Meet Lyndsey Graves, Our Mission Intern

Lyndsey Graves, our mission intern from Grace House, began working with us just after Labor Day. She will be here through July working in outreach with the Friday Community and building bridges to young adults.

During Sunday’s service she was formally introduced to UUMC and received our prayers and blessing in an Act of Commitment to Christian Service.

Here’s how Lyndsey answered some questions about herself:

Q: Where are you from?
Lyndsey: For most of my life I lived in North Atlanta; the past 10 years in Cumming.

Q: What kind of community is it?
Lyndsey: It is a fairly average suburb, a very short drive to Atlanta and even shorter to farmland/forest/mountains.

Q: Where did you go to college, what did you major in and what activities were you involved in there?
Lyndsey: I went to Lee University near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and majored in biblical and theological studies. I was over-involved in my honors program, improv theater team and Havenplace Community Youth Center.

Q: What is your home faith community?
Lyndsey: In Georgia, I have been at a Presbyterian church for eight years. In Tennessee, I go to a tiny Charismatic Anglican church. Both places are very dear to me.

Q: Who’s in your immediate family?
Lyndsey: Mom – The Talker; Dad – The Photographer/BBQ Master; and 20-year-old Christopher – See TO LEARN, Page 5.

Bishop’s installation service Sunday at SU

The installation service for Bishop Mark J. Webb of the Upper New York Area will be this Sunday, Sept. 30, up the hill from UUMC at Syracuse University’s Hendricks Chapel.

Our music director, Martha Sutter, will be leading the combined choir for the service. The choir will sing “O How Amiable” by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

A reception on the quad in front of the chapel will follow the service. Volunteers are needed to help with parking and directions before the service. Call Anne at 424-7878, Ext. 312 if you can help.
By now many of you have had a chance to meet our mission intern, Lyndsey Graves. She has been working closely with Joseph Smythe, Pantry volunteers and Sunday breakfast volunteers for the past several weeks.

She has been getting to know the neighborhood, the people who live here and the students who go to school here.

Last Sunday’s worship service included a time of blessing for her and for her ministry with us. (You can learn more about Lyndsey in the front page interview.)

But this new ministry is not all about Lyndsey. It’s about us and the future of University Church. While Lyndsey and the “Connections” ministry are about developing relationships with our new college student neighbors and other young adults; while they are about building bridges between those students/young adults and low-income persons who live in the neighborhood, along with the nature of systemic poverty; and while they are about finding ways to connect the students/young adults with University Church and its various outreach ministries, there’s something in it for us, too!

In fact, the idea of bringing an intern on board was birthed in my watching the impact young adults had on two organizations I work with: The United Methodist Church’s “Imagine No Malaria” campaign and the national Circles™ campaign to end poverty.

In each case, young adults provide key leadership, energy, vision, passion and enthusiasm. Their spirit is infectious and inspiring. Bringing a bit of that to University Church is a no-brainer!

University Church has a history of working with interns, a history of reaching out to welcome newcomers and a history of nurturing, mentoring and supporting college students.

Our geography — our proximity to Syracuse University and to a neighborhood caught in a decades-long cycle of poverty — shapes our ministry and identity in enduring ways. Employing Lyndsey is simply the latest step in a long-standing “dance.”

I suspect it’s been true before, but I want to be explicit this time around: We have much to gain from this venture, as well as much to give. Simply put, we cannot count on the church’s current leaders being here forever.

Now is the time for us to begin preparing for the future. Now is the time to begin preparing the next generation of leaders. I do not know that Lyndsey, Billy, Matt, Liz or any of the others will remain here much beyond the next year or so. But that’s not the point.

The point is creating a mindset and expectation where young adults — students and non-students, single and partnered, parents and non-parents — are welcomed, encouraged, trusted and empowered to lead.

One of Lyndsey’s tasks is to draft a “learning contract” for the year — what she expects to learn from her time here, both about herself and about God.

Part of her learning contract invites me (as her worksite supervisor) to specify what I hope the church will gain from Lyndsey’s learning. It was a question I hadn’t anticipated; it made me stop and think.

Here’s part of what I wrote: that her example will show all of us the value of intentional living and Christian discipleship.

As I wrote those words, it suddenly dawned on me that the decision to employ a mission intern for the next two years (and hopefully longer) is fully in line with three of The United Methodist Church’s four critical foci: ministry with the poor, developing principled Christian leaders and developing new faith communities. (The fourth foci is ridding the world of the diseases of poverty ... and Lyndsey has already expressed interest in doing something with the “Imagine No Malaria” campaign.)

See CRITICAL, Page 7
I was at work at University Hospital a few weeks ago when a call came in to the Spiritual Care Department. I responded as the chaplain on duty and went to the Emergency Department. When I arrived a female patient identified herself as the one who needed to see me. She told me that in addition to prayer, she has four children at home without food.

I asked her “why God caused me to be there at this moment.”

Her response was, “God knows you can help me.”

The truth is she did not know I was the supervisor for a pantry. I tried to find another pantry in the area that could help her but there was none.

I took her address and name and at the end of my shift I came to our pantry and took food for the family. Those who were at home were very glad to receive the food.

Summer Is Over

The summer is over and we managed to open each Friday, providing food, clothes and words of encouragement. Many persons listened to the concerns of the people and offered prayer for them. We also identified some challenges for the future.

As we seek to complete this year we will be successful with God’s help and your support.

School Supplies

We received several items of support from several members of the congregation and the Office of Upper NY Conference.

As of today, we have distributed school supplies to three families each with three children. Each of these packets has items adequate for the needs of grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The number of packets we presently have will supply 45 families. Thanks for all the gifts and funds you sent us. God will continue to bless you.

Pantry’s Financial Challenges

We are very thankful for the financial support of the pantry by those who give on a regular basis. We also thank those who have given periodically because combinations of these two make it possible for a successful pantry.

As is the case in the previous years, about this time of the year we are faced with a shortage of finances from the donors and this year is no exception.

At this time our budget is $8,787 underfunded and I am asking the donors to the pantry and Outreach/Missions do a quick reflection or call the office and see if you are behind in your giving.

If you find yourself in this position, I am asking you to give as much as possible of your pledge so that by the end of the year you will indeed give the full amount. If your giving is above your projected plan and you are able to, please consider giving that extra because it will also help us. If you are neither a contributor to the pantry or the Outreach/Missions and you sense the still, small voice saying, ‘Give to the pantry and/or Outreach/Missions,” do not hesitate to give a special financial gift. The Christian Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 9:7b, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Needs and Acceptance

We continue to receive requests for needs from members of the Friday Community.

In recent weeks pantry friends asked me for items such as pots, plates, hot plates and microwaves. If you can, respond positively.

A father whose baby will be born later this year told me he has not purchased a basinet, crib or some other items. He asked me if there is anything I can do for him and he will appreciate it.

If you can help, give me a call or bring the items to the congregation and I will get them to him. A better situation is call me and I will give you his phone number so you can contact him.

Intern Builds Relationships

Building relationships is important for volunteers in the Friday Community.

It was very good to see intern Lyndsey Graves participating in various activities.

The second week I saw her talking to a family. One of the regular volunteers came to me and said, “She knows Spanish?”

How did this volunteer know that? She observed her speaking to a family who speaks Spanish.

See HELP, Page 4
A look ahead at key October events

A number of events at or involving issues UUMC is concerned about are coming up:

♦ World Communion Sunday, Oct. 7: We will mark the day with flags from UUMC members’ homelands. Please make sure that your homeland is included by notifying the church office. Members are also invited to wear clothing from their home country on this special Sunday.

♦ Nottingham High School Open House, Tuesday, Oct. 9, 6-8 p.m.; A special invitation from the Nottingham principal and vice principal for UUMC members to attend as a way of building our partnership with the school.

♦ Reconciling Ministry training, Oct. 12-13, at UUMC: For persons willing to serve as "guides" for other churches thinking about becoming Reconciling Congregations.


♦ Bishop Mark Webb’s visit to the Crossroads District, Monday, Oct. 15, 6-8 p.m. at Liverpool United Methodist Church: A chance to meet and get introduced to our new bishop.

♦ ACTS public meeting, Sunday, Oct. 21, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Henninger High School: Our goal is to bring at least 15 persons from UUMC. Issues for the next year are voted on.

♦ Reconciling Congregation gathering, Sunday, Oct. 21, Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church: A special gathering for churches like UUMC that have declared themselves open to and welcoming of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identity.

Help with reading discussed; Thanksgiving approaches

CONTINUED from Page 3

It was good for us because Donald Haughton, our regular Spanish-speaking volunteer, was absent that day.

Lindsey accompanied the family as they took their food in the pantry. Good job.

Last Friday, she was sitting with a parent who had children. They were talking and reading. The next thing, I saw her helping the family through the pantry. Good work.

Something to Think About

Recently, in a volunteer group discussion, we gave consideration to helping our community improve their reading levels. This discussion has taken on a life of its own and Ann Milner has shared the idea with Erwin Community Center.

They accepted the idea and are interested in using our congregation as a possible outreach center. This is still in the discussion stage, but we hope it will become a reality.

If it becomes a reality, the members and friends of the Friday Community will be able to improve their reading level and earn a GED. We will keep praying that this idea will bring forth fruits.

Thanks, UUMC

The General Board of Global Ministries acknowledged our gift of $200 received Aug. 9: “We are pleased to share that 100 percent of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Mark Zimmerman.”

Pledging Update


“SOS” Update

Approximately $40,000 is needed to upgrade our outdated sound system.

Current “Sounds of the Spirit” campaign balance is $28,257. Current expenses paid are $6,215. Total donations received are $34,472.

Checks should be made out to University UMC with a notation of “SOS.” Thanks to all who have contributed.

Helping with the preparation of Thanksgiving Baskets

We can hardly believe it but it is time for us to think about the Thanksgiving Baskets. I encourage us to remember that we will need money to purchase items for this project along with volunteers to help with the purchase, transporting and distribution of bags.

God is very good to us so let us keep thinking of giving to others. Blessings.

—Rev. Joseph Smythe,
Friday Community chaplain
Lyndsey Graves is blessed by, from left, Rev. Bridget McManus, Rev. French and Beth Drew on Sunday.

My summer in Thailand was also a turning point. It convinced me that I would rather do difficult things than comfortable ones.

Q: Why did you apply to become a Grace House intern?
Lyndsey: I wanted to take a year before pursuing my goals and career to give to God in service. Doing that in community sounded even better.

Q: What are your goals for your internship?
Lyndsey: To learn what it means for the people of God to pursue God’s call to justice.

Q: Who/what has/have been the most influential in your faith journey?
Lyndsey: My parents have always made faith a priority in our family’s life. Several other family friends and professors have invested in me and become role models to me. One of them is Dr. Daniela Augustine, who is an outstanding scholar, teacher and mother who spent 20 years in ministry in her home of Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. And she took me out to lunch a lot.

Lyndsey: Luke 12:48b: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” I stopped feeling guilty for what I had when I recognized it all as gift; to me this is the heart of “stewardship.”

Deuteronomy 23:24: “If you enter your neighbor’s vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want, but do not put any in your basket. If you enter your neighbor’s grainfield, you may pick kernels with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to his standing grain.” I love the trust this passage implies — the hungry are fed, but also have a responsibility not to take advantage of others. There’s a reciprocal respect, trust and love between giver and receiver.

This week - Psalm 84:5-7: “Blessed are those whose strength is in you Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a place of springs; The autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, Till each appears before God in Zion.”

Q: What are your first impressions of Syracuse in general and UUMC in particular?
Lyndsey: Syracuse is not the South!

I’ve been overwhelmed by everyone’s hospitality here at UUMC, the passion for social justice that is part of this church’s culture and the excitement for new things that I’ve encountered. Thanks to everyone for the household items and warm welcome!
THANKS
- Thanks be to God for the birth of Daniel Alexander Saxby
- It’s wonderful to be back home at UUMC. Thank you, again, for all your good wishes: from Charles Chappell Jr.
- Thank God for the safe return of Alex Saxby from Afghanistan, from Nancy Nevin

ACHIEVEMENTS
- Congratulations to Bob Laubach for being recognized by our community on Friday at the dedication of ProLiteracy at its new headquarters on Marcellus Street, from Barb Cargo

BIRTH
- We welcome and celebrate the birth of Oliver Hitztaler Onninen, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, 21 inches long, to Stephanie Hitztaler and Jani Onninen on Saturday, Sept. 8

JOYS
- A joy to have Barbara Hanley, a former church member and Stephen minister, back visiting
- Blessings for my mother as she celebrates her 91st birthday today
- Daughter Jen and her partner Danielle are engaged and planning on marrying Labor Day 2013
- For the new church website. Thanks to Tom Boll and Steve Bacon, who worked on it
- How great to have Charles and Rosemary back

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:
- Those in military service: Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer
- My brother, David, who has lung cancer, from Dr. Vivienne
- Dr. Starr, at 90 years old, for his health, who also needs help with his lawn, six horses and cats in Navarino
- Ellen, recovering from cancer
- Roseanne Samuel, on the death last week of her father, Calvin Kreuger
- That our new worker, and the rest of us, will work together on living Jesus’ way to live
- Please help us remember you offer a greater reward for our lives in your service than any money ever offered to kill another human being
- My cousin, who has brain cancer, and I thank God for my place in the church
- Jesus the Redeemer, please continue to heal and direct my loving husband to recovery from his cocaine addiction
- The family of Mary Zimmer, who died this week. She was our friend, neighbor and Girl Scout leader, the Bacon Family
- The family and friends of Donna ivory, who died this week after a long battle with cancer, from Katie and Joyce Flynn
- This wonderful church and its ministry, The Garmans Mattie Hightower, who lost her brother last evening, from Jo Ann May
- Work that is meaningful to all workers and our communities, from Peter Swords
- Our friends and former colleagues at The Post-Standard and friends at the Harrisburg newspaper who face the loss of jobs, from Carol and Tom Boll
- I praise Jesus to help me overcome temptation, from Elise
- Those seeking work
- My mom and everyone in the church, George McCarthy
- Wayne Herrington, who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Hope that goes beyond boundaries and conflicts, to move us all forward in peace and justice, toward awareness of our original goodness, from Peter Swords
- Heavenly Father, help guide your servants to prepare for harvest, from Elise
- Peace as we mark the anniversary this week of 9/11
- Teachers of children and youth on Sundays
- Bill Rybeck in Hospice Care
- New Hope Homes for homeless project
- Break all ancestral yokes in my family, the Duru Family
- I hope that all the children grow up to be doctors and firemen; prayer for my mom, from George McCarthy

See PEOPLE, Page 7
Chimes newsletter        Volume 12   No. 11         September 26, 2012                              Feed My People: Body, Mind and Spirit

Critical issues

CONTINUED from Page 2

These are critical issues for us and for the whole Church ... for the future of University Church and of our denomination ... and for that matter, the future of the world.

What an exciting way for us to participate in the vision and direction of the wider Church!

— Craig

People/Prayer Connection

CONTINUED from Page 6

- Bernie Hinds, in the hospital, who fell and broke her arm
- Family of Anna Moore, who died this week — extended family of Nelson Price
- My younger sister, who is battling cancer
- My friends Joyce and Donna, who are facing serious health problems
- Help keep our children safe from the dark side as this year progresses
- Persons of Latino descent, as this is Latino Heritage Month
- Peace in Syria, Libya, Yemen and Egypt
- Sacred heart of Jesus, I praise you for simple pleasure, from Elise

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- Sept. 30: Erkki Alestalo, Sharon Alestalo, Lottie Appleton, Nate Appleton
- Oct. 6: Ray Ashwood, David Bacon, Ellen Bacon
- Oct. 13: Stephen Bacon, Bette Helwig, Taylor Bacon
- Oct. 20: Sue Bambacht, Chris Benton, Jay Benton, Audrey Benton
- Oct. 27: Kris Best, Robin Best, Ralph Best

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- Oct. 7: Pennellville, Robert Dean; Minetto UMC, Chuck Forbes
- Oct. 14: Oswego Center UMC and Southwest Oswego, Elyse Skiles
- Oct. 21: Solvay, Marilyn Wolfe; Kirkville, Bruce Webster
- Oct. 28: Syracuse: Bellevue Heights, Patience Kisakye; Syracuse: Brown Memorial, Marti Swords-Horrell

Chimes given a home at UUMC

Tucked under a covering and hanging on a beautiful wooden rack in the rear choir loft is a set of chimes from First Presbyterian Church United brought to UUMC as a gift from the Hunt family.

New UUMC member Dick Hunt, whose family attended that church for many years, supplied this history of the chimes:

“The original pipe organ was installed at First Presbyterian Church in the early 1900s. In 1960 that organ was replaced.

Rev. Robert B. Lee took the chimes from the old organ, hung them on a rack and introduced the congregation to the beautiful Christmas carol “On This Day the Earth Shall Ring” featuring the hand-struck chimes.

The carol and chimes became a Christmas tradition.

Young people through the years looked forward to striking the Chimes during the Advent season.

The chimes are a single-octave C-sharp scale.”

UUMC Music Director Martha Sutter said the chimes will be used this Advent.
Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Ed and Lee Potter, David and Ellen Bacon and Ralph Best.

Flowers were given to Gregory Bayne, Tim and Ila Christoff, Bernie Hinds, Stephanie Hitztaler, Rita Soufleris, Arlene Musilli, Dorothy Logan and Lyndsey Graves.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt, Lee Potter, Rev. French and Margo Koten.

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 Yarwood, Carol Boll
15 – Elizabeth Magowan
16 – Nathan Miller
18 – Ruth Houser
21 – Larry Myers, Desta Anthony
22 – Rev. John Swords
23 – Brian Branch
25 – Colin Simmons, Bob Laubach
26 – Katrina Tillapaugh, Barbara Cook
27 – Rosemary Chappell, David Sacia
30 – Koketso Ratala
31 – Ann Burrows

New Website

Go to uumcsyracuse.org to see the new church website. There’s a ton of info on the church, staff, photos of church events and a calendar that’s viewable by week, month and agenda. Please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com with questions or comments.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30

Sunday the 30th
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday, the 1st
6:30 p.m. Living with Dying Tuesday the 2nd
7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 3rd
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 4th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 5th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 7

Sunday the 7th
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday, the 8th
6:30 p.m. Living with Dying Tuesday the 9th
7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 10th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 11th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 13th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Office Closed — Columbus Day
Tuesday the 9th
7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 10th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 11th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 13th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 14

Sunday the 14th
9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday the 15th
6:30 p.m. Living with Dying Tuesday the 16th
7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 17th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 18th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 19th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Returned Chimes

If you are moving or going away for an extended period, please call Tom Boll at the church office, 475-7277, so we can prevent your copy of The Chimes from being returned with postage due.
UUMC with the rainbow flag displayed from a window on the left.
Tomatoes in the Community Garden
Collards in the sun in the Community Garden..
Brad Bowers prepares plastic tableware for the Community/Church Breakfast.
Josh DeHoog, our expert pancake cook, with another batch for the breakfast.
Joyce Flynn, left, and Barb Cargo help make the fruit salad for the breakfast. In the background, Ed Potter does washing at the sink.
Starke Donnally chops up the scrambled eggs.