

THE CHIMES

Nov. 27, 2013

**Next Chimes
deadline:
December 11**

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**Item for food pantry for
December: brownie/
cookie mix**

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

Advent's Here with Music, Music

Advent begins this Sunday, Dec.

1.

Right away, there's music on tap. For the third consecutive year, the LaFayette Community Band will perform in our sanctuary, including UUMC member Brad Bowers.

The concert is Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The musicians will play traditional Christmas music plus selections from Gustav Holst, Leroy Anderson, Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Philip Sousa.

The Senior Choir will present its special Advent offering, "Dancing into the Promise," during worship Dec. 8. The selection consists of four readings/poems from Ann Weems' book "Kneeling in Bethlehem" and four musical works dealing with dance.

They are the traditional carol "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day," "Dancing into the Promise" by Mary Kay Beall, "Lord of the Dance" by John Rutter and "And the Father Will Dance" by Mark Hayes.



Sunday, Dec. 15, we'll be Bringing in Christmas.

That same day, right after worship, an Advent luncheon potluck will be held in the Pettengill Center. The traditional Advent Dinner is moving to after church for added convenience. So bring your dish to church that morning. Also, bring your musical instrument, as we will sing Christmas carols, as has been the tradition.

See **ORCHESTRA**, Page 3

From the History Room...

Close ties between SU and University Avenue Church

By Rosemary DeHoog,
Church Historian

After the consecration of the new University Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church on Dec. 12, 1872, the real work of the church was just beginning.

As was hoped from the Demp-

ster Chapel beginnings, a close relationship developed between the fledgling Syracuse University and University Avenue Church.

Even though SU held daily chapel services, many students and faculty attended services at the church.

See **SUNDAY**, Page 3

Looking at a new direction God might have for us



Rev. French

Earlier this month, we held our annual Church Conference to (among other things) elect new leaders and set clergy compensation for next year. It was an interesting evening, inasmuch as we were joined by leaders from all of our sister United Methodist churches located in the city of Syracuse — each of which had their own leaders

to elect and salaries to approve. Along with those items of business, we also heard presentations about the overall state of our city churches:

- We all struggle with finances and declining memberships.
- We are all over-staffed and “over-buildinged” for our current ministry and membership.
- We all have difficulty attracting and reaching our neighbors.
- The makeup of the city’s population is vastly different from our membership base.
- Our contributions to the Church’s world-wide mission are minimal at best.
- Our patterns and practices seem to be of little interest to anyone besides ourselves.

Those realities are not a surprise ... and they cry out for serious conversation. It was unfortunate that evening that we did not have time to talk to each other about these common realities.

However, the pastors of the churches continue to meet regularly and have made plans to convene a special meeting in January for key leaders from each church to begin talking together and getting to know each other. With the encouragement of the district superintendent, we are also looking at bringing in a consultant/coach to help us find a different way forward.

* * * * *

In preparation for that Nov. 7 meeting, I composed my pastor’s annual report. In many ways, it is consistent with the general picture we were given at that Church Conference.

A major focus for the past year lay in the work done and the report issued by the Outreach Sustainability Task Force. The task force was created to address a concern about the long-term future of several of the congregation’s key outreach efforts in the neighborhood, due to an aging donor and volunteer

base. While the study did not produce a quick and easy solution to the problem, it did propose a way forward, based on a possible culture shift for the congregation: from ministry to and for the poor to ministry with and of the poor. At the heart of the proposal is the understanding that relationships (multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-class, multi-racial, multi-national) need to be the priority in everything we do.

While the congregation has not formally voted on the proposal, it is already beginning to live its way into it. One example of this is the brand-new leadership development training program for congregation members living in poverty. Thanks to a grant from the Upper NY Annual Conference, we have been able to launch this new program in which the goal is to

- *Help persons not just “get by” but “get ahead” (through new life and personal transformation), and*
- *Recognize, affirm and use the leadership gifts of all persons, regardless of economic or educational achievement.*

The urgency of this new direction became even more apparent this fall — not just for outreach but for all areas of our life and ministry — as worship attendance dipped and several key ministry areas ran into difficulty.

Together they point to long-standing structures, patterns and practices that can no longer function as they did in the past ... and to a system as a whole that’s in need of rethinking and redesign. No person or leader is to blame; rather, the system itself no longer fits today’s realities.

The work of rethinking and redesigning has already begun through the church’s leadership team (Governing Board), as it has devoted itself over the past few months to reviewing and revising the congregation’s strategic plan for ministry, and as it weighs the possibility of working with a ministry coach/consultant to help us move wisely, effectively and imaginatively into the future. In the face of the challenges before us, the energy, faith and vision of the church’s leaders and members are a Godsend.

I am encouraged by the openness and willingness of this congregation and its leaders to take a hard and honest look at ourselves and at the possibilities for new direction that God has for us. Of such is the beginning of new life, with pain and joy, memory and hope all rolled into one.

— Craig

Here's five things that Outreach is thankful for



Deb Virgo

Last week my children had an assignment to write about five things they are thankful for. Good idea.

Here are five things that I am thankful for:

1. The support we get from Syracuse University. On Sunday the Rev. Colleen Preuniger preached and announced that she was donating \$100 to our food pantry. Thanks!

And the students of the Step Center (also part of Hendricks Chapel under the direction of Lutheran Campus Ministry) donated 16 cases of rice and bean meals. Thanks!

2. The Hunt family. Every single one of them, who came together to make the Thanksgiving bag giveaway (over 200 bags) such a smooth and joyous event. Thanks!

3. Our fellow food pantries on the East Side. Did you know that there are seven pantries on the East Side of Syracuse? I've enjoyed getting to know them, visit them and learn from them. We are not alone in our mission to feed our neighbors. Thanks!

4. All of the groups, individuals, congregations and businesses who step up to help the pantry. Thanks!

The Evening Guild recently donated \$500 to the pantry.

People who volunteer at our Friday Community have also helped us financially.

Erwin First Church brings us a huge donation of food every month.

Abbott Farms let us pick apples for free to hand out to pantry guests.

The Methodist Men from Baldwinsville UMC delivered 300 pounds of potatoes last month. Thanks, thanks and thanks!

5. The emerging leaders group within the Friday community. As we meet weekly they are willing to share their life experiences, hopes and dreams. We are learning about ourselves and each other. They bring their enthusiasm and willingness to share a laugh. For this I am very thankful.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

Sunday School class grew to membership of 600

CONTINUED from Page 1

The university drew its faculty and student body from Methodists and non-Methodists alike, but in the early days, the denominational affiliation was strong.

There were many more Methodists in the institution than anyone else, and most of them came to University Church.

From 1874 until 1922, the chancellors of SU were all active members of the church.

For many years, the university required its students to attend some local church.

However, many students voluntarily attended Sunday evening services, Sunday School and midweek prayer services.

But by 1907, objections to religious indoctrination became more intense — resistance to compulsory church attendance grew.

The faculty then put church attendance on a voluntary basis.

Thanks to the efforts of a history professor who was a zealous member of University Church, Dr. Minnie Mason Beebe took over a small Sunday School class of six college girls. She then accepted the suggestion that the class be open to men as well. The expanded class became the Kolledj Klan.

By 1921, it had a membership of 600 and included future university leaders such as Chancellor William Tolley and Dr. Gordon Hoople during their student days at SU. The class was interested in foreign missionary work, especially in China, and supported Dr. Hoople's work as a medical missionary to China in the early 1920s.

From "A Century of Ministry" by Dr. Nelson Blake, Syracuse University

Orchestra, handbells

CONTINUED from Page 1

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the UUMC No-Fault Orchestra is scheduled to play. Plus we'll be Bringing in Christmas — coats, hats, mittens and scarves for our breakfast friends. Especially in need are men's gloves and men's winter coats, size XXL, so be on the lookout for sales!

The annual Christmas dinner for the community is 6 p.m. Dec. 16.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, the Handbell Choir will play a selection during worship.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, we'll have the traditional children's pageant at the 7 p.m. service. Rehearsal is 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

The best gift I ever received ...

For a few weeks in October, the congregation, plus our breakfast and food pantry participants, completed cards with the following phrase: **The best gift I ever received. . .**

Here are some of the responses:

- My mother, my father. Thank you, God!
- My two children and the grace that brought them safely to adulthood. I'd like the same for all the children in the world
- My husband and our family
- When I met my wife
- The gifts from God: my voice, a generous heart, fabulous parents, a loving partner, crazy sense of humor, this community of faith. The greatest gift is God's love through Jesus Christ
- Shoes
- Intimacy and rejuvenation
- My family
- When Aunt Hattie raised me and loved me when my mother was unable to
- Vacations spent with family and friends
- The gift of life
- We were blessed with adopting two babies, the most wonderful gift
- Before my fiancé died of lung cancer last year, he saved my life physically. When I drank too much on my birthday last year he carried me 3 to 4 blocks and watched me for a few hours to make sure I did not go unconscious. He also rescued me from an abusive man.
- The love of my parents and son, which was given to me by their loving kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Year-End Giving

Please don't forget that tax-deductible contributions of stock can be made to UUMC before the end of the year.

You can finish this year's obligations, make contributions to our endowment fund, or even prepay next year's pledge. The transfer and gift of stock avoids capital gains tax.

We were able to entirely fund the Sounds of the Spirit campaign through the generous specific donations of the congregation and with the last gift of stock from a major donor avoid having to borrow funds to pay for the project. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations. Contact Vito Sciscioli, Gary Wood or Rachel Kgama for details.

Update on the Hassan Family

Thanks to all who have been in contact with the Hassans. They are a busy family. Ibrahim is now employed in the new Marriott Hotel. Osoblle is enjoying her English classes. Idil, who is 15, is a student at Henninger High School. Shukri, Samsam and Yousin are enthusiastic students at Franklin School. UUMC has seen that each member of the family has warm winter boots and other winter items. The Hassans are very appreciative of what is being done for them.

Poverty Simulation Workshop

Visions for Change will hold a Poverty Simulation in Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Register by Dec. 6 at 218-0938.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2013 total pledges:	\$249,290
Paid to date:	\$202,156
Non-pledge contr.:	\$23,647
Pre-paid pledges:	\$58,300

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received	\$70,743
Expenses paid	\$69,989
Current balance	\$754

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

World AIDS Day Observance

UUMC will again host an annual World AIDS Day Observance, this year on Dec. 2. At noon regional HIV/AIDS service provider information and a light lunch will be offered. A candle-light interfaith service of remembrance begins at 5:15 p.m. on our front steps. Dinner will be served right after the service. Contact John Wikiera at 542-1703 for information and to register for the meals.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- **From Ann Milner:** Thank you for prayers, flowers and phone calls for me and my daughters
- Thanks for a church family who is so loving and supportive
- God, we thank you for watching over us, especially those not fully healthy
- Gratitude for the life of **Brandy Dallas**, one of the great nurses at Van Duyn who helped care for my wife, **Carol**, and died tragically at age 24, from **Dean Moyer**
- Thank you to UUMC for opening our church to **Jared's** family and friends. What a loving example of outreach and mission! from **Grandma Ann**
- For the care and compassion shown to Dad and our family by UUMC and the staff, from **Peter Swords**

JOYS

- Today (Oct. 27) is the day! Happy birthday, Rosemary. Three score, ten and five, from **Charles Chappell Jr.**
- The birth of **Nevin Michael Chappell** on Nov. 6

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, Nov. 24

- The people of the Philippines, so that many countries will come to their aid, from **Charles**
- The non-nuke agreement with the Iranians
- **Tim Nevin**, now in Afghanistan
- The dedicated life of **John Swords**, for the **John Swords family** as they grieve John's

death.

- Prophet Jesus, I thank you for the efforts to be a provider to those who experience a hard harvest! From **Elise**

Sunday, Nov. 17

- Healing prayers for **Jerry Car-go**, who fell on ice Tuesday and broke his hip
- A fair U.S. budget that invests in people and cuts the waste on weapons and war, from **Peter**
- My friend **Virginia Earles**, now in hospice care
- **Nelson**, as he goes through surgery; for **Penny** for a speedy recovery from surgery; the Philippines and all those who have died there; our government, this church, staff and members, from **Russ**
- Prophet Jesus, bless your servants to prepare a warm hearth inside our hearts, from **Elise**
- Bless grandparents, for hopefully we have learned from them

Sunday, Nov. 10

- The people of the Philippines
- The Arkansas family in their tragic loss, and for **Shana Williams and family**, who also lost a son too young, and yesterday lost a grandchild, from **Peter**
- Prophet Jesus, praise you for returning my mother from Texas, for she deserves better medical treatment, from **Elise**
- Our church leaders
- **John Indick** had surgery on Oct. 11
- Patience and continued healing for **Chris**

Sunday, Nov. 3

- The door opened for a new

life for **Joseph Ramanow** this week. A prayer for his family for comfort and peace. He will be remembered. From **Ralph Best**

- For me to hear, from **John**
- All those suffering from disease we don't understand. Prayer for my sister, **Penny**, and Missy. Prayers for this church, members and staff, from **Russ**
- All the saints who have said "no" to war — and persisted, even if they were persecuted themselves, from **Peter Swords**
- Being away from home, faith to stay focused despite the negative things going on around me
- Be with most of my family as they do an ALS walk in Philadelphia for **Beth**

Sunday, Oct. 27

- Human rights supported by honest diplomacy and justice, rather than surveillance, secrecy and threats of war, from **Peter Swords**
- That the Legal Advocacy for the Disabled finds a new office space and equipment, from **Robert James**
- Prophet Jesus, guide your servants to travel and deliver gifts! From **Elise**
- **Ann Milner's** daughter, **Marie Morley**
- Our church as we struggle to fully include all people and for **Bishops Talbert and Swenson**, who lead us in proclaiming welcome and acceptance for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
- All who struggle with illness
See **PEOPLE**, Page 6

Altar flowers

Flowers were given by Dr. Edwin Yarrwood and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood, Dr. Cynthia Steinem and Nancy Hough.

Flowers were given to Diane Tarbell, Mary Wilson, Betsy Wiggins, Katie Flynn, Jerry Cargo and Marsha Plucinik.

Flowers were delivered by Don and Margo Koten, Lee Potter, Jim Wiggins, Joyce Flynn, Barbara Cargo and Beth Drew.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 1

Sunday the 1st

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for elementary and high school grades, adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon UUMC Orchestra rehearsal, Music Room

Monday the 2nd

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Tuesday the 3rd

7:30 p.m. LaFayette Community Band Concert

Wednesday the 4th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 5th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 6th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8

Sunday the 8th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Advent Dinner, Pettengill Center

Monday the 9th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 11th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 12th

11:30 a.m. Building-wide Christmas Party

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 13th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 15

Sunday the 15th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday the 16th

6 p.m. Neighborhood Christmas Dinner

Wednesday the 18th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 19th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 20th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Saturday the 21st

9 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal

People/Prayer Connection

CONTINUED from Page 5

- **Laure McCooey**, who is very ill

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS

PRAYERS FOR:

- **Dec. 1:** David Sacia, David Ross, Julia Ross, Martha Sutter
- **Dec. 8:** Jill Sarkodie-Mensah, Dany Sarkodie-Mensah, Aimie Sarkodie-Mensah-Best, Aaron Sarkodie-Mensah

- **Dec. 15:** Janet Sciscioli, Vito Sciscioli, Dan Shworles, Monica Shworles
- **Dec. 22:** Bruce Simmons, Jackie Simmons, Peter Smith, Afton Kapuscinski
- **Dec. 29:** Joseph Smythe, Claudette Brown-Smythe, Noel Sommers

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Dec. 1:** Syracuse Hope Korean, Huyn Joo Yang
- **Dec. 8:** Syracuse James Street, Roosevelt Baums; Syracuse Rockefeller, Douglas Mackey
- **Dec. 15:** Fulton State Street, Marion Moore-Colgan; Syracuse St. Paul's, Caroline Simmons



Sunday's display in front of the pulpit was courtesy of the Altar Guild. The food was donated to the food pantry after the service.

Thanksgiving Bag Stuffing

Nov. 24, 2013

Photos by Barbara Fought





































Angelo Torres, Jeff Shuron and Dot Hall from Lynn Steenberg's company, Sports Physical Therapy of New York, stand in front of bags filled with food that employees donated for our Thanksgiving bags.

Thanksgiving Bag Pickup

Nov. 26, 2013









Making Advent Candleholders

Nov. 24, 2013

Photos by Barbara Fought and Steve Bacon



















BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR: Members of Grace Episcopal Church make truffles at UUMC. Grace suffered a serious fire this fall and asked to use our facilities to make truffles for their annual fundraiser. They used our kitchen and Fellowship Hall over two days.