Norrix to meet with congregation; citywide transition process begins

The transition period for the new citywide United Methodist clergy team has begun, as the Rev. BJ Norrix met last week with the city leadership team — two members from each city congregation. Norrix also will meet with each congregation individually. Ours is this Thursday, April 23, at about 7:30 p.m., after he meets with the Governing Board. All members and friends are invited.

Norrix heads the city team, which also will include the Rev. Andy Anderson, Alicia Wood and Jee Hae Song. The team takes over July 1.

Beth Drew, our lay leader, supplied the following information from last week’s meeting:

Norrix said that the minutes from each of the meetings with the congregations will be circulated among the four city clergy team members. Once all the congregation meetings are done, the team will discuss and determine the plan for church assignments based on where their gifts fit best.

The new team will be eight churches and seven buildings: Brown, Bellevue Heights, Gethsemane, St. Paul’s, Erwin First, James Street, UUMC and Hope Korean, which meets at Erwin First.

Norrix said there is no intention of closing or merging congregations. The idea is a United Methodist parish with multiple campuses.

He said in the first 100 days the clergy team will focus on meeting and getting to know people.

See CITYWIDE, Page 2

Outreach coordinator has varied experience

Galyn Murphy-Stanley, UUMC’s new outreach coordinator, is a woman of many talents. Galyn, a Nottingham High School graduate, has three degrees from Syracuse University: two bachelor’s, one in fine arts and one in education, and a master’s in special education.

She does case management for the U.S. Department of Labor and works for the SU Department of Athletics as a tutor for athletes.

Her experience includes being an education fairness advocate with Exceptional Family Resources and a special education teacher in the city school district.

She also owned a business whose mission was to teach art to children ages 3-6 at the Westcott Community Center.

See UUMC’s, Page 3
From our pastor...

Our roles may change, but we are always children of God

I’ve been hearing the question a lot lately: How’s the transition going? Alternatively: How am I doing with planning and preparing for my retirement?
What will become of you? (With its unspoken corollary: What will become of us?)

I’ve done my best to fend off the question, invariably answering: I’ll deal with that later, after Easter. So now that Easter has passed, the reality of the pending change(s) in my life is beginning to sink in.

It helps to know that I won’t be stepping into a complete void, since my new “job” is already waiting: helping to raise the grandchildren who live with us.

Even so, I know that much of what has been the center of my daily life, work and identity for the last 40+ years will be gone. When that happens, what will be left? What will take its place?

I got an inkling of that on Maundy Thursday as I sat in a pew at St. Paul’s, at first all by myself, then surrounded by friends from University Church.

Caroline Simmons, pastor at St. Paul’s, had told me that she would lead most of the service herself, so I went that night simply to worship.

I reflected on how my professional identity would soon be a thing of the past and how, in a deep sense, my life was coming full circle.

One is the name of an office, the other of grace. In one lies danger, in the other salvation.” I made those words my own: For you, I have been a pastor; with you, I am a fellow believer and follower.

I let the words settle deep into my soul, knowing that the richest part of community lies not in the leading and shaping of it, but simply in being part of it ... part of a group of people who share a common vision and values ... are united in faith, hope and love ... are committed to loving both God and neighbor ... care passionately about the fate of others and of the whole planet ... celebrate the goodness of life, despite its many contradictions ... view music and art as spiritual sources ... see diversity as a gift, not a threat ... and are willing to risk everything for the sake of the stranger and the enemy.

Just to be part of that kind of community is a gift and blessing; where you sit — up front, in the middle, at the farthest fringe — matters not ... in part because genuine community depends on and is the responsibility of all who belong to it.

So at one level, my identity or role may change, but at a far deeper level it can never be lost, for I — like you — am first and last a child of God ... created, redeemed and sustained by grace.

Whatever changes may lie ahead — for me and for you — our comfort, assurance, peace and joy rest securely in knowing that our fundamental identity is unshakeable.

At the end of the day, we shall be what we’ve always been: heirs of salvation, recipients of grace, harbingers of hope, ambassadors of reconciliation, champions of justice, agents of mercy and forgiveness, healers and restorers of community.

— Craig

P.S. Perhaps the question isn’t: What’s to become of us? With the coming of the new pastoral team and the beginning of a revitalization process, what’s to become of the values we hold dear and that are the center of this church’s ministry? Perhaps, instead, the question is: How do we find others who seek a spiritual home rooted in those values?
Outreach Ministry

Work, dedication and facilities at UUMC are impressive

Hello and Happy Spring from your Neighborhood Outreach coordinator.

With spring come many exciting changes, lessons and developments,

I’m attempting to embrace Mother Nature’s course of action and learn the many details of working within the very busy University Methodist community.

My teachers are too many to name. However, I am greatly impressed every day of the work, the dedication and the facilities of the UUMC volunteers, staff and physical offerings of this amazing building that I am thrilled to be working within and blessed to be a part of.

March 2015 saw more than 1,600 meals fed to families and individuals who visited our pantry.

Sunday, April 12’s free Community/Church Breakfast fed about 90 guests and volunteers an amazing breakfast.

On Saturday, April 18, our community garden in Spencer Park received a large delivery of compost and a rototiller from our friends at Syracuse Grows.

Tom Boll and I are working with folk at Welch Terrace to open the garden and begin the planting season.

As I look ahead I am excited to find ways to connect our Outreach programs and the UUMC congregation community.

My mind is full of ideas and methods of how to provide more resources and opportunities for our guests who visit as parishioners and/or during Friday Community and our breakfasts.

I am so very happy to be the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator for UUMC.

I look forward to getting to know you and the community better. Enjoy the spring season and all of the adventures it has to offer.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

UUMC’s social justice mission aligns perfectly with hers

CONTINUED from Page 1

She is married to George Stanley Jr., MD, a Colgate University graduate and an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Syracuse Community Health Center.

They have three children: Aydan, 17, a junior at Nottingham; Brynn, 14, an eighth-grader at Ed Smith School; and Devin, 11, a sixth-grader at Ed Smith.

Her hobbies include gardening, volunteering at food pantries and taking a self-defense class with her family. Her family loves to travel and recently took a one-week trip to London.

Galyn’s a Syracuse native. Her parents are Fredrick Murphy, who ran the Syracuse Housing Authority for 35 years, and Dr. Diane Murphy, dean of the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics at SU. She has four sisters, all in Syracuse.

Galyn says UUMC’s mission of social justice and elimination of poverty align with the philosophy she was raised with and that she teaches her children.

Citywide farewell June 7

CONTINUED from Page 1

Norrix said the objective is to build our churches and be a United Methodist presence in Syracuse.

Each congregation can handle its own farewell for its primary pastor. A citywide picnic will be held at Bellevue Heights UMC on June 7 after worship to collectively say goodbye to all of the current team.

Clergy team welcomes will wait until September when Jee Hae returns to the U.S.

Altab flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- By Dorothy Logan to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Wesley T. Logan Sr.
- By Bob Laubach in loving memory of his wife, Fran Laubach
- By the Flynn Family, in exuberant celebration of the first anniversary of Katie’s heart transplant and new life and in thanks to our church family for all the prayers, love and support over the past three years

Flowers were given to Starke Donally, Rev. Caroline Simmons, Dorothy Logan, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Elisa Sciscioli and Martha Sutter.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt.
A multicolored array of flowers adorned our sanctuary this Easter morning.

Altar Guild thanks sanctuary decorators, those delivering flowers, goods

Thanks from the Altar Guild go out to those who helped to decorate the sanctuary with Easter flowers and/or deliver flowers or baked goods to homebound or other members of the congregation.

These included: Steve Bacon, Judith Bowers, Tom and Carol Boll, Cheryl Brown, Jerry and Barbara Cargo, Starke Donnally, Bette Helwig, Don and Margo Koten, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Dean Moyer, Barbara Nunn, Ed and Lee Potter, Susan Sofka (the Kotens’ daughter), and Rita Soufleris.

Those receiving flowers or baked goods were: Sue Bambacht, Thomas Christoff, Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Katie Flynn, Ruth Houser, Mary Klepper, Bob Laubach, Dot Logan, Frances Long (Carol Boll’s mother), Carol Moyer, Arlene Musilli, Eddie Nunn, William and Martha Potter, Don Steenberg, Diane Tarbell, Genn Thuma, Jim and Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Each member of the church staff also received a flower.

After flowers were distributed, a few remained. Members of the congregation were invited to take one of these plants for someone they thought would appreciate receiving an Easter gift.

— Bobbie Hemphill

May birthdays

2 – Melissa Pedro, Jaxon Steenberg
3 – Dick Hunt
4 – David Bacon, Ethel Phillips, Marg McDivitt
6 – Bethany Boll
17 – Caroline Brackett
21 – Evan Simmons
25 – Allison Virgo, Benjamin Virgo, Kirstin Coutts
26 – Eileen Schell
29 – Joyce Flynn
30 – Marsha Plucinik
31 – Sara Bergan

Connections Group comes together for dinner

Nine students from Syracuse University and Upstate Medical University enjoyed a late Easter dinner celebration April 19 at the home of Barbara Fought and Nelson Price.

Neke Eke and Lena Wallace, of the Connections Group. (See past page 6 for more photos, by Barbara Fought)
People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- Those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, guide me and bless Barbara Bernard Shaw for her guidance for my husband! Now bless her for her constant mentoring.
- Peter: For family and friends of Kate Buffington and our community. She died recently in Olean.
- For Rev. Joseph Smythe in Community Hospital for diagnosis.
- Prayers of support for a friend with breast cancer.
- Prayers for people struggling with their relationships.
- Godspeed to the three-car arson victims of Manistique, Michigan. Prayers for first responders and investigators.
- A prayer for Collins family and may justice be served.
- I want to thank God for giving my mother, Josephine, a new job.

Sunday, April 19

- Elise: Prophet Jesus, guide me and bless Barbara Bernard Shaw for her guidance for my husband! Now bless her for her constant mentoring.
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- Prayers of support for a friend with breast cancer.
- Prayers for people struggling with their relationships.
- Godspeed to the three-car arson victims of Manistique, Michigan. Prayers for first responders and investigators.
- A prayer for Collins family and may justice be served.
- I want to thank God for giving my mother, Josephine, a new job.

Sunday, April 12

- Cynthia: Dear God, please watch over my husband, son and daughter, Esther, and her husband, Nick, while you always watch over our whole church family.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, guide me to set free the ones who doubt you as the messenger to all.
- Michele: Health and happiness for the family and for a new job to come. Thank you. Amen.
- Peter: Joy for the birth of Isaac Alwin Swords, son of Sol and Eileen in Austin on Friday, April 10.
- Valerie: God heal and bring Val and Russ closer together at home.
- Prayers of healing for Rich Martin in the hospital with pneumonia.
- For those facing the possibility of different medical issues.
- Eva’s children meet with embassy staff in Liberia April 28. Pray they be granted visas and can come here soon.
- For Legal Advocacy to find a church to be mission partner.

Sunday, April 5

- Carol: For a friend and her 25-year-old son, recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Judith: Thank you, Brad, for 57 years of marriage!
- Linda: Prayer to overcome depression.
- Peter: For the peace walkers who are coming to the U.N. for the review of the Non Proliferation Treaty.
- Healing for those suffering physical and emotional stress
- Heal Russ and Val in spirit. God bless and protect us all.
- Prayers for my Great Aunt Joann, who had a stroke and is not doing well.
- Prayers for Sandra, my daughter, my grandchildren and great-grandson.
- Friends Vince and Renee and their daughter Helena as they deal with her lifelong health issues.
- Thankful that my wife, Stephanie, and I both recently came out of diagnostic procedures with flying colors.
- Bless all believers here today.

Sunday, March 29

- David: All service men and women who are far away and not with their family.
- Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler: Thank God for doctors and nurses at St. Joe’s ER. Ted’s heart rate is coming back down to normal.
- Peter: For the wellness that we return to natural when we are free of stress and expressive concerns. May this be true for all our children too.
- Robert: That we may reach more people in need.
- Keep Joseph Smythe in prayer as he recovers from recent surgery.
- Healing prayers for Ted Finlayson-Schueler.
- Thank you for Betsy’s continuing recovery.
- Prayer to overcome depression. I need God at this dark time.
- Prayers for Vern French for continued healing and care from his loving family. Blessings to all.
- To live like Jesus.
- Special prayers for the family of Elaine Flindt, who died this week.
- Thank you, God, for healing family and friends; and please continue to answer prayer and heal us all.
- Prayers of joy for the daffodils starting to come up in my garden and for new faces here today.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

May 3: Becky Maccaull, Mitch

See PEOPLE, Page 6

Chimes newsletter Volume 15 No. 5 April 22, 2015 Feed My People: Body, Mind and Spirit
**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
- 2015 total pledges: $210,572
- Paid to date: $51,979
- Non-pledge contr.: $12,605

**Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund**
- Donations received: $79,519
- Expenses paid: $75,901
- Current balance: $3,618

**People/Prayer**

**CONTINUED from Page 5**

Maccaull, Maxwell Maccaull
- **May 10**: Roger MacDonald, Greg Mahoney, Mary Wilson
- **May 17**: Dan Magowan, Kirsten Magowan, Mary Magowan, Lizz Magowan, David Magowan, Colleen Magowan
- **May 24**: Marg McDivitt, Elmorie McKay, Chrystal McKay, Renee McKay
- **May 31**: Harry Miller, Shirley Miller, Jolanta Miller, Nathan Miller

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:**
- **May 3**: Cicero UMC, Everett Bassett, Rebecca Laird
- **May 10**: Caughdenoy UMC, Sam Moore; Clay Trinity UMC, Brad Hunt
- **May 17**: Collamer United Church, Caroline Simmons
- **May 24**: Borodino UMC, Peter Agnew
- **May 31**: Cornerstone UMC, Terry Millbyer

**Graduating?**
Please contact the church office to let us know if you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year. We would like a high-quality digital photo of the graduate as well. Please send it to uumc@twcny.rr.com.

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**WEEK OF APRIL 26**
**Sunday the 26th**
- 9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
- 10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
- 11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, preacher
- **11:15 a.m.**: Sunday School, adults with special needs
- **12:15 p.m.**: Fellowship, Gathering Rm

**12:30 p.m.** Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
- **Wednesday the 29th**
- **9:30 a.m.** Staff Meeting
- **Thursday the 30th**
- **7:30 p.m.** Senior Choir
- **Friday the 1st**
- **10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

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**WEEK OF MAY 3**
**Sunday the 3rd**
- **10 a.m.** Contemporary Issues
- **11 a.m.** Worship, Rev. French, preacher, Communion
- **12:15 p.m.** Fellowship, Gathering Rm

**12:30 p.m.** Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
- **Wednesday the 6th**
- **9:30 a.m.** Staff Meeting
- **Thursday the 7th**
- **7:30 p.m.** Senior Choir
- **Friday the 8th**
- **10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

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**WEEK OF MAY 10**
**Sunday the 10th**
- **9 a.m.** Community/Church Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- **10 a.m.** Contemporary Issues
- **10 a.m.** Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
- **11 a.m.** Worship, Rev. French, preacher
- **11:15 a.m.** Sunday School, adults with special needs
- **12:15 p.m.** Fellowship, Gathering Rm
- **12:30 p.m.** Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
- **Wednesday the 13th**
- **9:30 a.m.** Staff Meeting
- **Thursday the 14th**
- **7:30 p.m.** Senior Choir
- **Friday the 15th**
- **10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

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**WEEK OF MAY 17**
**Sunday the 17th**
- **10 a.m.** Contemporary Issues
- **10 a.m.** Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
- **11 a.m.** Worship: Senior Choir special music
- **11:15 a.m.** Sunday School, adults with special needs
- **12:15 p.m.** Fellowship, Gathering Rm
- **12:30 p.m.** Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
- **Wednesday the 20th**
- **9:30 a.m.** Staff Meeting
- **Thursday the 21st**
- **7:30 p.m.** Senior Choir
- **Friday the 22nd**
- **10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community
April 5, 2015, Easter Service
(13 photos)
Feed My People: Body, Mind and Spirit
April 21, 2015 ACTS dinner
April 19, 2015 Connections dinner

3 photos
Irvin and Deeanna