

THE CHIMES

Nov. 28, 2012

**Next Chimes
deadline:
December 12**

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*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

TRADITIONAL AND NEW THIS ADVENT SEASON

This December, Advent is full of the traditional observances and something new, Consecration Sunday, Dec. 16 (see article below).

For the second straight year, the LaFayette Community Band will perform in our sanctuary. This year, the concert is at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4.

The Senior Choir will present its special Advent offering, "Lessons & Carol," during worship Dec. 9. The selection consists of seven Scripture readings, each followed by a Christmas carol.

That evening the annual Advent Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Bring a

dish to pass and your place setting for an evening of fun, fellowship and carol singing.

On Dec. 16 new members will join the congregation and we'll Bring in Christmas — coats for our breakfast friends to be distributed the following Sunday.

The annual Christmas dinner for the community is 6 p.m. Dec. 17.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, we'll have the usual children's pageant at the 7 p.m. candlelight service. There will not be a Disciples Choir reunion this year, as Lynn Steenberg will be in Rochester with her family.

Consecration Sunday: note blessings, joy in giving

Our pledge campaign this year isn't so much about raising funds to underwrite the church's budget and bills as it is about raising our awareness of how much we each have been blessed by God, how much this church means to every one of us, and how much joy there is in giving generously to others.

Over the past few Sundays you've heard from different speakers about why this church is important to them — important enough to want to be part of supporting the church financially. On Consecration Sunday, Dec. 16, you will be given the opportunity to affirm your own part in the life and ministry of University Church

as we look ahead to and plan for 2013. Receiving pledges of financial giving is an important part of being able to plan well for the future.

This year's plan is a bit different from past years. No pledge cards will be mailed out in advance. Instead, pledge cards will be handed out in church on Sunday, Dec. 16. As part of the worship service that day, each person will be invited to fill out their pledge card for 2013, carry it forward and place it before God on the "altar."

After the service, there will be a celebration luncheon — during which we will receive an early report on our

See **EXPECT**, Page 5

Christian excellence is different from world's view



Rev. French

In their book, “Resurrecting Excellence,” Gregory Jones and Kevin Armstrong speak about the importance of excellence as a goal, guide and measure for ministry.

In making their case, Jones and Armstrong rightly point to the work of Jim Collins (“Good to Great”): “Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great.” In other words, we often “settle” for less than our best (for any number of reasons).

Jones and Armstrong describe excellence in the church as being different from the view of excellence in the world at large, where excellence is all about winners and losers, competition and achievement, individual effort and prowess.

Last week’s opening of the new Ronald McDonald House (across the street from the church) brought all of this to mind. The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured a number of appropriate “thank you’s,” acknowledging the contributions and hard work of many persons who were instrumental in bringing the Ronald McDonald House to Syracuse 30 years ago and in raising the \$6 million needed to construct and furnish the new facility.

The ceremony also featured powerful, passionate and moving testimonies to the mission of the Ronald McDonald House: caring for the families of sick children. The work of the Ronald McDonald House has always seemed like a good thing to me; but by the end of the ceremony, I was ready to sign up!

What came next, however, was even more impressive: a tour of the brand-new home. It was absolutely first-rate. Everything had clearly been done with great forethought to create a home-away-from-home for persons desperately in need of TLC. The

commitment to excellence was obvious throughout the house, from the welcome areas to the executive offices to the family quarters to the common areas and dining room.

That same commitment to excellence has been the hallmark of University Church across the years. It is a commitment that manifests itself in so many ways: in our music and worship, in our care-giving ministries, in our neighborhood outreach, in our quest for social justice, in our staffing.

It is not always easy to maintain that level of excellence as leaders come and go, as budgets grow tight, as the building and people age. But a commitment to excellence in ministry is one of the things that distinguishes this church from many city churches.

Even so, we can never take that commitment for granted or assume that it will just happen automatically. It’s something we have to keep striving for and rededicating ourselves to. Nor can we assume that it’s only about performance and appearance.

Christian excellence is also about the quality of our relationships and the quality of our discipleship. As Jones and Armstrong put it, Christian faith calls us to excellence as a “way of love patterned in Christ ... a way of life with God and others shaped by a love that ‘is patient ... kind ... not envious ... or arrogant’; that ‘does not insist on its own way.’”

The commitment to excellence will be uppermost for us in the coming weeks, as we move through Advent toward Christmas and the birth of God’s most excellent gift, Jesus.

It will also be uppermost for us as we prepare for Consecration Sunday, mindful of this church’s legacy of excellence and the opportunity we have to continue that legacy through the excellence of our own giving.

— Craig

World AIDS Day Observance at UUMC

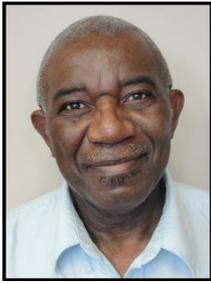
Once again we will host an annual World AIDS Day observance, which this year is this Friday, Nov. 30. Beginning at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, CNY HIV/AIDS programs and pharmaceutical information will be available.

A “History Timeline of HIV” will be presented during a luncheon from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Starting at 2 p.m., AIDS Memorial Quilts from the Central New York NAMES Project will be displayed. A candlelight walk from Forman Park to the church begins at 5 p.m. followed by an interfaith service and dinner.

The luncheon and dinner are free, but preregistration is needed for lunch. Contact John Wikiera at jwikiera@aol.com or 542-1703 to register.

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Rev. Smythe

A few weeks ago, I was walking out of the building when a female from the Upper New York administrative office stopped and asked me if

she could bake bread for the Thanksgiving bags. I said yes.

She went away looking very excited and eventually told me when the baking would take place. I shared the information at our staff meeting and the building manager and this blessed sister worked out the details.

That dream was fulfilled on Monday, Nov. 19, when she and others from the office completed their mission. It was a joy to watch them working in the kitchen as they worked together and had fun as they mixed, baked and bagged the bread.

These loaves were given to the persons from the Friday Community on Nov. 20 with all the love from their hearts. Thank you, employees from Upper New York Conference.

Thanksgiving Bags

The items for the bags bought and donated, friends and members of the church took time to pack the bags on Sunday, Nov. 18 after worship. The volunteers distributed the bags two days later. It was a time of excitement, appreciation and praise.

The day began with these volunteers arriving early and friends seated in the Pettengill Center. From there, it was easy



UUMC members and friends stuffed Thanksgiving bags in Fellowship Hall after the worship service on Nov. 18.

taking the friends to Fellowship Hall for the bags.

Everyone who participated in this process, I thank them with my whole heart. God bless everyone.

The estimated number of families receiving bags was about 174. If we say the average is three persons per family, that number is over 522 individuals. You will know the exact count in the next issue.

Pecan Sales

The nuts are going very fast. We are thankful to Johanna MacDonald for the effort she and her co-workers have done. If you need pecans to purchase, call the church office and you will be informed of the details, 475-7277.

Volunteers This Issue

The volunteers who take care of the registration most of the time are Johanna McDonald, Margo Koten and Norma Goel.

These sisters have been

involved in the pantry at different levels during its existence. They demonstrate what it means to be committed to a project.

These sisters are among the ones who initially face the Friday Community when they arrive and register for the day. They are the ones who explain the procedure and on the odd occasion consult with me on issues related to food distribution.

These sisters are involved in every aspect of the Friday Community. Sometimes they arrange surprise birthday parties, identify particular friends for special mention, suggest new idea for its improvement or identify persons who died.

Recently they planned and implemented a surprise party to congratulate me on becoming an American citizen.

I thank Margo, Johanna and Norma for everything they bring to the Friday Community and I

See **PARTY**, Page 6

The joy of approaching everyone as a gift



The kingdom of God is a dance party, after all. I'm surprised.

Because I have never doubted that

Lyndsey Graves I have seen heaven, and heaven is the library in "Beauty and the Beast."

It is blue, white and gold, with sunshine pouring in and your pick of poofy chairs. It is big enough to have earnest, intellectual conversations without disturbing the other readers.

In the evenings you have dinner and participate in a choreographed musical revue.

Never once have I hoped that the kingdom of God would be a warm room becoming ever more stifling with the heat of all kinds of strangers moving to some mediocre music — until now.

At the United Methodist Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio, our group learned about how to give away clothes and organize leaders, how to teach nutrition and prepare to write grants. Which was all very helpful and interesting, but the church itself was *captivating*.

We came in the door and found a tiny gray-haired woman blocking our path: "I'm Darlene, and I'm the hugger for this weekend."

She was like the opposite of a bouncer, making sure you knew you were included. You were in. Are you "all people"? You belong.

That's the kind of hospitality



Lyndsey, second from right, dances at the Church for All People.

the place is built on. There's something about accepting everyone, and doing it together, that builds on itself.

You get bitten with something when you start to experience the joy of approaching everyone as a gift, whether they like it or not. And when everybody *knows* there's enough to go around, a culture of hospitality is unstoppable.

So when Eileen stood up at Open Mic and said, "Teaching Robert is my greatest accomplishment," I don't know why I expected Robert to be some kind of virtuoso.

I should have known that Robert's simple ability to hit all the notes of a song would be enough for celebration and the backup singer would support him without overpowering and it would not be beautiful like a diva's superhuman aria, but for how very human it all was.

Robert's voice was nothing special and the food we were served was nothing special and

having a "hugger for the weekend" sounds really cheesy, looking back on it, but love made it wonderful. Love made me not want to leave.

I think that's why I dreaded the impending dance party only until it actually started, and then I knew it was covered with that same love.

I don't like to dance the way I don't like to say how I feel, or actually I don't like to feel, because I'm not in control.

The hokey-pokey, maybe, where you can follow instructions one limb at a time and you won't be doing it wrong. But when you know you're accepted, and everyone else in the room looks kind of silly too, and there is no wrong, then you find yourself being honest — moving when you want to move.

So we danced, everyone together, because there was music and joy to be had, there in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Columbus. And some

See **ONCE**, Page 5

A report on the fall luncheon

Church members gathered in the Pettengill Center after worship on Sunday, Nov. 11, for the annual fall luncheon and status report on church life over the last six months.

The luncheon opened with the only official order of business on the agenda — approval of the pastor's 2013 base compensation package, set at \$77, 418 — and the measure passed unanimously.

Governing Board Chair Lynn Steenberg followed with a brief review of the Governing Board — a new governing structure that was established by unanimous congregational approval at the January 2012 Church Charge Conference — and a PowerPoint presentation on recent activities and business update. Highlights included:

- An update on the church's Sounds of the Spirit campaign to upgrade the church's 50-year-old sound system. The fund-raising effort to date has secured 71 percent of its goal, and congregants were encouraged to consider donating to the campaign as an "alternative holiday gift" in honor or memory of another.
- An overview of media and communications initiatives, including a fully redesigned website (uumcsyracuse.org) and active Facebook presence.
- Presentation by Grace House intern Lyndsey Graves on her activities relating to neighborhood and young adult outreach.
- An update on the Friday Morning Community and the twice monthly Community Breakfasts. Ted Finlayson-Schueler noted a continued need for volunteers to help with breakfast clean-up and for donors to cover the cost of a breakfast (at \$230) or part of a breakfast in the new year. Interested donors may contact him.
- Nelson Price reported on the Circles program and reported a need for additional individual and business "allies" to provide support, encouragement, and guidance to program clients working to transition out of poverty.
- A brief presentation by members attending a recent conference in Columbus, Ohio, on nurturing multicultural community and worship.
- A report on the start of the Stewardship Campaign, with Consecration Sunday scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 16. Pledging income drives the budget process, and the meeting concluded with an appeal for all to give prayerful consideration to what they are being called to give in time, talent, and treasure.

Once a wallflower, now she's a dancer

CONTINUED from Page 4
how it wasn't a denial of all that was wrong and hurting there.

It was recognizing that there is still much to be thankful for; that the world doesn't stop because of job loss or storms; that being satisfied is about having enough, and in one evening a dinner and a dance is about all anyone could ask for. There's a kind of defiance about not needing more.

I don't mean to idealize the Church for All People. I'm quite certain it has its share of politics, workaholics, incorrigible committee members, budget strife, goof-offs and leeches; and more than its share of troublemakers and naysayers and "urban challenges" (let that be a euphemism for what you will).

But it was founded to be a place where the hungry could become the fed, where alcoholics could become recoverers, where the proud could be humbled and the humble lifted up, where the formerly incarcerated could become truly free. And I, a wallflower, became a dancer.

— Lyndsey

Lyndsey is our mission intern by way of Grace House. She will be with us through July.

Expect invitation to Consecration Sunday service on Dec. 16; luncheon follows

CONTINUED from Page 1

pledge totals for next year. While decisions about pledging are a matter between you and God, this is also a time for us to lift up what it means to be

church together.

Soon you'll be invited to be present for Consecration Sunday on Dec. 16. Please be sure to answer "yes"!

Party for children planned; winter coats needed

CONTINUED from Page 3
want them to know that we love them.

Eastside Children's Party

On Dec. 11, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the East Genesee Regent Association will have its annual party for children ages 2 to 10 in Fellowship Hall. As in the past, Santa will be there to distribute gifts and there will no doubt be other activities. Parents and grandparents or some older persons will bring the children and help to celebrate Christmas.

Christmas Dinner

This event will be held Monday, Dec. 17. The evening will begin with registration at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. There is no charge for this event but we are interested in having individuals register. Come eat, sing and fellowship for the season.

Winter Coats Needed

These coats will be given to the individuals who attend the breakfast. So often they are the

ones who are homeless and need the extra covering during the winter. These coats will be collected on Sunday, Dec. 16, and distributed on Sunday, Dec. 23. We ask as many persons as possible to bring new or slightly used but clean coats.

Remember that some of the men are taller and we need coats for the children.

As the year closes I am indeed thankful for all that was achieved this year.

On so many occasions I feel the tears running down my cheeks as I experience again the kindness of the members of University United Methodist and other church groups.

I hope the Lord will continue to bless and keep you; May the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and may the Lord give you peace in all your giving and receiving.

— *Rev. Joseph Smythe,
Friday Community chaplain*

UUMC to host webcast of social change conference

"Radical Christian Life: Equipping Ourselves for Social Change," a conference headed by Joan Chittister at Trinity Church in New York City, will be broadcast on the web to our Pettengill Center 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 8.

Chittister is a Benedictine nun, author and speaker. The foci of the event are:

- ◆ How can our Christian traditions of social justice and contemplation energize our communities as forces for positive change in the world around us?
- ◆ What practices help us to discern where we are called to engage?

cern where we are called to engage?

- ◆ Where may we find sources of creativity and resilience within our tradition?
- ◆ How can we work in partnership with those of other faiths and no faith as we follow God's call?

The cost is \$5 per person with scholarships available. To register, contact the church, 475-7277 or uumc@twcny.rr.com.

Registrants will receive daily devotional e-mails by Chittister as preparation for the event.

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: \$204,360. Amount paid to date: \$165,922. Prepaid pledges: \$14,500.

"SOS" Update

Approximately \$40,000 is needed to upgrade our outdated sound system.

Current "Sounds of the Spirit" campaign balance is \$28,417. Current expenses paid are \$6,215. Total donations received are \$34,632.

Checks should be made out to University UMC with a notation of "SOS." Thanks to all who have contributed.

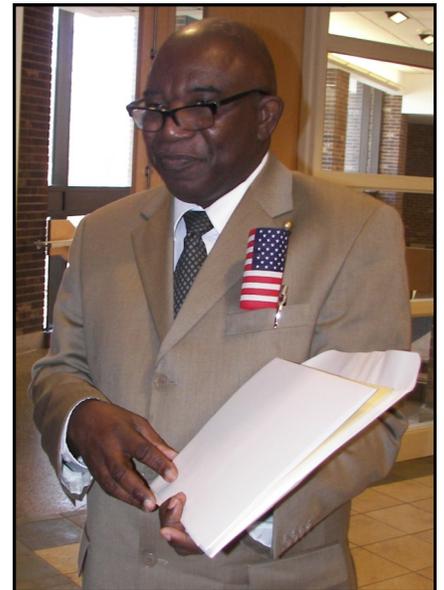


Photo by Nelson Price

Rev. Smythe becomes an American citizen

Rev. Joseph Smythe, Friday Community chaplain, became a U.S. citizen at a naturalization ceremony Nov. 14 in Onondaga Community College's Storer Auditorium. Joseph, who is from Jamaica, was one of 63 people from 32 nations who took the oath of citizenship. About a dozen members and friends from UUMC attended.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Infinite thanks for drastic improvements in Chris' health, from **Grandma Ann**
- Prayers of thanks for our church family, which has been so supportive of **Katie** and our family
- Thanks for **Oliver** and my grandmother's 88th birthday
- Thanks for all the service men and women who have served our country
- Thank you, God, for your Son. Your food fills our souls. Help us to share with everyone.
- Thank you, God, for Thanksgiving Day to remind us to do something about being thankful
- So thankful to welcome home **Julia, Nathan** and **John** and ever thankful for the choir and **Dennis**, from **Martha**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Alex Saxby and Matt Fischer**
- Travel mercies for all those traveling this week, from **Daphne**
- Your peace in the Holy Land, starting with more understanding across our differences, from **Peter Swords**
- A college scholarship and restoration of my marriage
- All the children in Syracuse who are living below the poverty level – more than half
- Jesus the Prophet, guide your servants to gather your

- enemies to the table of humanity to become lovers, from **Elise**
- Guidance
- All the people suffering from war and oppression
- Jesus the Provider: Guide your servants to be procreators of prosperity & challengers of poverty, from **Elise**
- The family of a student of mine at OCC whose 8-month-old daughter was found unresponsive in her crib and later died, from **Tom Boll**
- My son, who began chemotherapy this week
- **Jane and Dick Kilmer**, longtime shut-ins of UUMC
- Employment and good health
- Housing protection, a job, health and car repair
- **Harris Diamond**, recovering from spinal surgery, and his son **Norm**
- Hurricane Sandy relief help and prayers for those in New Jersey, New York City and Connecticut
- Full healing after intensive dental work
- Safe journey and back
- The **Ward Family** in their grief

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Dec. 2:** Syracuse: Hope Korean, Huyn Joo Yang; Onondaga Hill, Patience Kisakye
- **Dec. 9:** Syracuse: James Street, Roosevelt Baums; Syracuse: Rockefeller, John

Fulton

- **Dec. 16:** Fulton State Street, Joseph Kim; Syracuse: St. Paul's, Caroline Simmons

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Dec. 2:** Deborah Bradshaw, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Michael Owen, Grace Bradshaw
- **Dec. 9:** Paul Britton, Cheryl Brown, Claudette Brown-Smythe, Joseph Brown Smythe
- **Dec. 16:** Ann Burrows, William Burrows, Barbara Cargo, Jerry Cargo
- **Dec. 23:** Marjorie Carter, Charles Chappell III, Mary Chappell
- **Dec. 30:** Charles Chappell Jr., Rosemary Chappell, Dan Christen

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Joanne Zinsmeister Yarwood** was named a 2012 Alliance Award winner by the Onondaga County Medical Society. Joanne was the awardee for service to the community and was honored at the society's annual dinner Nov. 8.
- **David Magowan**, who attends Baker High School, was named a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program
- **Kelsey Youmell**, a senior at Jordan-Elbridge High School, signed a letter of intent to play women's lacrosse at Syracuse University next year. SU made it to the championship game last year.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Nancy Hough, Dr. Edwin Yarwood and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Flowers were given to Freda Kirkley, Joyce Flynn, Rosemary DeHoog and Bernie Hinds.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt, Ed and Lee Potter and Rev. Craig French.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material

December birthdays

- 1 – Kimberly Wolfe
- 3 – Karabo Ratala
- 4 – Chrysa Charno
- 5 – Peter Mortenson
- 6 – Samora Thebe, Danny Magowan
- 7 – Diane Tarbell, Virginia Dewey, Eric Nilsson
- 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 – Betty Jane Myers
- 28 – Dr. Edwin Yarwood

Returned Chimes

If you are moving or going away for an extended period, like South for the winter, and need The Chimes either stopped or sent to a new address, please contact Tom Boll at 475-7277 or uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

This will prevent your copy of The Chimes from being returned with postage due that the church must pay.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 2

Sunday the 2nd

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship; Communion; Sunday School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 4th

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry

7:30 p.m. LaFayette Community Band concert

Wednesday the 5th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 6th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 7th

10 a.m. - noon Friday

Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9

Sunday the 9th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship, "Lessons & Carols," Sunday School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

5 p.m. Advent Dinner

Wednesday the 12th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 13th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 14th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16

Sunday the 16th

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship, Consecration Sunday; Sunday School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday the 17th

6 p.m. Community dinner

Tuesday the 18th

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry

Wednesday the 19th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 20th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 21st

10 a.m. - noon Friday

Community

Saturday the 22nd

9 a.m. Christmas pageant rehearsal





The Altar Guild.



Fall Congregational Luncheon



Fall Congregational Luncheon



Some of the Duru family at the Fall Congregational Luncheon



Ted talks about the Community Breakfasts

Site of the conference.



Dean and Bob at the Fall Congregational Luncheon



Jeanne speaks at the Fall Congregational Luncheon

Rev. Joseph Smythe's Naturalization Ceremony
Nov. 14 at OCC



Anyone notice something strange about Old Glory?



Joseph takes the oath of citizenship.



Joseph after becoming a U.S. citizen.



Craig and Joseph after the ceremony.

Stuffing the Thanksgiving Bags Nov. 19 in Fellowship Hall





























Lyndsey with the food collected from SU through the Connections group at UUMC and a social media group at the Maxwell School spearheaded by Matt.