

THE CHIMES

Feb. 20, 2013

**Next Chimes
deadline:
March 6**

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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*

GRACE HOUSE SHUTS DOWN; INTERN TO STAY WITH UUMC

The Grace House Board has terminated the Grace House intern program, effective last week.

Grace House was the sponsor organization that brought Lyndsey Graves to Syracuse and UUMC for a yearlong venture in voluntary poverty and simplicity, community service and intentional Christian community. UUMC had made a two-year commitment to the program with the expectation of one intern per year serving here. Here are the answers to questions about that decision and its effects on



Lyndsey Graves

UUMC and Lyndsey.

Q. Why was the program ended?

A. The Grace House Board's decision was triggered by events:

- ◆ The voluntary recent departure of the second of the four interns, leaving Lyndsey and one other intern
- ◆ The decision by Visions for Change to end the other intern's employment with them
- ◆ The lack of any alternate work site for that intern
- ◆ The difficulties that created for the Grace House program, in terms of funding and the overall integrity of the program

See **UUMC**, Page 4

Task force to examine outreach and develop plan

An Outreach Sustainability Task Force has been formed to develop a plan for the long-term viability of our outreach program.

Among key areas it will explore:

- The quality of our existing outreach ministry. How do we make it the best it can be?
- The comprehensiveness of our outreach ministry. How do we connect "serial charity" to community development and social justice? How do we practice both local and global outreach?
- The relationship of outreach to the overall mission, ministry and identity of UUMC. Is outreach

something we do "on the side" or is it an intrinsic/central part of who we are? What are the implications of that answer for how we define and practice discipleship and membership as well as worship, Christian formation, fellowship?

Task force members, to date, are Beth Drew, Bruce Borenstein, Darryl Barrow, David Mankiewicz, Deb Virgo, Derrick Johnson, Ernie Hemphill, Gary Peck, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, Jeff Hodge, Joseph Smythe, Ken Craig, Lyndsey Graves, Marti Swords-Horrell and Matt Gress.

Scenes from Ash Wednesday in the sanctuary



Rev. French

Ash Wednesday, Scene 1.

I'm sitting Shiva in the sanctuary. Trying to let go of that which is old and dead in me, that which does nothing for me anymore (except deaden my soul and block my way forward), that which adds nothing to my life anymore (except needless deadweight).

It's a day to strip away all the spiritual sludge that's been built up in me ... to sit quietly and contentedly in God's sanctuary/God's presence ... to get back to basics ... to recall that I am a beloved child of God, that grace abounds even for me, that the Word of God is life-giving and life-renewing, that I am called to follow not my own light, but the light of Jesus, even when it takes me where I might not want to go (but where else would I go? where else could I go?).

Ash Wednesday, Scene 2.

The ashes get under my thumbnail as I mark each forehead with the sign of the cross. There's no way to avoid it. It's an occupational hazard. One that reminds me that I, too, am marked and that my life is bound up with others, that we rub off on each other and affect each other, whether we want to or not, whether we like it or not.

Getting under my nail is one thing. Getting under my skin is something else entirely. *That* I didn't expect. It took me totally by surprise. It so happened that the first two persons to enter the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday were strangers. College students I did not know. One by one, they came and sat next to me and told me a bit about themselves. Why they had come. What they were looking and praying for. What they were longing and praying for.

Their voices, their stories, their prayers got under my skin (in a positive way). They took me away from the administrative role that occupies so much of my time and brought me back to the pastoral role, responding to their heartfelt cries.

To one student, I talked about Jesus' struggle in the wilderness: his saying "no" to lesser things,

in order to say "yes" only to God; his refusal to let anything or anyone, other than God, define him.

To the other student, I talked about repentance: not as something reserved exclusively for those who have done something horrible or who harbor some deep dark secret and so need to make amends and seek a whole new direction for themselves; but repentance in its most basic form, as the simple decision to turn and move in a new direction, toward the light, toward life.

Intended as words of grace and blessing for others, they became words of grace and blessing for me, too — a reminder of what it means to preach Good News and bind up the broken-hearted, not just on Sunday but all the time, not just with those I know but with everyone.

Ash Wednesday, Scene

3. A steady (if not large) stream of persons made their way into the sanctuary over the course of the day. Even so, there were stretches of time when I was all by myself. But I was never alone, really.

My memories kept me company. Memories of other Ash Wednesdays and other Lents. Memories of how I have hurt and disappointed others. Memories of how God has restored my soul, my joy, my life in times gone by.

Memories of persons I've come to know and love in four and a half years as your pastor. Memories of persons who aren't physically around anymore, having relocated to other earthly locations or a heavenly one. BJ. Mary. Betty. Charley. Roseanne. Rosemary. Frieda. Nathan. Allan. Harold. Diane. Carolyn. Jim. No, I was never really alone. Not at all.

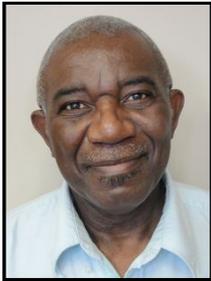
Ash Wednesday, Scene 4. The story has stayed with me ever since I read it 35 or so years ago in a book by Henri Nouwen. In writing about the core work of a pastor, he asked, "What would it mean for a parishioner, trying to reach the pastor, to be told, 'I'm sorry. He's not available. He's in prayer.'"

Today was one of those days. Thanks be to God.

— Craig 



OUTREACH MINISTRY



Rev. Smythe

Ministry to the Friday Community includes a variety of things, including visiting the sick at the hospital.

Recently one of the volunteers told me that a friend of the community was very ill. I promised that I would pray for him, but on Monday evening the volunteer told me that the friend

had grown worse and was taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

On Wednesday evening I visited him at Community General Hospital. When I arrived in the room I saw him trying to talk and he was wheezing. He looked at me and said, "Joseph, thanks for visiting me." He explained his situation to me and repeated his thanks for visiting him.

I was just about to offer prayer and leave when two other volunteers came to visit him. I offered prayer and left.

Volunteer of the Month

This month the volunteer I focus on is Evelyn Crockett-Dykes. Evelyn is a Baptist and at her congregation she is responsible for planning meals for special occasions such as special dinners. She is the sister of Julius Lawrence and together they make a great team.

There are days when she works on the registration desks and if she is needed she will work in the clothing area.

Evelyn is committed to guiding the friends through the line and explaining how the various food items may be prepared. She is easy to talk to



Evelyn Crockett-Dykes

and tolerant. If there are friends she has to serve and they become difficult she will ask me to serve these persons. We appreciate Evelyn as a member of the Friday Community.

Ministry Luncheon

We will celebrate with the men and women who share their skills with the members of the office staff. The date for the celebration is March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are now planning the program, and it is hoped that we will enjoy the celebration.

Clothing

Recently we received clothing from students of Upstate Medical Hospital. We thank them because our supplies were getting low.

If anyone is aware of persons who have clothing to give away, please refer them to us. We are especially thankful for men's clothing that fit the tall and large ones.

Books

At the moment our books are going low. We are asking those who are able to join us. There is special need for children's books and magazines.

A Thought

It is the period of Lent, a time of preparation. I invite us to focus on something special. Whatever these things or ideas are, may it help us to grow and in the process help ourselves and others.

Jesus spent his last days on earth sharing especially with those who needed him most.

The Friday Community has persons who need help in reading and writing skills as well as financial planning. Let us seek to be helpful in as many areas as possible.

Pray for the outreach ministry and the work it does for the congregation and the community.

Blessings.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe,
Friday Community chaplain

Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Guild will be Feb. 27 at the home of Barbara Nunn.

The program will be "Connections" and will be presented by our church intern, Lindsey Graves.

All are welcome. Please let Barbara know if

you will be there.

Breakfast Sponsorships

All individuals and families who sponsored the 24 Community/Church Breakfasts in 2012 have renewed their sponsorships for 2013 at the same cost of \$230.

Finance Corner

Figures for 2013

Total pledges for 2013 are \$251,130.

Amount paid to date: \$20,517.

Non-pledge contributions: \$1,149. Prepaid pledges: \$58,300.

"SOS" Update

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

Current "Sounds of the Spirit" campaign balance is \$34,828. Current expenses paid are \$6,215. Total donations received are \$41,043.

Creation Stewardship

Add Your Support for Study

UUMC's climate change study group is discussing a vision for a more sustainable society and invites you to help make this a reality by supporting a study that would plan for a transition in New York state to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy supply. Read more about the study at: allianceforagreeneconomy.org and click on "Take Action" on the home page.

You can help by signing a postcard! Alliance for a Green Economy has teamed with Peace Action CNY to collect postcards from those who want a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy supply. The campaign already has sponsorship in the state Assembly. To sign and send a postcard click on "Read more about the study and get involved," also on that "Take Action" page.

For more information, contact Jessica Azulay at jessica@allianceforagreeneconomy.org.

UUMC will handle intern's financial support

CONTINUED from Page 1

◆ Questions/concerns about the viability of "intentional community," a central piece of what Grace House was all about, with only two remaining residents

Q. What other issues contributed?

A. Above and beyond all of these factors, the Grace House Board, along with the new rector of Grace Church, had already identified larger systemic question tied to the startup and organization of the Grace House program and the relationship of Grace House to Grace Church itself.

In addition to the new rector, there's a new Grace House program director, neither of whom had been involved in designing, developing and planning for Grace House.

Q. What will happen to Lyndsey?

A. She has made it clear that she wants to remain here at UUMC and complete her assignment with us, which runs through July.

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee met last week and unanimously agreed that they want to continue to have Lyndsey be part of our life and ministry.

Lyndsey has found an apartment on East Genesee Street less than a block from the church and is moving in this week.

Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay and her husband, Michael, graciously agreed to have Lyndsey live with them while she was in transition if she needed a place.

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is also working hard to make sure that Lyndsey's needs and rights are adequately cared for.

Q. What does this mean for UUMC?

A. UUMC will take over Lyndsey's full, ongoing financial support, through her planned departure date in July. Using funds that were already earmarked for the intern program, we will cover her rent and utilities, along with the small monthly stipend (\$500) she's been receiving for food and personal expenses.

In return, Lyndsey will continue the work she's been doing here since September: being part of and helping to lead our outreach ministries on Friday morning and Sunday morning, and developing a ministry with college students and other young adults.

Longer term, we will have to rethink how we best provide staff leadership, both for our outreach work and for our work with students. The new Outreach Sustainability Task Force, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and the Governing Board will all have key roles to play. (See Page 1 story on the Outreach Sustainability Task Force.)

Looking Ahead

As we move through Lent, plans are taking shape for Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter. Our Palm Sunday speaker is the head of one of the Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church in the next four years: ministry with the poor, leadership development, global diseases of poverty and new places for new people.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Thank you, Jesus, for good outcomes for family issues, especially Chris' surgery, from **Grandma Ann**
- Thank you, God, for each other, our differences that make us unique, yet made in God's image
- Thanks to my great family for "rescuing me" after a broken pipes flood – and all the emotional support from my church family, from **Grandma Ann**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Alex Saxby and Matt Fischer**
- For a shift in our national priorities: to divest from weapons of war and invest in jobs that rebuild the ruins and restore economic justice, from **Peter Swords**
- **Frances and Howard Long**, parents of **Carol Boll**, as her mother recovers from a broken hip
- **Bethany Boll**, daughter of **Carol and Tom Boll**, as she travels to Singapore this week for a new job
- The door opened for **Terry Nyman** this week to a new life. He died Monday. Prayers for his wife, **Constance**, and his two sons, **Clark and Kulman**, from **Ralph Best**
- Please pray for my speedy recovery on my weight loss surgery on the 18th. Prayers for all military, staff at UUMC. Prayers for all our political leaders, from **Russ**
- Prophet Jesus, Direct your servants to prepare for your transformation!

- For God's grace to live in the moment and grow in my relationship to God. Also, I pray that God would move the hearts of our leaders in Albany and D.C. to make wise, sustainable choices in regards to climate change and fracking
- God's blessing for our pastor
- My brother, **Phil**
- Prayers for those needing healing and those in grief
- For those who are angry and alienated – that they may find peace
- Pray for the president of the United States
- To become a better Christian and for better health
- For the gift of hope, that we try to give each other, and that we need to find for ourselves in God's creation, from **Peter Swords**
- Jesus the Prophet: Can you demonstrate your servants the difference to perform peace over war? from **Elise**
- Bless all those who have not found the light of the Lord
- The little boy who was held hostage
- Nonprofit organizations having difficulties
- Welcome to the world **Aaron Drew Rios**, 10-pound son of **Katie Drew** and **Carlos Rios** and new grandson of **Beth Drew**
- Healing from severe back troubles for **Diane**
- That the Lord will help me serve him every day of my life
- The family of **Barbara VanHousen**, **Robby's** cousin, who died this week
- Our daughter, as she travels

- to India for her work for Perkins School for the Blind
- Please help us feel better when we feel sad.
- Blessings to St. Paul's UMC in Ithaca on their 15th anniversary of being a reconciling congregation, from **Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler**
- Comfort as I commemorate the fourth anniversary of my daughter's death and **Dakota's** mother, from **Daphne**
- Pray for my mom and me for our loss of my birth mother and her only child, from **Dakota**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **March 3:** South Scriba, Bill Nikolas; Fulton First UMC, Mark Kimpland
- **March 10:** Brewerton, Jack Keating; Christ Church Parish, Ed Bennett
- **March 24:** Bridgeport, Hyun Joo Yang; Camillus First, Marcia Wickert; Granby Center UMC, Dean Flemming

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **March 3:** Mary Duru, Bill Dunn, Kate Fagut
- **March 10:** Maria Fay, Jeanne Finlasyon-Schueler, Brian Finlasyon-Schueler, Ted Finlasyon-Schueler
- **March 17:** Jessica Fischer, Angela Tillapaugh, Katrina Tillapaugh
- **March 24:** Joyce Flynn, Katie Flynn, Barbara Fought, Nelson Price
- **March 31:** Eleanor Frank, Dale Fryer, Hal Garman, Janet Garman

Altar flowers

Flowers were given by Roger and Johanna MacDonald, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sneddon, Ernest and Bobbie Hemphill.

Flowers were given to Freda Kirkley, Jim and Betsy Wiggins, Lynn Steenberg, Ann Milner and Beth Drew. Barbara Cargo was a flower deliverer.

March birthdays

- 2 – Jerry Cargo, Emelia Weah
- 3 – Julia Ross
- 4 – Grace Bradshaw
- 5 – Doug Hemphill, Bob Coutts
- 6 – Aimie Sarkodie-Mensah Best
- 9 – Kirsten Magowan, Keith Wellner
- 11 – Rita Soufleris
- 13 – Jo Davis
- 16 – Sierra Messina-Yauchzy, Nichola Weah
- 17 – Don Betz, Jonathan Weah
- 19 – Stuart Hosler, Dianne Grome
- 20 – Donald Koten, Vito Sciscioli
- 22 – Craig Myers, Marion Rush
- 23 – Bill Potter
- 25 – Michael Fay
- 26 – Barbara Nunn
- 27 – Rosemary DeHoog, Denise Marshall, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler
- 29 – Renee McKay

Stephen Ministry Training

UUMC and DCC network program for Stephen Ministry is offering another training class for Stephen Ministers on Tuesday evenings. The start date is March 5, running weekly through June. Host site for training will be at DeWitt Community Church. Please contact Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay for more information at 422-8749 or gwentill@twcny.rr.com.



University United
Methodist Church

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

Sunday the 24th
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; Sunday
School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering
Room
Noon Orchestra Rehearsal
Noon Poverty Lenten Study Group
Monday the 25th
4 p.m. Outreach Sustainability
Task Force
Wednesday the 27th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
Thursday the 28th
6 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 1st
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF MARCH 3

Sunday the 3rd
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship-Communion;
Sunday School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering
Room
Noon Orchestra Rehearsal
Noon Poverty Lenten Study Group

Tuesday the 5th

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 6th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
Thursday the 7th
6 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 8th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF MARCH 10

Sunday the 10th
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, Sunday
School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering
Room
Noon Poverty Lenten Study Group
Tuesday the 12th
7 p.m. Outreach Committee
Wednesday the 13th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations
Committee
Thursday the 14th
6 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 15th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

A Lenten study led by Rev. French and intern Lyndsey Graves meets after worship from noon to 1 p.m. on the theme "Justice for the Poor," with content provided by Jim Wallis and Sojourners. The study includes watching portions of a DVD and discussion of that and applicable Scripture. All are welcome.