

THE CHIMES

Sept. 17, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
October 1**

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**The Community/Church
Breakfast goes back to a 9
a.m. start on Sept. 28.**

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

Vote on conference move Oct. 18; UUMC leaders exploring options

The proposed vote authorizing the purchase of new office space for the Upper New York Annual Conference originally scheduled for early September was postponed but has been rescheduled.

On Tuesday, Bishop Mark Webb announced a special session of the Annual Conference for 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 in the ballroom of the Oncenter to discuss and vote on a recommendation from the Confer-

ence Board of Trustees to buy the property at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool as a new conference center.

University Church's trustees and Governing Board are monitoring the situation closely and are actively taking steps to prepare for all eventualities, including dealing with the potential loss of Conference revenue (\$10,000/month) and exploring alternative options for the future.

Musical variety on tap in upcoming weeks during worship

Special musical presentations are upcoming at UUMC.

Oct. 5, former organist Nathan Sumrall will be in church to debut, with the Senior Choir, his choral anthem "In God Alone" commissioned by UUMC for Martha Sutter's 20th anniversary as music director. Nathan will be playing the whole service that day.

Sunday, Sept. 28, Elisa Sciscioli and her a cappella Honey Child Soul Quintet will present the music during worship.

After the service, Elisa, will conduct a 45-minute workshop on "Singing as a Spiritual Practice" featuring multicultural songs with a spiritual message in our sanctuary.

From the History Room...

Church's diversity grows
throughout the decades

*By Rosemary DeHoog
Church Historian*

With the growth of the city's African-American population, the church faced new challenges and opportunities.

In that population are those who seek full integration into American society and some who wish to develop strong separate institutions of their own.

University Church has respected both viewpoints. It has welcomed into its membership an increasing number of black families. These new participants have enriched the life of the church in every department, in its choirs, in its Christian education programs, in its governing

See **DR. WRIGHT**, Page 4

The only way to succeed: Take a chance on something



I never play games of chance at The Fair. They're a rip-off, pure and simple. No matter how easy they look, the

Rev. French odds are stacked against you — hard.

But there I was on a Saturday afternoon with the grandkids, and they had other ideas.

Reluctantly, I let myself get “out-voted” ... talked into buying a bucket of plastic rings, trying to land one on the neck of a Coke bottle. The results were predictable. One after another, the rings fell or bounced harmlessly away, until only two rings remained. Then it happened.

My next-to-last toss flew straight and accurately and landed oh so gently and perfectly, nestling itself around one of the glass bottles. Amazingly, I had won. I whooped with the best of them. It was all very exciting, especially since I had never won anything like that before.

I pictured myself walking down the midway, proudly toting my grand prize, the envy of all who passed by.

Then reality hit. While the kids were deciding which giant stuffed animal to claim as their reward, I did the math. You can't take three grandkids to the Fair and go home with only one prize. That just won't work. No way, no how.

So now I was stuck figuring out how to get the kids to share one stuffed animal ... or how to come up with two more prizes. Either way, I was sunk.

Next thing I knew, there was Jason (my daughter's boyfriend), furiously throwing darts at a wall of balloons, then walking away with a second stuffed toy. Two down, one to go.

The grandson had his own



ideas about what needed to happen. Eying the booth with the biggest prize of them all — a massive black gorilla — he convinced his mom to shell out \$5 for another bucket of rings and began his own quest for fame and fortune.

As before, the rings skittered helplessly away. We all joined in, trying to help, but to no avail. Then it happened. Again.

Lightning in — or more accurately, on — a bottle, a second time. The siren sounded. The lights flashed. Unbelievable!

That's how I ended up walking the whole length of the midway, from one end of the Fair to the other, schlepping an armload and a half of giant prizes (so the kids could spend the rest of the day enjoying the rides). It was well worth every look and comment I got!

But it only happened because I decided to go against my better instincts and try something I'd never done before ... something I KNEW was a complete waste of time and money. As the NY state lottery likes to say, “You've gotta be in it to win it.”

Whether we know it or not ... whether we like it or not ... We're at a similar point in our life as a congregation. In fact, all of our city churches are at that point.

If we keep sticking just with what we've been doing (and not doing), the results are going to remain the same. Our church ... all of our churches — are going to continue to dwindle and decline. That much is clear.

What's not clear is what will happen if we're willing to take a chance and start doing things a bit differently. There are no guarantees (except the guarantee of what will happen if we don't try), just as there was no guarantee we'd win a single prize at the Fair, let alone three.

But the only way — absolutely only way — to succeed was (and is) to try.

I'm not asking or expecting you to like or agree with everything we try. You and I both know that's not going to happen!

But I do ask that we think about the long term ... what becomes of this place after you and I are both gone.

And I ask that we think not just about our own preferences but about our kids and grandkids ... so they can come to know and worship God in their own way, fall in love with and follow Christ and his Gospel in their own way.

— Craig

Dinner a chance to help Westside Urban Mission



Deb Virgo

We are having a spaghetti dinner! Surprised? What's this "we" I'm speaking of?

That'd be the United Methodist Churches of Syracuse.

Why are we having a spaghetti dinner? It's OUR fundraiser.

The "our" I'm speaking for is the mission arm of Brown Memorial UMC: the Syracuse Westside Urban Mission (SWUM).

For me, using this inclusive language is helping me get my head around the changes that we're seeing in the churches in Syracuse.

Representatives from each of the Syracuse churches have begun to meet to talk about how to come together around mission.

While each individual church has its own mission/outreach programs, we decided to focus on something new to do jointly. So the obvious first steps are to do a couple of mission projects together.

If you saw the produce from Matthew 25 Farm a couple of

weeks ago here at church, that was our first step.

Every Syracuse church received a portion, and we all chose our own ways to hand it out. (A report with the details on how this happened will be available shortly)

The next step will be the spaghetti dinner. It will be hosted by St. Paul's (complete with real dishes and a dishwasher that looks identical to ours), and knowledge of how to cook a spaghetti dinner will be provided by a couple of the other churches.

UUMC folk will have a chance to sign up to volunteer, bake cupcakes or just show up and eat. As we know here at UUMC, food brings fellowship.

The hope is that we will have a chance to go and sit with members of other churches, meet each other and learn about the ministry at Brown. The proceeds of the dinner will be given to SWUM.

It's a little confusing, but SWUM is a nonprofit agency (501c(3)) that is separate from Brown Memorial UMC. They are the ones who do the clothes closet, programming for youth and adults and host a law clinic and a food pantry (run by St. Paul's Lu-

theran Church, not to be confused with St. Paul's UMC).

While they have good support for specific programming, their general operating budget is very tight. That's where our dinner proceeds will go — to support their general operating budget.

As time gets closer, look for information on how to volunteer and when to buy tickets. For now, save the date.

Here are some of the details on the spaghetti dinner:

Date: Friday, Nov. 7

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: St. Paul's UMC at 2200 Valley Drive in Syracuse (just past Webster's duck pond)

Tickets will be sold in advance at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children (with a family maximum). Tickets at the door will be \$6 for adults.

This dinner will be a fundraiser for SWUM, the Syracuse Westside Urban Ministry. It is an Advance Special of the Conference. More information on this agency can be found at their website:

<http://syrwum.wordpress.com>.

— Deb Virgo

*Interim Friday Community
Coordinator*

Crossroads District Picnic

A district picnic is planned for 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at Clay Trinity UMC, 8396 Morgan Road, Clay.

Meet pastors new to the district and hear music by Tim Ehrhart and his band, Beautiful Mess, and musicians who completed the Summer Worship Workshop series.

Good food, good music and good company are promised.

Choir Members Needed

To help thank all who donated to the Veterans Van Project, the district is participating in the Veterans Day Parade & Expo Nov. 8 with an All-Church Choir.

The choir will help kick off the parade with two songs and the presentation of money to buy a van for the Syracuse Disabled American Veterans. If interested, contact Anne Hutchins in the district office by Sept. 19 at 424-7878, ext. 312.

Dr. Wright organized Interchurch Council for black, white clergy

CONTINUED from Page 1
bodies and in its social activities.

Dr. Donald Wright took the initiative in organizing the Near Eastside Interchurch Council in which black and white ministers began an exchange of ideas through regular breakfast meetings.

Laypeople later joined the council, which carried on a variety of projects including pulpit exchanges, joint recreational activities and attempts to improve housing conditions.

Although the church can take pride in its unique history, the challenges of day-to-day operation are ongoing and ask us to bring our best thoughts and aspirations to the job.

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

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by David and Ellen Bacon in honor of the birthday of their daughter, Nancy Richmond; the Altar Guild, in honor of the Senior Choir; and Starke Donnally in memory of his father, Starke Donnally Jr., his mother, Janet Lehr Donnally, and his brother, Bruce Donnally. All were long-time members of UUMC.

Flowers were given to Roger MacDonald, Bernie Hinds, Rev. Doug Mackey, Katie Flynn and Ginny Dewey.

Flowers were delivered by Joyce Flynn, Starke Donnally and Barbara Nunn.



From left, Liz Pruchnicki, Deanna Dimmick and Sophie Finlayson-Schueler, members of the UUMC Connections group, at the home of Barbara Fought and Nelson Price. Not pictured is Sungsu Lee. (photo by Barbara Fought)

Young adults reconnect after summer activities

Seven gathered at the home of Barbara Fought and Nelson Price for the first gathering this fall of the UUMC Connections group.

Four students and Rev. French were the guests at a make-your-own Mexican taco night Sept. 7.

Discussion over dinner included summer activities, new classes and projects.

Many others wanted to come but had other plans or were out of town. More than 15 people have said they are interested.

They plan to get together a couple of times each semester, but no date has been set for the next time.

UUMC Connections is for young adults and young professionals.

Volunteer at Westcott Street Cultural Fair

If you're going to the Westcott Street Cultural Fair this Sunday, Sept. 21, which runs noon to 6:30 p.m. in the Westcott Street Business District, spend some time staffing the table for the United Methodist Churches of Syracuse. Last year UUMC had our own table, but this year we're working with Erwin First UMC and The ROAD to inform fairgoers about United Methodism in the city. No signups needed. Just come to the table on Victoria Place near Westcott and meet fellow Methodists from other parts of the city. For more information, contact Tom Boll at uumctb@twcnr.com.

People/Prayer Connection

THANKS/JOYS:

Sunday, Aug. 31

- Prayers of thanks that **Katie Flynn** celebrated her 33rd birthday this past week!
- Congratulations to a new first-time grandmother, **JoAnn May**, on the birth of **Mila**.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, Aug. 31:

- **Russ:** I am having surgery on Sept. 3. Please do not pray for me but pray for my wife, who is going through a rough time. Please pray for those affected by the earthquake in California. Pray for all people having surgery this week and the doctors who will be performing surgery. Pray for all the people of this church.
- **Gary Wood** appreciates the concerns and prayers from members of his church family.
- **Lori** as she recovers from surgery.
- All the kids to have a safe return back to school this year.
- My birthday and my son's in Liberia on Sept. 1 and 11.
- The people of Ferguson, Missouri, who are continuing to deal with difficult race issues.
- The family and townspeople of Ferguson.
- The folks of Teen Challenge

and all those in recovery.

Sunday, Sept. 7

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, as I was born from my mother's womb, walking to the tomb, I ask you, assist me to correct me.
- **Peter:** For reconciliation and resolution of conflict starting with worldwide reduction of weapons.
- **Tiel:** That all the Nigerian girls are finally found and brought back to their families.
- **Lori, Russ and Gary** as they heal after treatments and surgeries.
- Strength and wisdom for our president, who is facing so many challenges.
- Prayers to all the people that are losing family members due to Ebola.
- Persons with depression.
- Reconciliation within our families.
- F.H and O.S. out of the building.
- A good new job for **Dave**.
- Please keep my grandchildren, **Jessica, Brittany and Ryan**, who just lost their grandmother on their mother's side.
- **Oliver's** 2nd birthday on Sept. 8. Praise for this beautiful Sunday!

Sunday, Sept. 14

- **Cass Merrick:** Merrick family
- **Dale F.:** Friends and family

after their loss of **Larry and Jane Glazer**; from one grateful friend.

- **Grady:** Peace in Syria. For my friend in heaven, **Dr. Koshy**
- **John:** I feel a lot better having God in my life.
- **Ellen Taylor Bacon:** For patience, understanding and courage as we face challenges and changes in our lives as a church family and individually.
- **Peter:** The family and friends of **Mayer Shevin**, who left this life Friday morning. His life was dedicated to justice and to giving voice to people with disabilities.
- **Hannah**
- Comfort my friend **Ally**, who lost her father suddenly and unexpectedly last week
- Praise for another friend's baby
- Better to have grace as an attribute than Grace as a name
- Dear God, Thank you for another day in your care, and time to help my family learn you love them too!
- Prayers of joyous memories of **Johanna**. Sept. 8 would have been our 52nd anniversary of marriage here in this sanctuary.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Sept. 21:** Oran Community Church, Susan Townsend; **Syracuse** Christ Community, See **PEOPLE**, Page 6

October birthdays

- 4 – Janet Mandigo, Nelson Price,
Phillip Wellner, Dan Shworles
5 – Renee Threatte, Lonnie
Threatte
7 – Gloria Duru
8 – Arlene Musilli
10 – Mary Magowan
11 – Joanne Zinsmeister-
Yarwood, Carol Boll
15 – Elizabeth Magowan
16 – Nathan Miller
18 – Ruth Houser
21 – Larry Myers
22 – Michael Toe
23 – Brian Branch
25 – Colin Simmons
Bob Laubach
26 – Katrina Tillapaugh
Barbara Cook
27 – Rosemary Chappell
David Sacia
30 – Koketso Ratala
31 – Ann Burrows

If any birthdays are in error or were omitted, please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

People/Prayer

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Clair Mosher

- **Sept. 28:** Liverpool First UMC, Brian Homan, Alison Schmied
- **Oct. 5:** Pennellville UMC, Jeff Hodge; Minetto UMC, Chuck Forbes
- **Oct. 12:** Oswego Journey of Faith, Elyse Skiles; Solvay UMC
- **Oct. 19:** Kirkville UMC, Bruce Webster
- **Oct. 26:** Syracuse Gethsemane, Judy Alderman; Syracuse Bellevue Heights and Syracuse Brown Memorial, Patience Kisakye



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

Sunday the 21st

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Tiffany Steinwert, preacher

11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon

Chat, Chappell Rm

Monday the 22nd

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 24th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 25th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 26th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28

Sunday the 28th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Caroline Simmons

11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults

with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon

Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 1st

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 2nd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 3rd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5

Sunday the 5th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, Communion

11:15 a.m., Sunday School, adults with special needs

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon

Chat, Chappell Rm

Monday the 6th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 8th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 9th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 10th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

The Guild

Our next meeting is Sept. 24, at 1 p.m. in the Pettengill Center at UUMC. Note time and location change for this meeting only. Rev. Craig French will speak on the Syracuse Urban Ministries. The program will start promptly as Rev. French has another meeting to follow. Our business and refreshments will follow.

Scenes from Sunday Worship

Sept. 7, 2014 (11 photos)

























Rev. Doug Mackey, a member of the city clergy team, speaks to the children during our Aug. 31 service. He'll preach again at UUMC on Dec. 28.



Our Senior Choir sat in the pews and sang down front last Sunday, Sept. 14.