

THE CHIMES

Feb. 5, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
February 19**

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Seventy years ago this month, fire destroyed the sanctuary of our church.

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*

Life at the Friday Community



Deb Virgo

What is a typical day like at our Friday Community/Food Pantry? Let me tell you.

Staff and volunteers start to arrive Friday around 9 a.m. So do the guests.

On cold days they sit in the stairwell until I arrive with the keys.

Julius Lawrence is here early working in the conference offices so he or Marsha let folks in.

Today I arrived a little late since the roads were slick and I had stopped to pick up one of the volunteers. Several volunteers do not drive, so we try to have volunteers with cars bring them.

This morning there were three guests waiting, along with Robert and Mary, both volunteers.

One guest helped us carry in boxes of lettuce given to us by Grace Episcopal Church. Their pantry is on

Thursdays, and they had leftovers. Thanks, Grace!

The volunteers know the routine. I walk through and unlock all the doors (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Pantry, Clothes Closet and the ladies room).

The volunteers get the carts that hold the registration materials and the hospitality materials. Someone starts the coffee, and the others lay out the supplies along the registration table. Someone gets out the signs that both welcome guests and list our rules.

Between 9 and 9:30 a.m. more volunteers arrive. Dick and Ira head back to the pantry to set things up.

Besides the items on the shelves, we have meat that is stored in one of our three freezers and bread, eggs, cheese, yogurt, margarine in our refrigerator.

We also have some onions and potatoes today, as well as the bagged lettuce from Grace.

See **WALKING**, Page 3

Two guest preachers come to UUMC this month

While Rev. French is traveling in Ireland with his family in February, we'll have two guest preachers.

Ben O'Connor, a Syracuse native and second-year student at Drew Theological School in New Jersey, is here this Sunday, Feb. 9.

He attended undergraduate school at SUNY Oswego where he received his bachelor's degree in secondary social studies education.

Ben worked as a substitute for several years before responding to a call to ordained ministry.

Shortly before applying for seminary he met his now wife, Laurel, who is also seeking ordination. They were married just over a year ago in a ceremony that included vows not just to each other but also to Ben's daughter, Olivia.

See **AN ORANGE**, Page 4

Treasures of the past found far and close by



Rev. French

In a few days my wife, Barbara, and I, along with our 9-year-old granddaughter, Maya, will be heading for Ireland.

It's a first-time trip for us — something we've been planning and looking forward to for half a year. Of the three of us, Maya actually has the strongest Irish connections, both in terms of family lineage and her passion for Irish step dancing. So we'll introduce her to the Irish countryside and culture — music, dance, story-telling.

We also want to spend time exploring the history of Ireland, especially the origins of Celtic Christianity. What were (are) the distinctive characteristics of Celtic Christianity? What gave rise to, shaped and sustained this understanding of faith? What is the enduring legacy of Celtic Christianity? Might it have something to teach us about the hardiness and appeal of faith in a rugged, non-Christian culture?

So we'll visit the ancient ruins and "thin places" (where the seen and unseen worlds crowd in on each other): long-dead and crumbling monasteries; simple, abandoned dwellings in isolated and barren settings; burial grounds of forgotten souls. At least until Maya says, "No more."

Even then, we want her to come to be aware and appreciative of the gifts of the past — not as dead artifacts or mere curiosities, but as a fertile seedbed for the future (no matter how dissimilar that future seems).

Rachel Srubas (in the current issue of "Weavings") laments the prevalence of the "Death of Church Movement" and the "obsolescence of the mainline church" (in favor of some vague, generic, de-institutionalized, self-driven spirituality).

"We are frequently reminded," she writes, that the "institutional church offers little of value any more, unless you like rummage sales. (We) have

become captive to the belief that the church is dead or dying."

"My problem," she declares, is that "I love the doomed, decaying, institutional church. ... I love the people and the steeple, the Word and the sacraments, the polity and the potlucks, the hymnals and even some of the committee meetings. I don't want church to die. I don't want my parish to perish."

Her solution? "I commend to you a spiritual practice that will not cause a turn-around in your church's dwindling numbers, but may revolutionize your heart and release you from captivity to dispiriting daily (recycled) 'news' of church decline.

"Go sit with the dying. Go pray at the bedsides of people who will certainly not live to witness the birth of a new spiritual awakening. ... I confess I sometimes think of the old as though they're the church's problem and not its venerable matriarchs and patriarchs. But by the grace of God, I've developed my capacity to cherish antique people, to love holding their hands in mine and saying ancient prayers with them. ... They grant me a glimpse of life lived close to its end, close to its Maker.

"Very old people tend to be very thin people, and can give the same gifts thin places do. Their translucent skin, few words and long silences veil just barely the presence of God. ... All you can finally do is sit in their company, listen to their breathing, and sense the truth that mortality is a blessing beyond understanding, that dying is a good way to get over yourself."

I could not help but think of those words last week, as I stood, sat and prayed beside the beds (next to last resting places) of two aging, dying saints: Barbara, whose grandfather, once upon a time, pastored University Church before being elected bishop, and whose grandmother was memorialized in the name of a women's group here;

See **WHERE**, Page 6



Walking a line between strict rules and having a heart

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I was happy to see Roger and Cheryl today. They are brother and sister who just began volunteering with us.

Fortunately, Cheryl has an aptitude for working at the registration table. Fortunate because both Norma Goel and Laila, who regularly work at registration, are unable to be here for a couple of months. To go smoothly, the registration table needs three people working.

Mary heads back to bring out the clothes. Most weeks we have two to three volunteers who help with the clothing. Two regular volunteers are young women who are from the Mormon church. For several years we've had various Mormon women use our pantry as their mission.

Around 10 a.m. we begin taking people through the pantry. We typically have about four volunteers who do this. Since a couple are out sick today, we enlist volunteers from other areas to fill in.

Julius and Mike "work the door." They have recognized that people respond to a friendly greeting or a joke as they come in.

Lately we have had to walk a line between having strict rules and having a heart. One of the new rules is that people must bring proof of address every time they come to the pantry.

For people who do not have a driver's license or who move often, this is not automatic and until people learn our system they often come with nothing.

As an example, today we met Charles. He is new to Syracuse



A guest receives help making choices in our Food Pantry.

and staying with a friend nearby. He had a driver's license from North Carolina but nothing to prove that he lived here.

After chatting a while we assured him that we would help him with food today, but that when (if) he comes next month he would need to bring his paperwork. We also offered him help next week if he needed help with "the system." I wondered if we'd see him again.

Today we also welcomed a new volunteer: Elisha. She is typical of many new volunteers in that she has time on her hands but is unable to work. Since she already knew Robert, who taught her to crochet, we paired her with Ann, Robert and Bobbie at the craft table.

Note to self: time to do a new volunteer orientation next week. Sometimes orientation happens "on-the-job," but it feels as if we could benefit from something more comprehensive.

There were 28 families who used the pantry today. Three had

just moved into the area. Two lived in the Valley area and didn't realize pantries had service areas.

These two women were friends who live a mile apart but have different home pantries. They couldn't understand why.

For people like this we have a "one-time." We give them some food and call the Interreligious Food Consortium to find their home pantry.

One woman came who had also come last week. She said that they had no food and didn't know that families could use the pantry only once a month.

After talking with her I learned that they used all their money moving into the apartment and were waiting for food stamps to start.

We agreed that she could get food today and would not use the pantry in February. This is not uncommon — that people will trade weeks.

Several people came in from just outside our service area and had to be reminded that this is not their pantry.

Around 11:30 things slowed down and we began to clean up. But, as always, a couple came in in the last minute.

After noon we cleaned up and moved upstairs. We've been doing a book study, discussing "The Weight of Mercy." Or maybe it's just a chance to chat and have a snack. Today we shared our experiences in other food pantries.

Same time, next week,

— Deb Virgo

Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

An Orange fan and a life, career, spiritual coach

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Ben enjoys running, cooking and baking, and absorbing copious amounts of pop culture knowledge through various media. He also lives and dies with SU basketball.



Ben O'Connor with wife and daughter.

Alicia Wood, a second-year student at Boston University School of Theology, will be here Feb. 16. You may have seen or met her at functions in which UUMC partnered with The ROAD.



Alicia Wood

Her undergraduate degree from SUNY Oswego also is in secondary education specializing in social studies.

Alicia was a Pampered Chef consultant for nine years, includ-

ing four years in leadership. She is a certified life, career and spiritual coach.

Alicia says her most important role in life is mother to her 16-year-old daughter.

For fun

Alicia loves window shopping at the mall, yoga, Starbucks coffee and pedicures.

She reluctantly shares that her secret pleasures are watching “Dancing with the Stars” and OWN’s “Super Soul Sunday.”

Her passion is

to share God’s love to all people, including those who feel harmed or judged by the church and those who live with economic challenges.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges:	\$230,877
Paid to date:	\$12,578
Non-pledge contr.:	\$776
Pre-paid pledges:	\$56,504

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received	\$70,743
Expenses paid	\$70,589
Current balance	\$154

Help Eva recover

Eva Cooper Jah lost everything in a fire — clothes, furniture, personal items — everything. One church member helped Eva buy living room furniture. Another bought her a set of dishes. A third is building her a cabinet. Others have donated towels, small rugs, a bed frame and bedding.

Eva has found a beautiful new four-bedroom apartment near St. Joseph’s Hospital, a Housing Visions building. At the moment, Eric, her 3-year old son, is with her. Soon, three other children will be joining her, coming from Liberia — a 16-year-old boy, a 14-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy. They will need clothes when they arrive and school supplies.

So empty bedrooms need to be furnished with beds and dressers. Most of us don’t have extra beds in our basements — so we need contributions to purchase them. We’ll do our best to find bargains. You may make checks out to UUMC with a note in the memo line “for Eva.”

Prayer Chain Invitation

Our UUMC Prayer Chain has been updated and we are extending a special invitation to new participants!

Please let us know if you would like to be part of this important ministry and tell us the best way to send prayer request information to you — email or telephone.

Those contacted by phone receive the information and call the next person listed.

Contact Marsha in the church office at 475-7277 or uumc@twcny.rr.com.

Second Church Summit

A follow-up session to the Jan. 28 church summit is planned for Feb. 25 at UUMC.

Planning will continue for the consolidating and streamlining of United Methodist ministries in Syracuse. Two representatives and the pastor from each city church will attend, plus District Superintendent Darryl Barrow.

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting is Feb. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Miller’s home. The program will be a presentation by Brian Finlayson-Schueler about his work at L’Arche. All are welcome, but newcomers please call the hostess.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, Feb. 2

- **From Peter:** For the way Jesus' work helps us to let go of "winning" and domination
- **From Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Send me your partner, Elijah, to clear a debt!
- Be with the **MacDonald Family** and all of us as we miss **Johanna** and all of her goodness.
- **The MacDonalds** and others in grief

Sunday, Jan. 26

- **From Russ:** All those at the Olympics in Russia. Prayers for all those in pain and who are homeless. Prayers for this church and its members.
- **From Elise:** Prophet Jesus, thank you for giving me the

most challenging work: self-improvement!

- Those facing illness and their caregivers
- I need prayers for my granddaughter, myself and hope for 2014 for my family coming to church every two weeks.
- Thank God for everything he is doing for me.
- **John Schmitz**, a missionary diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease
- My co-worker **Tom** and his young son, who is having brain surgery in Boston this week.
- New Hope Animal Rescue Shelter

Sunday, Jan. 19

- **From Elise:** Prophet Jesus, guide your servants to pursue justice for all inside where we live!
- **From Jeanne Finlayson-**

Schueler: For Danielle Adams as she undergoes surgery this week.

- **From Peter Swords:** For the courage it takes for people to challenge unjust laws and the domination of fear and hate with the solidarity of love and peace.
- **The Wigginses** and their health concerns
- Prayers for healing for **Robert Morris Jr.**, who was shot last night and is at Upstate Hospital.
- Just to continue helping in the neighborhood
- To become a better servant
- Thanks for the presence of **Bernie Hinds** and her family

DEATH

- Longtime beloved member **Johanna MacDonald** died Jan. 30. Her service was Feb. 4.

From the History Room...

After fire, church struggles but rebuilds and burns mortgage 25 years later

By Rosemary DeHoog,
Church Historian

After the fire of February 1914, at a quarterly conference that March, a building and plans committee was appointed with Charles E. Chappell as chairman.

However, seven years elapsed before University Church could move into a new sanctuary.

In the interval, the congregation carried on as best it could in the repaired chapel that stood behind the burned-out shell of the main church. Fortunately, one of the church's greatest pastors, Dr. Wallace E. Brown, steered it through the years 1915-1924.

The delay in rebuilding resulted from both financial and historical factors. A building fund drive in

1915 brought in pledges for \$82,000, but this was not enough to construct a church worthy of University Church's exciting potential. With the advent of World War I another postponement was inevitable. After the war, building costs soared and the church leaders were reluctant to act.

Eventually, the needs of the church became so urgent that the building committee decided to plunge ahead in trust that the loyal members would support them.

Professor Frederick W. Revels, head of the university's Architecture Department and a longtime church member, and Professor Fred Lear drew plans for the Gothic style structure.

The new church was ready for

use in May 1921. The edifice was dedicated by Bishop William Burt on Sunday, June 8, 1921.

Construction of the new church and the older chapel, which became part of it, had cost \$300,000. No one could have predicted the hardships of the Great Depression. By 1938, the debt was still \$60,000.

By 1946, when the church began to plan for its 75th anniversary, the debt had been cut in half. A fund drive that year raised over \$60,000, enough to wipe out the old debt and provide a sum for repairs and improvement. The mortgage was burned. Dr. Wilson G. Cole was pastor at the time.

From "Century of Ministry" by Dr. Nelson Blake.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Rosemary and Charles Chappell and the children of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sneddon.

Flowers were given to Connie Wilson, Bernie Hinds and Barbara Nunn.

Birthdays

March birthdays will be in the Feb. 26 Chimes.

Save the Date

An after-church Lenten potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 16.



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9

Sunday the 9th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Sunday School: Elementary and high school grades

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Pre-K, kindergarten, adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 10th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 12th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 13th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 14th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

Sunday the 16th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Pre-K through grade 12, adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 17th

Office Closed: Presidents' Day

Wednesday the 19th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 20th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 21st

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23

Sunday the 23rd

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Sunday School: Elementary and high school grades

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Pre-K, kindergarten, adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 24th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 26th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 27th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 28th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Where these two saints are headed, no passports are necessary

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and Johanna, who (along with her "sister" Margo) has been one of the longtime mainstays of this church's outreach to the neighborhood and to refugees arriving from far-off places.

Where these two women are headed next, no passport is needed — unless it's the stories of faith and Jesus they learned as children; the hymns and Bible verses

that delighted and comforted their souls; the acts of compassion and justice that filled their lives; their commitment to beauty and truth and love ... even if all these seem dated and out of fashion in today's society and culture.

I may travel to Ireland to discover the treasure troves of the past, but sometimes those are as near as your next-door neighbor or the elderly worshiper in a half-

empty church.

And no matter what the future holds, it is built solidly on their shoulders.

— *Craig*

Sold Out

They're all sold! A total of 456 bags of pecans. You did it! Thank you for supporting the Outreach sale of pecans. You contributed \$1,231 to the pantry budget.

Communion Sunday

Feb. 2, 2014



During the children's blessing Rev. French tells the children they'll be first to take Communion later in the service.



Rev. French explains Communion to the children before they receive the elements.









Steve Bacon leads a Sunday School class on Feb. 2



Beth Drew leads a Sunday School class on Feb. 2



From left, UUMC members Jeanne, Sophie and Ted Finlayson-Schueler and Connie Wilson attended the Feb. 2 service at Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Binghamton, which celebrated its seventh year as a Reconciling congregation. Tabernacle is pastored by the Rev. Steve Heiss, who faces charges because he's officiated at same-sex weddings. Frank Schaefer, who was defrocked by the UM Church last year after being convicted at a church trial on the same charge, preached at the service. (Photo by Renee Gadoua)



Frank Schaefer, above, and with the Rev. Steve Heiss, below, at Tabernacle's service. (Photos by Renee Gadoua)

