

THE CHIMES

April 30, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
May 14**

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Some regular items were omitted for the clergy appointment article. They should return next issue.

Longtime member Mercia Palmer died April 22 at the age of 94.

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

Bishop appoints six clergy for 8 Syracuse city churches

Six pastors have been assigned to the Syracuse city United Methodist churches, as announced by Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell on behalf of Bishop Mark Webb on Monday night at the end of a meeting of laity at Gethsemane United Methodist Church.

Rev. French is the team's coordinator. Others on the team are as follows: Revs. Patience Kisakye, Doug Mackey, Caroline Simmons and E. Chip and Lillian Owens.

Rev. Lauren Swanson will be involved as a coach for the pastors and lay leaders and will be part of the preaching rotation over the summer before he heads to his new appointment outside of Rochester Sept. 1.

These city appointments are effective July 1, although the Owenses will not be aboard until Sept. 1.

In addition, a parallel group of pastors will be assigned to Syracuse in charge of starting new churches and ministries aimed at reaching a variety of ethnic groups and age groups not found in the existing eight churches.

Information on this second half of the overall clergy team will be in the next issue of *The Chimes*.

E. Chip and Rev. Lillian Owens.

E. Chip and Lillian Owens are 2014 graduates of the Gammon Theological Seminary on the campus of The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

E. Chip holds a B.S. degree in



Rev. Lillian and E. Chip Owens with their son, Josiah, 1.

communications entertainment media production from the University of North Alabama and Lillian holds a B.S. in music education from Alabama A&M University.

They plan to continue their academic pursuits with doctoral degrees in the future.

E. Chip published his first book in 2012 entitled "21 Days of Worship: A Devotional For the Worshipper In You."

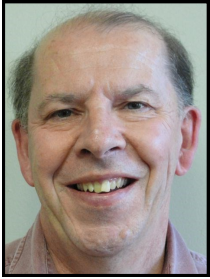
The Owenses have a 1-year-old son, Josiah.

They enjoy reading, watching movies and playing music.

Chip's personal creed is: "A man who focuses on his past to move toward his future is bound to stumble, but a man who appreciates his past and focuses on his future will succeed."

Looking ahead to their move to
See **MEET**, Page 4

Big changes draw near, for church and pastor



Rev. French

The next few weeks will bring major changes — for all of us. One of these changes is the announced shift in how ministry is structured in the city of Syracuse and in how pastoral assignments (appointments) are made. These changes will take effect on July 1.

Between now and then, preliminary work will be done to plan and prepare for the coming changes. The full extent of these changes will not be known for another year or two, but they'll begin to be seen this summer.

The most immediate and noticeable change will come in clergy leadership, including Sunday morning worship leadership and preaching.

Instead of each congregation having its own pastor, a unified team of pastors will work together, serving all of the city churches as a single, combined staff.

District Superintendent Darryl Barrow announced the makeup of the new clergy team this week. (See the front-page story.) I am pleased to report that I am part of that team. While I will continue to be involved in the life, worship and leadership of University Church, I — like each of my colleagues — will be responsible for pastoral oversight and leadership of all eight churches. How this will work exactly is yet to be formulated, but should become clearer as we move closer to July 1.

As another sign and symbol of the new shared clergy staffing, each pastor will have an office in at least two locations around the city. I, for instance, will soon have office hours at both Bellevue Heights Church and University Church.

Over the summer you can look forward to meeting most of the clergy team members as they take turns leading worship at University and the other seven churches. I know you will go out of your way to welcome them and make them feel at home. (E. Chip and Lillian Owens will not come on board until Sept. 1.)

Change No. 2 is the sabbatical leave that the SPRC and Governing Board authorized for me, starting June 9. This study and renewal leave was designed with the needs of University Church in mind, but, in God's infinite wisdom, the activities I have planned are just as — or even more — fitting for the new cooperative ministry venture.

My plans include:

- ◆ two weeks of intensive summer school classes at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, on the topics of “healthy congregations” and “deep change”;
- ◆ one week at an annual Chautauqua-like conference in Wisconsin, featuring two of my favorite authors in the realm of pastoral theology centered around the theme of “Why the Church needs to ask more questions than it answers”);
- ◆ my annual weeklong silent prayer retreat in Connecticut (as the culminating event before returning to work).

In between these events, I will spend a month at home, reading about ... reflecting on ... and readying myself for the new style of ministry and my leadership role in it.

Counting vacation time (including visiting my father and step-mother in New Hampshire and

introducing my grandchildren to the wonders of the seashore and mountains), I will return to work in mid-August in time to be ready for the start of the new church year — which will be different from what we've known before.

In many ways, this extended absence will cause all of us to begin to adapt to the new reality of Syracuse urban ministry, church life and pastoral leadership.

The summer will give you and me both the opportunity to “test drive” the new approach, assess its strengths and weaknesses and begin to work out any obvious logistical kinks. Done right and done well, renewal in ministry will be yours, as well as mine.

— Craig

This extended absence will cause all of us to begin to adapt to the new reality of Syracuse urban ministry, church life and pastoral leadership.

Hunger by the numbers and in people's experiences



Deb Virgo

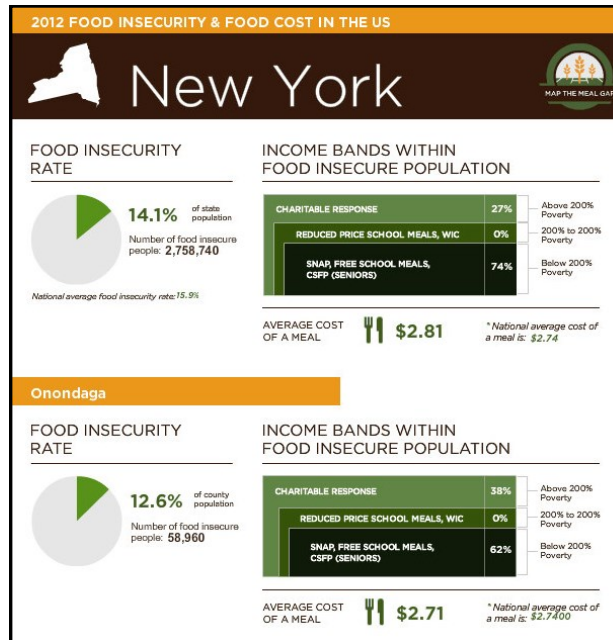
Some facts and faces of hunger.

Fact. Feeding America is the national organization that oversees Food Banks across the

country. They have an interactive website that shows the level of food insecurity in America (see graphic at right). Here's the site: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

The good news is that the food insecurity rate our county and our state are among the lowest in the nation. While the national rate is 15.9 percent, the rate in our county is 12.6 percent.

Fact. Each week we see about 20 families come to use the food pantry at Friday Community. We're open from 10 a.m. to noon. Most people come early, often before 10. But there is a running joke that starts around 11:30. It will be quiet and we wonder if we can close up a bit early. But inevitably there will be at least one person who comes in the last 10 minutes of pantry.



Last week it was a woman who was obviously running late. It was her first time here, even though she lived around the corner. She said her husband was ill and they were out of food. We were happy to help.

Fact. 300 pounds of food. That is what we collected this weekend from the Interreligious Food Consortium! The food came from a huge collection of food from the St. Patrick Hunger Project. For those of us who like numbers, the estimate for a pound of food is \$1.80. That puts the value of this donation at \$540! That's enough to cover

this gentleman who traveled by bicycle and has an intelligent and dry wit. He was still on his bicycle and put his food items in an old Army duffle bag. He took only what he needed.

We had an interesting talk about morality and the state of the world today as he filled his duffle bag. He would like to volunteer with us again with food deliveries. We set a time for him to come next Tuesday as the truck from the Food Bank is coming then.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community Coordinator

the cost of food for one to two weeks.

Fact. On Friday we had an old friend come to get food. He used to volunteer with us but had had a round of bad health. He was recovering from surgery and needed food.

At the end of the month he was waiting on a disability check and his food stamps.

I always admired

May birthdays

- 2 – Melissa Pedro,
- 3 – Dick Hunt
- 4 – David Bacon,
- Ethel Phillips,
- Marg McDivitt
- 6 – Bethany Boll
- 17 – Caroline Brackett
- 25 – Allison Virgo,
- Benjamin Virgo,
- Kirstin Coutts
- 26 – Eileen Schell
- 29 – Joyce Flynn
- 30 – Marsha Plucinik,
- Bunny Hannum
- 31 – Sara Bergan

Fundraiser for Katie Flynn

A fundraiser to help pay medical bills for Katie Flynn, who received a new heart on Easter, is scheduled for 1 to 5 p.m. June 1 at the Camillus Elks Club, Newport Road, Camillus.

Tickets are \$20 each and \$50 for a family. Children 10 and under are free. There will be food, music, a silent auction and organ donation information. Attendees are asked to bring a donation for the UUMC food pantry.

MEET THE SYRACUSE CITY CLERGY TEAM

CONTINUED from Page 1

Syracuse, Chip said, "I am really excited and humbled by what God is doing and about to manifest in Syracuse. To God be the glory because the best is yet to come."

Lillian said, "I am readily excited as we embark upon this new journey together with the people of Syracuse."

Patience Kisakye

Rev. Dr. Patience Kisakye has had 26 years of service combined between the Methodist Church in East Africa and The UMC in the U.S.

She has a background in education with specialties in African and European history accredited by



Kyambogo School of Education in Uganda.

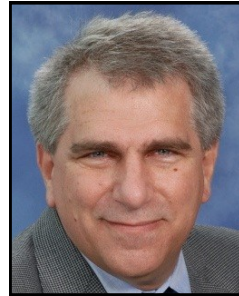
Patience received a master's of arts in religious communication from United Theological Education in Dayton, Ohio, and a master of divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

She earned a doctor of ministry with particular reference to autism spectrum disorders at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

Doug Mackey

Rev. Doug Mackey was born and raised in Garnerville, a hamlet in Rockland County where his family has been heavily involved with the Methodist Church for over 85 years.

After 30 years as an archaeologist, Doug completed his seminary studies at Drew Theological School and was commissioned as a provisional elder in 2013. He hopes to be ordained as a full elder in 2015.



Rev. Doug Mackey

He is currently appointed to the city of Syracuse and Rockefeller UMC. In addition to his duties at Rockefeller, he has been active in supporting the ministries of The ROAD, in working with the CNY-HIV Care Network and serving as part of the Bishop's Task Force for Discussion on Sexuality.

He served as a licensed local pastor at First UMC in Schenectady where he was introduced to urban ministry.

After moving to Albany and eventually transferring his membership to Newtonville UMC, he served there as the lay member to annual conference for several years and led their youth ministry for six years.

Doug is married to Sherri and they have two daughters, Alexandra and Alyssa, and a son, Mike. He enjoys reading, getting involved with important issues and sports of all kinds.

In describing his ministry and his hopes for the future, Doug says: "Hello! I look forward to working with you all. It is great to see so many different types of ministry underway in Syracuse, and I look forward to working with everyone to strengthen and expand those efforts, to share

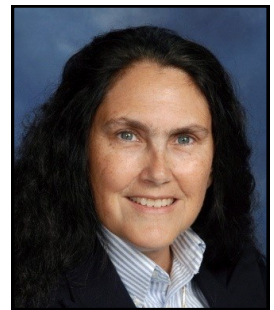
the Good News with our communities and to help demonstrate to others what it means to be a Christian and a United Methodist."

Caroline Simmons

Rev. Caroline Simmons graduated from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School with a master's of divinity degree.

While at seminary, Caroline did her supervised ministry (internship/field education) at Asbury First UMC in Rochester. She was blessed to work with the Revs. Susan Shafer, Margie Mayson and Robert Hill.

She said it was a wonderful opportunity to be involved in so



Rev. Caroline Simmons

many aspects of ministry in a large metropolitan church setting with a staff of gifted pastors.

Upon graduation from CRCDS, she served part time at Fowlerville UMC for one year while working part time at Asbury First.

She then moved to Lockport and served at Emmanuel UMC for three years while working to be commissioned as a provisional elder in the Western NY Conference.

Her next appointment was to come to Syracuse and serve a two-point charge at Little Utica UMC and Warners UMC.

In 2010, Rev. Simmons was ordained at the first gathering of the Upper NY Annual Conference and began her current appoint-

See **THE REST**, Page 5

THE REST OF THE SYRACUSE CLERGY TEAM

CONTINUED from Page 4
ment serving Collamer United Church and St. Paul's UMC.

One of the most enjoyable hobbies she's had is scuba diving and being a former scuba instructor. She has a dog, Kelsea, an Australian Shepherd/Border Collie mix.

Looking ahead, she said, "As we approach this new venture in ministry for the Syracuse community, I am prayerful at what God is calling us to be and do for the future. In simple terms, I believe that God is calling us to be more than what we have been and do more than what we have done in ministry so far. We are being provided an opportunity to reach out to the people in our urban community in ways we have yet to discover. It is going to be quite the journey, but worth taking the steps to travel together and grow in our faith and service to others."

Lauren Swanson

Rev. Lauren Swanson has been in ministry in the United Methodist Church since 1983. He studied philosophy at SUNY Fredonia and Syracuse University and graduated from the Iliff School of Theology.

His continuing education for the last 15 years has focused on congregational development and organization systems.

Lauren's work consulting with churches began in earnest in 1999 when he worked with the Mohawk District of the North Central New York Conference to identify and evaluate anchor churches that are or could be high potential centers for mission and ministry in their geographical



Rev. Lauren Swanson

From 2005 to 2010 Lauren served as director of congregational development for the North Central New York Conference.

It is his fervent hope and prayer as he works with the Interim Leadership Team, the district superintendent and the pastoral staff of the city churches, that a powerful new way of being God's church in Syracuse will emerge.

Craig French

Rev. Craig French has pastored in the city of Syracuse (at University Church) and been part of the developing city clergy team for the past six years. After growing up in a Methodist parsonage in the hills of New Hampshire, God called him to the city, when he headed off to college.

He did his undergraduate work at American University in Washington, D.C., where he majored in international relations and diplomacy. His seminary training was at Boston University School of Theology, with a major in social ethics.

The best years of his ministry have been spent in urban ministry in Buffalo and Syracuse. He has also pastored in suburban and college town settings. He has been a leader in urban ministry at both the Conference and na-

area. That work led to consulting across that conference in various districts and churches where the Cabinet saw need.

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tional levels and continues to benefit from those connections.

He and his wife, Barbara, have three grown children. Craig and Barbara live on Onondaga Hill near OCC, along with two granddaughters (ages 9 and 4), whom they are helping to raise. When he is not driving the girls somewhere, he enjoys hiking, reading, kayaking, art, poetry, travel, SU sports and the Red Sox.

With regard to the new ministry plan for Syracuse, Craig has long stated that, "If nothing is done to change the status quo, the end result is clear: one by one all of our city churches will disappear. Unsettling as these new plans and arrangements may be for current members, the goal (like a family intervention) is to bring health and wholeness to urban ministry in Syracuse, so that all may know life that is abundant, free and joyful."

Rethinking Syracuse Methodism

The bulk of Monday night's citywide laity meeting was the review of the "Rethinking Syracuse Methodism" document. After comments and suggestions, a large majority of the approximately 90 people in attendance voted to accept the document and refer it to the congregations. Nearly 20 members of UUMC attended.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Dot Logan and Rosemary DeHoog. They were given to Mary Wilson, the Flynn family, Martha Sutter, Bob Laubach, Dennis Triggs and Nelson Price and Barbara Fought. Don and Margo Kotten were flower deliverers.

Easter Thank You

Members of the Altar Guild wish to thank everyone who prepared the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service and/or delivered flowers or baked goods to shut-in or ill members of the congregation.

These included: Steve Bacon, Brad and Judith Bowers, Tom and Carol Boll, Cheryl Brown, Jerry and Barbara Cargo, Lara Chappell, Starke Donnally, Bette Helwig, Ernie and Bobbie Hemphill, Don and Margo Kotten, Dan and Kirsten Magowan, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Dean Moyer, Nancy Nevin, Nancy and Sandra Hough, Barbara Nunn and Jim Wiggins.

Those receiving flowers or baked goods were: Sue Bambacht, the Chappell Family, Thomas and Ila Christoff, Katie Flynn and her family, the Has-san Family, Bernie Hinds, Bud and Ruth Houser, Mary Klepper, Dot Logan, Carol Moyer, Arlene Musilli, Eddie Nunn, Mercia Palmer, William and Martha Potter, Don Steenberg, Diane Tarbell, Genn Thuma, Jim and Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Each member of the church staff also received a flower, as did Starke Donnally, Jeff Foley and Tiffany Steinwert in thanks and appreciation for their many contributions to University Church.

Guild Meeting

The next meeting of The Guild will be on Wednesday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marg McDivitt. We will share about a favorite book we've recently read.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF MAY 4

Sunday the 4th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship —
Communion

10:45 a.m. Sunday School,
Grades 1-12, adults with special
needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Wednesday the 7th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

6 p.m. Governing Board

Friday the 9th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF MAY 11

Sunday the 11th

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
Grades 1-12

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Pre-
K, kindergarten, adults with spe-
cial needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Wednesday the 14th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 15th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877

Paid to date: \$45,633

Non-pledge contr.: \$6,677

Pre-paid pledges: \$56,504

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$70,743

Expenses paid \$70,589

Current balance \$154

Friday the 16th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF MAY 18

Sunday the 18th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

9:30 a.m. Sunday School: Ele-
mentary through 12th grade

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Pre-
K, kindergarten, adults with spe-
cial needs

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Wednesday the 21st

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 22nd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 23rd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2014
(7 photos)















Senior Choir and those who came to join them from the congregation sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” at the end of the Easter service.

ACTS banquet
April 29, 2014
at Drumlins CC
(4 photos)







Maundy Thursday
At Rockefeller UMC
April 17, 2014
(6 photos)
(meal, hand/foot washing/
Communion)













Pray-In for Syracuse UM Churches At Bellevue Heights UMC April 23, 2014





UUMC Church Historian Rosemary DeHoog shows photos and other UUMC artifacts to the confirmation class on April 27.