Wedding coordinators work behind scenes to have ceremony go smoothly

Bette Helwig and Morgan Mills share a role at UUMC that you’ll likely never witness, unless someone you know gets married here.

They are UUMC’s new co-wedding coordinators, and they’ll be busy this summer, with five weddings between mid-July and Labor Day, including two on the same day in August.

Their job involves reflecting the congregation’s welcoming spirit and hospitality, Bette said.

Among their duties are helping the families get oriented to the church, being at the church for the wedding rehearsal, making sure the sanctuary is set for the ceremony, preparing a welcome basket and cleaning up after the event.

They also will send the couple a card on their first anniversary.

Bette’s been a UUMC member for 25 years, during which she’s contributed to the congregation’s life in a number of ways, including Sunday School teacher and Communion coordinator. She’s a retired school librarian who’s married to Steve Bacon. Their son, Taylor Bacon, attends Rochester Institute of Technology.

See Morgan, Page 4

Three devotionals to help spur your spiritual growth

As we care for our flowers or vegetables during this hot summer, we might want to think about tending our spiritual lives. Here are three devotionals to keep your spirituality blooming through the season.

The D365 daily devotionals, d365.org, are organized in five segments with the first labeled “Pause,” offering a theme or saying for the week. Then you move to “Listen,” which is one or two scripture verses. Next is “Think,” which is a short reading related to the scripture.

For example, one day the passage was about the Capernaum centurion who asked elders to invite Jesus to come heal his servant.

The writer elaborated on the passage noting how some of us, like the Centurion, hesitate to go directly to God because we think we are unworthy, feel like an outsider or discount our needs as too small.

The next screen, “Pray,” offers a simple prayer that ties in, and the final screen of the devotional is “Go,”
From our pastor...

Remember: God rested, so you should take time out to do likewise

Greetings,

Two weekends ago I had the luxury of leaving worship Sunday and traveling to Brennan Beach on Lake Ontario just outside of Pulaski. It was a beautiful day.

I was so happy to visit my friend’s new permanent camp at Brennan Beach and Camp Grounds. It is a beautiful camp. It has an unobstructed view of Lake Ontario from her front porch.

I hung out with my friend, her husband and eventually a large group of their friends. I was able to laugh and share “girl talk” with my longtime friend.

I was invited to stay overnight at the camp.

I woke up Monday morning before anyone else and sat on the front porch looking at and listening to the lake. It was wonderful to see the dogs and their people walk along the water.

After a while, I got a book and read while listening to the lake. It was awesome!

As the campgrounds started to wake up, my friend and I walked the beach all the way down to the sand dunes. They are super cool! To end my day, I sat on a 10-person raft on the lake with all of my new friends and soaked up the sun.

I’m sharing all of this with you because this (too short) weekend reminded me how important it is to rest. We all need rest.

For me rest usually involves sitting near a body of water. You may have a different form of rest.

Genesis 2: 2-3: “On the sixth day God completed all the work that God had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that God had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation.”

Even God rests. We are all made in the image of God. We are designed to rest. How could we even think we are more efficient than God? I mean, God is GOD, and God rests.

In this fast-paced world, please take some time and rest. Don’t beat yourself up for resting or not getting everything on your “to-do list” done every day of the week. Take a day of rest and renewal.

I’ve learned my lesson (for now). Rest is a requirement for me. So, if I ever forget, please feel free to remind me to rest and go sit by a lake.

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— Pastor Alicia

Livestreaming of Service

Steve Bacon has been working to make livestreaming of our 11 a.m. Sunday worship service possible. Livestreaming is broadcasting an event on the internet as it is happening.

This will enable homebound and hospitalized members, people away on vacation and those who head South for the winter to watch and listen to the service.

Steve’s first attempt at this will be this Sunday, July 24.

To view the broadcast, go to: http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqjHz27ZZyE.

State Fair Pride Day Parade

UUMC is once again looking to have a contingent in the 6 p.m. Daily Parade at the State Fair on Pride Day, Aug. 26. Parade participants receive a fair admission ticket. Those interested should contact Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler at 446-6333 or jeannefs3327@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School

We are planning to host VBS 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 21-25 with the theme: “Beach Party: Surfin’ Through the Scriptures.” We would love at least 10 adult volunteers/teachers and several teenage volunteers. Please email Pastor Alicia at pastoraliciawood@gmail.com and Morgan Mills at morgan.r.mills15@gmail.com if you are interested.

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
19 – Jesse Miller
20 – Ben Borenstein
21 – Maria Fay
23 – Nate Appleton
25 – Katie Flynn
27 – Bruce Borenstein
28 – Teddy Toe
31 – Roger Lund
Food Bank grant enables pantry to offer more produce to guests

At the end of this month my family and I are taking a week’s vacation in Maine.

Other than figuring the logistics of housing and mobilizing five people and one dog, I enjoy planning outings, adventures and activities filling us with new experiences that will provide rich memories to carry us through winter.

Quietly, I highlight eating opportunities, farmers markets and local food vendors that will punctuate each day.

I feel that by introducing my family to different food experiences it challenges them to another opportunity to grow and empowers them with a diverse palette as well as an understanding of regional cuisine.

With this methodology in place, my family has eaten rattlesnake and cactus in Arizona, poi, dragon fruit and red bean paste in Hawaii, alligator in Florida and blood sausage in the British Isles.

Regional farmers markets are a traveler’s gem. Not only are there abundant free samples of local foods, but you can quickly assess the pride folk take in their regional offerings and what are popular eats driven by community needs/desires and skills in mobilizing food products.

Of course we are completely spoiled by Syracuse’s Central New York Regional Market. The bevy of Central and Upstate NY foods at Saturday’s market is always astonishing. We also have the added benefit of accessing a smaller farmers market downtown on Tuesday afternoons, and many of our suburban and city neighborhoods offer small farmers markets through the week.

The Food Bank of CNY appreciates the wealth of food offerings in our region and works hard to ensure that all folk are able to access our regional delights.

Later this month UUMC will be hosting a workshop given by the CNY Food Bank for our community and neighbors.

After an hour tutorial on nutrition and an explanation of the value of fresh, regional foods as additions to diet and eating with the seasons, guests receive $20 in coupons that can be spent at Tuesday’s farmers market on fresh, local food from subscribing farmers.

Last week I collected our first allotment of produce and orchard products from the Westcott Street Farmers Market, which will continue weekly through early fall.

In our annual award from CNY’s Food Bank, UUMC received a $1,000 “produce” grant, up from $500 last year.

Devised as a link between suburban and rural farmers to the city’s food pantries, our award will be divided between Owen Orchards and Brownson Family farms to augment our produce offerings to our pantry guests.

As we move through the summer the Outreach team is excited to offer another opportunity for the neighborhood to access UUMC’s Food Pantry.

Last evening, we opened our city quadrant’s only evening food pantry. It’s a very obvious need in the community. We look forward to welcoming new guests and new volunteers into UUMC and ensuring an accessible food source for them. Thankfully we will have a wealth of offerings available.

I encourage each of you to visit a farmers market this summer wherever you are.

While there, look around, enjoy the local foods and the local people. It will surely enrich your day and your diet.

Meanwhile, my family and I will be finding the best lobster roll Maine has to offer.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley Outreach Coordinator

Living Room items needed

Syracuse is expecting 300 refugees from Syria by early fall, and the city United Methodist Churches have agreed to jointly support one family.

We don’t know the size of the family or arrival date yet.

UUMC has agreed to furnish the living room, so if you have anything appropriate, please contact Galyn at 475-7277 or uumcoutreach@twcny.rr.com.

Lettuce from the Westcott Street Farmers Market.
Feed My People: Body, Mind and Spirit

CONTINUED from Page 1

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Ted and Jeanne Finlayson -Schueler in recognition of their moms on their birthdays, Louise Schueler, July 19, and Mary Lou Finlayson, July 28.

By Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig, in honor of Ellen Bacon’s birthday.

By Gary and Marsha Wood, in memory of loved ones.

By Harry and Shirley Miller, in memory of Harry’s mother, Vivian Miller, who died a year ago.

Flowers were given to Rita Soufleris, Dean Moyer, Dot Logan, Jerry Cargo, Barbara Nunn, Bob and Barb Weaver and new members Jim Roser and Kathy Clearly and Robert Simmons.

Flowers were delivered by Janet Sciscioli, Jayne Humbert and Starke Donnally.

Morgan is from Barneveld, was wedding coordinator at Stittville UMC

CONTINUED from Page 1

Bette has two daughters. Corrie is married to Andrew Pratt, and they have a son, Jack. Kate was married to Brendan Lytle on July 16 at UUMC.

Morgan grew up in Barneveld, New York, and attended Stittville United Methodist Church. She ran Vacation Bible School there three years ago and assisted many other years and was wedding coordinator there for a half-dozen ceremonies.

As for the job of wedding coordinator, Morgan said, “I think weddings are some of the happiest moments in two people’s lives. To be able to be part of that is really important.”

She said it’s satisfying “to help make it happen and to know that – you didn’t do it all – but that you were behind the scenes making everything go smoothly for these people.”

Morgan has volunteered to help organize Vacation Bible School this summer at UUMC. If enough people volunteer to help, it will run August 21-25.

She’s a 2015 Syracuse University graduate with a degree in music industry. She loves to sing, camp and spend time with her family.

Her other jobs include working with her boyfriend, Dan Mastronardi, owner of Creative Concerts, which runs the Westcott Theater, and at the Cambareri law firm in Syracuse.

She and Dan, who has a 5-year-old daughter, Stella, recently bought a house in the Westhill School District.

A pleased Pastor Alicia said, “We are blessed to have two gifted wedding coordinators at UUMC offering outstanding hospitality!”
THANKS
Dear UUMC Family,
I want to thank everyone for all your expressions of caring, prayers, cards and lovely flowers from the altar. They all made getting through such a sad time a little easier.
Thank you again,
Barb Nunn and Family

PRAYERS REQUESTED:
- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fisch
- Sunday, June 26
  - Averi: The rest of our time in the Washington Conference in Syracuse is full of joy & new experiences.
  - Barb: Prayers that Jerry Cargo's hip surgery will be successful on Tuesday.
  - Don & Margo: Prayers for the family of Warren Otto, our brother in-law, who died last week.
  - Elise: Prophet Jesus, praise you for your instructions for peace!
  - Gwen: Barbara Nunn is recovering very well from knee replacement surgery and has gone to rehab.
  - Jayne: May Barbara Nunn continue to heal from her knee surgery.
  - Marty: Prayers for my music associate, Andy, suffering from ailments that threaten his career.
  - Rebekah: Thankful that SJ Moon made it to Korea safely and will begin his Ph.D. July 1. Prayers for my college friend Caroline's family as she passed away suddenly at the age of 25.
  - Robert: Continued good health
  - Healing for Stephanie
  - A prayer for Becky Wind, who is recovering from surgery
  - God’s blessings in personal relationships and career pursuits
  - James St. UMC
  - Orlando
  - I pray that we can find strength in God so that we might live his love in the world
  - Prayers for those fighting addictions.
  - Prayers for Ann Price having a mastectomy this week.

Sunday, July 3
- Ann: Prayers for Tom Owens
- Beth: So happy to see old and new friends from James St. UMC with us today. We hope you feel it is a little bit of home.
- Chris: Understanding to become a faithful and loving husband.
- Chuck: Pray for the violence around the world to end.
- Peter: For Susaune Evhardt, my niece, who is about to deliver a baby next week in Germany.
- Shirley: Please pray for healing for my sister, Barbara, who had to undergo a second knee surgery.
- For Jerry Cargo, who is recovering from hip surgery
- Daughter, Kim, who is looking for employment
- Prayers for the shootings in Syracuse to end
- Praying for a safer July 4th
- Prayers for Claudette Brown-Smythe and Joseph grieving the death of Claudette’s mom in Jamaica
- Safe travels for Gordon and Audrey, prayers for Phil Davenport, Annie Davenport.
- Prayers for all floods and disasters and the people affected by them.

Sunday, July 10
- Barbara: Jerry Cargo wants to thank all his church friends for their prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. He will be coming home from Elderwood on Wednesday.
- Donna: For the Ricci family and Williams family.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, prepare me for noticing and create the right action to solve a problem!
- Jayne: Barbara Nunn is now home and healing well!
- Lee: watch over struggling marriages, places of conflict.

Sunday, July 17
- Carie: Pray for safe travel for John from Colorado by car and by plane.
- Hannah: I would like to pray about my husband’s bar exam. For him to have faith, peace and strength for God’s will.
- Jeanne F-S: For all the campers and for our moms, Louise Schueler and Mary Lou Finlayson.
- Mike: The family of Maurice “Moe” Sheedy, and for Anthony Paula and family
- Our love goes out to Rita Soufleris for the loss of her daughter-in-law, Beth.

See PEOPLE, Page 6
**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
2016 total pledges: $179,649  
Paid to date: $74,332  
Non-pledge contr.: $11,302

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

If you have been or are planning to be away for a time this summer, please be sure to check and keep your pledge contributions current.

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**WEEK OF JULY 24**

**Sunday the 24th**
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues  
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm  
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

**Wednesday the 27th**
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
12:30 p.m. Bible Study: Jonah

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**WEEK OF JLY 31**

**Sunday the 31st**
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering

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**Sunday the 24th**
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

**Wednesday the 3rd**
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations

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**WEEK OF AUGUST 7**

**Sunday the 7th**
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
Communion.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm.
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

**Tuesday the 16th**
6-8 p.m. Food pantry

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**Friday the 12th**
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community  
12:30 p.m. Bible Study: Jonah

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**WEEK OF AUGUST 14**

**Sunday the 14th**
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

**Wednesday the 17th**
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
12:30 p.m. Bible Study: Jonah

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**People/Prayers**

**CONTINUED from Page 5**

- The **Soufleris family** on the death of Rita’s daughter-in-law, Beth, from ALS.
- Prayers for **Pastor Alicia**, who is chaplain at Camp Casowasco this week.
- For guidance and provision; continues guidance and improved health; youth in Syracuse
- Prayers for **Ruth Prell**; a bad procedure is corrected by the hand of God in my body — his temple.
- Insight and nonviolence at the Republican National Convention; for world unity — all different and all equal.
- Residents of Turkey trying to live in democracy.

**THANKS AND PRAISE**

**Sunday, July 3**

- **Doug**: Praise God for the blessing of a new job.
- Welcome to our brothers and sisters from James Street UMC and prayers for them in their transition.

**MARRIAGE**

- **Katharine Fagut and Brendan Lytle** were married July 16 at UUMC. Kate is daughter of **Bette Helwig and Steve Bacon**.
The sides of our “tent,” are growing as we continue our journey through the 12 Phoenix Affirmations of Progressive Christianity, which are divided into the three sections as noted by the banners on the left.
Lighting Candles in the ‘Fire Pit’
2 Photos
New Members
June 26, 2016

From left, Robert, Kathy and Jim joined UUMC as members.
Church Landscaping
(2 photos)
Laying on of hands/blessing children going off to church camp — Camp Casowasco
Zimmermans’ Visit
June 5, 2016
(6 photos)

UUMC Children at
Camp Casowasco
3 Photos
Parking spaces in our lot across from the Peale Entrance now have orange lines to distinguish them from those in the dentist’s office. There’s also a sign in the cone alerting drivers.