

THE CHIMES

August 6, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
August 20**

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**The Allan Drew Memorial
Bike Ride is Aug. 16
around Skaneateles Lake.**

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

September vote scheduled on move to Liverpool by UNY Conference

A special session of the Annual Conference will be held Sept. 6-7 to vote on a recommendation to the conference trustees to buy a building at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool that would become the conference center of the Upper New York Conference.

The conference is currently renting space at UUMC.

The voting will be 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 6 at Rush UMC, 3 to 5 p.m. Sept. 6 at Liverpool UMC and 3 to 5 p.m. Sept 7 at Saratoga Springs UMC.

In a news release from the conference, the Rev. Dr. Wendy Deichmann, conference trustee and chair of a task force that worked on a long-

term plan for a conference center, said, "The Upper New York Conference Center must be a place that belongs to — and is accessible



Photo by Steve Husted

The building at 7481 Henry Clay Boulevard.

to — all our congregations and members, and provides appropriate resources for our bishop, Cabinet, staff, and volunteers to perform their respective missions. Its focus upon ministry and mission must be

See **BISHOP**, Page 3

From the History Room...

UUMC helps launch Pastoral Counseling Center

By Rosemary DeHoog
Church Historian

With the completion of the Christian Education building a whole new series of initiatives became available to the church.

Recognizing the need of troubled people for expert guidance, Rev. Bolton and Dr. Gordon Hoople initiated

the movement for a pastoral counseling service.

Their efforts met a wide response from Catholic, Jewish and Protestant religious leaders and public spirited citizens.

Aided in its early months by a federal-state grant and later by foun-

See **AN IMPORTANT**, Page 6

Pastor and congregation doing own things this summer



Rev. French

It's humbling. It really is. While I've been off doing my thing this summer, so have you. That means, among other things, that you've been learning to live without me. And have moved on without me.

Part of my sabbatical learning is the realization that life and ministry have gone on — quite well — without me this summer.

In my absence, you have continued to gather for worship and fellowship; continued to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger; introduced video technology to the sanctuary and Sunday worship; embraced the leadership of Alicia Wood; welcomed each member of the new clergy team; and taken the first steps in the new Syracuse city cooperative ministry.

It's good to be reminded that no one of us is indispensable! It's good preparation for retirement. For death too.

As I said, humbling ... but in a good way ... for it demonstrates that the strength and wisdom of University Church reside in you, the members and leaders of this congregation.

That's important for all of us to realize and remember ... even

if it leaves me (at least for now) looking in from the outside.

Rightly understood, worship is the work of the people. As is all of Christian ministry. It belongs to all of us; it's never a one-man or one-woman show.

So humbled as I am, I'm also quite pleased that you have carried on so well without me — exactly as I knew you would.

That's especially important this summer, with all the changes that are afoot for the city churches of Syracuse. In re-grouping / re-structuring / re-organizing ourselves, we have a unique opportunity to re-boot / re-order / re-conceive / re-frame / re-design / re-prioritize United Methodist ministry in the city of Syracuse, letting go of patterns and practices that are no longer vital or viable, while developing new forms that are vibrant and fruitful in the context of today's challenges and realities.

It's not at all about preserving the past (except where that makes sense), but about building a bright new future that we can all celebrate.

Doing that will require all of us — lay and clergy, young and old, book-smart and street-smart — working ... and praying ... together. Learning, too, to trust and respect each other — and God — in new ways.

A phrase from my summer

reading has stuck with me. A Polish proverb that translates as: "Not my circus, not my monkeys."

It's fast becoming a watchword for me — a reminder to keep my focus on my responsibilities and not get sucked into other people's agendas.

As I get ready to return to work in a couple of weeks, that will be important for me to keep in mind.

Both because I don't want to disrupt the good work you've been doing and because the new city-wide plan will demand great intentionality and accountability.

William Martin, in "The Art of Pastoring," expresses it this way: *When your congregation despises you,*

it is a great sorrow.

When your congregation holds you in awe,

it seems somewhat better.

When your congregation praises you far and wide,

it seems even better still.

But when your congregation hardly notices that you exist, you have become a pastor.

When the pastor's work is done, the congregation will truthfully say,

"We did it ourselves."

And the pastor will rejoice.

So be it. Amen.

— Craig

Special Offering

UUMC will hold a special offering this Sunday, Aug. 10, that will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in response to the arrival of tens of thousands of unaccompanied

minors who traveled through Mexico and arrived at the Southwest U.S. border in recent months.

Thanks from SU & ESF NYPIRG:

We thank you for your generosity in allowing us to use your

chairs to help us host a successful hunger banquet. We had 55 attendees participate in a simulation demonstrating how hunger can impact anyone. Speakers shared their expertise and stories on hunger in Syracuse.

Summer: time for recertification and grant proposals



Deb Virgo

“How’s your summer going?”

Isn’t it funny that we ask each other how our summer months are but rarely ask the same questions about the other seasons?

“How’s your fall?” just isn’t the same. Summer is different.

My summer is going fine, thanks. Part was spent in Southern California, and I reflected on the trip while writing part of this article on a rooftop deck of the guesthouse we rented in Santa Monica.

Yup, that’s the Pacific Ocean I see in the distance. California is an interesting place.

One of the amazing things we saw was during the drive up the valley between LA and Fresno.

They took a desert and irrigated it into miles and miles and miles of fruit orchards and fields of tomatoes and strawberries.

I guess I knew this, but to see it was fascinating. And a little disturbing.

This was farming on a bigger

scale than I’ve ever seen. There’s a drought here and it never rains. There were lots of signs about how water was needed to save jobs. Hmmm.

And then we saw the strawberry fields where the workers were picking strawberries. Dozens and dozens of people dressed in long sleeves, pants and hats in the hot sun. What a job! God bless them, I will never take my California fruit for granted again.

What does this have to do with our own Friday Community? Not much. Except that summer means different things to different people.

My experience is so vastly different from that of the men bending to pick fruit all day in the sun.

For our food pantry, the summer brings a few things. One is the annual Food Bank grants. As in years past, we will receive \$5,000 in credit for food purchases. We also will receive \$1,500 toward staff wages (that would be me).

We will also be writing a grant proposal for the Reaching Our Neighbors project to help with funding for hospitality and

leadership development among the Friday Community volunteers.

Summer also brings the start of our “recert process.” Recert is short for recertification. We annually register our pantry guests, asking for proof of family composition and address. This process is required by the Food Bank. It slows things down a bit, but we will try to make it as pleasant as possible.

Some places lose their volunteers during the summer months, but that has not been the case with the pantry this year. A few of us, but not all, are taking vacations, but we are easily able to fill in the gaps.

We are happy to see Katrina Tillapaugh helping out during her summer vacation. And Dick Humbert (Jayne’s brother) treated us last Friday to a delicious rice and beans dish made completely of pantry items. He managed to do this between his travels.

So summer is going well for the pantry. We also look forward to having LOCAL produce available!

Enjoy your summer.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

Bishop encourages prayer before deciding on recommendation

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clear and facilitated by its setting and built environment.”

The recommendation comes after two years of study and research. The full report from the task force will be available the week of Aug. 18 as part of the pre-conference materials.

“The fact that we have come to this place as a conference

should be celebrated,” said Bishop Mark Webb. “I am thankful for the many gifted individuals who have invested much time and energy to assist us in arriving at this moment. I encourage you to be in prayer as we prepare to act on this important recommendation.”

In the news release the bishop also thanked UUMC, Cicero

UMC and Baldwinsville UMC for providing temporary office space.

“Their hospitality and generosity has been greatly appreciated, but the task force that is responsible for the long-term plan to house our conference’s resources and offices believes the time has come to pursue a long-term solution,” he said.

UUMC has chances to speak up, act for justice for all



Alicia Wood

I would like to take a moment to thank you for letting me share the summer with you.

It's been a summer full of fun,

experiments and learning for me. With each new experience, I like to reflect on what I have learned. I'd like to share with you what I've learned so far.

Sunday morning worship lasts one hour (or so) but takes many, many hours to prepare and many, many people to make it meaningful and excellent.

This means to truly worship or praise God it takes the entire faith community to participate.

I know the worship committee is in transition. Change is good. This gives YOU a chance to participate in some way in the planning worship.

If the church is the people as the old hymn says, UUMC needs you, the people, to make worship meaningful and excellent.

Please take this as your personal invitation to participate in worship whether it is preparation or implementation.

If the church is the people, church is not just Sunday. People are in need of food, clothes and shelter AND in need of community every day of the week.

In our study this summer, we watched some Rob Bell short film messages. One of the short films was called "Rhythm." In the film, Bell asked, "Are we in rhythm with God?"

If the church is open to the public only Fridays and Sundays, is it in rhythm with God?

I have a friend who shared with me last week that she doesn't have to be representing the church or work for a church to share God's love. She says she is always working to share God's love in her everyday experiences.

I know this friend is absolutely telling the truth. We can all share God's love in our everyday interacts.

Do you think this is part of the reason people are untrusting of "the church"?

When someone comes to the door of a church and they are locked out but in the same day can interact with an individual and get their needs met, why wouldn't they be skeptical of what is behind the walls of a church and the God this church believes in?

I'm thrilled to hear some are willing to volunteer to open the sanctuary for quiet prayer and reflection during the week! More volunteers are needed. This is a good start.

I believe this church can organize itself to fit the needs of the community daily. It will take time, patience, a lot of listening and action.

In Bell's "Rhythm" he references the technicalities of music. Bell says sometimes we can be so caught up in all the technicalities of a song that we forget to just listen and enjoy the song.

What I have learned is that many churches get caught up in the administration of the church and they forget their purpose: to

share God's love.

Please never stop listening to the rhythm of the community inside and outside of the church so that UUMC is in rhythm with God's song.

I have learned that it is hard to have Jesus as an example as to the way we should live. It's hard because it means we are not the center of life but God is.

We are called to take care of ourselves spiritually and physically SO THAT we can serve others to share God's love. Our purpose is ultimately to share God's love through our everyday actions and our actions as a faith community or church.

Jesus did not sit on the sidelines of society praying. He was about social change to ensure justice. Jesus not only lived this, he taught it. Have we been good students?

Just in Syracuse we can be a part of seeking justice! People are racially profiled and beaten by police, migrant children have a chance to stay in a warm, safe space and most people in Syracuse are living paycheck to paycheck.

UUMC has many opportunities to share God's love by speaking up and taking action for justice of all God's people.

The bottom line, I have learned there is a lot of work to be done. We need to get started!

I have learned that UUMC is on the edge of something new and great. Are you willing to take the risk and lead the way to the "unknown new"?

Peace be with you,
Alicia

People/Prayer Connection

THANKS:

- **From Beth Drew:** Thank you to **Margo and Don Koten** for contributing refreshments to the City Pastoral Team Meet and Greet at Gethsemane UMC July 22. Thanks to all who attended the Meet and Greets.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, July 13:

- **Carol Boll:** The family of Sue Dublin, who died this week at the age of 58.
- **Charles:** The children who are at our borders seeking help from our government.
- **Peter:** Justice, hospitality and family self-determination in the lives of our immigrant kids from Central America
- A better life in Christ.
- **Bill Anderson**
- **John Schmidt,** recently diagnosed with Parkinson's.
- The world, for my family and friends.
- Legal Advocacy for the Disabled.

Sunday, July 20

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I give thanks for visiting my father ... to meditate on you!
- **Jim Wiggins:** Be with **Betsy** as she has a surgical procedure tomorrow
- **Peter:** For the inherent goodness of every single person in the world and for God's help in seeing each other's goodness and welcoming all.
- **Elijah Johnson**

- The children at the border. May we respond with compassion and love for our neighbors.
- To forgive
- Please be with **Jane**, whose friend recently passed in Grafton, Mass.
- That my son-in-law finds a job.
- Reconciliation, especially between Palestinians and Israelis. Let them recognize we are all children of God.
- **Donavan's** son, who was beaten by police.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **July 13:** Erkki Alestalo, Sharon Alestalo, Kristopher Alestalo
- **July 20:** Steve Bacon, Bette Helwig, Taylor Bacon
- **July 27:** Kris Best, Robin Best, Ralph Best
- **Aug. 3:** Sue Bambacht, Don Betz, Nyasha Boldon
- **Aug. 10:** Tom Boll, Carol Boll, Bethany Boll, Rachel Boll, Jonathan Boll
- **Aug. 17:** Deborah Borenstein, Susan Borenstein, Brad Bowers, Judith Bowers
- **Aug. 24:** Bruce Borenstein, Michael Borenstein, Harold Britton, Paul Britton
- **Aug. 31:** Caroline Brackett, Tajmier Brackett, Aidan Brackett

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Aug. 10:** Marcellus, Naomi Anandale

- **Aug. 17:** Minoa, Roger Parker; North Mexico
- **Aug. 24:** North Syracuse Andrews, Brad Hunt
- **Aug. 31:** Crossroads District, District Superintendent Darryl Barrow

High school graduates

A number of young adults with connections to UUMC graduated from high school this year. They are:

Taylor Bacon, son of Bette Helwig and Steve Bacon, grandson of Ellen and David Bacon, graduated from Liverpool High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology.

Josh DeHoog, son of Victor and Pamela DeHoog and grandson of Rosemary DeHoog, graduated from Jamesville-DeWitt High School and will attend Onondaga Community College.

Angela Tillapaugh, daughter of Jessica Fischer and Ed Tillapaugh, graduated from Nottingham High School and will attend Syracuse University.

Cameron Baker, son of Robert and Marcia Baker, grandson of Nancy Hough, graduated from Big Picture High School in LaFayette and plans to attend a college in Maine.

Lauren Scalzo, daughter of Lana and Kevin Scalzo, granddaughter of Shirley and Harry Miller, graduated from Leroy High School and will attend Genesee Community College.

Mitchell Soufleris, son of Peter and Debbie Soufleris, grandson of George and Rita Soufleris, graduated from LaSalle College Prep High School in Philadelphia and will attend the University of Rochester.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877

Paid to date: \$140,885

Non-pledge contr.: \$13,767

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$70,843

Expenses paid \$70,589

Current balance \$254

An important role

CONTINUED from Page 1

dation support and donations from local businessmen, the Pastoral Counseling Center offered its help to persons of all races, religions and creeds with personal or family problems. Clergymen and women who had special training and experience did most of the counseling with medical supervision given by a psychiatrist.

University Church had an important role in this interdenominational effort. A committee from the church initiated the movement and the church assumed some of the earliest expenses. Until the early 2000s the center had its offices in the University Church building.

University Church also has found opportunities for service on promoting brotherhood among the races. In its early years the church made regular donations for Freedman's Aid, the denominational program for helping emancipated slaves.

In later years, church minutes record occasional pulpit exchanges and other forms of fellowship between University Church and African-American churches of the city.

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



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material

WEEK OF AUGUST 10

Sunday the 10th

9:30 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Peter Sarver,
guest speaker

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

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

Wednesday the 13th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 15th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF AUGUST 17

Sunday the 17th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Alicia Wood
preaching

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

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

Wednesday the 20th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 22nd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF AUGUST 24

Sunday the 24th

9:30 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon

Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 27th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 29th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Danielle Adams in loving memory and honor of her brother, Tony Capurso, who died July 29, 2013; Ed and Lee Potter, in memory of their parents; Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig, in honor of Ellen Bacon's birthday; and Ted and Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, in memory of Louise Schueler.

Flowers were given to Katie Flynn by the family; Danielle Adams' mother, Mildred; Rev.

Caroline Simmons; Ellen Bacon; Connie Wilson and Spaulding Support Services by Ted and Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler.

The Guild

Our next meeting is 1:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at Rita Soufleris' home, 5195 Pointe East Drive, Jamesville All members, please try to come with program ideas for next year. If you cannot attend, please give ideas to any member of the guild or call Rita. We really need everyone's input. Thank you so much.

Sunday Worship and Fellowship

July 20, 2014 (5 photos)













The “God sighting” ribbons and a tapestry supplied by Christine Doran on Sunday, July 27. (Photo by Alicia Wood)



Friday Community volunteers Roger and Jeff. (Photo by Alicia Wood)



A summer version of the Soup and Sermon Chat.



Alicia and Julius chat on a recent Friday morning.

Community Garden
Aug. 6, 2014 (4 photos)







