

THE CHIMES

July 9, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
July 30**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Notes from a Road Trip	2
Meet the City Pastors	2
People/Prayer Connection	3
Altar Flowers	4
Finance Corner	4
Birthdays	4
Four-Week Schedule	4
Video in Worship	4

Summer worship is 11 a.m. and begins on our front steps (weather permitting). See Beth Drew if you can help with hospitality before the service.

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

UUMC is capable of providing example of Jesus to strugglers

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality. I am grateful for this opportunity to worship and fellowship with you this summer.

I have learned many things so far: First, University UMC is full of friendly faithful people who long to serve God.

Second, the uncertainty of the city United Methodist churches is thought of as an adventure or a journey that God is leading the churches through.

Third, I have a lot to learn from this congregation and this experience. I'm having so much fun! But with this fun comes much learning about balance of worship, outreach, pastoral visits and my own family.

Last, there is much work to be done in this city. I have visited within the church and walked the streets. People are struggling. They are struggling to survive poverty, abuse, and keeping themselves and their children on the right path.

Most people are open to a relationship with Jesus Christ but are so



Alicia Wood

used to relying only on themselves or their nuclear families that they don't naturally turn to God. As a church we need to find a way to be an example of Jesus in the neighborhood so that people think of God and this church when they struggle. I can tell we are up for the task with so many faithful people at University UMC.

As a quick reminder, the church is looking to provide Sunday morning breakfast weekly. Our neighbors are hungry every day. We need your help. Please consider volunteering.

Also, I am hosting a Bible Study Friday mornings 9:15-9:45. This is a DVD series by Rob Bell in which you may come once or all four weeks and get something out of it.

Keep telling me your God sightings. They are so inspirational! Again thank you for your warm welcome and your faithful service.

Peace,
Alicia

From the History Room...

Ties with community became even stronger

By Rosemary DeHoog
Church Historian

In 1966, the Rev. Robert Bolton became pastor and in the next two years was joined by the Rev. Herbert Gordon as associate minister and Ethel Johnson as director of Religious Education.

No less interested than their pre-

decessors in making the church a vital place for people of all ages, the new team sought to strengthen the ties that Dr. Donald Wright had been establishing between the church and the community.

Many neighborhood groups — Girl Scouts, drama clubs, anti-poverty

See **CHURCH**, Page 3

No formulas found but a lesson learned



Rev. French

I saw the future one Sunday morning. I visited a downtown church that was uncannily like University Church. So much so that I felt immediately at home.

The mix of people, their openness and warmth, music led by a talented organist and soloist, a competent pastor doting on a new grandchild ... all I had to do was close my eyes and click my heels to imagine I was back home in Syracuse.

The one noticeable difference was that the sanctuary was at least three-fourths full.

“How nice that would be,” I thought to myself. “Isn't that one of the hopes behind our uniting with the other city churches — larger, more sustainable worshiping congregations?”

Then it hit me ... something I couldn't tell the pastor ... that their future is our future ... and it isn't pretty.

For all our similarities, it was who wasn't there that was most telling. They were no better at involving people in their 20s, 30s and 40s than we have been.

Without that group of persons, the future of any church is clear ... and dismal. If we want a different, livelier kind of future, then we need to start making changes to our style of worship, ministry and leadership that can attract those missing 20-, 30- and 40-year-olds.

+ + +

I wish you could have been with me for the Chautauqua-like lectures in Wisconsin. The lectures had two overriding themes:

- ◆ Jesus as a question-asker (more than an answer-man); and
- ◆ the Church's tendency to focus on the wrong questions (questions that may seem important to us, but which no one outside the church is the least bit interested in).

I didn't agree with everything I heard, but it certainly got me thinking. That's why I wish you had been there — so we could have begun a conversation about what it means to follow Jesus in being (a) humble enough to admit we don't have all the answers, (b) real enough to encounter people in the messiness of life and (c) courageous enough to ask questions that lead to richer, fuller life.

+ + +

My two weeks of summer school classes weren't exactly what I was expecting. I went looking for answers — formulas — about how to create healthy congregations and how to successfully manage deep change.

What I learned was that no one of us — no matter how skilled or how smart — can single-handedly fix or solve anything.

We are part of interwoven, complicated systems or networks (families, churches, groups of churches) that beg simple solutions or quick fixes.

That's both bad news and good news all rolled into one. All any of us can ever do is take responsibility for our own actions.

But ... because we are part of the overall system (or family or congregation), healthier behavior on our part will have a positive impact on the system as a whole.

I don't have to try to do it all by myself ... but neither do I have to give up in helpless frustration or futility.

I simply have to take responsibility for myself (as much as possible) and not unnecessarily or unwittingly add to the stress and anxiety already present and at work in the system.

The trick is staying true to oneself and aware of one's own reactions, while staying connected to and involved with others — regardless of the level of stress, anxiety, conflict or change. (Note to self and reader: This is much easier contemplated and practiced while on sabbatical!)

— Craig

All of the clergy appointed so far to the eight United Methodist churches in Syracuse will be at three “meet and greet” events this month. Come for a time of fellowship. Here's the schedule:

July 22	6:30-8 p.m. Gethsemane UMC, 1700 Butternut St.
July 23	6:30-8 p.m. Bellevue UMC, 2112 S. Geddes St.
July 30	2:30-4 p.m. Erwin First UMC, 920 Euclid Ave.

People/Prayer Connection

THANKS

Sunday, June 8

- A huge thank you to all for being with us for ReciproKate!!
- Thanks to God for the past year and prayers for the next on this birthday of our church.
- I thank God for my son, **Erick**, who is being baptized today, and tomorrow will be his birthday.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, June 8

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, test my reins to direct me to the six degree: Love, Divine!
- **Peter:** For the traditions of United Methodism, from Wesley to the Circuit Riders (“And Are We Yet Alive”) to Craig’s great ministry in the present!
- **Russ:** For all service members and veterans; prayers and wisdom for God’s people who are leaders of all nations, leaders of all churches, leaders of all people who serve others. Prayers and blessings for my daughter, **Jamie**, and my sister, **Penny**.
- **Carrie Hunt:** For my brother, **John**, recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and for his family and mine.
- **Meredith**, with health issues.
- **Daphne Stone**
- My friend **Jeanette** and all my family and friends
- A prayer to those who are sick and suffering, for the homeless, people with addictions. May they find their way to God and become members of this

church.

- Heal our bodies as well as souls
- Be with us all during the coming changes for us all and for UUMC.

Sunday, June 15

- **Anneke:** Prayers for my son **Jordan**, who will be graduating next week and heading into the Air Force.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I plead you to educate me, to change my self-destruction!
- **Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler:** That **Danielle Adams’** ankle heals soon
- **Tom Boll:** **Ray Sturge** and family. Ray’s mom is in hospice care.
- Blessings to God and to all our fathers in this congregation. Happy Father’s Day and to our father in heaven.
- Tolerance, peace and justice.
- Be with shut-ins, especially **Katie Flynn**

Sunday, June 29

- **Peter: Maddie, Marti and Dana Horrell**, who are starting out in new places with the work that brings people together.
- **Starke:** My friend **Joanne Dias** in Crouse Hospital for testing.
- A smooth transition back to Syracuse. For a healthy pregnancy
- **Ila Christoff** and family

Sunday, July 5

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, may I proceed to be a shepherd toward my son’s education.
- **Negin:** A friend with breast cancer
- **Alicia**, as she travels for one

day for daughter’s drivers test.

- **Dennis Caldwell**, a 61-year-old retired teacher who came for breakfast

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **July 6:** Jordan, Glen Hardman; North Volney, Tammie Nipper
- **July 13:** Palermo UMC, Tammie Nipper; Little Utica, Michaela St. Marie
- **July 20:** Skaneateles, Joelynn Tuttle
- **July 27:** Camillus Immanuel, Nicholas Preuninger
- **Aug. 3:** Manlius, Joseph Kim

Church welcomed groups, classes, forums, discussions

CONTINUED from Page 1 workers, even weight-reducing classes — found a meeting place in the church, and forums for political and social discussions were also welcomed.

Particularly important was the Syracuse University Children’s Center organized under the initiative of Dean Bernice Wright of the College of Home Economics.

In cooperation with this project, the church made available the facilities of the Christian Education building five days a week in a program that served the needs of both culturally deprived children and children of middle-income parents who wished to broaden the experiences of their families.

From “A Century of Ministry” by Dr. Nelson Blake, Syracuse University

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877

Paid to date: \$130,158

Non-pledge contr.: \$12,882

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$70,843

Expenses paid \$70,589

Current balance \$254

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

25 - Julia Duru, Katie Flynn

27 - Bruce Borenstein

28 - David Duru, Teddy Toe

31 - Roger Lund

—
If any birthdays are incorrect or missing,
please contact Tom Boll at
uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given by Matt and Lynn Steenberg, Mary Fridie Wilson and JoAnn May, Harry and Shirley Miller, and Don and Margo Koten.

Flowers were given to Don Steenberg, David Bacon, Brad Bowers, Jim Wiggins, Art Echner and Diane Tarbell.

Flowers were delivered by Gale Youmell, Steve Bacon and Don and Margo Koten.



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 Email: uumc@twcny.rr.com

www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse

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

Return service requested

Dated material

WEEK OF JULY 13

Sunday the 13th

9:30 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Caroline
Simmons preaching

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 16th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 18th

9:15 a.m. Bible Study

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JULY 20

Sunday the 20th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Tom Buckel,
guest speaker

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 23rd

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 25th

9:15 a.m. Bible Study

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JULY 27

Sunday the 27th

9:30 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Christine
Doran, guest speaker

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 30th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 1st

9:15 a.m. Bible Study

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Sunday the 3rd

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Patience
Kisakye preaching

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 6th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 8th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Community Garden

The Community Garden at Spencer Park is in great shape, but the weeds are also growing well. If you can spare an hour, come Saturday, July 12, at 8:30 a.m. and join our weeding party.

Video in Worship

UUMC is now using video in worship. If you have suggestions and ideas on using this medium, please stay after worship this Sunday, July 13, for a brief discussion in the sanctuary.

Sunday Service July 6, 2014 (7 photos)



We began the service with people singing on the front steps and in the Narthex, led by Music Director Martha Sutter.







Alicia Wood offers a few words before we head inside.



The children gathered the donations of cereal for our food pantry.



We've added video to the worship experience.



The ribbons are multiplying as the “God sightings” mount up.

CNY Pride Service
June 17, 2014
at Unity Church
(2 photos)





UUMC members were part of the choir for the service.



The Community Garden is doing well. If you want to help weed—come to Spencer Park between 8 and 8:30 a.m. this Saturday, July 12.