

THE CHIMES

July 17, 2013

**Next Chimes
deadline:
August 7**

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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

CHANGES:

Joseph leaves, Deb steps in; Lyndsey's service ends

Rev. French notes on Page 2 that of anything in this world, change is one thing we know will happen.

As he said in his column in the last issue, Rev. Joseph Smythe has left as Friday Community chaplain. Deb Virgo has stepped in as interim Friday Community coordinator. Her first column is on page 3.

Lyndsey Graves, our mission intern since late last August, is moving on to further her education as her service time with us ends. Her farewell column is also on page 3.

We wish all of them well.



Photo by Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler

Deb Virgo and Rev. Joseph Smythe at his Friday Community farewell.

From the History Room...

*By Rosemary DeHoog,
Church Historian*

In every Chimes I plan to include something on a piece of history at University Church.

Also, I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about its history. If I don't know the answer, I will do my best to find out.

If you have items pertaining to the church that you think might have historical value, I will be glad to talk with you.

If you have served on boards or committees and have minutes or programs of events, I would be glad to see those.

I would rather have duplicates
See **RESTORING**, Page 4

Block Party just days away...

This Saturday, July 20, is the Block Party across University Avenue in the UUMC and dentist's parking lots.

It runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is the result of a partnership among UUMC, Dr. Zina Berry's dental practice and The ROAD church.

Members of Dr. Berry's staff will be on hand to do oral screenings and referrals if necessary.

Refreshments will be provided, including jerk chicken and pizza.

It will be a great way to get to know the members of The ROAD and our neighbors.

To volunteer before, during or after the party, please call the church office, 475-7277.

God will continue to sustain and provide for us



Rev. French

Traditionally, this is the month when United Methodist preachers receive new appointments (assignments) and United Methodist congregations welcome new pastors.

Fortunately, that doesn't apply to me this summer. I'm excited to be starting my sixth year in ministry with you. Among other things, I (and others) have learned that the best, most productive years of a pastor's ministry and leadership often don't kick in till year 6, 7 or 8.

While I may not be going anywhere, transition is still happening — for you and for me. This month we say goodbye to both the Rev. Joseph Smythe and Lyndsey Graves.

Pastor Joseph has led our Friday morning outreach ministry for almost five full years. He brought a big heart and a breadth of knowledge and experience to the position. His devotion to the work and, even more, to the persons he served was tireless and unstinting.

He loved helping people ... not just helping them out in a time of need, but helping them see and grow into their full potential as children of God.

It was his commitment to that vision and his ability to put it into action on a daily basis with almost everyone he met that made him such a valued friend, colleague and leader.

We will miss him, and we wish him well as he pursues one of his dreams by becoming the Protestant Chaplain at Upstate Community General Hospital. It is a perfect job for him.

As if Joseph's leaving isn't enough, we also say farewell this month to our mission intern, Lyndsey Graves. After her graduation from college a year ago, Lyndsey chose to devote a year of her life to voluntary poverty and simplicity, to intentional community, and to working with persons in poverty, as expressions of Christian faith and discipleship.

We were fortunate to have her land here in Syracuse and even more fortunate to have her land here at University Church.

We handed her a three-page job description for a brand-new position and asked her to go make it happen — which she did with great skill, gentleness, grace and resiliency.

One of her great loves is “improvisational thea-

ter” — working with others to create a spontaneous, unscripted performance.

In a very real sense, she's been doing “improv” with us for all of the past year, including stretching well beyond the confines of her actual job description.

She readily accepted each new challenge and succeeded nobly at them all, including serving as the primary compiler and author of the Sustainability Task Force report.

From the church's perspective, the past year's experiment of adding a young adult to the staff was a glorious success — in large part thanks to Lyndsey's style and ability.

We pray that the year has been equally rewarding for her. We will miss her, too, and wish her well, as she heads off to Boston to continue her life and academic goals.

So like it or not, we are in transition. Again. As others have noted, change is the only constant we have (and the only known antidote is death ... maybe).

But in acknowledging the wonderful gifts that Joseph and Lyndsey have been to us, we are also acknowledging the Giver who sent them to us in the first place ... and declaring our confidence that God will continue to sustain and provide for us.

If we focus only on what we are losing, the future may appear shaky and uncertain.

However, if we focus instead on the unchanging, unfailing providence, faithfulness and generosity of God, we can face an unknown future boldly and unafraid.

And truth be told, much of God's best work and self-revelation come not when life is safe, predictable and comfortable, but precisely when life is in flux or transition — because that's when we learn or re-learn that we can't depend on ourselves alone.

Our natural human instinct is to keep things smooth and steady and unchanging. This side of heaven, though, that way leads only to death and decay.

Hard as it is to say goodbye to Joseph and Lyndsey, it is a perfect moment to deepen our faith in Christ, who always calls and leads us into the future, accompanying us, sustaining us, guiding us, renewing us along the way.

— *Craig*

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Deb Virgo

You may be noticing that something looks different here. I am not Joseph Smythe! It's been fun telling people that I'm the "new Joseph," since on the surface we have few similarities.

And it's been daunting telling people this because Joseph was much beloved by our Friday Community.

On his last day at the pantry (he has moved on to a wonderful job as a chaplain in the Upstate system, if you hadn't heard) I heard several people speak about how he changed their lives.

I think serendipity was at work here. I was finding myself "under-employed" just as this church was looking for a new pantry coordinator.

When I was a volunteer in the pantry many years ago I always thought that I'd like to run a food pantry. And here I am.

What have I learned so far? It feels as if there are two jobs to learn.

One is all about the numbers: tabulating how many guests come each week, how many cans of tuna to order from the Food Bank, watching the budget and so on.

The other job is all about people: learning the names of the guests and hearing their stories, deciding when to just listen

and when to offer a suggestion, making connections with staff in other agencies like the Food Bank.

Did you know that we have between 10 and 12 volunteers who come and help with the pantry every week?!

They come from all over town, and each has a different piece of the job. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I am so grateful to them.

And by the way ... thanks to all of you who brought in toilet paper to worship at the beginning of the month.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community Coordinator

Thank you for caring for me in so many ways: pizza, rides, words...



Lyndsey Graves

Dear UUMC: This is a frustrating piece to write, not because I don't know what to say; but because I know exactly what I want to say, and there is no way to say it enough.

Thank you.

Thank you for employing a liberal arts graduate. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives.

Thank you for helping to launch Grace House and for all your care after its end, and for believing in me throughout.

Thank you for groceries and strawberry jam, for encouraging

words, for lunches and coffees, for emails and notes, for your parting gifts.

In a bicycle, a ride home, a pizza, I knew I was cared for in tangible ways, not just words.

Thank you for your eagerness to do the right thing, your willingness to teach and learn from a very young woman, your ever-increasing openness to all people.

My life is richer for the diversity I've encountered at University Church.

Thank you for reading, and for all your well-wishes as I go on my way. I plan to return on occasion, and to continue writing at my blog:

ellejanelle.wordpress.com (I have also added a section for past

UUMC-related posts).

You can also reach me at lyndseyjanelle@gmail.com.

Thank you for seeking to follow God's call ever farther into life.

May you always find God's grace new, surprising, joyous.

Until we meet again,
Lyndsey

Lyndsey served as our mission intern. She leaves today, July 17.

Editor's Note: Lyndsey preached at the July 7 worship service. You can listen to her testifying at the church website: uumcsyracuse.org under the "Sermons" tab.

Our recent graduates...

A number of young people who are members or who have been attending UUMC regularly received degrees in the past several weeks. Here they are:

High School

David Magowan graduated from C.W. Baker High School (Baldwinsville) and will attend the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

Kelsey Youmell graduated from Jordan-Elbridge High School and will attend Syracuse University.

College – Undergraduate

Lizz Magowan graduated from the State University at Binghamton where she majored in biology and French and minored in global studies and will attend SUNY Upstate Medical University. An article on Lizz is at the Binghamton website at: <http://www2.binghamton.edu/alumni/news/alumni-connect/jun-2013/legacy.html>

College – Graduate

Matt Gress graduated from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University with a master's degree in public administration and a specialty in state and local financial management. He will be working as a fiscal analyst for the Arizona Legislature in Phoenix.

Billy Klutz also graduated from Maxwell with a master's degree in public administration with a focus on nonprofit/public/organizational management and social media. He will be attending Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., while pastoring Stone Chapel United Methodist Church in New Windsor, Md.

Amanda Smith, another Maxwell graduate with a master's in public administration, focused on environmental policy and public and not-for-profit management.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2013 total pledges:	\$249,290
Paid to date:	\$143,576
Non-pledge contrib.:	\$9,691
Pre-paid pledges:	\$58,300

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received	\$56,343
Expenses paid	\$34,375
Current balance	\$21,968

August birthdays

- 2 – Dr. Barbara Miller
- Beth Drew, Ray Ashwood
- 4 – Michael Borenstein, Valerie Young
- 5 – Will Drew, Dan Hyland, Jonathan Hosler
- 6 – Kathleen Stevenson, Gloria Morgan, Ingrid Coutts
- 9 – Marjorie Carter
- 12 – Don Steenberg
- 15 – Barbara Fought
- 16 – Barbara French
- 19 – Sue Bambacht, Jesse Miller
- 20 – Susan Borenstein
- 21 – Maria Fay
- 22 – Charles Chappell Jr.
- 25 – Julia Duru, Katie Flynn
- 27 – Bruce Borenstein
- 28 – David Duru
- 31 – Roger Lund

Altar Flowers

Flowers were given by Harry and Shirley Miller, Rita and George Soufleris, Don and Margo Kotten and Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig. They were given to Amanda and Cynthia Tavel, Johanna MacDonald, Genn Thuma, Arlene Musilli, Brad and Judith Bowers, Ellen Bacon and Freda Kirkley. They were delivered by Ed and Lee Potter, Marg McDivitt, and Don and Margo Kotten.

Restoring old scrapbooks

CONTINUED from Page 1 than none at all.

If you have pictures of events, names and dates on them are most helpful to the historian. I am in the process of restoring old scrapbooks that were put together before acid-free paper so that they may be looked at and not locked away in a room.

You may reach me at 315-446-3317 or rdehoog@twcny.rr.com.

New Member: Jeff Foley

Jeff Foley grew up in Herkimer with 12 siblings. His work history includes warehousing. He's volunteered at food pantries for many years, including UUMC's.



Jeff Foley

"I just love helping people," Jeff says, which he says he learned from his mother.

Jeff also loves baseball. The Syracuse resident says he's a Yankee "fanatic."

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Praise Jesus for giving me a friend in marriage! From **Elise**
- We celebrate **Johanna's** successful surgery and pray for her steady recovery
- Thanking God for my daughter **Melanie's** outstanding spelling bee performance, from **Mel Duru**
- I am thankful for my great-niece, **Aaleana Maureen Lynett Schmidt**, born July 5. Praise Jesus. From **Elise**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Alex Saxby and Matt Fischer**
- Continue to walk and talk "like" God. Continue to work on me. Thank you. From **Shawna Boyd**
- Surround **Claudette** with your love and give her strength to be the rock for her "family," from **Grandma Ann**
- Healing for **Genn Thuma, Johanna MacDonald and Freda Kirkley**
- The **Williams Family**, since Mom has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- **Dian**, who is having major back surgery July 15
- Support and care for a friend, **Susan**, who is struggling with poor health
- Doctors, nurses and lawyers. For all those affected by nature and violence. UUMC staff and the church. May God grant us wisdom to carry on.
- **Beatrix**, who is only 4 weeks old, from **Caroline**
- My family, for healing after the death of my grandmother, **Helen Toenniessen**, last week, from **Corinne**
- **Nancy Hough's** recovery, from **Barbara**
- Prophet Jesus, guide your servants to recognize the healing works by your example! From **Elise**
- **John**, as he continues to get better each day.
- My grandparents, now separated as my grandfather has been placed in a nursing home; for strengthening of faith in the midst of uncertainty
- **Lisa**, as she travels to camp for a week
- People everywhere dealing with death and loss. May God's strength and love bring them comfort.
- The airplane crash victims
- For God to join me with my children
- I need a job and healing for my foot
- The church's members and buildings, beyond Utica, damaged by huge storms two days ago
- **Nelson Mandela** of South Africa
- Those harmed by prejudice and violence. For this church's staff and members. For America!
- **James**, as he lay in a hospital far from family and friends. Help him heal. Bring peace to his soul. Remind him to lean on his faith. God please keep your angels around James. Keep him safe.
- My parents' health and well-being, from **Carol Boll**
- Lord, please bless UUMC as it continues steadfast in its mission of welcoming all of your children with love and com-

passion. I will think often of this wonderful and special place. From **Matt Gress**

- The blessings we share in family and community as we accept each other and the gift of compassion, from **Peter Swords**
- **Janet Davis and Daniel Barrett** in their battle with cancer
- All those suffering from the forest fires in the West
- Help to let go of the past, live in the present and look to the future
- My cousin **Asia**, who just gave birth and lost her fiancé, who died within the last three weeks

BIRTH

Joy on the birth of **Ellen Rose Thomas** on June 27 in Minneapolis. She is the granddaughter of **Nancy and Bill Richmond** and great-granddaughter of **Dave and Ellen Bacon**.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Aug. 4:** Virginia Knight, Margo Koten, Donald Koten
- **Aug. 11:** Robert Laubach, Robby Lewis, Fred Zuti
- **Aug. 18:** Dorothy Logan, David MacDonald, Vicki Macdonald
- **Aug. 25:** Johanna MacDonald, Roger MacDonald, Greg Mahoney.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Aug. 4:** Manlius, Joseph Kim
- **Aug. 11:** Marcellus, B. Lee Williams Jr.
- **Aug. 18:** Minoa, Roger Parker; North Mexico
- **Aug. 25:** North Syracuse: Andrews, Brad Hunt

WEEK OF JULY 21

Sunday the 21st

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Narthex

Wednesday the 24th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 26th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JULY 28

Sunday the 28th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Narthex

Wednesday the 31st

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 2nd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF AUGUST 4

Sunday the 4th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Narthex

Noon Sunday School teachers and parents social

Wednesday the 7th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 9th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF AUGUST 11

Sunday the 11th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Wednesday the 14th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 16th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Guild Meeting

The Guild will meet at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the home of Rita Soufleris, 299-7702.

This is our planning meeting. Please try to be there with program suggestions!



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Report from the Governing Board

The UUMC Governing Board at its June meeting received the final report of the Outreach Sustainability Task Force, a document primarily authored by Lyndsey Graves with assistance from Matt Gress and Pastor French.

The result of months-long deliberations by the task force, the document outlines core organizing principles and goals for UUMC outreach programs/activities for the long term, with logistical specifics to support and sustain those goals yet to be determined. The board agreed that the report should have broad congregational consensus and that a series of opportunities will be provided to the congregation over the summer to review and discuss the findings and recommendations.

Printed copies are available in the church office and the report was emailed to members. It will be available online in the future.

In other business:

- The board noted the need to address Rev. Joseph Smythe's departure as Friday Community chaplain. Jim Wiggins reported that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee was scheduled to begin deliberat-

ing the future of that position at its next meeting at the end of June. He also noted that UUMC has increased its minimum wage to \$11/hour.

- Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay reported that the Sunday School teachers continue to meet to explore new models to better address the needs of church families, children, and available teachers. It was noted that the Sunday School program is in serious need of additional classroom teachers and helpers. Gwen also shared a request from the Care and Share team to update the name tag system at a cost of less than \$100. The request was approved.
- The board heard an update on the sound system project, now underway, and on the church's Connective Corridor application for funds to support façade enhancements, repair work on the front steps, and landscaping at the front of the church. The proposal is still under consideration by the Connective Corridor committee.

— Carol Boll



The Win Gaskin Memorial Garden in bloom, after work done and plants added by Bruce Simmons.

Friday Community's Farewell Party for Rev. Joseph Smythe June 28, 2013

(4 photos from Finlayson-Schueler family)











Rev. French bids farewell to mission intern Lyndsey Graves on behalf of UUMC.



Billy Kluttz preaches June 30 before heading off to pastor a church in Maryland and attend Wesley Theological Seminary.

Community Garden

July 17, 2013

(5 photos)



Three rows of beans are blossoming. Some broccoli went to flower (right) in the extreme heat.



Three rows of corn are climbing.



Collards are coming along well.



Pepper plants are persevering.



Tomatoes are taking off.



What's everyone looking at in the downstairs hallway?



Some china (not a lot) that broke when a shelf collapsed in a cabinet.