



*Loved by God,
Led by Grace*

Williamsville United Methodist Church
 5681 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
 (716) 634-4800 www.williamsvilleumc.org
The Methodist Messenger

PASTOR'S CORNER

EASTERA SEASON TO CELEBRATE

Although Easter Sunday was very early this year, we are still in the season of Easter. The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

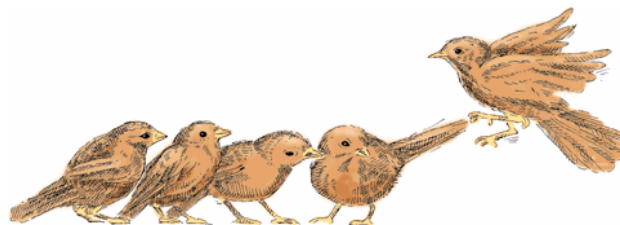
So how does this apply to WUMC? If you will recall, our vision statement here at Williamsville United Methodist Church is as follows:

“As a village church, Williamsville United Methodist faithfully continues the vision and tradition of our founders by welcoming all people to encounter Jesus Christ. We will nurture active fellowship and participation through a variety of ministries that encourage people of all ages to grow in a spiritual journey with Christ.”

We at Williamsville United Methodist Church truly have reason to celebrate this season. If we look at our calendar, almost every day there is some type of ministry going on here. That's why space or rooms to accommodate meetings or events is continually an issue and that is something to be CELEBRATED!!! Everyone here is passionate about their ministries and for that we are thankful.

Please be sure to join us for worship on Sunday, April 20, 2008 as we CELEBRATE and recognize ALL MINISTRIES here at WUMC.

Blessings & Love – Daryl



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

HAPPENINGS

District and Conference News and Happenings

All of us should be aware of the ongoing missions and events which help make up the life of our local church. However, we also need to keep abreast of the news and happenings of the Niagara Frontier District and the Western New York Conference. Therefore, please note the following:

- Conference Co – Lay leaders, Scott Johnson and Eleanor Collinsworth, have gone “on the road” to meet with local church lay leaders in a series of Listening Sessions. The intent of these informal, conversational gatherings is to meet as many lay leaders as possible, to discuss the joys and challenges of ministry as a local church lay leader, and to discuss some of the important issues facing the conference.
- The Conference Mediation Team will be offering workshops on conflict. Typically, conflict is seen as wrong or unloving. But conflict is simply a consequence of the relations between human beings. How we deal with conflict creates either great pain or exceptional growth in individuals and congregations. Regional training will be offered in the Niagara Frontier District on April 26, 2008 at the Clarence United Methodist Church. For registration information, visit the Conference website at www.wnyumc.org.
- United Methodist college students may be eligible for a number of denominational scholarships. Every pastor in the Conference recently received an email with information about the available scholarships. Applications can be found on the Conference website at www.wnyumc.org.
- Applications are now being accepted for Summer staff for Camp Asbury and Camp Findley. Openings at Camp Asbury include male and female core counselors (must be at least 18 years old), kitchen assistant, snack shack manager, lifeguards, and maintenance assistant. Stay tuned for openings at Camp Findley.

Submitted by Pete Powers

Passover Invitation

We have received an invitation from Temple Beth Am and the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo to attend the 19th annual Community Passover Seder. If you have ever wondered about the Seder Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples, you now have an opportunity to experience it as he did. The Seder will be held at Temple Beth Am on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. It begins at 5:30 and ends at 8:30 PM. Kosher dietary laws will be observed. The cost is \$25.00 per person and reservations must be in by April 8th. Call the office for details or reservation information.



The Caring Corner

As I write this article for our April edition I realize we are a week away from Easter. Easter has come early this year and many of us are still in the winter mode. I had the opportunity to go to Florida a few weeks ago and I must admit waking up to the warmth and green was a welcome feeling. There were beautiful flowers, lush green lawns, people playing golf, walking, riding bikes and enjoying that wonderful warm weather. I got my spring back in my step and feel like a new person. I know Spring is just around the corner.

While I was in Florida I had the chance to go to a Care Giver's Conference in Miami. It was wonderful! They had panel discussions, vendors, books and I had a chance to talk to many people about care giving. This opportunity gave me resources and ideas that I can bring to you to make care giving a lot easier. On May 3, 2008 we will be having a care giver's morning out. This will be a time for those who have questions, who need time out, a chance to engage in open discussions and a chance to help yourself with care giving burnout. As Shelley Kayne and I work out the logistics of everything we will keep you informed about that day. Please put the date on your calendar and come and join us.

We will soon have a new website and we will be able to give you all kinds of information. The nurture and visitation team will be able to have many resources at your fingertips. For example there will be information about health, long term care, health care proxy information and elder law to name a few, and that is only the beginning. There is so much information to be had and our team will be working on getting you whatever information you need about Older Adult Ministry as well as family information.

The nurture and visitation team here at Williamsville United Methodist Church is setting examples all over the district with what we are doing for Older Adult Ministry, visitations and the care of our members both physically and spiritually. Thank you to all who are involved in this ministry.

My family and I want to thank you for your prayers and cards during our time of bereavement. We are very grateful and thankful to have a warm, loving church family.

Blessings and peace to all,
Barbara Saltarella

On Sunday, April 27th at 10:00 AM please join Reverend Cyndi Krupp as she discusses energizing prayer and bringing it into each of the moments in our lives.

How can we get even more from our prayer practice? What techniques can we use when life appears to be getting out of control.?

Cyndi will share her own experiences and offer a simple method we can all use to bring the beauty of prayer with us wherever we go. Come with an open mind and an open heart.

Dear God,
Open my Eyes
To the Beauty
Of this Day...



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

A warm welcome to anyone interested in attending our **Christian Education Team meetings**. We are always looking for new faces and ideas so if you've ever thought about becoming more involved in this ministry, please join us! We meet the first Monday of every month. This month we'll meet April 7th at 7:00 in the outer office. See you then!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Amanda Sheriff and Allison Soucise who will be inducted into National Honor Society at Williamsville North on April 2nd. We are so proud of you both!

CELEBRATE CHILDREN

Our children here at Williamsville UMC are making huge differences in their schools and their communities whether through academics, music, sports and volunteer work as well as extra involvement within our church community. The Christian Education Team would love to highlight those special things happening with our children here each month in our Messenger. Please contact Judy Toone at 634-4800 or jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org to share the gifts and talents, joys and special achievements of your child/children.

THANKS TO THE COOKIE CREW!

The Christian Education Team would like to belatedly thank Martin and Mary Lou Hens for the delicious heart-shaped sugar cookies they made for our "Reaching Out in Love" event. They were delicious! Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperating that day so the leftover cookies were passed along to Rena Harbaugh to finish decorating. Thanks Rena for finishing the decorating so we could all enjoy the leftover cookies at coffee hour! Special thanks to Marty and Mary Lou for sharing your gift of cookie baking!

COMPUTERS STILL NEEDED for our computer station downstairs. Three of our four computers downstairs have limited capacity to run computer games so we're looking for donations of newer computers. If you have a newer computer you'd be willing to donate, or know of a business that's in the process of upgrading their systems please let us know. Our computer station has proven to be one of the children's favorites to visit during their rotations!

CAMP ASBURY AND CAMP FINDLEY

Deepest thanks go out to Dick and Shirley Davidson, Heidi Robertson and Amanda Koeppel for their presentation on all the fun that can be had at Camp Asbury and Camp Findley. I think after listening to them and watching the DVD we can all agree there is something there for all of us. Camping ages range from 5 years old on up, so this summer, why not think about sending your child to a United Methodist camp? Your children will receive the same wonderful camping skills they would elsewhere, such as swimming, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing and archery just to name a few. But, they have the added bonus at these camps of being in an environment where they are learning to be the best people they can be by learning to be sensitive to the needs of others, learning how to help each other and living their faith each day! All of these benefits for such a reasonable price! Camp brochures, registration forms and additional info are currently available. See Judy Toone or call at 634-4800 for more information. Scholarships are available if need be, so please don't let cost stop you from this wonderful summertime experience!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING BOXES came home with your children March 9th. They are encouraged to follow the directions each day from now until Easter. The money they raise will be used to purchase blankets filled with comfort and hope for UMCOR. It's our hope that this activity will lift before us the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's see how many blankets we'll be able to purchase this year! If for some reason your child did not receive one but would like to participate please let Judy Toone know. Boxes can be brought back and returned to their Sunday school teachers on or after March 30th.

THANKS SR. HIGH!

Thanks to all the Senior High youth and their fearless leaders for the fabulous pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. It was fabulous! The food...\$5-\$7 depending on your appetite, the outstanding service...free but tips were always accepted (This was a fundraiser after all!), the opportunity to bond as a church community...priceless! Thanks to all who supported the Senior High by having faith in our culinary skills once again!!

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday will be held this year on May 4th. Mark your calendars and join us for this very special Sunday which highlights worship from a youth perspective.

UPCOMING DATES

Monday, April 7th – Christian Education Team meeting 7:00pm – all are welcome to attend!

Friday, May 16th – Family Movie Night for grades Kindergarten through 4th at 6:30p.m.

Sunday, May 18th – Sundae Sunday

WANTED: CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

If you are currently in 7th grade or if you are a high school student that has not been confirmed.....

WE WANT YOU!!!

By the beginning of April you should receive a letter with information regarding the 2008/2009 Confirmation program with classes beginning next Fall. If you do not receive this information, please contact Pastor Gail, Pastor John or Pastor Daryl.

Opportunity for Christian Growth

Spring has sprung! The camping season (for warm weather people) is rapidly approaching!

The United Methodist Church operates two summer camping programs for youth of school age. These camping experiences are supervised by Christian college age counselors and provide hiking, swimming, boating, campfires, games, snack bar, social time, bible study, chapel services and other "camp" activities. All campers use flush toilets and have hot shower facilities available. The camps are located on scenic lake front property. Campers at Camp Asbury, located near Perry, swim in a pool. Campers at Camp Findley, located near Sherman, swim in the lake.

The bible study theme for all camps this year is "Handle with Care". It is expected that the Christian community will provide an actual Christian life experience for each camper.

Further information is available in the brochures that have been distributed to the church. You may also find more information at a new website: www.campfindley.org. Application forms can be downloaded at this site. Camps are open to all youth expecting a Christian content at camp. Youth do not need to be United Methodist to attend. There is a wide variety of special interest themes in the camps. Send a youth and his/her best friend, they will have a great experience!

Submitted by Dick Davidson



Tithing: Law of God or Gift of God? Part II¹By David S. Bell²

Give generously to your needy brother and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

In our postmodern culture, financial giving is usually not the first monetary decision people make. Instead, it is one of the last decisions. We might rationalize these priorities by considering our primary financial decisions to be those of basic needs. We make choices about housing, food, relationships, transportation, employment, and recreation -- to name a few -- before we make choices about monetary gifts. Our lifestyle and all of its financial requirements take precedence over our obligation to share financial resources. Further, when we do share, we often do so with a sense of obligation, guilt, or shame.

The decision of defining how much is enough for our lifestyle is a difficult one. Few of us living in developed countries go without the things we need; yet each day millions of people around the world live without even the most basic resources. As Christians, we are called constantly to balance between our desired wants and our perceived needs.

God offers us a different perspective on giving. It is not one of last resort or compounded with guilt, but one filled with abundance, freedom, and joy. It is the ancient model of tithing. Tithing can help us take a step toward achieving a God-honoring balance with our financial resources.

The ways in which we choose to earn, give, save, and spend money are really spiritual decisions. When our first decision is one of giving, we place a greater level of trust in God. We begin by saying, "Thank you God! All that we have received is a blessing from you." We acknowledge that we worship God and not money! Giving frees us from the bondage that money can have over our lives. Tithing encourages us to focus on God as the source of our strength, rather than our own achievements or financial assets. Tithing leads to spiritual growth.

Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, taught that one who earned and saved money, but failed to give money was not living as a Christian. Tithing introduces spiritual discipline to our financial choices. Tithing challenges the common assumptions of economics and debt. It offers possibilities of economic justice, moderate consumption, and self-control.

Finally, tithing provides the financial assets for congregations to launch and expand a wide continuum of ministries. Together, we are able to accomplish far more than most of us can achieve individually. We might consider giving money through the church, rather than to the church. When people give to the church, they are giving to sustain the institution. However, when people give through the church, they are empowering ministry. The spiritual discipline of tithing is one of giving through the church. Tithing congregations are beacons of spiritual vitality and health. They are communities grounded in spiritual relationships, beginning with a relationship to God as the primary source of strength, hope, and life.

Submitted by Sondra Scott

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² David S. Bell, is the former Director of Stewardship with GBOD. He currently serves as Vice President of Stewardship with The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. You may contact him at www.covenantquest.com.

NEW STAFF

Debbie Parise has recently joined WUMC as our **Financial Secretary**. You may already know Debbie as she works as the Assistant to the Niagara Frontier District Superintendent. Her responsibilities here at WUMC are numerous including assisting the Church Treasurer with caring for the receipts of the Church, properly designating all pledge money to the appropriate funds, preparing member statements, Church payroll, preparing finance reports & meeting with the Finance Committee. **WHEW!** Did I mention this is a part-time job?

Debbie has two wonderful children, Christopher and Nicole and has recently added four month old Tyger...a kitten, to the family!

Welcome & Happy Birthday Debbie!!!!

(It's the 23rd!)

Spring Flower Sale

Celebrate Spring by supporting our WUMC Annual fundraising flower sale. Order hanging baskets, six pack bedding plants or full flats, (48 plants of one variety of bedding plant), and potted plants. Additional forms will be available at the Church office. Order your plants by Friday, May 9th and pick them up in Filmore Hall on Saturday, May 24th between 9 AM and 5 PM. THANK YOU!!!!



Book Club Announces Spring Book Selections

The Book Club will meet at the home of Jean Hagensick on April 11th at 7:30 pm. We will be discussing "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. The American Depression, a traveling circus, an elephant as a main character, and a mystery intersect in this interesting tale.

The book selection for May is "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" by Mark Haddon. An autistic teen-ager who is mathematically gifted but lacking in people skills, investigates the death of a neighbor's dog and does more than solve the puzzle. This is a story of humor, understanding and accomplishment. Time and date for meeting TBD.

The June book is by Mohsin Hamid - "The Reluctant Fundamentalist." This is a powerful account of a Pakistani immigrant in NYC after the attack on 9/11. The story examines the expected and unexpected connections between the political and personal. Time and date TBD; may be combined with the annual picnic/book selection.

The welcome mat is out for newcomers. There are always enough chairs, so please join us.

GET YOUR Zzz's

"Sleep like a baby." Sounds like a plan. What happens to interrupt your sleep? There are a number of sleep disorders. They can all be interrelated.

Narcolepsy is a sudden muscle weakness that happens during waking hours. Restless leg syndrome is a phenomenon characterized by the sensation of "creeping" legs and can only be relieved by moving the legs. Sleep apnea is a popular diagnosis and leads to a variety of medical problems. People with this condition actually stop breathing during sleep. Insomnia is an inability to fall asleep or stay asleep and can be a symptom of depression or exacerbate depression.

Here are some things to know about sleep: Naps are good. Adults need 7-9 hours of sleep per night.

Good sleep is good for your health. The body actually does restore itself during sleep. Did you know that good sleep helps your teeth and memory? Conversely, someone with sleep apnea that is untreated can develop high blood pressure, cardiac arrhythmia, hardening of the arteries and increase their risk of stroke. The stress of not enough sleep can increase the risk of diabetes, obesity and depression.

There are ways of ensuring a better night's sleep and you don't have to purchase a sleep number bed!

Since the body loves consistency, create a routine bedtime and wake time.

Submitted by Shelley Kayne

Just Don't Get Caught Sleeping in Service!!!!!!!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY



Dave Laubisch and Melissa Peters become official members.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!!!!!!

Submissions for the MAY issue of the MESSENGER can be emailed to the Editor at kelly.beckwith@gmail.com.

Please have all articles turned in by Friday, April 18th.

WATCH FOR COMING
DETAILS ON THE
CAREGIVER'S
RETREAT SCHEDULED
FOR SUNDAY MAY 3,
2008 AT WUMC!!!!



Encourage
one another
and build up
each other...

I Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

- Our Staff and Lay Leaders Are Here to Help You**
- Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis
 - Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett
 - Associate for Pastoral Counseling: John Wetherwax
 - Directors of Music: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso
 - Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone
 - Pastoral Assistant for Visitation: Barbara Salterella
 - Church Administration: Denise Barham
 - Financial Secretary: Debbie Parise
 - Custodian: Mary Ann Horey
 - Custodial Assistant: Cheryl Thomas
 - Sunday Nursery Care: Kathleen Ciccone, Amanda Dickerman and Megan Beck
 - Coordinating Lay Leader: Gary Jones
 - Communication Ministry: Sondra Scott & Marie Lorwa
 - Member Care Ministry: Barbara Saltarella
 - Outreach & Missions Ministry: Kevin Lyttle
 - Relational Ministries: Donna Seiler
 - Worship Ministries: Cheryl Thomas
 - Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Jack Killian
 - Trustee Chair: Ed Howard
 - Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott
 - Treasurer: Dave Reichard
 - Newsletter Editor: Kelly Beckwith