

THE CHIMES

Nov. 20, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
December 3**

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Four UUMC youth will be confirmed during worship on Sunday, Dec. 14.

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

Come sample the varied menu of music during season of Advent

We've Thanksgiving Sunday immediately ahead of us and then Advent begins Nov. 30, with special music (see story below).

Plus, for the fourth consecutive year, the LaFayette Community Band will perform in our sanctuary, including UUMC member Brad Bowers.

The concert is Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The musicians will play traditional Christmas music plus selections by Leroy Anderson, Leonard Bernstein and others. A freewill offering will be taken to support the church's music program. Refresh-

ments will available after the concert.

There's more special music coming Sunday, Dec. 7, as the Senior Choir presents its "Lessons and Carols" offering under the direction of Martha Sutter.

This year's theme is "Have You Seen the Baby?" The service will include the reading of the Christmas story along with traditional and contemporary carols such as "The Holly and the Ivy," "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime," "I Saw Three Ships," "Have You Seen the Baby?" and "O

See **HANDBELL**, Page 4

Soul quintet returns for worship, workshop

If you enjoyed the Honey Child Soul Quintet earlier this fall, you'll get another chance to hear them.

And those of you who missed them last time, make sure you're here this time.

Elisa Sciscioli and the quintet will return to UUMC for the 11 a.m. worship service Nov. 30.

The quintet will sing selections in the theme of Peace and Light.

These include "Siyahumba" from South Africa, "Espiritu De Dios" in Spanish, "Softening" by Elaine Silver and the classic hymn "Soon and Very Soon" in honor of the first day of Advent.

Elisa and members of the quintet will lead a 45-minute "Joy of Singing" workshop after the service in the sanctuary. Singers will join together



Honey Child Soul Quintet

in simple, uplifting multicultural songs and gospel selections.

Elisa will briefly discuss singing as a spiritual practice as we enter into this rich holiday season.

The workshop is open to the public and all ability levels. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A way for city UM churches to select, unite on priorities



Rev. French

Some meetings are just meetings. Some are more than that.

Two community meetings caught my attention last week.

The first one got me thinking about what's been missing so far in the new citywide planning. The second gave me ideas about how to fill that critical gap.

On Wednesday I attended the annual meeting of the University Hill Corporation, a membership association of the leading institutions and organizations on University Hill and responsible for "thoughtful, long-range decisions for the Hill community."

The meeting featured a video presentation on significant new additions to the Hill's landscape over the last year. The list was striking: new buildings at Upstate Hospital, the VA Medical Center, Hutchings Psychiatric Center and SUNY-ESF, among others.

As impressive as the new construction was, what struck me was how much imagination, planning and lead-time were required for those buildings to happen.

They didn't happen overnight; they were a long time in the making. And they didn't happen by themselves.

They had to start with someone with a vision ... someone who could see the future, convince others and make it happen.

The absence of such a vision is a major detriment to the development of the new citywide ministry.

By definition, visions are not the product of teamwork, group

consensus or of slow, careful, painstaking planning processes.

Visions are singular events that happen in a flash and arrive both unbidden and unpredictably.

They are bold, imaginative and exciting. They are also risky and dangerous, in part because they do not begin with broad-based support.

They dwell in the shadows of ordinary existence and challenge and subvert the status quo.

Ultimately, though, they are the source of hope and salvation ... precisely because they come from beyond ourselves.

Hard work, good intentions and cooperation do not produce visions.

To the contrary, visions drive hard work and foster cooperation. Without vision, little happens (or a lot happens that is of little consequence).

"A genuine leader," said Martin Luther King Jr., "is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

Clearly, the citywide work done to date falls squarely in the realm of consensus building, not consensus molding. Necessary as this is, it completely overlooks the equally essential task of vision casting.

There is urgent need for the sketching of a clear, compelling, all-encompassing and empowering vision to rally us, energize and mobilize us, and lead to well-crafted plans — even if those plans can never fully embody the vision.

That's where meeting No. 2 comes in. This one was Sunday's "issues assembly" for ACTS (the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, a multi-faith

organization of congregations committed to working together to build a better and more just Syracuse for everyone).

In order to select three new issue areas to work on, the group listened to presentations on six potential issues, based on community concerns named by congregational members over the past few months.

After the presentations, everyone present got to vote for their top issues. At the end of the voting, three issues won out: Criminal Justice, Pre-K Expansion and Community Violence and Youth.

You'll hear and learn more about these down the road.

But watching that democratic process play out got me to thinking: What if we were to use a similar process to identify a key issue or two for our United Methodist city churches to work on together?

Right now, each of our churches is involved in a variety of favorite community outreach efforts. However, this is very much a shotgun and unfocused approach ... with very little impact on the root or systemic causes that are at the heart of so many problems.

How much more powerful and effective we can become by uniting passionately around two or three specific issues ... and doing so not as the result of a decision made by a limited number of over-worked leaders but by actively involving and engaging as many church members — and community partners — as possible.

Now that's a meeting I'd be excited to attend!

— Craig

Pantry increases food given to larger families — a lot



Deb Virgo

We've been talking lately about increasing the amount of food that we give people on Fridays.

At the recent church luncheon we noted that the some of the food amounts have been doubled (yes, doubled!) to line up with the Food Bank guidelines. I thought I'd walk through this to get a better idea of what this means.

Take a family of four. Since that's the size of my own family, I can relate. The guidelines that we follow is to give families enough food for three days.

For several years we have fallen short of that for families larger than three. We knew this, but money was always tight, and we were nervous about increasing the amounts and still meeting the Outreach budget.

This past year we have been able to reduce the number of guests to the pantry by referring them to their assigned pantry and working closely with our neighbor pantries. So there has been some breathing room in the budget ... time to adjust the amount that we give out.

So back to this family of four. Three days of food breaks down as follows:

- 9 cans of fruit
- 9 cans of vegetables (including potatoes and tomato products)
- 7 proteins (canned or peanut butter) and 2 packages of meat (8 oz to 1 lb)
- 5 grains (packaged items like



A pantry guest is helped by Friday Community volunteers.

- pasta and rice) and 1 loaf of bread
- 2 packages of cereal
- 3 dairy items (dry milk, cheese or yogurt)

Now, usually we have other items like margarine and miscellaneous (today anchovy paste appeared on the shelves ... no one knew what to do with it!). And we try to have fresh produce.

But the above list is the minimum amount that our sample family would receive.

So I got to thinking what I would do with this. We eat a lot of fruit. If I served three cans of fruit cocktail in a big bowl at breakfast, that would be it for the day. (I am ignoring school lunches for my sample family). Same problem for the vegetables.

When we have instant mashed potatoes on the shelf they go quickly. A box will stretch for several days.

One of the fun (yes, fun) things to do in the pantry is to

come up with recipes that use several of the items we carry. And guests seem to like the suggestions.

Things like Spanish Rice that can be made with three items we always carry: rice, spaghetti sauce and ground turkey.

Which brings us to protein. We stock canned items like chili, stew and tuna. Many of our guests are single and admit that they don't cook much. So a couple of cans will make a simple meal.

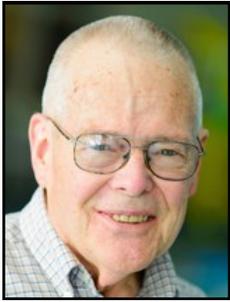
Many of our guests also like meat! We try to carry a variety, besides the staple of ground turkey, and people like to have a choice.

The two packages of meat this family will get won't go far. But along with seven cans, I can picture getting three dinners out of this.

Because we will also get a loaf of bread and five packages

See **PANTRY**, Page 4

Hal Garman receives national award for Md. community initiative



Rev. Hal Garman

UUMC Pastor Emeritus Hal Garman was in Nashville, Tenn., recently to receive the Leading Age Hobart Jackson Cultural Diversity Award for his work initiating and developing the Gaithersburg (Md.) Beloved Community Initiative.

Leading Age has 6,000 member organizations, all of which are serving seniors in one way or another. There were 7,000 people at the Annual Meeting.

Leading Age says the award is given to an organization or person who demonstrates significant achievement in cultural diversity and inclusion with respect to residents, staff and in developing future leaders.

The contribution must be noteworthy and innovative.

And the nominee must demonstrate positive change within the aging-services organization in advancing the interests of a diverse population.

The Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative is a partnership among Asbury Methodist Village; Wesley Theological Seminary; Gaithersburg City; Identity, an agency serving Latino youth and families; Montgomery County Schools; and the Montgomery County Executive Office.

BCI engages Asbury Methodist Village residents and associates in supporting those at risk living in the surrounding area — particularly youth — and developing relationships with area residents and community and government agencies.

Among BCI activities are after-school photography clubs, Earth Day tree plantings, adult and youth mentoring, a dining program, internships for teens, support for a camp for children of incarcerated parents, a veterans' oral history project and activities honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy.

Handbell choir, orchestra scheduled to perform

CONTINUED from Page 1

Come, All Ye Faithful." Deeanna Dimmick will provide the offertory, "Patapan," on clarinet.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, the Handbell Choir will play some selections. After worship, the potluck Advent Luncheon will be held. So bring your dish to church that morning. Also, bring your musical instrument as we'll have caroling.

Sunday, Dec. 21, the No-Fault Orchestra is scheduled to play.

The next evening, Dec. 22, is the annual Neighborhood Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, will have the usual candlelight pageant at 7 p.m.

Pantry food allotment can, in fact, last for three days

CONTINUED from Page 3

of grain. These days I can get two meals out of a bag of noodles or pasta. As long as it's not macaroni and cheese — my daughter will happily eat the whole box for lunch. And two boxes of cereal will cover breakfast, along with a package of dry milk.

So I look over this list and I can picture stretching out for

three days. I can relax and feel good that UUMC is making more than a little dent in the monthly food budget of the families that we serve.

And I'm not even including our Community/Church Breakfast twice a month for our sample family!

— *Deb Virgo*

Interim Friday Community Coordinator

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- by Dr. Cynthia Steinem in memory of her parents, Dr. Joseph Steinem and Mrs. Judith Mitchell Steinem
- by Nancy Hough in memory of her husband, W. Howard Hough, and her parents, Raymond and Margaret Laing
- by Dr. Edwin Yarwood and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood in honor of our many friends who have been ill. They are in our thoughts and prayers with our wishes for their return to good health.

Flowers were given to Ruth Houser, Arlene Musilli, Nelson Price, Janet Thorna, Frances Long, Carol Boll's mother, and John Sutter, Martha Sutter's father. Flowers were delivered by Lee and Ed Potter, Marg McDivitt, Nancy Hough, Martha Sutter and Carol Boll.

People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**

Sunday, Nov. 16:

- Those suffering from Ebola
- **Wanda G.**, persistent back-ache
- **Russ:** All servicemen and women that they have a blessed holiday; please pray for my sister **Penny**, my sister **Tina**, who is over having surgery soon, and my brother **Clifford** and stepmother **Barbara**. May God keep them; for my wife, **Valerie**, my niece **Crystal**; my friends **Nelson** and **Barbara**
- **Linda Ricci:** my cousin **Marty** in Buffalo, who has a serious health concern
- Happy birthday, Mom! (**Josephine Weah**). May all wishes come true
- **Peter Swords:** Good people who work hard helping others and who also need to take care of themselves (with each other's support!)
- **Bob Ellis**, who was hit by a car
- Janet Sciscioli's cousin **Trudy Jones**, on life support in Tennessee, following surgical complications
- Be with friends and relatives doing the ALS Walk in Philadelphia today
- **Eva:** Thank God for **Nelson**
- **Chuck:** the eradication of Ebola from this earth
- **John:** Recovery from surgery last Wednesday
- **Grady:** Syria and our church
- **The Yarwoods:** Good health, peace and joy of the season
- **The Kotens:** The family of **Jack Sheehan**, who died this week
- **John W:** The family of his barber, the late **Robert McCabe Sr.**, and **Linda Monkmeyer**
- **Peter:** The changes that have brought peace and justice to people in East Germany (and all of us) over the 25 years since the wall came down in Germany
- **Joseph Schmitz**, who has Parkinson's; **Jim Reholtz**, who is having heart surgery
- **Bernie Hinds**
- **Martha:** The parents of **Barb Nunn**, **Carol Boll**, **Craig French** and **Martha Sutter**, all having health issues
- Be with **Barbara Fought**, **Nelson Price** and their families
- **Nelson's** recovery
- **Greg Mahoney**
- People with depression and mental illness
- All suffering from Ebola and containing the virus; prayers to remain calm
- A healthy end of pregnancy
- The people of West Africa affected by the Ebola virus
- Legal Advocacy for the Disabled
- Thank you, God, for **Nelson Price**
- The parents of **Barbara Nunn**

Sundays, Nov. 2 + 9

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I approach you with humility, to acknowledge, apologize and take action for correcting my wrongs.

- I need faith and trust in God to overcome financial hardship
- The eradication of Ebola from the earth
- **John**, who's undergoing surgery this week, and remember his brother's birthday tomorrow. His brother died eight years ago.

THANKS

- From **Barbara Fought and Nelson Price:** Thank you for all your prayers and support

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Dec. 7:** Bill Dunn, Jessica Fischer, Matthew Fischer
- **Dec. 14:** Joyce Flynn, Katie Flynn, Jeffrey Foley
- **Dec. 21:** Kate Foster, Barbara Fought, Nelson Price
- **Dec. 28:** Craig French, Barbara French, Maya Fredette, Ben French, Joshua French, Kaitlin French, Tae'jin Spinner, Kaleigha Spinner

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Dec. 7:** Syracuse Hope Korean UMC, Huyn Joo Yang; Syracuse James Street UMC, Doug Mackey
- **Dec. 14:** Syracuse Rockefeller, Penny Hart; Fulton State Street UMC, Marion Moore-Colgan
- **Dec. 21:** Syracuse St. Paul's, Caroline Simmons

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877

Paid to date: \$181,830

Non-pledge contr.: \$21,167

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$70,843

Expenses paid \$70,589

Current balance \$254

Reminder: If you are behind, please remember to catch up on your pledge commitment for 2014.

Consecration Sunday This Week

This Sunday, Nov. 23, is Consecration Sunday.

During the worship service we will be making our gifts/pledges for 2015.

Letters will arrive this week with cards, and cards will be available at church as well.

Every gift, large or small, is a gift of love. Please pray and give as you can.

December birthdays

3 – Karabo Ratala

4 – Chrysa Charno

6 – Samora Thebe, Danny Magowan

7 – Diane Tarbell, Virginia Dewey, Eric Nilsson

8 – Eleanor Huard

9 – Carolyn Messina-Yauchzy

12 – Alex Huard

13 – Rev. Harold Garman

15 – Dr. Bruce Simmons, Debra Virgo, Nathan Sumrall, Claudette Brown-Smythe

17 – Christopher Huard

18 – Melanie Duru

19 – Barbara Cargo

20 – Rev. Craig French

22 – Rachel Kgama

25 – Jesus, Peter Smith, Kevin Upcraft

27 – Kamyar Mousavi

28 – Dr. Edwin Yarwood



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Dated material

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23

Sunday the 23rd

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

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

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, 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

12:30 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal

Monday the 24th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 26th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 27th

Thanksgiving—Office Closed

Friday the 28th

No Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30

Sunday the 30th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

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

11 a.m. Worship, Craig French preaching; Honey Child Soul Quintet

11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults

with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

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

Tuesday the 2nd

7:30 p.m. LaFayette Community Band Concert

Wednesday the 3rd

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 4th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 5th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 7

Sunday the 7th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

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

11 a.m. Worship, Communion, Lessons & Carols, Senior Choir

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

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal

Monday the 8th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 10th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 11th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 12th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

December Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting is 1:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Pettengill Center at the church. Christine Doran will speak about Africa University. The hostess is Jill Sarkodie-Mensah, and Lee Potter will co-host. Hope to see all interested there.

Congregational Luncheon

Nov. 16, 2014 (6 photos)









Rev. French describes how the past year has felt for him with his added duties as director of the city UM clergy.





Community/Church Breakfast

Nov. 9, 2014 (2 photos)





Eva stirs the eggs to break up the yolks before cooking.



Beth does the Children's Blessing before sending the children out to the congregation to say to each person in the pews, "I like you, and I'm glad you're here," and then give them a piece of candy. (see next 2 photos)





Communion

Nov. 2, 2014 (2 photos)





Time to order those holiday nuts!



Community Garden Cleanup

Nov. 15, 2014 (3 photos)





