

We said goodbye to the Rev. Joseph Smythe and Lyndsey Graves. Their gifts and graces played a large part in converting our food pantry into the Friday Community.

We had a flurry of activity between Thanksgiving and Christmas:

- Thanksgiving bag distribution
- Neighborhood Christmas Dinner featuring turkey and cornbread stuffing by Ted Finlayson-Schueler and family and music by Brad Bowers and yummy desserts by all. About 90 people enjoyed their evening.
- Bringing in Christmas featured our need for men’s winter clothing. Lots of nice coats came in...
- But not enough for all the guests at our breakfast. So we purchased new men’s gloves and were able to give a pair to all the people who attended breakfast on Dec. 22.

As we reviewed the people who use our pantry, we saw that many live just outside the boundaries that we have as part of the Food Bank.

After much discussion we decided to expand our boundary slightly but focus on the neighbors who live inside the bounds. For example, we serve people who live on East Fayette Street or East Genesee Street from here (roughly) up to Columbus Avenue.

We have been referring guests to their appropriate pantry for a couple of months.

Looking Ahead

We have begun a book study of “The Weight of Mercy: A Novice Pastor on the City Streets” at noon on Fridays.

All volunteers at the Friday Community are reading this book, and we’ll gather to discuss it and see what lessons we can apply to our own congregations. Want to join us? Please feel welcome.

We’d love to have you!

We will continue to build on our crafts ministry. Friday mornings will see more crocheting and crafting.

As we begin to see fewer people using our pantry (due to tighter enforcement of our designated service area) we will have a chance to build stronger relationships with the people we do serve.

We shall see where this leads us.

— Deb Virgo

Interim Friday Community Coordinator

Busy end to 2013; book study, fewer guests in 2014

Outreach Ministry

Members of the Altar Guild would like to thank the volunteers for decorating the church, arranging the poinsettias in the sanctuary, delivering the poinsettias or baked goods to shut-in members and others associated with the congregation, and/or removing decorations after the Christmas celebrations.

These include: Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig, Tom and Carol Boll, Cheryl Brown, Barbara Cargo, Starke Donnally, Jeff Foley, Ernie and Bobbie Hemphill, Dick Hunt, Don and Margo Koten, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Nancy Nevin, Dean Moyer, Barbara Nunn, Ed and Lee Potter, David Sacia, Rita Souferlis, Debra Virgo and Jim Wiggins.

Those receiving either the poinsettia or the baked goods were: Charles Chappell Jr., Barbara Cook, Rosemary DeHoog, Katie Flynn, the Hassan Family, Bernie Hinds, Ruth Houser, Mary Klepper, Dorothy Logan, Jo-hanna MacDonald, Carol Mo-

yer, Arlene Musilli, Larry Myers, Eddie Nunn, Mercia Palm-er, Martha and William Potter, Don Steenberg, Peter and Diane Swords, Diane Tarbell, Genn Thu-ma, Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr. and Mary Wilson.

This year, Barbara Fought and Nelson Price, along with the Ma-gowan Family, received flowers as a thank you for their contributions to University Church.
In the black for 2013; on to 2014

Great news! UUMC exceeded the 2013 budget by $3,630 and finished in the black by $20,575! Thank you to all who contributed throughout the year.

Here are the final figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$205,342</td>
<td>$176,109</td>
<td>$29,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>$278,810</td>
<td>$287,658</td>
<td>$(8,848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>$52,268</td>
<td>$52,078</td>
<td>$190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$536,420</td>
<td>$515,845</td>
<td>$20,575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2014 budget was approved by the Governing Board last week. Here are the total numbers for the same categories. A detailed budget breakdown is available by calling the church office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$229,856</td>
<td>$188,295</td>
<td>$41,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>$281,850</td>
<td>$297,837</td>
<td>$(15,987)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>$58,230</td>
<td>$74,080</td>
<td>$(15,850)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$569,936</td>
<td>$560,212</td>
<td>$9,724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is still time to make your financial commitment to UUMC for 2014. Call or email Rachel Kgama at the church office or Beth Drew at bmdrew@gmail.com or 492-9123. The 2014 Stewardship Campaign has been a success.

If you haven’t pledged your support yet, you can be a part of making it even more successful.

Several workshops set for District Training Day

The Crossroads District Training Day is 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Mexico Middle School, 16 Favor Road, Mexico.

The day, whose theme is “Moving Forward and Building Church Leaders,” includes time for three workshops.

Topics include: Spiritual Formation and Congregational Development, Trustees, SPRC, Promoting the Church, Effective Lay Leadership, Church Finance: Reports, Controls and More; Stewardship; Church Audits; Christian Education; Safe Sanctuary; Using Social Media; Outreach and Disaster Relief; Media Literacy as Spiritual Practice; Crossroads District Men in Mission; and Holy Land Pilgrimage Informational Seminar.

Cost is $5. Lunch includes soup, salad and sandwich. Child care is provided if requested by Jan. 17. Registration is due Jan. 21. Contact the district office for information.

Temple offers space; congregation accepts

CONTINUED from Page 1

The Congregation enjoyed only three years’ use of the expanded facility because during bitter weather in February 1914, a fire raged through the building, ruining the older part and seriously damaging the new.

In the despair of the hour, the churchless congregation found solace in a flood of offers to provide a meeting place. The only problem was which invitation to accept — that of Syracuse University, or Park Presbyterian Church or Erwin Methodist Episcopal, Calvary Baptist or Plymouth Congregational.

In the end, the official board declined all of these offers with thanks in favor of a still more touching expression of brotherhood from the Temple Society of Concord.

For the next nine months, University Methodists worshipped in the Jewish synagogue at the corner of University Avenue and Madison Street. The host congregation refused to accept a cent of money — even for light and heat.

At a Quarterly Conference on March 23, 1914, the name of the church was changed from University Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church to University Methodist Episcopal Church, a small but meaningful alteration.

Charles E. Chappell was appointed chairman of a building and plans committee with Chancellor Day and Dean Brooks prominent among its members to begin plans for a new church.

From “A Century of Ministry” by Dr. Nelson Blake.
THANKS

- From John: Dec. 5, I’ve been sober 15 years. Thank you, God, for helping me stay sober.
- Thank you, God, for all you do in our favor. Please bring James home to his family.
- I thank God for all he is doing for me.
- Thank you, Lord — Katie is coming home this week!
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the power of healing. Katie Flynn will be coming home later this week. She will not be ready for visitors yet but thanks you for your prayers and cards.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Timothy Nevin, Matt Fischer
- From Chris Doran: The family of the Rev. Regina Shaw (64), who died recently. For her husband, the Rev. Ray Shaw.
- From Peter Swords: For 50 years of the “War on Poverty.” Let us keep reaching out in compassion to win that war and stop all the other wars!
- From Elise: Prophet Jesus, guide your servants to improve the makeup construction of our community.
- For Monday’s job interview
- Keep James strong in his faith and at peace in his heart and mind
- Those who are grieving and experiencing loss. May they be comforted as they adjust to life without their loved ones.
- Gratitude for Kathy, who is visiting her sister, Barbara

Sunday, Jan. 5

- From Dennis: Prayer and peace for Helen, diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- From Peter: For the inner radiance that comes out of people when they are accepted, understood and loved.
- From Elise: Prophet Jesus, guide your servants to prune your garden of plenty!
- Healing from H1N1

Sunday, Dec. 29

- From Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay: For my children — Maria, as she journeys home to Virginia, and Connor to North Carolina for his internship
- From Peter: For the many ways we have to be thankful-which is itself a way to become more resilient.
- From the Youmell family: Prayers for the Bard and Grey families who recently lost their Grandma in a tragic accident.
- From the Wigginses: Please hold Jim in the light this Thursday when he will undergo extensive back surgery at Crouse
- From Elise: Prophet Jesus, gently remind your servants to expand awareness to change hurting habits.
- Hope for the hopeless. Healing for the ill.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- Feb. 2: Martha Sutter, David Ross, Julia Ross
- Feb. 9: Diane Swords, Peter Swords
- Feb. 16: Diane Tarbell, Dithole Thebe, Kokie Ratala, Samora Ratala
- Feb. 23: Genn Thuma, Ed Tillapaugh, Angela Tillapaugh, Katrina Tillapaugh

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- Jan. 5: Syracuse: University UMC, Craig French; The ROAD, Rebecca Laird
- Jan. 12: Ira UMC, Judy Alderman; Tully United Church, Keith Wimmersberger
- Jan. 19: Warners UMC, Michaela St. Marie; Lycoming UMC, Elyse Skiles
- Jan. 26: All appointments beyond the local church
- Feb. 2: Amboy Belle Isle United Church, Gail Banks
- Feb. 9: Apple Valley UMC, Clair Mosher
- Feb. 16: Apulia UMC, Martha Miller; Bowens Corners, Mary Johnson
- Feb. 23: Baldwinsville UMC, Larry Lundgren, Voigt Archer, Jeffrey Hodge

February birthdays

2 – Bette Helwig
4 – Henry Steinwert-Arrowood
6 – Gwen Sacia
7 – Mellamby Duru
8 – Tom Boll
9 – Starke Donnelly
12 – Abraham Lincoln
16 – Robert Morris Jr.
19 – Jan Garman
20 – Aidan Brackett
21 – Taylor Bacon
22 – George Washington
23 – Roseanne Samuel
25 – Johanna MacDonald, Elise Curry-Schemichen
29 – Michael Messina-Yauchzy

If any birthdays are missing or incorrect, please notify Tom Boll at uumctb@twcny.rr.com.
WEEK OF JANUARY 19

Sunday the 19th
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School for preschool through 12th grade, and adults with special needs
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 20th

Office Closed: Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday the 22nd
11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 23rd
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 24th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

MLK Dinner This Sunday

The 29th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, “Pursuing the Dream: Above All Odds,” is Jan. 19 in the Carrier Dome.

Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m.
The evening program with keynote speaker Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, begins at 5:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

It will include the presentation of the 2014 Unsung Hero Awards, music by a community choir and entertainment by student performers.

UUMC has a few tickets available at $25. Contact the church office for information, 475-7277.

Who Was Baby Jesus?

We’ve received word from Joyce Robertson that Jeff Richards, son of Mary and David Richards, played the infant Jesus in the 1953 pageant. If you know of others, please contact Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler.

Confirmation Class

A UUMC confirmation class is scheduled to begin soon, with confirmation planned for Pentecost, June 8.

WEEK OF JANUARY 26

Sunday the 26th
9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for elementary and high school grades
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School for pre-K, kindergarten, adults with special needs
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 27th

Tuesday the 28th
6:30 p.m. Governing Board

Wednesday the 29th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 30th
11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 1st
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2

Sunday the 2nd
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School for preschool through 12th grade, and adults with special needs
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Tuesday the 4th
6:30 p.m. Governing Board

Wednesday the 5th
11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 6th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 7th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
Children’s Blessing/Bible Presentations
Jan. 12, 2014

Rev. French let the children hold the pulpit Bible to feel its bulk.
Rev. French then let the children hold pieces of his own Bible, which is falling apart.
Steve and Jeanne read the liturgy for the Bible presentations
The Bibles get their first examinations.
Christmas Eve
Dec. 24, 2013
Before and During Our Service
Mark Cass from ACTS talks to the Contemporary Issues Class about using social justice principles when deciding on the future of Interstate 81.