

# THE CHIMES

May 8, 2013

**Next Chimes  
deadline:  
May 22**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Life's a Series of Renovations	2
Outreach/Mission: Volunteers Needed	3
People/Prayer Connection	4
Finance Corner	5
Memorial Gifts	5
Community Garden	5
Altar Flowers	6
Birthdays	6
Three-Week Schedule	6

Articles for The Chimes must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: [uumctb@twcny.rr.com](mailto:uumctb@twcny.rr.com) or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Rev. Craig French, Pastor  
Tom Boll, Editor

## UUMC to seek Connective Corridor grant for exterior improvements

At its May 2 meeting, the Governing Board heard an update on a proposal to apply for a Connective Corridor facade improvement grant to cover exterior improvements to the church and grounds.

The application, which has been authorized by the Board of Trustees, will consider and possibly propose several options, including new landscaping, a digital sign to replace the current sign, exterior lighting, a prayer labyrinth, and/or a small seating area for church and pedestrian use. A

task force has been convened to consider all options, obtain estimates and submit the final proposal on behalf of UUMC.

Beth Drew gave an update on the Outreach Sustainability Task Force, which is working to evaluate needs of the neighborhood and strategies for



**The Governing Board and other UUMC members examine the church's exterior.**

better meeting those needs.

Using the church's strategic plan as its guiding document, the group has strongly affirmed the critical importance of neighborhood relationship building in every capacity of church life and mission.

See **SAME-SEX**, Page 5

## Annual Conference in Syracuse again

**Question:** Which of the following is Annual Conference?

- The home of United Methodist pastors
- The basic unit in The United Methodist Church
- A geographic/regional entity
- A collection of churches
- An annual meeting
- A decision-making, policy-setting, budget-passing body

**Answer:** All of the above!

This year's version of the Upper New York Annual Conference takes place May 30 to June 1 here in Syracuse at the Oncenter. All sessions are open to the public, and guests are definitely welcome. What will you find? Lots of worship, singing and good preaching. Times of Bible study, inspiration and leadership development. Debate and deliberation over how to bring people, churches

See **SOME**, Page 3

# Life's a series of ongoing renovations



**Rev. French**

If someone had peeked in the window, they might have thought I was praying.

It would have been an easy mistake to make, what with my being down on the floor on my hands and knees with only the round top of my tonsure-like head showing.

In a way, praying was exactly what I was doing (among other things).

Praying for the well-being of my newest grandchild, Susan, and her first-time parents, Ben and Kate, in Chicago.

Praying for the well-being of my nearby grandchildren.

Praying for my stepmother, Jeanne, mourning the unexpected death of a son.

Praying for my niece, Ellie, finishing up her first year at Hamilton College.

Praying for another niece, Laura, whose wedding I'll be doing next month.

Praying for Alicia and Ben, two candidates for ministry with whom I have the privilege of working.

Praying for peace in the world, starting with Syria and the Middle East.

Praying for Rev. Tom Ogletree, a retired United Methodist pastor, who's been charged with violating church law for having officiated at his son's marriage to another man last fall. So much to pray for.

Praying also for myself and my work.

Prayer isn't what put me on my knees. The flooring project at my house did that. But I learned a long time ago that manual labor (dishwashing, lawn-mowing, snow-shoveling, etc.) often brings me to prayer — and not just because I need all the help I can get, when it comes to handyman, do-it-yourself projects.

Freed up from my usual thoughts and activities, I'm able to "pay attention" in a far deeper way.

Perhaps that's what the Bible means when it talks about praying without ceasing.

What brought me to my knees was an old floor I was ripping out. We had decided it was time to replace the dining room flooring with something new — but that meant getting rid of the old flooring first.

The new floor required a solid, level base. In a large part of the room, that meant going down three layers, to the original 8-inch wide, 130-year-old wood planks. (In a house in Buffalo, I once removed six layers of wallpaper, so I knew the drill.) Getting back to basics, you might call it.

It made me think about what we're going through at church right now. At one point in time, each of the three layers of flooring had been the new kid on the block, the shining star. But as time went by, the luster faded ... until it reached the point where it was time to try something new.

This time, stripping away the past was a necessary precursor to the next generation of flooring. It was actually exciting, finding the home's original floor and thinking about all the persons who've walked upon it over all these years, as well as the persons who laid that floor when the home was brand new.

Both with flooring and with churches, there's no such thing as "this is the way it's always been." Life is a constant series of changes, renovations and innovations. One era's pride and joy is the next era's out of style and out of date.

Preserving the church means building on the past, not clinging to it. Sometimes it even means going back to take a fresh look at the beginning, trying to honor it and learn from it.

It's hard work — very hard work — whether we're talking about a new floor at my house or a fresh new start at church.

Right now, I can't tell you precisely what the future holds for University Church. But I do know that an awful lot of people are praying ... and working ... to bring that future into existence.

You'll be hearing more about all this over the next few weeks and months, as my ideas and the ideas of other leaders become clearer and take shape.

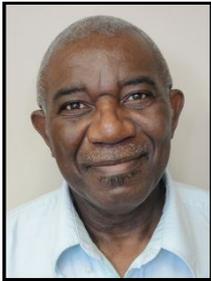
Sometimes it'll mean changing how we've done church for the past generation.

Sometimes it'll mean trying out new ideas, new structures, new activities.

The goal ... the mission ... remains unchanged, however, in whatever way we say it: making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world ... living the Good News of Jesus ... being God's love for our neighbors.

— *Craig*

# OUTREACH MINISTRY



**Rev. Smythe**

The Friday Community is seeking additional ministry persons who will serve clothing or food, sit and talk to the pantry

friends or transport others to and from the Friday Community.

Could you be one of these persons? I look forward to hearing from you at 472-1715.

**Note Received**

Every now and again we receive notes for the Friday Community. Here is one.

- T is for thoughtfulness
- H is for helpful
- A is for Angels
- N is for nice
- K is for kindhearted

- Y is for year round
- O is for opening doors
- U is for united

**Feinstein Challenge**

We participated in this challenge again this year through April 30. To date, we've received

Served by the Friday Community First Quarter 2013						
Month	Households	Children	Adults	Elders	Individuals	Meals
January	155	207	243	30	480	4,320
February	124	177	198	14	389	3,501
March	157	195	205	16	415	3,735

\$5,806 in cash and checks and 665 in-kind items. Thanks for your support.

**Person of the Month**

This month we introduce you to Webster Fisher. He has worked with the Friday Community for more than five years.



**Webster Fisher**

He helps to unload and stock food items. He travels with me to collect clothes and food items whenever he is needed.

On Fridays, Webster opens the door for friends coming in and going out. He is very

courteous and takes extra time to say, "Good morning," to everyone.

**Clothing Closet**

We received a supply of clothing for men and women from a past volunteer, Maria Margosian. These were really needed, and we thank her for the gifts.

**What of the Spring and Summer?**

Let us make the best of the rest of spring and summer. Relax, develop new ideas, visit some place new, read a book or take a time to do some reflection and listen to new ideas. We need them to keep our lives growing. When you learn, share some with us at the Friday Community.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe, Friday Community chaplain

## Some suggested 'tastings' from the menu of Annual Conference

**CONTINUED** from Page 1 and the world to fullness of life. Commissioning and ordination of new clergy and servant leaders. Election of conference leaders and adoption of 2014 budget and shared ministry amounts (apportionments). The setting of pastoral appointments (assignments) for the coming year. University Church's official "delegates" are Ted Finlayson-

Schueler and Craig French. If you'd just like to drop in for a "taste," here are some suggestions:

- Thursday, May 30**
- 9:30 a.m. to noon:** Clergy and Laity sessions
- 1:30 p.m.:** Opening Worship, Bishop Mark Webb preaching
- Friday, May 31**
- 8:15 a.m.:** Bible Study, followed by plenary session

- Noon:** Ministry workshops
- 7 p.m.:** Celebration of Ministry
- Saturday, June 1**
- 8:15 a.m.:** Bible Study, followed by plenary session and "fixing" of appointments
- 11:30 a.m.:** Ministry workshops
- 2 p.m.:** Commissioning and Ordination, Bishop Webb preaching

# PEOPLE / PRAYER CONNECTION

## THANKS

- Thank you for our opportunity to share breakfast with each other
- Gratitude for the safety of my brother and family in the lockdown zone, from **Jayne Humbert**
- For permanent housing starting June 1, hopefully without a living room snake, from **Grandma Ann**
- We are so happy for **Katie Flynn**. She is feeling so much better, from **Nana and Grandy**
- Thank you for the new breakfast volunteers
- Joy that mother was able to attend church this morning, from **Barb Nunn**
- Thanks for the caring ministries and the connections across our different congregations keeping our dreams alive, from **Peter Swords**

## BIRTH

- **Susan Josephine French**, born 4:30 a.m. May 3 in Chicago, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, 19.5 inches long, to **Ben and Kate French**, with **Craig and Barb French** the proud grandparents.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Alex Saxby and Matt Fischer**
- Imagine No Malaria and enough food for all, from **Cynthia Steinem**
- My family and a successful homecoming for my son, from **Fred**
- Granddaughter **Rachel**, as she recovers from recent kidney surgery, from **Nelson**

- **Wayne Herrington**, who continues treatment for cancer
- Praise Jesus for being a friend of a hurting addict! From **Elise**
- The family of **Tom Cook**, who died last Tuesday
- **Patrick O'Neill**, for support during his cancer treatments and for a return to good health
- **James**. Please, Lord, show us the path to bring him home to the warmth of his loving family
- A successful surgery and recovery from carpal tunnel
- Be with the family of **James Hutton**, my brother-in-law, as we accept his passing
- Please, God, bring fulfillment and praise for this church and the people who come here, from **Russ**
- Heavenly Father, praise Jesus, your Son, for fulfilling your 10 laws, from **Elise**
- Family members battling illness, from **Lynn Steenberg**
- Family of **Millicent Collins**, who died this week. Millicent was a great ally for social and economic justice and peace in this community, from **Peter Swords**
- Prophet Jesus, educate your servants to provide discipline toward violent behavior, from **Elise**
- That God bring blessing to those who are affected by violence. Choose the right path that God wants you to go, from **Russ**
- Those who are grieving: the **Rush Family**, people in Boston, West, Texas, and Lushan County, China
- Those whose lives were shattered by the terrorist attack in Boston; for survivors and victims, first responders and law enforcement and Jahar Tsarnaev
- **Genn Thuma** and her daughters, **Judy and Holly** and their families
- My church family and all you do for me and others, from **Grandma Ann**
- **John Swords**, all the ways he has continued to survive, the blessing he has brought to our family, from **Peter Swords**
- All those in Korea and those afflicted by violence; my sister **Penny** as she goes through much pain; for this church and members and staff. May God's guidance bring forth many blessings to you and your family, from **Russ**
- Healing for **Katie Flynn** and wisdom for her doctors
- **Mary and Austin**, for guidance and truth through Christ
- Continual success for **Robby Lewis** in his career
- **Baby Rose**
- Promoting peace in our world by opening our hearts and minds to the peace God pours out upon us
- A peaceful resolution to the increasing threats from North Korea
- God's grace and care while dealing with difficult health issues
- Pass my ACT test and get a summer job
- All the disabled and poor
- Stop the war and pray for no problems from Korea

See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

**UUMC members and friends spread manure, compost from Syracuse Grows April 20 on the Community Garden as planting time nears!**



## Same-sex marriage discernment recommended

**CONTINUED** from Page 1

Pastor French suggested that UUMC consider entering into deliberate and conscious dialogue around the issue of same-sex marriage as it relates to UUMC. Currently the United Methodist Church prohibits pastors from performing same-sex marriage ceremonies and sanctuaries from hosting them.

The board agreed that the issue deserves close consideration and recommended that the Reconciling Ministries Task Force reconvene to explore a process of congregational discernment.

Governing Board Chair Vito Sciscioli reported that the Board of Trustees voted to move forward with the Sounds of the Spirit sanctuary sound system update, with the goal of having the new system in place and operational by Labor Day. Contributions, however, are still needed to cover the full cost of the project.

## Finance Corner

### Pledging Update

2013 total pledges: \$249,290  
 Paid to date: \$111,881  
 Non-pledge contributions: \$6,805  
 Pre-paid pledges: \$58,300

### Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$41,343  
 Current balance \$35,128

Thank you to all who have donated.

### Memorial Gifts

#### *In memory of Alma Treen:*

Bruce and Ellen Crouthamel  
 Nancy Hough  
 Robert and Susan Nash  
 Adam and Jane Treen-Brand  
 Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood

#### *In memory of Ted Thuma:*

David and Ellen Bacon  
 Lynn and Harold Ferber  
 Nancy Hough  
 Don and Donna Lamirande  
 Denise Leduc  
 Pat and Stan Meltzer  
 William Myllymaki  
 David Richards  
 John and Joyce Robertson  
 Bryant University

## People/Prayer Connection

**CONTINUED** from Page 4

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

- **June 2:** Jamesville, Mark Harrison
- **June 9:** Delphi Falls, James Austin; Mexico UMC, Bill Palmer
- **June 16:** East Syracuse, Harold Wheat
- **June 23:** Fayetteville, Robert Sherburne; Onativia, Clair Mosher

### CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

### ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **June 2:** Ted Guercio, Jayne Humbert, Ruth Houser, Richard Houser
- **June 9:** Carrie Hunt, John Hunt, Ed Ihle, Mary Ihle
- **June 16:** Sharon Huard, Jeff Huard, Alexander Huard, Eleanor Huard, Christopher Huard
- **June 23:** Abby Hyland, Dan Hyland, Patrick Hyland, Madelyn Hyland
- **June 30:** Sherly Joseph, Mackenzie Joseph, Joachim Joseph, Mikailo Joseph

### Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting is Wednesday, May 22, at the home of Marjorie Carter. The speaker is Julie Riemel, local historian.

### Teachers Meeting

Sunday School teachers are to meet after worship May 19.

### Fair Trade Coffee

Your favorite coffees, beans and teas will be sold Sunday, May 19, in The Gathering Room after the worship service.

## Altar flowers

Flowers were given by Mattie Hightower, Don Steenberg, Rosemary DeHoog and Marg McDivitt

Flowers were given to Amanda Mountain and family, Martha Sutter, Katie Flynn, Ted and Genn Thuma, Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell, Barbara Nunn, Dan Magowan and Ann Milner.

Flower deliverers were Joyce Flynn and Barbara and Jerry Cargo.

## June birthdays

- 5 – Angela Tillapaugh
- 7 – Audrey Benton  
Jerome Weah Jr.
- 11 – Caroline Tompkins
- 15 – Rachel Boll
- 16 – Rev. Edwin A. Potter  
Charles Chappell III
- 17 – Sophie Finlayson-Schueler  
Leah (Threatte) Bojnowski  
Stephanie Hitztaler
- 19 – Rev. Dr. Kris Best
- 20 – Leigh Safford
- 22 – Ted Finlayson-Schueler  
Martha Sutter  
Deborah Bradshaw  
Christine Doran
- 25 – Steve Bacon
- 28 – Aaron Sarkodie-Mensah  
Melissa Mungure
- 29 – Elisa Skeeter

## Chimes' future

You may remember the previous Chimes issue was 10 pages. This one is six, the most Chimes can have from now on because of new postal regulations.

We will be examining UUMC's communications strategy, including Chimes, in the weeks ahead. Please send your ideas and suggestions to Tom Boll at [uumctb@twcny.rr.com](mailto:uumctb@twcny.rr.com).



University United  
Methodist Church

*Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit*

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210  
Phone: 315-475-7277 Fax: 315-475-8995  
[www.uumcsyracuse.org](http://www.uumcsyracuse.org) Email: [uumc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:uumc@twcny.rr.com)  
[www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse](http://www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse)

Return service requested  
Dated material

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Syracuse, NY  
Permit No. 2761

### WEEK OF MAY 12

Sunday the 12th  
**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  
Tuesday the 14th  
**5 p.m.** Outreach Committee  
Wednesday the 15th  
**11:15 a.m.** Staff meeting  
Thursday the 16th  
**6 p.m.** Staff-Parish Relations  
Committee  
**7:30 p.m.** Senior Choir  
Friday the 17th  
**10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community  
Saturday the 18th  
**3 p.m.** Celebration of Ted  
Thuma's Life

### WEEK OF MAY 19

Sunday the 19th—Pentecost  
**9:30 a.m.** Contemporary Issues  
**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School, ages 5

and up  
**10:30 a.m.** Worship; Sunday  
School, ages 3-4  
**11:45 a.m.** Fellowship -  
Gathering Room  
**11:45 a.m.** Sunday School  
teachers meeting  
Tuesday the 21st  
**7 p.m.** Stephen Ministry  
Wednesday the 22nd  
**11:15 a.m.** Staff meeting  
Friday the 24th  
**10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

### WEEK OF MAY 26

Sunday the 26th  
**9 a.m.** Community/Church  
Breakfast  
**9:30 a.m.** Contemporary Issues  
**10:30 a.m.** Worship  
**11:45 a.m.** Fellowship -  
Gathering Room  
Monday the 27th  
**Office closed: Memorial Day**  
Wednesday the 29th  
**11:15 a.m.** Staff meeting  
Friday the 31st  
**10 a.m. - noon** Friday Community

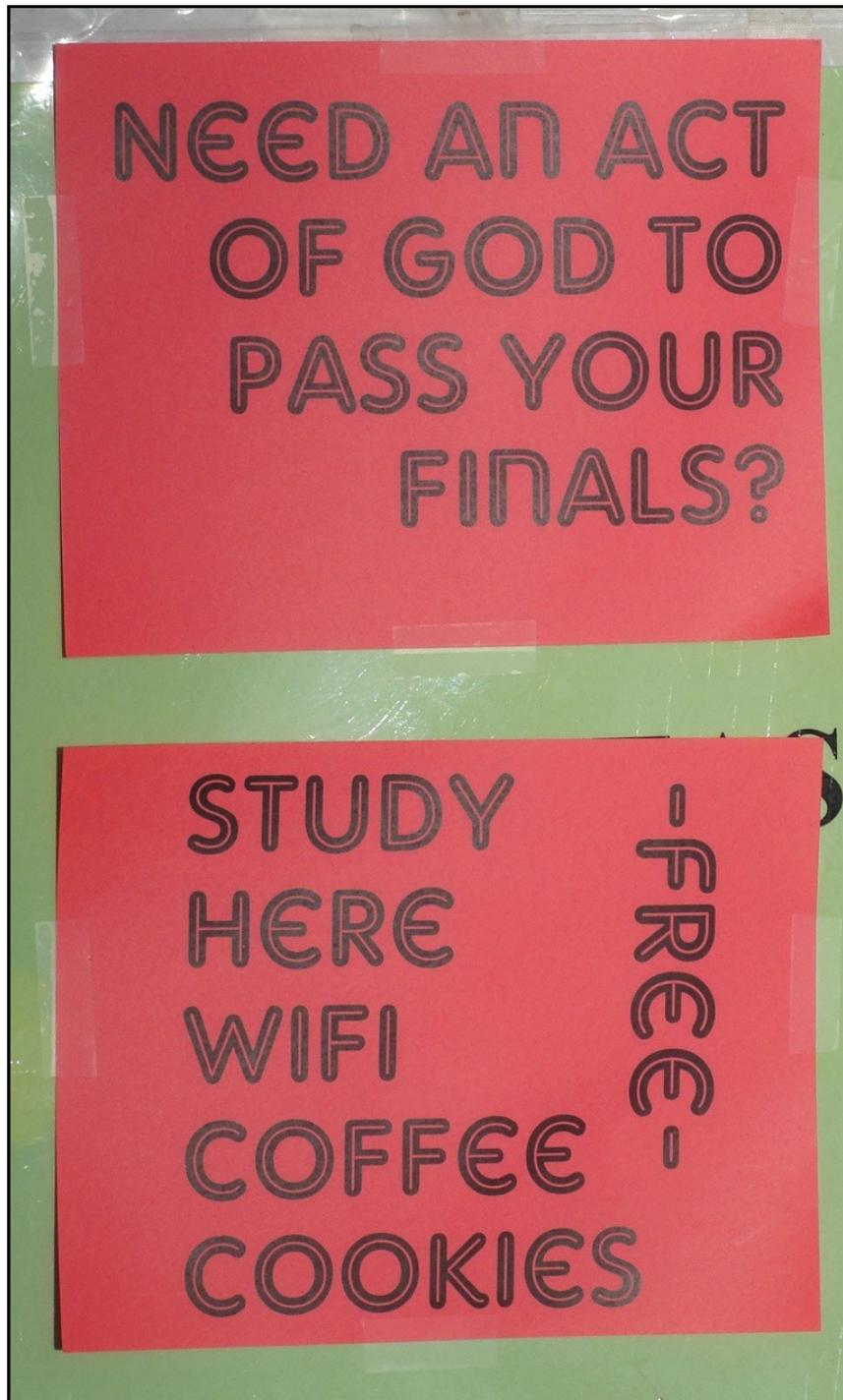
Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter. The Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is **red**.



**Spring flowers in bloom at our corner sign.**



**Jon Boll, who's serving a 27-month stint in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica, high-fives President Obama last week when the president was in that country for a meeting with Central American leaders. The president had spoken to a gathering of Peace Corps volunteers and embassy staff.**



**Our Connections Ministry had our sanctuary open and ready for college students seeking a quiet place to work on papers and study for finals.**



**Study tables in the front of the church.**



**Study tables in the back of the church.**



**Bruce, Craig, Joe and Evan help prepare the Community Garden for planting.**



**Part of the crowd for the Creation Stewardship film/discussion evening in memory of Allan Drew.**



**Rachel and Craig pick up trash as part of a neighborhood cleanup arranged by the Upper New York Conference.**



**One of two UUMC tables at the annual banquet/fundraiser for the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse.**



**The second UUMC table at the annual banquet/fundraiser for ACTS.**