

THE CHIMES

Sept. 4, 2013

**Next Chimes
deadline:
September 25**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Planning boldly with God	2
Outreach/Mission: Feinstein Challenge	3
Finance Corner	4
Altar Flowers	4
New Member: Eva Cooper Jah	4
People/Prayer Connection	5
From the History Room	5
Four-Week Schedule	6

*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*

Rally Day kicks off fall this week; some Sunday School times change

The program year gets back into full swing this Sunday, Sept. 8, with Rally Day and an upcoming change for Sunday School.

Come at 9 a.m. for the Community/Church Breakfast.

Then at 9:30 children and parents should head to the Pettengill Center for Rally Day activities.

For the rest of the school year, Sunday School start times will vary for most classes, depending on the week.

The second and fourth Sundays

of each month, Sunday School for grades 1 through 12 will begin at 9:30 a.m. These are the same days as the Community/Church Breakfasts.

The first, third and fifth Sundays of each month, Sunday School for those grades will begin after the blessing of the children during the worship service, usually around 10:45 a.m.

Preschool and special adult classes will continue their schedule of

See **HEART**, Page 6



From Care and Share:

Nametags are ready; please wear them

The Care and Share Team has been working with Marsha Plucinik in the church office to create new nametags for our congregation.

These tags are designed to be worn around the neck so they are more visible.

They are still equipped with clips in case you prefer otherwise.

We are asking everyone to wear their nametag in church and during coffee hour.

Our church has expressed its desire to be hospitable.

It is a real service to newcomers — who don't know the name of anyone else — and to "name challenged"

See **NAMETAGS**, Page 4

Planning to move boldly, confidently with God



Rev. French

I took my granddaughters, along with my out-of-state sister, to the Fair last week. Summer isn't complete without a trip to the Fair. That's the good news.

The "bad news" is that that means summer, like the Fair, has come and gone. Much, much too soon.

The girls and I did all the obligatory items at the Fair: kiddie rides, a midway game, Italian sausage, fried dough, maple cotton candy, the butter sculpture. (We decided to pass up the deep-fried pumpkin pie and the deep-fried Snickers bar wrapped in bacon.)

To my great surprise and delight, the highlight for the girls was none of these. Instead, it was touring the horse barn.

Even as an adult, the size of these horses was astounding. You can imagine what they looked like to children half my height. We visited almost every stall and horse — each one more magnificent and winsome than the one before.

We stopped to watch horses being walked, horses being groomed, horses being washed down, horses being fed, horses being watered, horses being bedded down for the night.

There's an awful lot of work behind the scenes to keep these creatures fit. Including tasks we quickly skipped over: mucking out stalls, hauling bales of hay, trimming hooves, refilling water buckets.

Often it's the behind-the-scenes activities — things that easily go unnoticed — that shape the success or failure of a venture.

It's just as true at church as it is at the Fair (and every other part of life I know).

I've been thinking about that the last few days. A number of our leaders have been hard at work already, getting set for the fall, making sure everything's as ready as it can be.

Martha Sutter has been busy planning and ordering choir music. Sunday School teachers (new and old) have been meeting — rethinking and redesigning our Sunday School format and curriculum to better serve our children and families.

The Governing Board has initiated a comprehensive review of the church's strategic plan, with a special eye on incorporating recommendations from the recent Sustainability study.

A worship team has mapped out worship and preaching themes for the fall. Another group has developed new landscaping and lighting plans for the front of the building.

Stephen Ministry leaders have been looking at practical and manageable ways to expand our caring for church members and friends.

Early conversations about next year's budget, funding priorities and fundraising plans have begun.

And all of this happening in the "quiet" time before Labor Day.

But such planning is absolutely essential if we are to take the next steps in our walk of faith, as individuals and as a congregation. Our planning is not about maintaining or preserving the status quo; it is about moving forward boldly and confidently with God.

In his book, "Rich Church, Poor Church," J. Clif Christopher contrasts the way of life in spiritually rich (or healthy or vital) congregations with the way of life in spiritually poor (or sick or insignificant) churches.

See 'RICH', Page 3



One of the horses at the state fair.

Congregation's efforts bring in \$266 from Feinsein Challenge



Deb Virgo

One of the impressive things about our congregation is that we support about 150 families every month in our

food pantry ... as part of the Friday Community. Very impressive.

But the Outreach Committee also looks for ways to supplement this support. One way is through the Feinsein Foundation.

You may remember hearing about the Feinsein Challenge in the spring.



Every year The Feinsein Foundation, started by philanthropist Alan Feinsein, splits its \$1 million giveaway among participating food pantries such as ours.

We collected almost \$6,500 during the months of March and April and reported this. And last month we received a check for \$266 from the Feinsein Foundation!

The \$1 million was split among about 2,000 participating food pantries. Together we

raised over \$211 million to fight hunger in America.

To learn more, go to www.feinseinfoundation.org.

By the way, this month's pantry item is personal care items. Things like shampoo, soap, women's hygiene products and toothpaste are not covered by Food Stamps (since they're not food, obviously!).

We like to have these items as extras at the Friday Community to help people stretch their dollars. Thanks!

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

'Rich Church' has bold vision of what God is going to do

CONTINUED from Page 2

A primary defining difference has to do with high expectations vs. low expectations. He also talks about wanting to succeed vs. wanting to please, and focusing on seeing people grow vs. seeing people content.

"The Rich Church," he writes, "constantly holds out a vision that is grand and bold about what God is doing and is going to do. ... They consistently invite persons to be part of something much bigger than themselves. ... The Poor Church seems to have no further vision than the end of the day. Their vision is to pay a bill or get through another Sunday. ... They (have) no clear destination in mind."

With that in mind, here's a bit of what I'm working on for the year ahead:

- ◆ 50 years after the historic March on Washington and King's "I Have a Dream" speech, the work of ending racism and racial discrimination is unfinished. (See Trayvon Martin as exhibit 1.) Can I find persons to join me in an interracial dialogue circle (perhaps in partnership with other eastside congregations)?

- ◆ The barriers between rich/poor and city/suburb (to name just two) remain high. Can we find regular times and ways of coming together, in order to learn about and with each other (not just sit next to each other in worship or at breakfast)? And can we break the locked-door habit during the week, so as to make ourselves more welcoming and hospitable?
- ◆ Like the rest of us, our Friday Community and Sunday Breakfast guests bring "baggage" with them ... baggage that can sometimes be disruptive or even explosive (and scary). Can I find several persons to do "mental health first-aid training" with me, so we can help our guests feel safe and secure while they are here?
- ◆ Providing emergency food and assistance is a good thing to do. Helping people experience transformation and fullness of life is even better. Are there persons willing to help me explore what that looks like and how to make it happen?

— Craig

New member: Eva Cooper Jah

Eva Cooper Jah came to the United States from her native Monrovia, Liberia, in December 2010. She lived in Boston for two months before moving to Syracuse because her niece lives here.

Once in Syracuse she worked at McDonald's for seven months before becoming a home health aide. She works at Loretto's Sedgwick Heights location. She is working to become a certified nursing assistant.

Eva has one son with her, Erick Jah, age 3, in the U.S., and three children still in Liberia: son



Eva Cooper Jah

Alphonso Cooper, 18; daughter Joeviet Cooper, 17; and son Joel Cooper, 8. While in Liberia, Eva was a member of J.J. Powell UMC and a member of its choir.

In her spare time she enjoys music and dancing. She lives in North Syracuse.



Lee Potter and Gwen Sacia work on the new nametags.

Nametags help us show our welcoming spirit

CONTINUED from Page 1

people, who have great difficulty recalling names.

A person's name is important to use and to learn if possible. So let us express our welcome by enabling us all to use personal names.

This Sunday, Sept. 8, the new nametags will be distributed.

Please return yours to a receptacle at the Peale Entrance or the East Genesee Street entrance. It will then be available for you to pick it up there on subsequent Sundays.

— Lee Potter

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2013 total pledges:	\$249,290
Paid to date:	\$166,133
Non-pledge contr.:	\$15,297
Pre-paid pledges:	\$58,300

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received	\$57,343
Expenses paid	\$60,315
Current balance	—(\$2,972)

Altar Flowers

Flowers were given by Mary Fridie Wilson and Starke Donnelly Jr. Flowers were given to Danielle Adams, Genn Thuma, Ted Finlayson-Schueler and Spaulding Group Home. Marg McDivitt was a flower deliverer.

Donors Welcome

Every worship service throughout the year we enjoy the lovely flower arrangements donated by so many of our members.

Altar Guild offers this opportunity to you, a new donor, to honor or celebrate the memory of loved ones with your \$40 contribution.

Interested? Call Marg McDivitt, 488-2201.

Outreach Sustainability Report

Feedback is sought on this report. Paper copies are available in the church office, and it can be found on our website's homepage: uumcsyracuse.org.

Westcott Street Cultural Fair

The fair is noon to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15. UUMC has a table to tell the community our story. If you can staff the table for an hour or two, please call the church office, 475-7277.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Continuing thanks for the opportunity to be part of the Friday Community and Sunday breakfast, from **Grandma Ann**
- Thank you to such a supportive and loving congregation here at UUMC! We will miss you dearly this year!

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Alex Saxby, Matt Fischer**
- Healing of **Phyllis Fye**, from **Barbara Cook**
- My parents, who continue to struggle with health issues, from **Carol Boll**
- Healing for daughter, **Jane**
- **Richie Havens**, a prophet who used his talent in music to bring people together in

peace and justice — a sweet cheerleader, by **Peter**

- Prophet Jesus, I praise you for being my own natural energy yield, from **Elise**
- Blessings to **Stephanie** and her family as they leave for a year while her husband is on sabbatical
- Prayers for my family, especially my parents
- To keep hope and faith in our God and to help me out of poverty
- On the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for jobs, peace and freedom, we still pray for these blessings, and work together to find them, from **Peter Swords**
- Praise Jesus for being a deal breaker to an ever angry

world, from **Elise**

- That home life will become better. To my deceased father and to get a job soon
- Traveling mercies, Lord, and keep **Oliver** and his family in the hollow of your hand. Help us keep them in our prayers until their return

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Sept. 15:** Oran, Susan Townsend
- **Sept. 22:** Syracuse Christ Community, Adrienne Phillips; Liverpool, Elizabeth Quick and Aaron Bouwens
- **Sept. 29:** Amboy Center, Suel-len Acker

From the History Room...

Remington gun makers gave young church a big boost

*By Rosemary DeHoog,
Church Historian*

Continuing the story of the origins of University Church:

By April of 1869, the fledgling Dempster Mission was assigned a pastor of its own, the Rev. T.H. Shepherd.

The Mission gained strength and on June 9, 1869, the Ladies Cheerful Offering Society held a strawberry and ice cream festival at the Dempster chapel.

Move forward 144 years to UUMC's Ice Cream Social — is this its origin? I find the confluence of events very interesting.

In October 1869, the trustees of the Dempster Church purchased a very attractive site on East Genesee Street for \$7,000.

As if this purchase was inspired by divine guidance, in 1870, the trustees of the newly chartered Syracuse University announced their plans for developing their campus at the top of the hill only a half-mile from the Dempster Church.

Immediately, the church began to make much more ambitious plans than would otherwise have been justified.

Once again, the Rev. C.P. Lyford provided inspiring leadership.

In 1869, Rev. Lyford had given up the pastorate of First Church due to ill health, but by 1870 he was ready to take on the responsibilities of building a new church.

Angels appeared in the persons of Eliaphet and Philo Remington of Ilion, N.Y., industrialists who were dispensing the profits of manufacturing guns on Methodist good works.

The Remingtons also gave generously to the projected Syracuse University, and it was hoped that the new church would be linked to Syracuse University.

Without their \$11,000 gift, Rev. Lyford and the trustees would not have dared to commit the still small church to so extensive a project.

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

'Heart of Living'

CONTINUED from Page 1 meeting every Sunday after the blessing of the children.

This Sunday, as it does every week, the Contemporary Issues Class will meet in the Chappell Room and discuss a topic current in the news.

Worship at 10:30 a.m. returns to the regular liturgical form, and the Senior Choir will resume its participation. Fellowship time after the service moves from the Narthex to The Gathering Room.

Starting Sunday and continuing through November, the overall theme for our worship services will be "The Heart of Living," with sub-themes for each month.

Those sub-themes are "A Welcoming Heart" for September, "A Gifted Heart" for October and "A Grateful Heart" for November.

You'll be asked to respond to these sub-themes on cards in the bulletin the first two Sundays for each.

You might be asked to complete sentences such as: "The best welcome I've experienced was...", "The best gift I ever received was..." and "I am grateful for..." The cards will be then on display for all to read and may be formed into an artwork.

Handbell Choir Resumes

The Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7:30 to 9 p.m., beginning Sept. 9. Contact Dan Magowan, 652-7441, for information. New ringers welcome!



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8

Sunday the 8th

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday the 9th

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 11th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 12th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 13th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15

Sunday the 15th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages after blessing of children in worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Wednesday the 18th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 19th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 20th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22

Sunday the 22nd

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for
grades 1-12

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for
preschool

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Monday the 23rd

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 25th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 26th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 27th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

Sunday the 29th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Church School for
grades 1-12

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for
preschool

11:45 a.m. Fellowship -
Gathering Room

Wednesday the 2nd

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 3rd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 4th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Welcome Back SU Students Block Party

8/29/13
(12 photos)









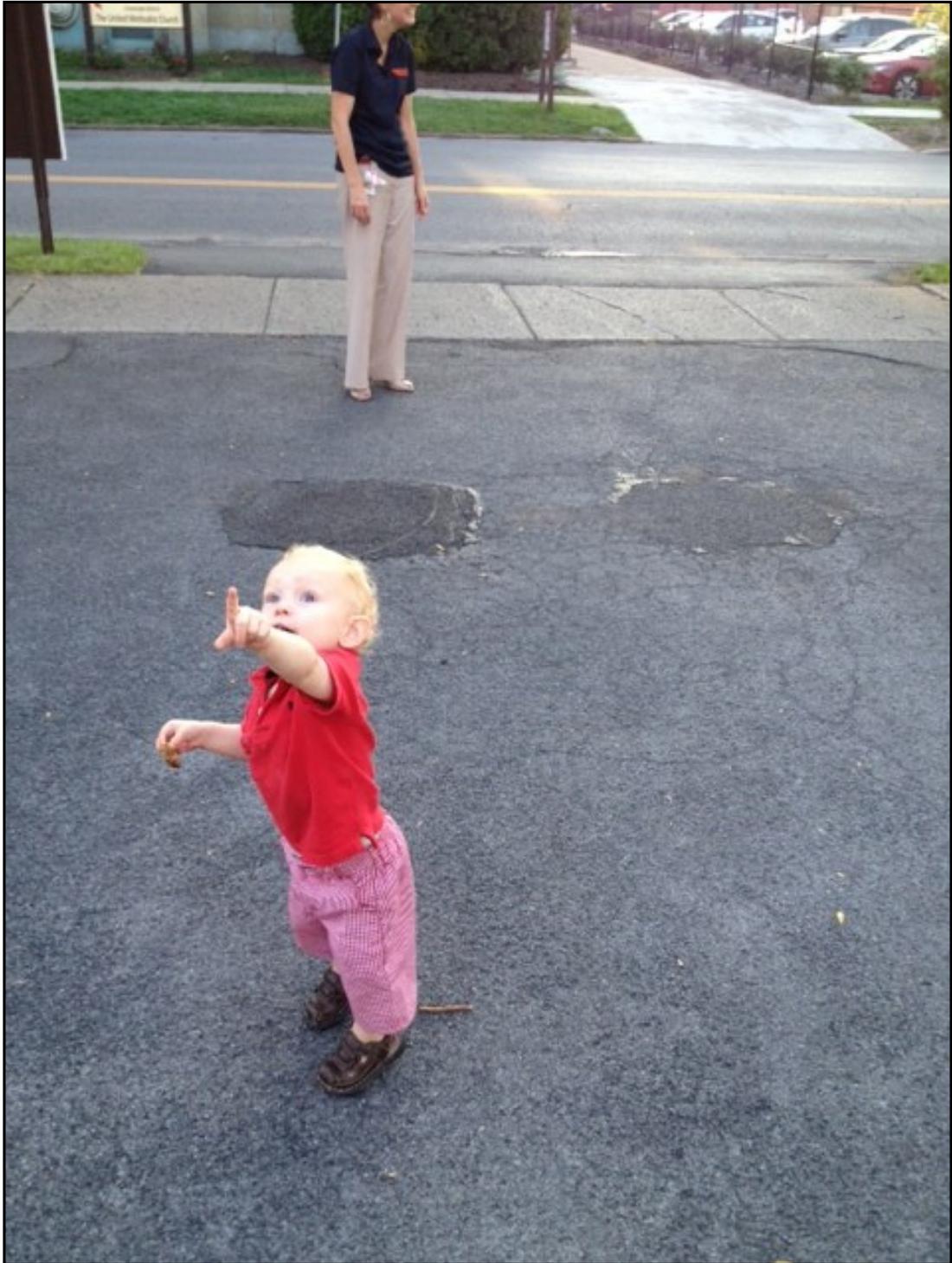






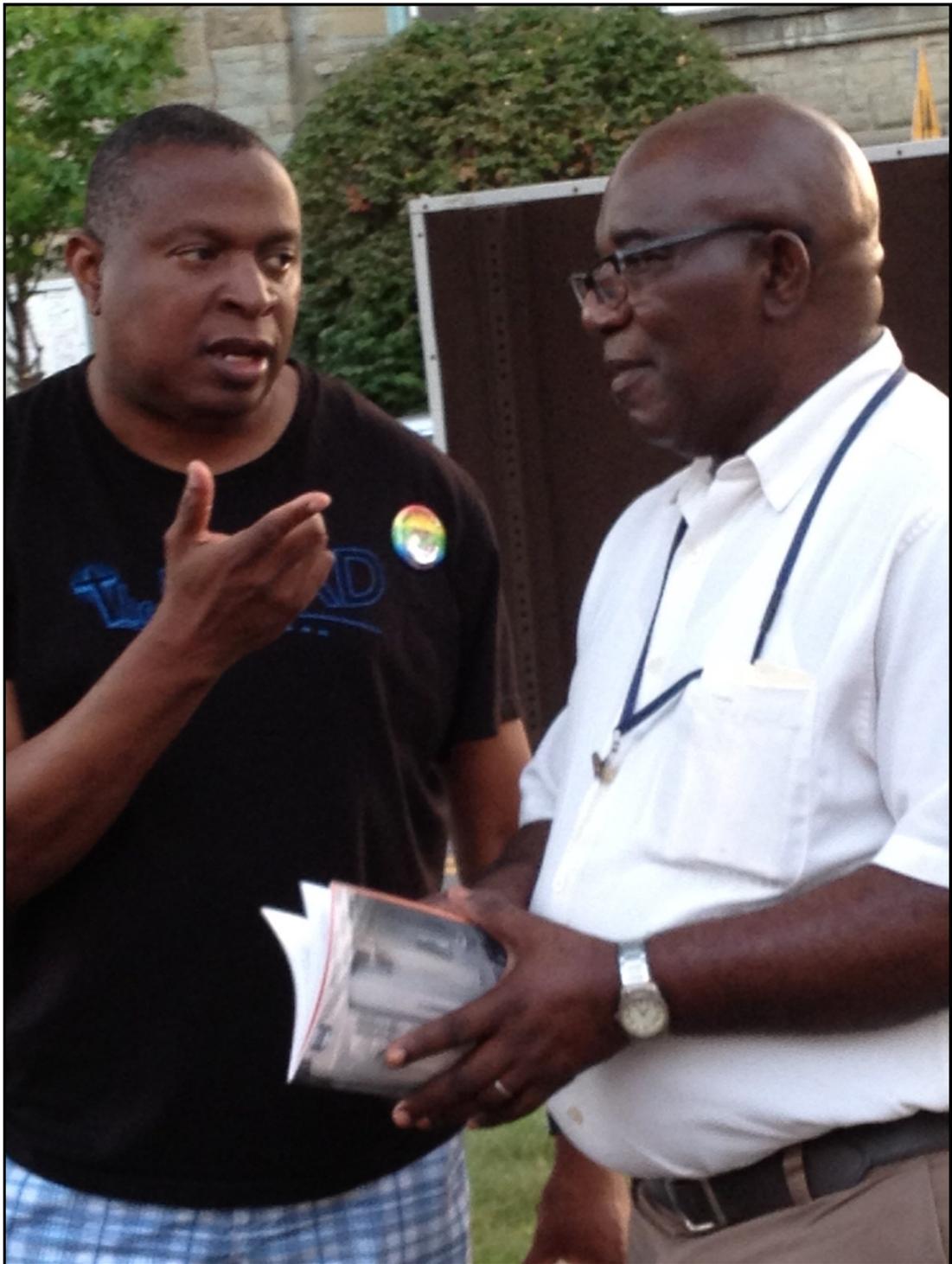






Henry sees a jet way up in the sky.







Kitten on the porch of one of UUMC's neighbors relaxes on a recent day.



Ted and Jeanne met Billy at ChurchQuake in Washington, D.C.