

THE CHIMES

Sept. 5, 2012

**Next Chimes
deadline:
September 19**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: A Healthy Spiritual Life	2
Outreach/Mission: New Volunteers, School Supplies	3
Finance Corner	4
Creation Stewardship	4
Church Picnic	5
Governing Board	5
People/Prayer Connection	6
Copper Beech Picnic	7
Birthdays	8
Altar Flowers	8

*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 LAUNCHES UUMC FALL ACTIVITIES

The program year gets back into full swing this Sunday with Rally Day.

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

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

Also at that time, the Contemporary Issues Class will meet in the Chappell Room and discuss a topic current in the news.

Worship at 10:30 returns to the regular liturgical form and you'll find a new-style bulletin.

Fellowship time after the service moves from the Narthex to its usual place in The Gathering Room.

Starting Sunday and running through May, Rev. French will be preaching following a narrative lectionary — the texts he will use as a basis for his sermons.

In the fall, the selections move quickly through the Hebrew Scriptures, starting with Genesis.



In the winter, they draw from one Gospel — this year will be Luke — and in the spring they tell of the early church as in Acts and other Christian Scriptures, ending May 19 on Pentecost.

On Sunday, Sept. 23, the congregation will formally welcome Lyndsey Graves, our Grace House intern who already has begun work with us.

Bacon's have boosted UUMC in many ways

David and Ellen Taylor Bacon have been very active in our church and community for many years.

Ellen Taylor was confirmed at UUMC when she was 11 years old.

Her mother, Mary Clark Taylor, is remembered each Easter by the memorial begonias we receive.

Her father, Ken Taylor, is re-

membered by his strong faith and positive attitude, always saying, "We can do it!"

David and Ellen have six children.

Two children, Steve Bacon and Lynn Bacon Steenberg, are very active members of our congregation.

See **WAYS**, Page 4

What activities help connect you to God?



Rev. French

I went for my annual physical a week or so ago. The kind where the doctor pokes and prods, asks lots of questions and reviews the lab results — all aimed at assessing your overall health and talking about what to do (and not do) in order to improve your health, longevity and quality of life.

As you would expect, we talked about things like exercise, diet, stress management, family life, flu and pneumonia shots.

The focus was on a healthy lifestyle — daily, consistent behaviors that will produce the results I desire, as measured by weight, blood pressure, cholesterol level, heart rate, etc.

The conversation got me to thinking: What does a healthy spiritual life look like ... and how do you measure it?

Traditionally, going back to the time of John Wesley, Methodists have talked about “means of grace”— activities by which and through which God speaks to us and moves in our lives.

Wesley divided these activities into two groups: works of piety and works of mercy.

The first group (piety) centers on activities that emphasize and aim to increase our love of God: prayer, reading and studying the Bible, worship, the Lord’s Supper, fasting, mutual accountability and support in small groups.

The second group (mercy) contains activities that focus on and seek to increase our love of neighbor: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and dying, visiting prisoners, sheltering the homeless.

Together, these two kinds of activities put into practice Jesus’ two great commandments: to love God and to love neighbor. In so doing,

our own hearts and souls and lives are made better, more perfect, more complete (thanks be to God!).

Question: Which of these activities most open you up to and help connect you to God? Which are easiest for you? Which ones are difficult for you? Which ones are unfamiliar to you? Which ones are you curious about? Which ones appeal to you as possible new paths to God?

As I seek to grow in my desire for and love of God — as well as neighbor — I have found certain practices most helpful and effective for me.

I also find that these are often the very first things that get squeezed out of my schedule, when life gets crowded and busy ... unless I am intentional about them.

If you want to know the state of my soul — or if you want to help me remember the “holy practices” that feed and nourish my soul — you might want to ask me questions like these:

- ◆ Am I making time for silence?
- ◆ What am I reading that brings a lump to my throat and a tear to my eye?
- ◆ What music am I listening to that makes me want to sing (and maybe even dance a little)?
- ◆ Have I made time to play with my grandchildren?
- ◆ What poet have I read lately?
- ◆ Have I spent time outdoors in nature?
- ◆ When have I been spontaneous, generous, hospitable, bold, vulnerable?
- ◆ What questions would point to your spiritual vitality?

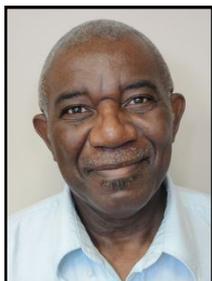
I’d love to hear your list of questions. Maybe even list them (anonymously) in an upcoming sermon.

There are so many ways we can help each other know and follow Christ more fully ... but it starts with being open and honest about what that means to us and what is helpful (and not helpful) in that journey.

— Craig

“What does a healthy spiritual life look like ... and how do you measure it?”

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Thanks to those individuals who volunteered with the Friday Community this summer. Six such persons made themselves available. They did and are still doing a fantastic job in the limited time. I look forward to working with at least three of them through the year.

School Supplies

We still need items to share with families this year. The items received come from members of UUMC as well as the conference office. While we previously distributed these items in January, several families have already been asking for school supplies. It seems as if we will distribute much earlier this year. We will see what supplies are received by mid-September.

Families Served in Past Year

In the previous publication, I mentioned a portion of the numbers who received food supplies from the pantry. I am now including a more complete listing with the hope that we may draw more conclusions and therefore support the pantry.

During the period from July 2011 through June 2012 we served 507 families. There were 127 single males and 136 female heads of household. Forty-three are three-family households, three are five-family and larger and 23 are seniors (65 and over). We served a total of 700 children from these families.

These figures suggest that we are very involved in the East

Food Pantry Recipients July 2011-June 2012	
Families Served	507
Single Males	127
Female Heads of Household	136
3-Family Household	43
5-Family or More Household	3
Seniors (65+)	23
Children	700

Side community and the members are affected by what we do every week.

What conclusion can you draw from these statistics? What suggestions do you believe we could implement?

Send your responses to this publication and let us see if we may be able to bring this/these suggestions to fulfillment. I am glad we are able to serve them and hope next year we will do more for this group of persons.

Friday Community

Recently we discussed in the Friday Community what it means and what services we offer as well as how the community will serve itself.

Members of the group identified that we provide services such as clothing, food, information to various agencies, vegetable garden and several others groups come to make us better.

Two things that were highlighted are: We provide a safe place where people may come to talk, share details, cry and find comfort for their concerns.

It was noted that we offer

pastoral care. One such example is a mother who came and shared that her son has run away three times and the mother and father slept very few hours until the son returned home. She noted that this son was told that if he continues he will eventually be sent to Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center. As she shared she broke down and cried.

In addition to listening, I could not help asking her if I could offer prayer and she accepted. Her response, "Thank you very much. I needed this."

Talking about prayer: How can the Friday Community talk about spirituality? Keep reading. I believe we will find a way.

Needs and Acceptance

In recent weeks pantry friends asked me for items such as: pots, plates, hot plates and microwaves. If you can help in these regards to the Friday Community I ask you to do so. Just give me a call at 472-1715 and I will supply these items to the needy persons. We received one microwave last week, and I offered it to the community. One person accepted it immediately.

Intern at University Church

We welcome our intern to our congregation. Let me hope her stay with us will be challenging and rewarding.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to offering a Thanksgiving Basket to pantry friends this year again. Keep thinking about it. Blessings.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe
Friday Community chaplain

Ways included finance, Sunday School

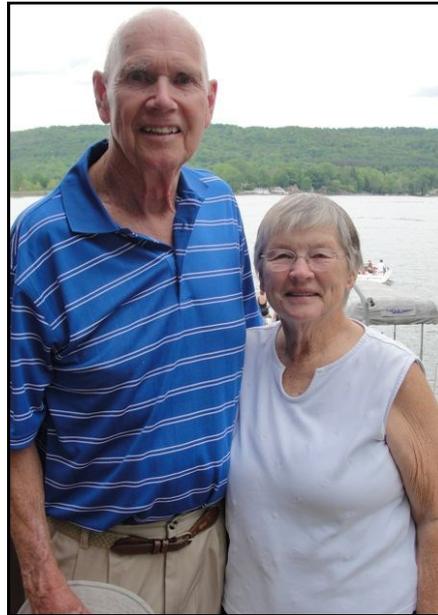
CONTINUED from Page 1
Recently Ellen celebrated her 80th birthday with 51 family members including all six children in attendance.

David Bacon has been on the Building and Grounds Committee for years, served on the Finance and Stewardship Committee and worked on church budgets.

Ellen Bacon was in charge of the all-member visitation for church pledges for many years, taught Sunday School, was church treasurer with David for 10 years, chaired the Finance Committee, and helped Rev. Hal Garman (our retired pastor) with the renewal of UUMC.

She was an active Junior League member and on the board of our local Salvation Army.

They are in church most Sundays before they go to Florida for the winter months. Their



David and Ellen Bacon at their house on DeRuyter Lake.

pictures and memorabilia are in the glass case in The Gathering Room.

Thank them when you see them in church.

— Barbara Cargo

Flower Donors Welcome

Each Sunday throughout the year we come together for worship, fellowship, inspiring words and music.

Also, thanks to \$40 donations from many of our members, we enjoy the beauty of floral arrangements.

These flowers celebrate the memory of or are in honor of a loved one.

After the service the flowers are taken to our homebound and ill members or given in appreciation of volunteer service.

Our Altar Guild welcomes new volunteers to donate these flowers dedicated to your loved



ones. Interested? Call Marg McDivitt, 488-2201.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: \$204,360. Amount paid to date: \$114,292. Pre-paid pledges: \$14,500.

"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.

Creation Stewardship

Climate For Change

We invite you to join members of UUMC and community congregations in exploring a faith-based response to global climate change.

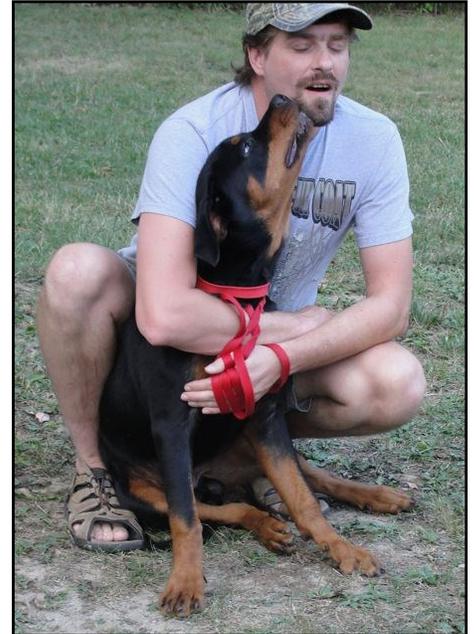
Save the date: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 5:30-6:45 p.m., Chapel Room at UUMC.

At this time we will begin studying the book, "A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions," and prayerfully planning our discussions.

Energy, economy, environment: Katherine Hayhoe and Andrew Farley combine science with spiritual discernment to give us a knowledge base to work from.

Contact Stephanie Hitztaler shitztal@umich.edu or 440-3156, or Peter Swords pswords@ocmsinc.org or 479-5658, co-chairs of Creation Stewardship, to RSVP or if you're interested but unable to attend.

— Peter Swords



More than 50 UUMC members and friends and their dogs enjoyed a gorgeous day at Pratt’s Falls County Park on Aug. 19 at the annual church picnic. It was the largest turnout in years, partly thanks to the beautiful weather. Above left, Ralph Best, Marg McDivitt and Gwen and Dave Sacia chat. At right, Robby Lewis gets a wet kiss.

Governing Board Report: Sunday School, budget, landscaping

The UUMC Governing Board met Thursday, Aug. 30, to review summer activities and administrative tasks and look toward the fall with a continued focus on the church’s six guiding principles and goals. Among the items discussed acted upon:

- ◆ A proposal to move Sunday School from 9:30 a.m. to the worship hour, with children leaving for their classrooms immediately after children’s time. The shift in time was taken into consideration at the suggestion of several young parents during a picnic-planning session this summer. If/When a new junior choir director is secured, it was noted that the choir could rehearse prior to the worship service to avoid conflict with the new schedule.
- ◆ The picnic with our new college student neighbors at Copper Beech Commons was reported to be a great success. Among the participants in the event from UUMC was Lyndsey Graves, our Grace House intern, who has officially begun her work with UUMC’s outreach and church growth efforts.
- ◆ State of the current budget was reviewed and discussion about budget processes for next year, including all staffing needs to be rolled into one account under the responsibility of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.
- ◆ Plans to make landscape improvements to the front of the church, with the possibility of applying for second-round funding from the Connective Corridor Façade Improvement Program and possibly engaging students from SUNY-ESF in the planning and installation process. If the Connective Corridor is successful in its efforts to secure second-round funding to award retro-active grants, UUMC would need a plan in place and demonstrated ability to fund the project up front when it submits the grant proposal.
- ◆ The Church Charge Conference has been set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18. A tentative date for the church fall luncheon was set for Sunday, Nov. 4.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Thank you for children and the reminders they give us to look and really see the world
- Thanks for a successful summer for W. Asking travel mercies for family traveling to D.C. Thanks for seeing Friday Community through eyes of 10-12-year-old grandchildren, from **Grandma Ann**
- Thank you for the wonderful community of support here at UUMC!
- From **Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood**: How we miss seeing you at church, but we were so pleased to have the altar flowers from last Sunday. We “absorbed” the music as we read the bulletin. Thank you so much for remembering me. I hope this walking cast, which very much keeps me down, will be off – I hope three weeks hence. Thank you for your concern and love as evidenced by Steve Bacon’s call with the flowers.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**
- The **Burgess Family**, on the loss of their mom, grandma and wife of 59 years, from **Nelson Price**
- **Karen**, who is suffering from a kidney stone. We ask for healing and support, from **Ralph**
- People with visual, auditory and physical disabilities, and their right to use public buses without barriers to ac-

- cess, from **Peter Swords**
- Jesus of Nazareth, guide your servants. The needs of many outweigh the wants of the few, from **Elise**
- For acceptance and non-judgment, for wisdom in knowing how to handle a friendship in which my friend overstepped boundaries, for increasing trust in God
- A colleague who is struggling emotionally and wisdom for the person’s supervisor
- People/communities impacted by Tropical Storm Isaac. Special prayer for my friend
- Remembering Jude, the Magowans’ dog. Thank you for the lives of our pets that keep us company and warm our hearts when people are not enough
- **Fred and Ruth Rowles**, who are dealing with serious health issues, from **Nelson Price**
- Families and friends of **Kate O’Connor and Sandra Smokes**, two former colleagues at The Post-Standard who died in the past three weeks, from **Tom Boll**
- Relief from drought, and hope for those living off the land, wisdom for how to better manage our resources and food supply
- Sacred Jesus, can we as your servants show our behavior called love more often?
- Prayers for **Susan Nicholson**, niece of **Ed Potter**. She is now at Van Duyn with end stage cancer.

- Prayers for **Tom Tyrell**. Bless him in his new home
- **Betsy Wiggins** and her health
- Bless Legal Advocacy for the Disabled; bless the New Hope Mission.
- The family and friends of **Jef Hubbard**, who was killed in a auto accident on Friday
- Prayers that God and understanding should be in our family, and we hope our sister feels better soon, **Weah Family**
- Wonderful Counselor, guide my soul to get rid of these cheap addictive demons, from **Elise**
- For good health
- Be with a dear friend facing the end of her life
- Our children who are in dark places
- **Pastor French and Bill Anderson**

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Sept. 2:** Neil Damron, Connor Fay, Sophie Finlayson-Schueler

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Sept. 9:** Onondaga Nation, Marcelline McLean; Martville UMC, Dean Flemming
- **Sept 16:** Oran, Susan Townsend
- **Sept. 23:** Syracuse Christ Community, Adrienne Phillips
- **Sept. 30:** Liverpool, Aaron Bouwens and Peggy Hart

UUMC greets student neighbors with treats, smiles

More than a dozen UUMC members and friends attended Copper Beech Commons' welcome picnic Aug. 26 for the more than 100 student residents of its new apartment complex adjacent and behind the church.

UUMC agreed to bring dessert and a call went out to the congregation for 50 dozen cookies.

SU graduate students Billy Klutz and Matt Gress took sign-ups on Sundays and Gary Peck took on the role of organizer.

Through his food industry contacts Gary secured 200 slice-and-bake cookies that were baked by Mary Chappell at her business in Jamesville.

When all was said and done, 100 dozen cookies were pledged. The cookies were served on platters at the picnic and the extras were placed in dozens of plastic bags for stu-



Above, SU graduate students Matt Gress and Billy Klutz, right, talk with Copper Beech Commons student residents at the Aug. 26 picnic. At right, Eileen Schell lets a student know about UUMC.



dents to eat later.

UUMC representatives took the opportunity to welcome the students to the neighborhood and to tell them about UUMC and our activities. Please greet them when they visit.



From left, Kirsten Magowan, Carol Boll and director Dan Magowan polish handbells in preparation for the Sept. 16 workshop after worship for all interested in learning about the instrument. Handbell Choir practice, which is 6 to 7:25 p.m. Thursdays, starts Sept. 20.

Help Welcome Refugees

This fall we are planning to welcome a new refugee family or individual to Syracuse.

Sponsorship includes setting up the household with furnishings, welcoming the family when they arrive and helping them to settle into their new home.

If you are interested in helping with this opportunity, contact Margo Koten, 446-0649, or a member of the Outreach Committee.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Don and Margo Koten, Marjorie Carter, Larry and B.J. Myers, and Tim and Linda Damron.

Flowers were given to Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Ted and Genn Thuma, Betsy Wiggins, Diane Tarbell, Jereline Weah and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Flowers were delivered by Lee and Ed Potter, Jim Wiggins, Rita Soufleris, Steve Bacon and Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
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Return service requested

Dated material



September birthdays

5 – Sharon Huard
8 – Martha Potter, Sarah Lund,
Noel Sommers, Joshua DeHoog
9 – Bernie Hinds
13 – Shahryar Mousavi
15 – David Magowan
16 – Robert Morris Sr., Negin
Dehdar Nasab
17 – Patrick Hyland, Bill Potter
23 – Dithole Thebe
26 – Memory Mungure
27 – Jimmy Chen
28 – Kristofer Alestalo
29 – Deborah Borenstein

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.

It costs the church money for each one that is undeliverable.

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. Steve Bacon has been an enormous help in this effort.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

Sunday the 9th
9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Rally Day
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room
Wednesday the 12th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
Thursday the 13th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 14th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16

Sunday the 16th
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room
Noon Handbell workshop
Tuesday the 18th
6 p.m. Charge Conference; SPRC

follows

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Wednesday the 19th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
Thursday the 20th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 21st
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23

Sunday the 23rd
9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room
Tuesday the 25th
5 p.m. Outreach Committee
5:30 p.m. Creation Stewardship
Wednesday the 26th
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
Thursday the 27th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 28th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

New Name for Evening Guild

The Evening Guild has a new name! It is now The Guild. It will now meet at 1:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Sept. 26. Site: to be determined.

Senior Choir Starts Up

The Senior Choir resumes weekly rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 in the Music Center. For more information, please contact Martha Sutter at mlsuter@syr.edu.

Welcome Picnic at Copper Beech Commons

(photos through page 16)



Jim Wiggins chats with a student.



Robert James cooks hamburgers.



Eileen Schell, center, Rev. French, Gary Peck and Jo Ann Davis talk with students.



From left, Nate Medford, Marg McDivitt, Billy Kluttz and Lyndsey Graves, our Grace House intern.



Lyndsey and Nate with students.



Rev. French makes a point with a student.



Gary Peck enjoys a laugh.

Allan Drew Memorial Bike Ride 8/19/12



Fifteen UUMC members and friends participated in various ways in the 31-mile Allan Drew Memorial Bike Ride around Owasco Lake. One of the stopping points was the entrance to Camp Casowasco.

2012 Church Picnic at Pratt's Falls





































