

THE CHIMES

October 8, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
October 22**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Contagious music key to UUMC future	2
Outreach: Farewell to Norma Goel	3
Cooperative Mission	4
People/Prayers	5
ACTS speaker	6
Finance Corner	6
The Guild	6
Birthdays	6

**An all-church meeting is
planned for after worship
on Nov. 9.**

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

Thanksgiving Bag Project begins; cost of typical meal now at \$26

Our annual Thanksgiving Bag Project is underway.

There continue to be many needy people in our neighborhood, and we would like to make sure that they have the opportunity to have a nice Thanksgiving meal with their families.

As food prices have risen, we are expecting that this year the cost per family to provide food for a typical Thanksgiving meal will be about \$26. This includes a small turkey.

As a united UUMC family, together we can help feed these families in several ways:

- Bring in reusable grocery bags or paper and plastic grocery bags
- Adopt-a-Family: Take a name off the "Turkey Tree" that will be in the front of the sanctuary starting



Oct. 26, and provide all the needed food (including a turkey) for the family. In addition you will be asked to write a brief Thanksgiving note or blessing to the family to include in their bag, and then make a point of praying specifically for

that family on Thanksgiving Day.

- Make a monetary donation
- Make a food donation (including frozen turkeys as we get closer to Thanksgiving)
- Encourage friends, neighbors and co-workers to also help in one of the ways listed above.

You can also give hands-on help on:

- Sunday, Nov. 23, after worship to help fill bags and/or

See **SEVERAL WAYS**, Page 3

Heiss to preach Oct. 26 for Reconciling celebration

As part of UUMC's celebration of three years being a Reconciling congregation, Rev. Steve Heiss will preach on "Reconciliation" on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Heiss, former pastor of Tabernacle UMC in Binghamton, said he will "speak about the 'second part' of reconciliation, the first part being reconciliation with the LGBTQ community, which we have done. The second part is to reconcile with those on the other side who are now aware that the future is about inclusion."

Heiss was brought up on charges after he officiated at the same-sex ceremony of his daughter in 2002 and more such unions. He retired from full-time ministry this past June.



Rev. Steve Heiss

Contagious, global music key to congregation's future



I don't spend much time wondering or worrying about what heaven will look like. I figure that will take care of

Rev. French itself in due time.

And truthfully, I've never been too excited by the picture of heaven as a place where people stand around the throne of God singing night and day without end.

I can think of lots more interesting ways to spend eternity.

But I'm starting to give it another thought after two special experiences this week.

Last Sunday I hurried back from my preaching assignment at another church in order to catch the tail end of the music workshop led by Elisa Sciscioli and her singing group, Honey Child Soul Quintet.

I was amazed to find 40-50 persons of all kinds gathered around the altar, singing as one, joyously and enthusiastically pouring out their hearts and voices in the melodies and rhythms of Africa and American gospel.

It was a sight to behold ... and hear. If this is what heaven will be like, count me in!

It was so captivating, so boisterous, so energizing, so spirited that I immediately could see the future of University Church.

A future rooted in global music, music from countries and lands around the world.

Not to the exclusion of traditional or classical church music that has long been featured at University Church, because it too is part of global music.



Elisa Sciscioli leads a singing workshop after worship Sept. 28.

But music that is so contagious and engaging that it pulls everyone in and leaves no one out.

Music is absolutely key to our future ... music that causes us to sing "lustily" and without reservation, as John Wesley so aptly prescribed.

Four days later I dropped in on choir rehearsal. I went there to welcome back Nathan Sumrall and John Ginn, but then decided to sit in on the rehearsal in order to preview the anthem Nathan composed to honor Martha Sutter.

I expected it to be good (how could it not be?), but what an incredible experience it was to be there as the choir put the finishing touches on the piece.

Not only is the anthem absolutely exquisite, but what a treat to watch the interaction among composer, director and choir.

I came to appreciate the unique contribution made by

each of those persons and the clear delight they found in working together to create a thing of beauty and majesty.

As I listened to them polish and perfect their music, I was reminded of the grand tradition in the Church of bringing our finest gifts to God.

There is a place for music, liturgy and church design that are readily and easily accessible to average or popular tastes. This is especially true in an era when Church has become unfamiliar and even foreign to so many.

But it's equally true that Church is meant to inspire and elevate us to greater (or higher) things in soul, mind and body, both individually and collectively.

Music, art, poetry, literature, architecture, theater: done well, all these endeavors contribute mightily to the up-building of human life and the human spirit. We cannot live without them.

See **NEW WAYS**, Page 5

Saying farewell to Norma; pantry boundaries to shift



Deb Virgo

There are all kind of changes going on in our Friday Community.

A big one is that we said “see you later” (not good-bye!) to Norma Goel. She is moving to the Philadelphia area to be near her family.

At a farewell party on Sept. 19 we shared recollections on her years here at UUMC as a member, a staff person and a volunteer.

We shared stories about her kindness, compassion and patience. And her very neat handwriting.

She did something that is not easy: She made the transition from being pantry coordinator to being a volunteer.

As a volunteer we were able to benefit from her wisdom and experience but never felt that she was telling us how to run things.

At our gathering we met an old friend of Norma’s who was visiting. She shared that she and Norma were in the Peace Corps together in India in the mid-1960s. Norma’s husband’s career brought them to Syracuse.



Norma Goel speaks to friends and Friday Community volunteers at her going-away party Sept. 19.

Did you know that Norma has three master’s degrees? Indian studies, anthropology and social work. This quiet and wise woman with a subtle sense of humor will be missed.

What else is new? Lots of things!

Our food pantry boundaries are changing. The pantry at United Baptist Church on South Beech Street has closed. Their area will be divided among us, Temple Concord and Grace Epis-

copal. I’ll let you know our new streets when we know for sure.

Speaking of Temple Concord, we will be participating in their Yom Kippur Food Drive, along with Grace. Every year we are grateful for having them as our pantry neighbor.

Speaking of food...we will be adjusting the amount of food that we give to larger families.

The nutritionists at the Food Bank have been helping us figure how to adjust our system to line up with their recommendation for three days’ worth of food.

We will be significantly increasing the amount of fruits and vegetables that we give to families of three and more.

Hmmm...do you hear that we will serve more people AND give them more food?! Yes, we are a little nervous about this. But so far this year we are quite a bit under budget, so I think that we will be OK.

And speaking of Thanksgiving...we are starting to plan for our annual Thanksgiving Bags. Stay tuned and look elsewhere for details.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

Several ways to participate in UUMC’s annual Thanksgiving Bag project

CONTINUED from Page 1

- Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 9:30 a.m. to noon for the bag distribution

Remember that if you make a monetary, food or bag donation, please mark it “**Thanksgiving Bag Project.**”

Bags and food can be placed in the “OUTREACH” box at the Peale entrance.

Monetary donations can be placed in the of-

fering plate or sent to the church office.

Our congregation has been very generous in the past in sharing our bounty with our neighbors.

Let’s once again make sure that the many needy people in our midst can enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving meal with their families.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Joyce Flynn at 673-2761.

City UM churches cooperate on Matthew 25 Farm event

Deb Virgo wrote about this cooperative missions effort in her Aug. 27 Chimes column.

Here's a look at what the other city UM churches did with the produce from Matthew 25 Farm in LaFayette.

This is a ministry Erwin UMC has participated in and invited all the Syracuse United Methodist Churches to take part.

The group rallied volunteers to travel to LaFayette on Aug. 22 to help harvest and sort the vegetables and return to their churches and share the produce as best fit their communities' needs.

With the help of volunteers from Teen Challenge, approximately 2,000 pounds of potatoes, corn, onions, cabbage, etc. were harvested.

Erwin UMC: Provided fresh produce to local refugees served by the Center for New Americans, and to the local Teen Challenge center, which serves men recovering from addiction. They also provided many of the church neighbors with free produce distributed after Aug. 24 worship.

James Street UMC: Advertised a vegetable giveaway by putting fliers in food pantry bags. Tables were set up outside the church at 11 a.m. Aug. 23. People were lined up waiting, and the vegetables were gone quickly.

St. Paul's UMC: Distributed



UUMC, Erwin First UMC and The ROAD staffed a table at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair Sept. 21. Nancy and Keith Nevin volunteered.

the vegetables along with nonperishable food items at the weekly Food for the Valley program, which serves approximately 40 families, on Aug. 26

Gethsemane UMC: Provided fresh produce to families served through the Marilyn Wuster Personal Closet ministry, which serves approximately 65 families per month. Five bags were delivered to families known by the church who would benefit from additional help.

Rockefeller UMC: Distributed the vegetables after worship Aug. 24 to the people in the surround-

ing community who could benefit from the produce. The vegetables remaining after the giveaway went to the Samaritan Center the same afternoon to feed the hungry.

Bellevue Heights UMC: Donated its produce to Brown UMC and Syracuse Westside Urban Ministry outreach ministries to support the needs of the people on the west side of Syracuse.

Brown UMC: The produce was distributed to local church members. The fresh produce was a blessing to all who received.

Thanks from Elisa Sciscioli:

"Thank you so very much for taking part in the Sept. 28 singing experience. It was a pure joy for me to join with you in soulful song and celebration! The experience of 'coming home' and singing with some of you who I've known since childhood has made a lasting imprint on my heart! The circle was rich!

"For those who may be interested, I'll be leading a weekend retreat, 'Awakening Creativity,' at Light on the Hill in Van Etten N.Y., Oct 25-26. This place has been my spiritual recharge center for the past 12 years. I've been working there as an assistant teacher for the past three years. Information about the workshop is at www.lightonthehill.org under the 'Events' tab."

People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Timothy Nevin, Matt Fischer**

Sunday, Oct. 5:

- **Barbara Nunn: Bernie Hinds**, who was in the ER and may go home today.
- **Chuck:** The people of West Africa with the Ebola virus.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, redirect ME toward self-improvement!
- **Grady:** Peace in Syria
- **John:** Since I have God in my life, my world is great.
- **Peter:** The people of the Marshall Islands & other Pacific Islands — justice, peace and safety from rising water
- **Carol Boll:** Prayers for my parents as they relocate to Syracuse later this week.
- Those who live in pain.
- **Marcia Poyce-Lawson**, that she will feel the comfort of

God. Pray for her healing.

- Pray for all Ebola victims.
- Thanks for **Nathan's** and **John's** visit!

Sunday, Sept. 28

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, lead me to celebrate your harvest from your tenacious work.
- **Grady:** For Syria
- **Peter:** Gratitude for music & the peace we can share together — prayers for an end to war.
- Father, **Matt** having surgery tomorrow.
- **June Dorshug**, who broke her hip.
- The 300 missing girls in Nigeria, because they have not been found yet.
- An end to Ebola
- Legal Advocacy
- Strength
- Forgiveness by those I've done wrong and bring peace

to my heart.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Oct. 5:** Charles Chappell III, Mary Chappell, Rosemary Chappell
- **Oct. 12:** Dorothea Clark, Richard Clark, Barbara Cook
- **Oct. 19:** Kenyon Craig, Elise Curry-Schemichen, Richard Schemichen
- **Oct. 26:** Leatha Damron, Carol Dawes, James Dawes

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Nov. 2:** New World Ministries, Aaron Limmo, Suellen Acker
- **Nov. 9:** Amboy Center UMC and Apulia UMC, Ken Blume
- **Nov. 16:** Mt. Pleasant UMC, Shawn Porter
- **Nov. 23:** New Haven UMC and Parish UMC, Rich Barling
- **Nov. 30:** Syracuse Erwin First, Doug Mackey

New ways for ancient truths

CONTINUED from Page 2

In looking to the future, we not only need music that is lively, engaging, infectious and community-forming; we also need to be intentional about including — and being led, inspired, guided and challenged by — persons with the gifts of imagination and creativity, persons who remind us of the “imago Dei,” the God-given beauty, goodness and sacredness that exist within us and around us. It's an interesting challenge: to find new ways of conveying ancient truths and crafting ancient practices.

(That's what the video screens and images are all about that have become part of our worship and my preaching.)

Doing church in new ways does not, however, negate a commitment to excellence and quality.

— *Craig*

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- in loving memory of Erma Bowes Berwick who was for many years a devoted member of UUMC;
- by Tom and Carol Boll in honor of Carol's parents, Dr. Howard and Frances Long and in memory of Tom's parents, George and Carol Boll, Tom's sister, Kamae Miller. and Carol's brother, David Long;
- by Ralph Best in memory of his wife, Betty.

Flowers were given to Barbara Cook, Greg Mahoney, Elisa Sciscioli, Dorothy Logan, Beverly Schmidt and the Rev. Tiffany Steinwert,

Flowers were delivered by Ralph Best, Marg McDivitt and Ed and Lee Potter.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges:	\$230,877
Paid to date:	\$166,239
Non-pledge contr.:	\$18,570
Sounds of the Spirit Campaign	
Donations received	\$70,843
Expenses paid	\$70,589
Current balance	\$254

November birthdays

- 5 — Lynn Steenberg,
Ed Tillapaugh
6 — Monica Shworles
7 — Phyllis Wright
10 — Michael Grome
12 — Roxanne Sopchak
14 — Daniel Kirkley
15 — Jim Virgo
16 — Jenny Hicks, Brian
Finlayson-Schueler
18 — Jerusha Morgan
19 — Robin Best, Connie Wilson
24 — Krystina Nilsson
25 — Roger MacDonald, Joe
Tompkins
30 — Kate Fagut, Greg Allen,
Mary Klepper

—
If any birthdays are in error or were omitted, please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

ACTS hosts leader

The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse is holding a Special Leadership Assembly with nationally renowned leader Ana Garcia Ashley.

Ashley, Gamaliel executive director, will speak on "People of Faith: Rekindling Democracy" 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 12 at Temple Concord, 910 Madison St.

She'll discuss ways people can become more engaged in both national and local social justice issues.



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF OCTOBER 12

Sunday the 12th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Patience Kisakye, preacher

11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Monday the 13th

Columbus Day — Office Closed

Wednesday the 15th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 16th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 17th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 19

Sunday the 19th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship,

11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Monday the 20th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 22nd

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 23rd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 24th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 26

Sunday the 26th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Steve Heiss, preacher

11:15 a.m., Sunday School, adults with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 29th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 30th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 31st

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

The Guild

Our next Guild meeting is Oct. 22 at Sue Bambacht's home, 822 Second St., Liverpool. We hope to carpool. Let Sue know if you are unable to attend by calling 299-6681. The program will be getting to know each other. We hope to have a good group there.

Scenes from World Communion Sunday Worship
And Reception for Martha Sutter
On her 20th anniversary as music director
Oct. 5, 2014 (8 photos)





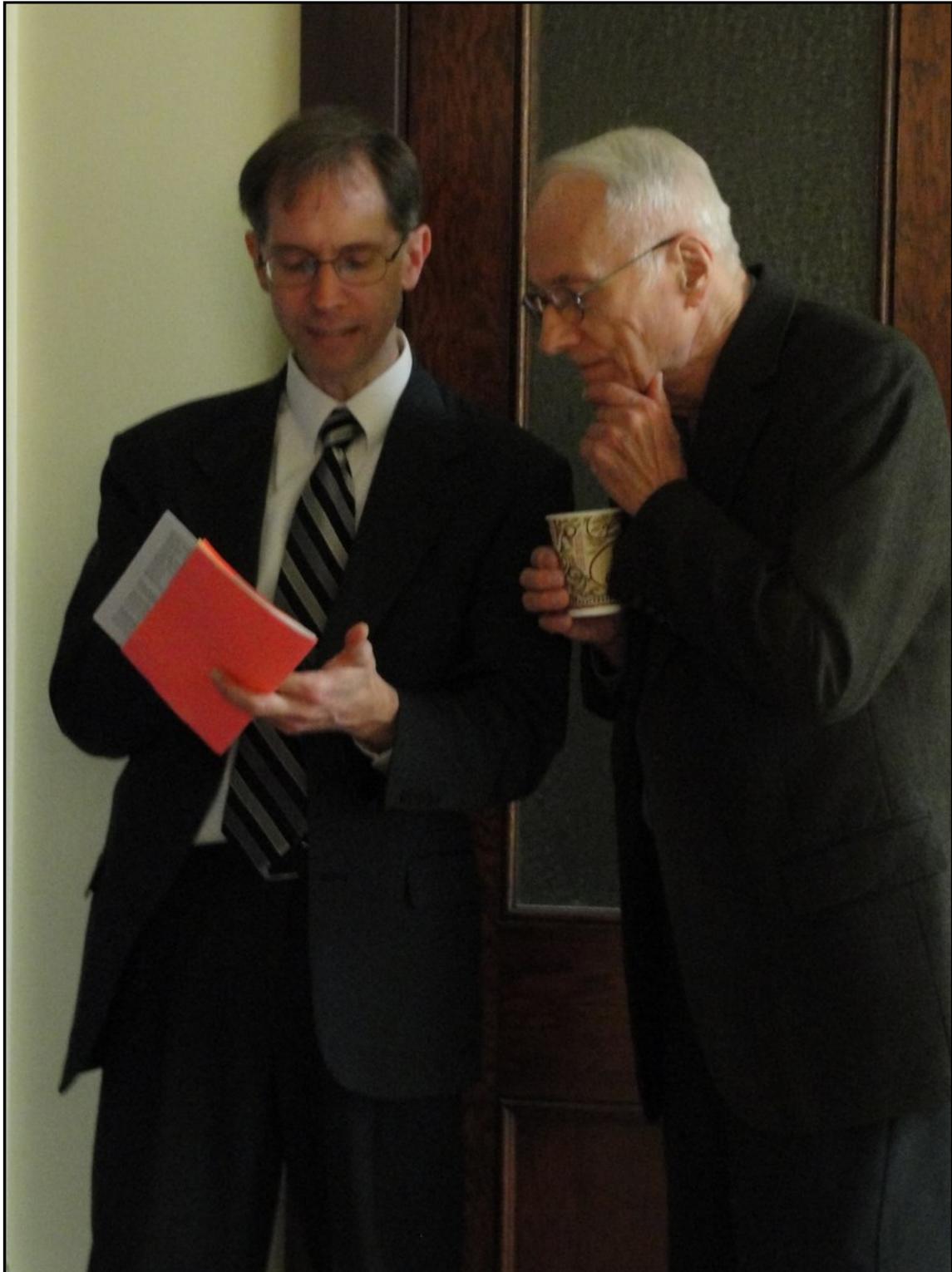














Tomatoes harvested Oct. 3 from the Community Garden.

Honey Child Soul Quintet

Sept. 28, 2014 (2 photos)







Rev. Tiffany Steinwert with the children on Sept. 21.

