Christmas is just about here, but in preparation there’s the Christmas Eve pageant rehearsal this Saturday at 9 a.m. If you have a child, kindergarten age and up who wants to be in the pageant, bring him/her then. Costume fitting will follow rehearsal.

Then comes the fourth Sunday in Advent, Christmas Sunday, on Dec. 22. The handbell choir will perform. See CHOIR, Page 4

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### From the History Room...

**Ties weaken between SU and University Church**

*By Rosemary DeHoog, Church Historian*

Even though the Kolledj Klan had extraordinary growth and at one time had as many as 600 participants at University Church, during the 1930s the program lost much of its unique appeal.

Added to that was the building of Hendricks Chapel and a far-ranging program of on-campus religious activities for students led to declining student activities at the church. At the same time the university was losing much of its distinctly Methodist character.

As it outgrew denominationalism and became one of the major educational institutions of the country, its faculty and administration included people of many different religious persuasions.

See PROFESSORS, Page 6
Have I told you how much I love the season of Advent? How much it means to me? How much stock I put in it? How much hope I place in it? It hasn’t always been that way. Sometimes I let the busyness and stress of the season override any appreciation of Advent’s gifts and blessings. But lately it’s been different.

It goes without saying that it’s a time of birth and expectant waiting. But the birth I wait for and long for is not just of Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world; it is also my own birth or at least my spiritual rebirth ... a time of renewed love, faith and joy.

Sitting in the sanctuary last Sunday, listening to the choir perform their special service of Christmas music, I was reminded of all that. From a technical standpoint, what this talented group of singers does is almost always interesting and of high quality. But their work last Sunday was not just about musical technique and ability. It was much, much more.

It was deeply affecting — a lyrical and magisterial representation of the heart of Christmas. My soul did cartwheels in response. (Not exactly an easy thing at this stage of my life!)

Most often when I think about Advent, it’s about all the things I have to do to get ready. Shopping for presents. Getting cards written and mailed. Making time for family and friends.

Even as a pastor and preacher, my focus on the spiritual nature of the season revolves around what you and I can do to ready ourselves for the coming of God and the birth of Jesus.

But last week’s music wonderfully reminded me that Christmas is all about God coming to us ... to me ... when we least expect and are least prepared.

It’s not about me or us at all. It’s about God, God’s love for us, God’s desire to be with us, God choosing us as a dance partner.

(Be still, my middle school wallflower heart.) Here are some of the lyrics that caught my eye, my ear, my heart.

“In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.”
(from “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”)

“In those days a decree went out, Dancing into the Promise!
See folks coming from all about, Dancing into the Promise!
Mary and Joseph came to that place, Dancing into the Promise!
Shepherds . . . they came too, Dancing into the Promise!
Let us all be found, Dancing into the Promise!”
(from “Dancing into the Promise”)

“And He will joy over you in song,
And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves!”
(from “And the Father Will Dance”)

I ... you ... God’s true love? God rejoicing over you ... and me? God delighting in you ... in me?
God dancing over you ... over me ... in joy?

Maybe the only thing we ever have to do is to listen for the music, join the dancing and add our voices to the heavenly choir.

The poet Ann Weems writes in that same spirit:
“Hooray for Christmas trees and candlelight and the good old church pageant.
Hooray for shepherd boys who forget their lines
and Wise Men whose beards fall off
and a Mary who giggles.
O Lord, you were born!
O Lord, you were born!
And that breaks in upon my ordered life
like bugles blaring.
You were born
and I will celebrate!”

My life, your life, the world as a whole would all be better with more singing, more dancing, more celebrating, more rejoicing.

— Craig
We must have been very good this year because Santa brought us some goodies a little early:

1. Through the Food Bank we are getting an extra grant of $1,000! You may have heard that New York State was providing extra support to Food Banks to offset the decrease in Food Stamps (now called SNAP). They are passing that along to their food pantries in the form of a food credit.

2. As always, members of this congregation are wonderfully generous in their support of our Friday Community. Thanks to all of you!

3. Outreach has a new phone number! Really, it’s the church office phone (475-7277). For many years we had a separate line (472-1715) because the pantry used to be up on the third floor and cellphones were rare. By eliminating that line we are saving about $500 a year.

4. Have you seen the tree in Fellowship Hall? Beautiful, isn’t it? It was decorated entirely with ornaments made during our Friday Community. Thanks to the volunteers who made this happen … especially Ann Milner, Bobbie Hemphill and Robert Simmons.

5. Our Leading Through Service group has graduated! Four people have gone through a six-week course where we explored our values, interests and ideas. We had fun, laughed and enjoyed some lively discussions about faith and life. Congratulations to Michael Camaione, Jeff Foley, Robert Simmons and Valerie Young!

Next month our Friday Community will begin a book study of “The Weight of Mercy” by Deb Richardson-Moore.

She is a new pastor and her congregation is a mix of homeless, drug addicts and middle-class folk. One of my favorite quotes is her belief about what love is:

“Where the love comes in, I think, is this: Showing up. Showing up day after day after day. Putting one foot in front of the other and slogging it out.”

Hope you feel the love this Christmas season.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community Coordinator

**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.

Contact Vito Sciscioi, Gary Wood or Rachel Kgama for details.

**Holy Family in Chappell Room**

We thank Dr. George and Rita Soufleris for their gift of the beautiful hand-crafted Holy Family figures in the Chappell Room.

These were created by Dr. Soufleris’ nurse and had been displayed in his office.
I am grateful for ...

For a few weeks in November, the congregation, plus our breakfast and food pantry participants, completed cards with the following phrase: I am grateful for ...

Here are some of the responses:

- Good company engaged in mutual sharing of thoughts, needs, story-of-self, listening and responding in a conversation of some sense.
- The wondrous array of people in my life
- My family
- Our faithful pastor and gracious UUMC helpers
- God’s unwavering rock-solid love
- Waking each day with the chance to start again a new and fresh beginning
- Being a part of the Finlayson-Schueler inclusive family
- The understanding, love and support of both my biological family and my church family—in happy times and sad times, good times and bad times
- My heritage
- Kind Christian members who serve God in kind, humble ways
- The beauty of the earth, of each living being, of healing, of our relationships and of human development
- My loving family, for without them I would not be where I am now
- God’s grace and love
- A friend
- My parents, Robert and Carmen. No matter where I travel to, what obstacles are before me, what awards I receive, they are praying for me. They love me unconditionally. No matter what I do or don’t do, they are always on my side. I love my parents. They are my best friends. I am of them and they are of me.
- A loving and caring congregation that strives to bring God’s kingdom to this hurting world

Who played Baby Jesus?

Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler has been compiling a list of infants who played Jesus in UUMC’s Christmas Eve pageant. Here are some:

1986: Lucas Hadley-Telfer
1987: Brian Finlayson-Schueler
1988: Andy Famiglietti
1992: Rachel Boll
2001: Ben Virgo; Allison Virgo (Littlest Angel)
2006: Nyessah Brown

A longer list will be in the next Chimes. Contact Jeanne if you have information on 2003 and earlier years.

January birthdays

1 – David Lund, Samuel Weah, Pablo Weah
2 – Maria Pedro
4 – Autumn Kerr, Charlotte Burnap, Ken Craig
9 – Joseph Smythe
11 – Jim Samuel
15 – Martin Luther King Jr.
16 – Eric Nilsson
20 – Ebony Wilson
21 – Jacob Uparcraft
22 – Diane Swords
23 – Eboni Marshall, Judith Bowers
24 – Fred Zuti, Seineh Weah
25 – Lara Chappell
26 – Matt Rokahr
27 – Colleen Magowan
30 – Eros Marshall, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay
31 – Neil Damron

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

Altar Flowers

Flowers were given by the Hunt Family and the Altar Guild. Flowers were given to Johanna MacDonald and Martha Sutter.

Flowers were delivered by Margo and Don Koten and Marg McDivitt.
THANKS
- From Joyce Flynn and Katie:
  A brief note from Boston to let you know that we’re doing fairly well with Katie’s treatment and testing. We so appreciate all the love, prayers and support we’ve felt and continue to feel from everyone there. We heard that the Thanksgiving bag project went well, which was a great relief as we were distressed about not being there for it. We hope to be home soon. We’ve missed seeing all of you and are anxious to get back to church. We feel so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful congregation!
- From Peter Swords:
  Thanks to the choir, Dennis and Pastor Craig for the beautiful memorial service for our Dad!
- From Jerry Cargo:
  Thanks for your prayers, flowers, cards, telephone calls and visits, which all contributed to my speedy recovery.
- Thankful for being able to talk to Tim in Afghanistan
- Thank you for John Swords, Margaret Magowan, my parents and all the saints who came before us
- God, thank you for the angels among us — some like Nelson Mandela, some around us in everyday life
- I thank God for all he’s doing for me

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:
- Those in military service: Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Timothy Nevin, Matt Fischer
- From Peter Swords: For Jo-elle, my supervisor’s daughter, who had surgery Friday and still wants to finish final exams at OCC
- Charlie Will Myers, son of Holly Thuma and Larry Myers, who has been hospitalized in Pittsburgh
- Greg Mahoney requests our prayers as he continues to face some serious health issues
- John Indict
  Sunday, Dec. 8
- From Jeanne: Children with severe behavior problems in the Syracuse schools, and the teachers and staff being injured by the students
- From Russ: Request a big prayer for all those who are ill; for Nelson Mandela, who left us. Keep your thoughts on God and your hearts pure. Blessings to Penny and Shelly. Prayers for this church and its members.
- From Shirley: For my niece, Angela, who lost her son last week who had a severe asthma attack and then went into cardiac arrest. Also, please pray that the Lord will comfort his sister, Vicki, as well.
- From Elise: Prophet Jesus, What next you ask us servants? Asking us to take our extension of our imagination to reach you!
- From Katie Flynn’s family: Prayers and thanks for all the care and concern and prayers on Katie’s behalf
- Johanna MacDonald at Crouse as she deals with serious health concerns
- That my job interview went well
- Eva, who lost everything in a fire
- West Genesee United Methodist Church
- The welfare and victims of Typhoon Haiyan
  Sunday, Dec. 1
- All the people in need
- Betsy Wiggins, who had a medical procedure last Monday, and for Jim
- The congregation of St. Paul’s by the Sea Church in Ocean City, Md., who lost their pastor and food pantry in an intentionally set fire last week

DEATH
- Longtime member the Rev. John Swords died Nov. 22 at the age of 93. His service was held at UUMC on Nov. 29. His obituary can be found at: http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?n=john-e-swords&pid=168189182&fheid=22215

GREETINGS
- Warmest wishes to our church family for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We miss you and think of you often from snowy and dark Finland!
  Love from Stephanie, Jani, and Oliver

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:
- Jan. 5: Dale Spicer, Rita Soufleris, George Soufleris
- Jan. 12: Lynn Steenberg, Matt Steenberg, Don Steenberg
- Jan. 19: Cynthia Steinem, Samuel Livingstone, Kathleen
  See PEOPLE, Page 6
**Offering envelopes available**

Numbered offering envelopes for 2014 are available in the church office. Please sign your name on the list next to the envelope number when you pick them up.

**MLK Dinner at SU**

The 29th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, “Pursuing the Dream: Above All Odds,” is Jan. 19 in the Carrier Dome. Dinner is at 4:30 p.m., program at 5:30 p.m. UUMC will have tickets available at $25.

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

**Sunday the 22nd**

- 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 preschool, kindergarten and adults with special needs
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

**Church Office Closed:**

Dec. 25-26

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 29

**Sunday the 29th**

- 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

### WEEK OF JANUARY 5

**Sunday the 5th**

- 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

**Wednesday the 8th**

- 11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

**Thursday the 9th**

- 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

**Friday the 10th**

**10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

### WEEK OF JANUARY 12

**Sunday the 12th**

- 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 adults with special needs
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

**Wednesday the 15th**

**11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting**

**Thursday the 16th**

- 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

**Friday the 17th**

**10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

**CONTINUED from Page 5**

Stevenson

- **Jan. 26:** Tiffany Steinwert, Josh Arrowood, Grady Steinwert-Arrowood, Henry Steinwert-Arrowood

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:**

- January list not received at press time

**Thanks from UMCOR**

United Methodist Committee on Relief thanks UUMC for money received:

- $365.25 to Hurricanes 2012
- $6.25 to Disaster Response in the United States
- $200 to the Board of Global Ministries through The Advance. It will support the missionary community in honor of Mark Zimmerman.

**Professors still active**

**CONTINUED from Page 1**

Gious affiliations or no affiliation at all. Many professors and administrators continued to be active at University Church, but much of the unusual relationship of earlier years was gone.

From “A Century of Ministry” by Dr. Nelson Blake, Syracuse University.
Neighborhood Christmas Dinner
Dec. 16, 2013

Between 80 and 90 people enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the fixins.
Advent Luncheon
Dec. 8, 2013
Photos by Tom Boll, Carol Boll and Barbara Fought
Lighting the first Advent candle.
Our front doors are decorated for the World AIDS Day Memorial Service on Dec. 2
Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent
Dec. 4, 2013
UUMC No-Fault Orchestra
Dec. 15, 2013
Ted sets up the tree in the narthex.