

THE CHIMES

April 9, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
April 23**

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June 8 is Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday.

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

Music, meditation and celebration for Holy Week and Easter events

Palm Sunday and Holy Week are just about upon us.

Palm Sunday will include the usual procession of palms. It also is a regular Community/Church Breakfast Sunday, so come at 9 a.m. for breakfast before worship.

The pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and elementary classes will meet together in the Pet-tengill Center and make donkeys and "shouting stones."

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, which marks the Lord's Supper, we are invited to Rockefeller United Methodist Church, 350 Nottingham Road, for a potluck dinner that begins at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by time together that includes hand/foot

washing.

Good Friday, April 18, our sanctuary will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for meditation and prayer. Rev.

French will be present with materials for your use.

On Easter, April 20, handbells will accompany the organ on the opening hymn and the handbell choir will play "Easter Celebration" by Sharon Elery Rogers.

The flower display will include the annual begonias in memory of Mary Clark Taylor and Kenneth Taylor.

The service will end with the "Hallelujah Chorus," open to all to join the Senior Choir down front for its singing.



Soup and Sermon Chat: sharing and learning

Sundays since Dec. 1, a group of people has gathered at noon in the Chappell Room for "Soup and Sermon Chat" to enjoy soup and conversation about the morning's sermon.

Jayne Humbert has been the session's moderator.

Jayne said she got the idea for the group from the five-week after-worship study of the book of "A Season of Mystery: 10 Spiritual Practices for Embracing a Happier Second Half of Life," which ended in October.

"Three of us decided it'd be really nice to continue that kind of fellowship and add some soup to make it more hospitable," she said.

Jayne finds the discussions fascinating.

"For me, the importance of Soup and Sermon Chat is to see the variety of opinions and ideas that are stimulated by the shared experience of the sermon," she said. "In other words, there are lots of people from

See **ATTENDEES**, Page 4

Keep our focus on the big picture, big questions



Rev. French

The phone rang just as I was getting ready to pray. The occasion was the church's annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, and I had been tapped to say grace.

My turn was coming, but first my cellphone chirped — or more truthfully, shrieked with the sound of seagulls (which is a story for another day). Normally, I would simply ignore the call ... but the caller ID told me it was from my granddaughter's day-care center.

An unexpected call in the middle of the day from the people taking care of your child or grandchild is not to be ignored, so I answered the phone.

It was the director of the center, informing me that Kaleigha had fallen, knocking out a tooth.

Instantly, all my plans for the afternoon took a back seat to seeing what I could do for my granddaughter. Nothing else mattered. Only her well-being.

In the categories of Stephen Covey, this was both important and urgent. So I dropped everything else to go pick her up and take her to the dentist to see what (if anything) could be done to salvage the tooth.

In similar fashion, the Conference's proposed new plan for the Syracuse city churches has commanded everyone's attention over the past two months. Life and ministry have gone on, but always with an awareness of major questions swirling around. There are practical questions galore:

- ◆ How many churches will remain open as places of worship?
- ◆ Which ones?
- ◆ When will we know?
- ◆ Who will be involved in mapping the direction and making decisions about the future?
- ◆ How many pastors will remain?
- ◆ Who will they be?
- ◆ How will they be assigned?

- ◆ But as pressing as these questions seem ... as urgent as they may be ... as legitimate as they are ... there are other questions that are even more important. These questions focus less on "how" and more on "why."

In his book, "First Things First," Stephen Covey advises leaders not to mistake the urgent for the important and not to allow the urgent to override the important. Leaders need to concentrate on the big picture and the long-term.

What does that mean for us? In the current environment, it means acknowledging what triggered the cooperative ministry proposal in the first place — namely, the steady decline of all of the city churches (as a result of many factors, including some beyond our control) and the realization that, left unchecked, not one church would likely survive. If that scenario is unacceptable, then something different has to happen.

Keeping our focus on the big picture — and the big questions — is what matters.

Are decline and death inevitable? Is that what God desires and intends — for us and for other city churches? What does it mean and what does it take to build up the body of Christ? What does a healthy, thriving, vital, energized city church look like in today's context?

- ◆ What needs to change for that to happen — here and elsewhere?
- ◆ What does a credible and impactful witness and blessing to the city and its people consist of?
- ◆ Do we have and can we marshal or align the necessary resources for that?
- ◆ Do congregations and leaders have the courage and faith to do what's called for?

As it turns out, these are the kinds of questions that prompted the Conference's plan. And truth be told, they are not the questions of "outsiders"; they

See **NEW LIFE**, Page 4

Johanna's legacy lives on in kindness of our ministries



Deb Virgo

On April 3 we held the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Traditionally, this gives the staff here at UUMC a chance to thank the people who help

them by volunteering with various ministries such as The Chimes, office help, Community/Church Breakfasts and Friday Community.

About 35 people came and enjoyed food and fellowship. Our eclectic theme included spring flowers, baseball opening day and



Food, fellowship and fun were had during the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon last week.

using chopsticks to enjoy Vietnamese food.

The food, by the way, was from the Mai Lan restaurant on North State Street.

The owners of this restaurant were refugees from Vietnam who were resettled in Syracuse by this church.

You should have seen their faces light up when we told them whom they were catering lunch for. They still think of us as family and still keep in touch with Margo and Don Koten.

After eating we spent some time sharing our memories and thoughts about Johanna MacDonal and her role here in outreach and mission.

See **MEMORIES**, Page 6

From the History Room...

Church pays off building fund, enjoys flourishing music program

By Rosemary DeHoog
Church Historian

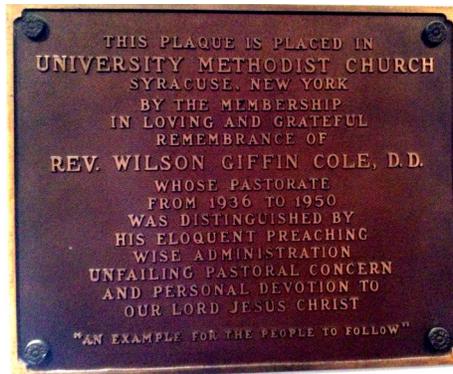
Dr. Norman Vincent Peale remained at University Church until 1935.

Even before he left, the church was struggling with financial problems of the Depression. The early 1930s were difficult years.

But in 1936, the church gained another gifted pastor in Dr. Wilson G. Cole, formerly pastor of churches in Pittsburgh, Denver and Brooklyn.

Under Dr. Cole, the church paid off the building fund that had burdened it since 1921. Dr. Cole's pastorate was 1936 to 1950.

In addition to strong preaching, University Church had unusually fine music. In 1926, Professor Harold Lyman of the SU College of Fine Arts became Minister



A plaque in the narthex commemorates Rev. Wilson Cole's pastorate.

of Music, a post he held for 27 years.

Large and well-trained choirs under Dr. Lyman's direction participated often in special music programs.

In presentations of Handel's "Messiah" and other oratorios, Dr. Lyman sometimes assembled choruses of 100 voices by inviting choruses from other churches

to unite with the University Church choir.

Because of the large choir loft and the outstanding musical director, University Church was a favorite place for union Methodist services on Christmas Eve and other occasions.

But pulpit excellence and fine music will not sustain a city church indefinitely. Without a continuing infusion of young blood, a church cannot remain vital.

During the 1940s, Sunday School enrollment, which had reached 1,100 in the 1920s, had slumped to less than 300 by 1945.

By 1950, Pastor Leon M. Adkins devoted himself to reversing this trend. A well-run baby fold where parents could leave their toddlers attracted young married

See **ADKINS**, Page 5

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges:	\$230,877
Paid to date:	\$38,109
Non-pledge contr.:	\$4,161
Pre-paid pledges:	\$56,504
Sounds of the Spirit Campaign	
Donations received	\$70,743
Expenses paid	\$70,589
Current balance	\$154

April birthdays

- 13 – Merylyn Mungure, Doug Coutts
 - 14 – Marty Nicholas
 - 16 – Julie Pedro, Ryan Steenberg, Eleanor Frank, Jeff Huard
 - 17 – Dale Fryer
 - 19 – Dr. Richard Phillips, Gale Youmell, Abby Hyland
 - 20 – Corinne Upcraft
 - 22 – Princess Weah
 - 23 – Golden Duru
 - 24 – Carol Dawes
 - 25 – Cheryl Brown
 - 29 – Genn Thuma, Ginny Knight, Janet Sciscioli
 - 30 – Vera Gaskin, Dennis Triggs
- Earlier April birthdays were in the previous Chimes. May birthdays will be in April 30th.**

New life, resurrection come at a cost

CONTINUED from Page 2
are our questions, too.

For the past year and a half (at least), University Church leaders have devoted considerable time and energy to these very same questions. In many ways, our newly updated strategic plan and last year's Sustainability study mirror the goals and direction of the new citywide ministry plan:

- ◆ Providing diverse worship and music styles, in order to increase worship attendance
- ◆ Expanding the scope and effectiveness of outreach, in partnership with our neighbors
- ◆ Nurturing spiritual growth, disciple-making and Christian community that includes all persons
- ◆ Fostering long-term congregational stability and sustainability

While there are some nuanced differences that can't be ignored, in broad strokes our list of concerns and priorities is consistent with those at the core of the citywide plan. Although we came at these goals from the perspective of a single congregation, the

Conference plan logically takes a wide-angle view, incorporating all of the city churches simultaneously.

Even so, our own conclusions clearly point to the need for increased partnering in a number of key areas. It's also why we had been exploring bringing in someone to work with us on these goals.

As we move into Holy Week, I'm mindful of how Jesus "set his face" for Jerusalem and — despite all that awaited him there, including suffering and death — was not deterred or sidetracked.

He knew what was truly important — for himself and for us — and did not lose sight of that or sway from it.

He knew, too, that new life and resurrection come at a cost.

May we have the courage to follow him on that path ... as individuals and as a congregation.

— *Craig*

P.S. My granddaughter survived. The tooth did not. But the Tooth Fairy's overnight visit made everything OK. (Oh that it were so simple in other parts of life.)

Attendees like to hear others' views, get ready for week ahead

CONTINUED from Page 1

many different backgrounds and the particular impression or idea that I take from the sermon may be vastly different from that of others. I just find it exciting to hear other people's points of view about things as we all sit around the table having soup and sharing our shared religious experience."

Why do people come?

Rev. Dean Moyer: "So I can talk, so I can listen, so I can learn. So I can feel more a part of the total group here."

Russ Young: "To learn something about what happened today ... and have great soup."

Elise Curry-Schemichen: "To reflect on what I

have to face in the new week as well as what I learned in the past week. It's a difficult travel."

Valerie Young: "Because we need to discuss different things that went on in the sermon ... to, I guess, hash it over and see our different perspectives of it and see what other people think about it. We get soup and we get some conversation with our peers and we get to see other ideas."

Members take turns bringing soup for the group, which is open to all.

Attendance varies from six to 12 each week. "It's a moving target," Jayne said. "People come when they can and don't when they can't ... and we just keep sharing."

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

JOYS

Sunday, March 30

- **Dean Moyer**, who had a birthday and anniversary last weekend.
- Happy birthday **Ted**, who is 68 on Wednesday.
- I got two new water heaters from Zero Draft

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, March 30

- **Charles:** God help the president to make good decisions about Russia in the coming days.
- **Corinne:** Family of **Wayne Burlison**, who just lost his battle with colon/liver cancer.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I am forever thankful for you on coming resurrection!
- **Peter:** For survivors and families of survivors – that we may all remember the moment when they knew they would be all right.
- **V.E. Duncan:** That God may bless my luck to find an internship that can help people in emergencies and natural disasters.
- **Keith Nevin**, who is ill and in

Crouse Hospital

- **Eva Cooper Jah.** Her first husband, who cared for two of her three children still in Liberia, recently died. She is traveling this week to Liberia for a month to find care for her children until immigration here clears them to come.
- A friend named **Erin** who is having brain surgery next month.

Sunday, March 23

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, promote your servants to recycle your teachings to new and fresh works!
- **Nykira:** My great-uncle who passed away.
- **Russ:** That God bless Michael and let him find the right path to go down. Please pray that God bless my sister, Penny, because today is her birthday. God bless me and my wife that we may receive God's grace. God bless this church and the staff and members.
- Me and my children
- **Dick Kehoe**, uncle of **Matt Steenberg and Gale Youmell**, currently hospitalized in Florida.
- The **Cekani Family**, whose home burned in Albany and

they lost a young mother,

Zerina

- Young people studying about their faith journey, and others' faith journeys.
- Recently widowed
- Office space for Legal Advocacy for Disabled.
- A disabled Christian senior citizen is struggling alone to hang on the farm and life.
- **Ken Ritter**, caregiver of New Hope Farm.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS

PRAYERS FOR:

- **April 13:** Keith Wellner, Phillip Wellner, Betsy Wiggins, James Wiggins
- **April 20:** Ben Wiles, Connie Wilson, Mary Fridie Wilson
- **April 27:** Clara Windsor, Gary Wood, Marsha Wood

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **April 6:** First UMC of Phoenix, Marion Moore-Colgan; Chittenango UMC, John Fulton; Hannibal Center-South Hannibal, Greg Beasley
- **April 13:** The Resurrection
- **April 20:** Nelson UMC, Kevin McAllister
- **April 27:** Cazenovia UMC, Ray Lange; Oswego Trinity UMC, Steven Eddy

Adkins and Suiter placed emphasis on Christian Education

CONTINUED from Page 1

couples to the church services. Emphasizing Christian Education and family life, Dr. Adkins greatly strengthened the church in the younger age group.

The emphasis was intensified when the church employed Elizabeth Suiter as director of Christian Education.

Dr. Adkins and Miss Suiter led outstanding

programs at the church, eventually leading both to important posts in the Methodist Church.

Dr. Adkins became a leader in the General Board of Education while Miss Suiter moved on to the First Methodist Church of Rochester, Minn., to direct a very large program of Christian Education.

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

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Bob Laubach, Don Steenberg and George and Rita Soufleris.

Flowers were given to Eva Cooper Jah, Keith Nevin, Barbara Nunn and Carol Moyer.

Flowers were delivered by Dean Moyer, Barbara Fought and Lee Potter.

Guild Meeting

The next meeting is April 23 at 1:30 p.m. at Barbara Nunn's home. Deb Virgo will speak about the Friday Community.



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF APRIL 13

Sunday the 13th – Palm Sunday

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School: Elementary through 12th grade

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Monday, the 14th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 16th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 17th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 18th – Good Friday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer, meditation

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF APRIL 20

Sunday the 20th – Easter

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Wednesday the 23rd

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 24th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 25th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF APRIL 27

Sunday the 27th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Sunday School: Elementary through 12th grade

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

Wednesday the 30th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 1st

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 2nd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Easter Flower Deliverers Needed

Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers to shut-in members of the congregation either after the Easter service on April 20 or on the following Monday.

If you can help, please contact the church office, 475-7277, or Bobbie Hemphill, 492-9592.

Laity Group Meets

A laity-led group made up of the lay leaders and one member from the eight Syracuse city United Methodist Churches has been working on a document in response to the reorganization plan announced by the district superintendent in January.

That group met Monday night,

April 7. A meeting open to all members is planned for April 28, site and time to be set.

UMC Pray-Ins Continue

The prayer events for Syracuse United Methodist churches will continue with one April 23 at Bellevue Heights UMC beginning at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

ACTS Dinner

The annual fundraising dinner for the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse is April 29 at Drumlins Country Club. Social hour is 6 p.m., dinner and program run 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$60, and \$35 of that is a tax-deductible contribution to ACTS. Contact the church office or Jim Wiggins.

Memories were shared

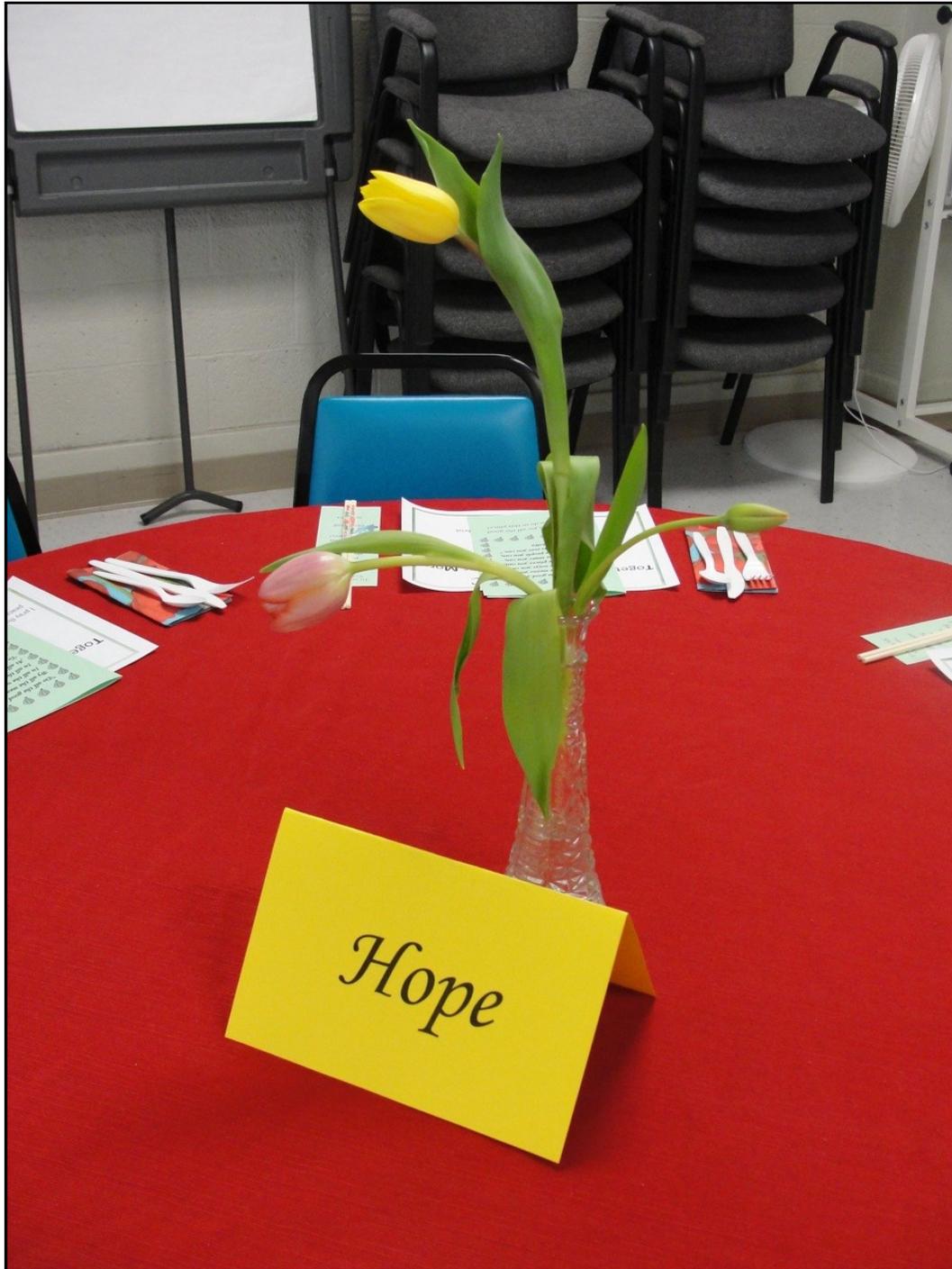
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We enjoyed hearing the recorded memories that Tom Boll has been collecting and added some other memories. So many of us there were touched by her kindness.

Then Lee Potter spoke about how she sees the legacy of Johanna in the kindness that we are trying to bring to these ministries today. If we can all channel even a bit of Johanna ... how better this community can be!

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon April 3, 2014 (10 photos)























Soup and Sermon Chat members discuss the day's sermon.

Blessing of the Children

The children see a drawing of John Wesley and examine Rev. French's stole, which shows stories from the Bible.

(6 photos)













Confirmation Class Receives Bibles March 30, 2014



Allison, Jonathan, Ben and Diamond hold their wrapped Bibles.



They start unwrapping the Bibles.



They hold the Bibles as Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, their teacher, leads the congregation in the liturgy.



The class responds.



The class puts the Bibles to use.

Communion April 6, 2014









