



*Our Mission is to Be and Make  
Disciples of Jesus Christ!*

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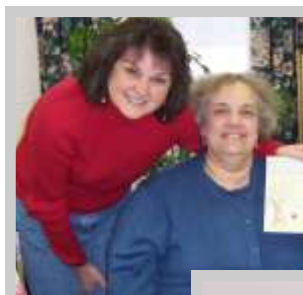
WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Methodist Messenger

5681 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221



No matter what your age is,  
no matter where you come from,  
no matter who you are, there is a place for  
you at Williamsville United Methodist.  
You'll meet a great mix of friendly people,  
listen to beautiful music and hear relevant  
messages. At Williamsville Church  
we're building a community that has a place  
for you. Join us this Sunday,  
we've got a seat waiting for you.



## For The Times Between...

Right now we find ourselves in between two of the great church seasons: Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter. We're not quite through the former. We've yet to approach the latter. All the special holiday trappings have been sent to their hibernation places in boxes and crates. The decor of the Lenten season, though more subtle and subdued, is itself still sleeping in the same kind of containers.

But we are here, caught between what was and what can be. So, how do we deal with this in between time? How do we face the ordinary and less exciting times of our Christian walk? What can we do to remain faithful to the journey, even when that journey seems to lack a specific direction?

Proverbs 3:6 says: **"In all thy ways, acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."** (KJV). The NIV and NRSV versions both say that, **"He shall make your path straight."** Eugene Peterson, in his contemporary paraphrase tells us, **"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go. He's the one who will keep you on track."**

No matter which version you prefer, the message is the same: seek God's direction in your life in all things: at home, at work, at school and even at the gym! And ask God for direction at all times: in the morning, even before you are out of bed; at midday, thanking God for what has been accomplished and asking for help to complete your daily tasks; in the evening when you return home; and before you sleep, asking for a peaceful night, being grateful for another day of life. You'll be surprised at how different your journey is when you share all of your day with God.

The in between times are also times of decision. Looking back, are you satisfied with your life? Looking forward, what would you like to see happen differently? What do you need to do to get there?

This is the **day**  
the Lord has made;



Let **us rejoice**  
and be glad in it.



What has been doesn't have to continue. We can change. We can grow. We can choose a different path. Once we've begun to seek direction in the daily tasks of life, we will begin to make better choices in larger areas of life as well.

Jesus had a lot of between times in his own life. Between his birth and his death, much of his time was spent the same way we spend ours: going from moment to moment, living in family, doing our jobs and hoping for a little relaxation. But with Jesus, the common, ordinary days became extra-ordinary for the people to whom he ministered. And that is my prayer for all of you in these "between times" of the Christian year.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Gail*

## Family Reunion Family Reunion Family Reunion Family Reunion

Have you ever been part of a family reunion? I have and despite all the preparation, when we all finally got together, it was a great time for all. So many stories and pictures and family histories were shared! We also got to check on the health and needs of some of our older family members.

This year our congregation is going to begin preparations for a reunion of our family of faith. Newborns to

wise, old sages will be included. We're also going to try to locate some of our missing brothers and sisters. You may be contacted to help us track down all the information we need. We will try to visit each and every household in our congregation ... just because we care about you and want you to be part of the great Williamsville UMC Family Reunion!

Watch this space for more info!

# Minding The Minutes in Life



**"How we spend our days,  
is how we live our lives."** - Barbara Sher

## Stop the clock

The strangest thing keeps happening when I visit sacred places: my watch stops. It first happened while walking a labyrinth on retreat at a convent. Next, my watch stopped at an ecumenical healing service in a Jewish synagogue and it happened again at my daughter's confirmation ceremony at our Cathedral. The irony does not escape me: these sacred locations are the places I allow myself to slow down, pray and contemplate how I'm using my time.

My life plate is full (ok, crammed) and I am constantly striving to live up to all my responsibilities: work, kids, husband, aging parents, volunteer work... the list, like yours, is endless. When my watch stops, it allows me to let go a little, and operate from more of an internal, trusting, intuitive clock, at least until I get my watch's battery fixed! Perhaps God is stopping my watch in these holy places because here I'm receptive to divine messages. I think the Creator is saying, "Daughter, I have everything under control. You do not need to obsess about time. Trust Me to grant you enough time to complete everything I'm asking you to do."

## Minutes as Money

If God came to you each morning and delivered \$1,440 in cash, you'd be thrilled, right?! Let's become more enthusiastic about the gift of 1,440 minutes we are granted each day. The trick is to be mindful of our minutes, and spend them wisely yet not become obsessive about time. To that end, here is a values clarification exercise you'll find worth taking if you're honest.

First, list the three top values in your life right now.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Second, review your day yesterday. Rate the percentage of time spent on each of the values you listed above.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did you do? Are there disconnects between your values and your time? Bottom line, if you say your family is a top priority—but you spend little time with them—you've got a conflict that begs to be addressed.

## Bust time wasters

Benjamin Franklin said, "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of." Time wasters are activities you get absolutely nothing from and waste precious time and energy. For example, the average American watches 4-6 hours of TV a day: that's a part-time job! My friend wrote and published an entire book in one year, just by turning off the TV and writing.

## Know and list your time wasters.

How might your life change if you stopped wasting time?

## Set priorities in life

You'll never have enough time to do everything in life, so make mindful, meaningful choices that spring from a clear understanding of yourself, who you cherish in life, your gifts and talents and what specific contributions you wish you make during your limited time on earth.

Let these questions help you clarify:

1. What contributions both personally and professionally do I want to make? Be specific in your answers.
2. When I die, what do I want people to say about me at my funeral?
3. What's important now? This year? This month? This day?

One last piece of advice: when setting priorities, strive to put people over things. For example, if you have small children plus a demanding career, simply making it home from work for dinner and bedtime stories might be your daily challenge. Make it happen. You won't regret it.

Mary Rose Remington is a career counselor and life coach, motivational speaker, freelance writer and author of *Career Quest, a Practical and Spiritual Guide To Finding Your Life's Passion*.

## Chris Wylie Leads WUMC to a New Awareness

Williamsville United Methodist Church is fortunate to have Chris Wylie join our staff as a Seminary Intern, Minister for Communications, and Disability Advocate. Chris will continue to use a variety of media including *The Messenger*, bulletins, WUMC's web site, and the *Buffalo News* to communicate information and ideas to our church community and the wider community. Chris would also like to extend WUMC's Communication Ministries to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and special needs.

As a person living with cerebral palsy, Chris believes a large part of his calling is to work with churches to discover new ways to meet the spiritual needs of disabled people while treating those individuals with love and dignity. In his capacity as Disability Advocate, Chris hopes to begin a ministry at WUMC to the handicapped and disabled.

Chris grew up and graduated from high school in West Seneca, NY. He graduated from Houghton College where he majored in business. Prior to attending

seminary, Chris worked for ten years at HSBC in commercial credit and five years in advertising sales at the *Buffalo News*. Chris will graduate in May 2006 from United Theological Seminary with a Master's of Divinity. Earlier this month Chris was certified in the United Methodist ordination process. As part of his seminary training, Chris is currently involved in clinical pastoral education at Sisters Hospital where he serves as a chaplain intern.

Chris is focused on helping WUMC fulfill its mission statement of being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by continuing to spread the word about the various ministries of our church. Be sure to contact Chris if you are interested in joining him in either the Communication or Disability Advocacy ministries.



## Welcome Judith Toone Our New Director of Christian Education

Williamsville United Methodist Church is delighted that Judith Toone has joined our staff as the new Director of Christian Education. Judy comes to WUMC with years of experience that we believe will help her not only maintain the

outstanding Christian Education program that has been established by Barbara Weaver, but also identify exciting new Christian Education opportunities.

Judy lives in Williamsville with her husband Bob and their three teenage children: Chloe (18), Erin (16), and Chris (14). Since their children are involved in a variety of different activities, Judy and Bob happily spend much of their spare time driving to and attending their activities. Judy grew up as the daughter of an Episcopalian minister in small Pennsylvania communities. She graduated from high school in Palmertown, PA and attended college at Penn State where she majored in rehabilitation education.

For the past nine years Judy has worked at Forest Elementary as a teacher's aide. Her duties ranged from working with special needs children to assisting with clerical tasks. In the 16 years Judy has been a member of Kenmore United Methodist Church, she served on several committees including the Nursery School Board and Board of Education. She has also received UMCOR training, which she put to good use helping children in New York City after September 11. Last year Judy began attending WUMC on a regular basis, and also became one of the proud teachers of the Senior High Sunday School Class. She will miss working directly with this amazing group of high school children as she moves into her new position as CE Director.

During 2006 Judy plans to focus on continuing and expanding the wonderful programs that are in place in WUMC's CE Department, and working to meet the educational needs of the church. If you would like to contact Judy, you can reach her at the church Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM, or in the evening and on weekends at her home.

Judy asks that we join her in thanking Barbara Weaver for the gifts she shared and celebrate the new adventures she will experience in her second retirement.

## Christian Education Update

As we begin this new year, we wanted to take this opportunity to extend warm welcomes to anyone interested in participating in our Christian Education programs. Even if you have never joined a class before, please consider doing so now. Our doors are open to all! Just a quick update on all the creative and exciting ways we're growing together in faith!

The **Infant and Toddler Room**, also referred to as the "crib room" is located on the lower level across from the kitchen. Feel free to drop your children off anytime between 8:45 AM and 12:15 PM, knowing that your little ones will be safe and loved. Our caretakers for this room are Stacy Maybee, Megan Beck and Amanda Dickerman. You'll recognize them by the warm gentle smiles on their faces!



The **Three- and Four-Year-Old** class is located at the bottom of the Oakgrove steps on the left-hand side. Currently they are having fun discovering things they never knew about Jesus and all his friends! Please have your little ones join Barbara Manhardt, Sue Loucks and Sara Hein for some exciting hands-on activities!

**Kindergarten through Sixth Grade** meets in Fillmore Hall, also known as the Fellowship Room. We have had wonderful support for the new Rotation Model we're using this year for these age groups, so we will continue with this format for the remainder of the year, except for a few special events coming up. For those of you who are not familiar with our set-up, every week the children rotate between three stations. They remain with their

age groups, with the different stations being geared up or down depending upon the ages coming to them that week. When entering Fillmore Hall, the children are greeted by their age-group teacher, who not only helps them get settled, but rotates with them to the different stations as that valuable set of extra helping hands! Our wonderful age-level teachers this session are Carol Descutner (also known as "Miss Carol") for the K-1's, Misty Scharf for the second and third graders and Brad Curcio for our fourth, fifth and sixth graders. From there the children head to their stations.

The curriculum this session is called "**Digging Into the Bible.**" One of the stations they rotate to is the **Game Station**, led by Debbie Hein and Pam Curcio. The exciting games they've created have caused quite a bit of laughter along with lots of learning. How many of you know how many books of poetry are located in the Bible? I sure didn't! Another station is the **Storytelling Station**. There's nothing like a special story passed from



generation to generation, told around the campfire on a starry night! Many thanks to Drew and Sara Wishman for sharing their gift of storytelling! And last but certainly not least, is our **Science Station** led by Mark Emerson.

If your children have come home with a little extra sand in their shoes, they've been hard at work on their archaeological digs! They've been not only digging for treasures, but have been learning some very interesting facts about the Dead Sea scrolls. For those of you who are not familiar with what those are, feel free to ask Mark. He's become quite the expert!



### CALLING ALL KIDS

Boys and girls who are interested in being part of our Puppet Ministry will need to come to a rehearsal on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 6:15 P.M.**



### WORSHIP FOR KIDS

Just for you! On the third Sunday of each month at the 9:00 AM service there will be a special KING'S KIDS Celebration. Worship will last approximately one half hour and will have songs you know, and puppets you've yet to meet. Sometimes there will be a story or a play, but you can

always come and hear the Good News in a new way. King's Kids Worship will be held February 19 and March 19. BE THERE !!

### CALLING ALL KIDS ...

Boys and girls who are interested in being part of our Puppet Ministry will need to come to a rehearsal on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 6:15 P.M.**

## Christian Education Update continued



We are currently looking for teachers for our next session, which will begin March 5 and will last five weeks. If you would be interesting in sharing your gifts with our children at any time please feel free to contact Judy Toone at 634-4800.

In addition, **Extended Session Sunday School** is offered during the 11:00 service. Children ages four through seven sit with their families during the first part of worship, then leave for Extended Sunday School after the Children's Time. Extended Session meets on the lower level in Fillmore Hall. Our dedicated and loving teachers for this program rotate from week to week. They are as follows:

- First Sunday – Carol Forden, who also acts as coordinator
- Second Sunday – Karen Dickerman
- Third Sunday – Donna Seiler
- Fourth Sunday – Kelly Robertson
- Fifth Sunday – Carol Forden

We are so fortunate to have Allison Lyttle as their assistant each week!

**Seventh and Eight Graders** meet upstairs in the room off the balcony area. There is never a dull moment in this exciting journey in faith, led by Linda Sheriff and Tony DelGobbo. It's a great place for fellowship and tons of fun!

The **Senior High Group**, led by Mark Forden, Jen Moyer and Dave VanKerkhove also meets on the balcony level of the church. As one who's been there, done that, with these kids, I can honestly say as an adult, if you've ever wanted to get involved with youth ministry, this is the group to head to. They are some of the most loving, thoughtful youth around! They are in the midst of a unit taught by Rev. Lewis on the *Gospel According to Harry Potter*, which will soon be followed with a closer look at the United Methodist Social Principles. Insightful discussions with a healthy dose of humor are always part of this class!



Believe it or not, the Christian Education team is already thinking ahead to Easter! We are planning a special project, but need lots of egg cartons to do it. We would be so grateful for any empty egg cartons you could spare! Please give to Judy Toone or leave outside the Christian Ed office anytime between now and April. Thanks!

As my first month with you passes by, I am constantly thinking of the saying you've all heard a million times, but is so true...It Takes a Village to Raise a Child! We are blessed to be raising so many beautiful children here at Williamsville United Methodist. Please take a moment to thank each of our teachers for the gifts they share and the hearts they touch week after week!

- Judy Toone



### ADULT CLASSES

#### **Sunday People's Study**

*January 29, February 5 and 12*

Pastor Daryl Bennett and Chris Wylie will be leading this study on the document *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*. All are encouraged to attend as we explore the rich meaning of this sacrament from a United Methodist perspective. The class meets in the parlor (the open area behind the pews.)

**You Will Be Witnesses:** This winter the ongoing Adult Bible Study Class will look at the book of Isaiah. Gary Jones will lead the discussion. Each lesson stands alone, so join us as your schedule allows. We meet upstairs, in the classroom directly above the parlor.

#### **The Liz Returns for Another Women's Bible Study**

All women are invited to participate in a Bible study based on Liz Curtis Higgs' book, *Bad Girls of the Bible (And What We Can Learn from Them)* beginning Wednesday, February 8.

Some of us met the Liz last fall when we completed a workbook study written by her. Her observations were fresh, vibrant, challenging, and often hilarious. We agreed we would like to schedule another of her studies.

In a review of "Bad Girls. . .," Carol Kent, author, said, "The entertainment value of the book is obvious, but the take-home extra is the Bible study that follows each chapter. Who but Liz Curtis Higgs could so creatively reveal God's compassion, unconditional love, and mercy through such 'Bad Girls' in scripture?"



Women's Bible Study

The introductory session will be on Wednesday, February 8, at 10 AM. Our study will continue for six sessions — each Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 AM through March 22. For more information and to sign-up, contact Judy Toone or Nancy Howlett.

# THIS HOLY MYSTERY

Communion in the United Methodist Church  
by The 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church



Starting on Sunday, January 22, 2006, the Contemporary Issues Adult Christian Education Class has been learning and sharing experiences of Holy Communion. Group leaders Daryl Bennett and Chris Wylie concur that the discussion has been informational, educational and transformative as all share in their foundational experience of the sacrament. For those of you who have not been able to attend the following is a brief summary of what has transpired to date:

## Naming the Sacrament

### Holy Communion:

- Focus is on the self-giving of a Holy God.
- Our communion (interaction) is holy with God and each other.

### The Lord's Supper:

- Jesus is the host and we come at his invitation.
- Reminds us of other meals Jesus ate with the disciples.
- The "Last Supper" is not really appropriate, but does center our Remembering on Holy Week.

### Eucharist:

We thank God here for the gifts of creation and salvation. Mass (misso = sending forth). The sacrament closes the worship by sending us forth with God's blessing to live as God's people.

## Nature of the Sacrament: Various Traditions

**Roman Catholicism:** substance of the bread and wine are changed into the actual body and blood of Christ.

**Lutherans:** the body and blood of Christ are truly present in and with the elements of bread and wine in worship.

**Zwingli** (evangelical churches): a memorial meal or reminder of Christ's sacrifice, an Affirmation of faith, and a sign of fellowship.

**Calvin** (Reformed tradition): Christ's body is in heaven, the power of the Holy Spirit Nurtures those who partake with true faith.

**Church of England** (Episcopal): an understanding similar to Calvin's.

All of the above views were available to John and Charles Wesley.

## Nature of the Sacrament: Methodism

John and Charles Wesley:

- Recognized the power of God in the Lord's Supper.
- Urged frequent participation to draw on that power.
- Wrote over 166 hymns on the Lord's Supper.

Check next month's Messenger for more "food for thought" on this means of grace.





**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?**

A new member class will be held during the Christian Education Time (9:45 to 10:30 AM) on Sunday, February 26 in preparation for formal reception into membership on Sunday, March 5 during the 11:00 AM worship. The pastor's will be mailing letters of invitation soon to folks who have indicated their interest. If you do not receive one, please speak to a pastor or call the church office 634-4800.

**The Stories Behind Our Songs of Faith**

Do you have a favorite hymn?

Are there verses to a particular song which comfort you when you need it most?

Or when you can find no words of your own to express your joy, do you find yourself humming a familiar hymn of praise?

Have you ever wondered what could have prompted someone to capture your feelings so perfectly?



If so, you are invited to be part of the Adult Sunday School class on February 26, when we will be singing those beloved hymns and hearing about the experiences that prompted their writing. To be sure that we include your favorite(s) that morning, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Sunday, February 19. Your requests need not be in our current hymnal, but if they are, it would be helpful if you would indicate the appropriate hymn numbers. Also, some hymns have similar names or first lines, so please include your name and telephone number in case there is some question as to which hymn(s) you want.

Favorite hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

# in our current hymnal (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

# in our current hymnal (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

# in our current hymnal (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**So, Where Is That New Sign?**

About 18 months ago an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to research the possibility of a new sign for our church. The Sign Committee spent months reviewing sign catalogs, looking at web sites featuring church signs, looking at our own property and studying the Sign Code for the Village of Williamsville.

By August of 2005 the committee had a sign proposal, had interviewed local sign companies and had selected Garland Graphics in Alden to construct and install a new sign. By that time, we had collected at least half of the estimated cost of the sign to use as a deposit. However, before we could start, we had to get our proposal approved by the Planning Board of the Village. We appeared before that Board in early September expecting to receive approval and get the sign project underway.



The Planning Board rejected our proposal and put forth eleven conditions regarding a new sign, effectively changing most of our proposal. In October and again in November, the committee appeared before the Village of Williamsville Zoning Board of Appeals. The Sign Committee members asked Mr. Ron Bennett to guide us through this process. The Zoning Board upheld the September decision of the Planning Board.

The members of the committee contend that the church is being held to signage rules for signs in Residential zones. However, the church is in a C-1 zone. Our church is fully located in a commercial zone in the Village and should be allowed to follow sign rules for signs in a C zone.

Our next step is to appear before the New York State Supreme Court; a court date had been set for early February. However, since the Village's attorney has resigned, we expect our court date may be changed.

The New Sign Project is still ongoing as we work our way through this process. Memorial funds designated for a new sign are being held in reserve until a final decision has been made. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a committee member: Ann Killian, Carol Forden, Nancy Howlett, Sally Jost or Tom Hines.

**PECANS MAKE A GREAT SNACK -- WANT SOME?** There are UMW pecans for sale at \$7.50 per pound. They are being stored in Carol Forden's freezer. If you would like to purchase some, please call her.

## Cheerful Giving Assists Many This Holiday Season

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The Christmas gifts have been opened (and some returned), the decorations have been stored away, and the outdoor lights are down (or are they?). The spirit of the season has come and gone and we're already into February. Wait a minute! Can't we still reflect on the joy of the season?

To put you back into the spirit, I want to talk about December and January when WUMC had the "Red Book." During this time WUMC was the church primarily charged with providing assistance to those in need in the community. Funds and donations came from members' generosity and gifts to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. Help was given to a variety of people in differing situations, including people between jobs, or facing a sudden illness, or caught between paperwork filing and receiving benefits, or with unplanned expenses threatening fragile support structures, such as when a car absolutely must be repaired and there are no savings, no credit cards and no family to fall back on.

- During December and January, WUMC gave out a total of 200 bags of food to local families, the Seneca Street UMC and the Asbury Shalom Zone (ASZ). Gift certificates were given to Seneca Street. Christmas gifts were collected for ASZ's Three King's Celebration and Gateway Longview. WUMC also provided \$1,600 in other assistance including Tops and Quality certificates and cash. Examples of the assistance included:

- Food and paper products while someone was waiting for disability checks to be processed.
- While an AIDs patient waited for his/her social worker to sort out paperwork to obtain assistance, money was needed for purchasing medications, food, and to pay for utility bills.
- A person undergoing treatment for cancer needed food for three teenagers.
- A person was short on cash for car repairs and absolutely needed the car to get to work.
- An apartment dweller had a broken window. WUMC repaired the window then provided some much needed furnishings for the apartment (purchased from the ASZ store).
- Someone going to college to better themselves needed bus money to get to school from a surrounding suburb.
- A family, devastated by the death of one parent and the sickness and treatment of cancer in the surviving spouse, was adopted by WUMC and provided Christmas dinner, clothing and gifts for the children.

Even though December is a busy time of year and we participate in a variety of other mission projects, the congregation responded generously by providing for every Red Book need. Recipients were relieved and thankful. Some offered to help out at the church, others just needed to talk, while some expressed that they had never experienced such a warm and caring atmosphere. As United Methodists we are often asked to support mission requests. It's hard to know if our gifts are really doing any good. This season, in some very real, measurable ways, some of our communities' neediest were helped and that, my friends, is what we are called to do.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work...You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us" (2 Corinthians 9: 7, 8, 11).

If you would like to help, it's not too late. The food pantry could use some replenishing with canned meats, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, cereal, and juice. In addition, paper products such as toilet tissue and sanitary products are in demand. Thank you for all your support this season and let's not forget to keep the Christmas spirit in our hearts all year long. - Peggy Farrell

**THE KATRINA FAMILY** which is being helped to begin life anew in WNY by the Seneca Street UMC has been enormously assisted by the help and generosity of the WUMC family, however, the family which, lost absolutely everything in the hurricane, is in desperate need of a washer & dryer (either electric or gas), kitchen chairs and a vacuum cleaner. If you can provide some of these items please call Cheryl Bird. Thank you.

The **WUMC EMERGENCY FOOD CUPBOARD** is very low on canned and micro-wavable soups, tuna and chicken, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, toilet paper, tissues, stuffing mix, instant or canned potatoes (plain), canned vegetables, stew, chili and canned ravioli.

Donations may be placed in or next to the wicker basket labeled food collection in the narthex.



## Missions in the News

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### **SPECIAL PINS WILL GO ON SALE IN FEBRUARY**

Bring your checkbook when you come to church February 5 & 12. You will definitely fall in love with the special awareness pins that will be on sale. These attrac-

tive pins are being sold as a fund raiser but also they raise awareness of some serious contemporary issues. You may like the *House Pins* which highlight women who are homeless. Perhaps you have a loved one struggling with Alzheimer Disease and the *Puzzle Piece* pins will call to you. Or perhaps you want to speak out on issues related to women who have been abused/live in shelters and the *Women's Pin* could be worn to promote discussions. We will also have on hand a supply of lovely *Valentines Pins*. The cost will be \$14 a pin. We promise you will want to buy some for yourself and several more to give as gifts.

Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida will sponsor a **BENEFIT LUNCH FOR ASBURY SHALOM ZONE** on Thursday, February 9 at 62 Virginia Street starting at 11 AM. For a donation of \$5 you will receive a delicious lunch of rice with pigeon peas, baked chicken, potato salad, pan bread, dessert and pop. Please place your order by Monday, February 6 by calling Asbury Shalom Zone 886-8282, Monday to Friday 9:30 AM to 2 PM or call Primera Iglesia 845-6097, Monday or Friday 9:30 AM to noon.



### **CALLING ALL KNITTERS - PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED QUICKLY**

~ At the UMW Assembly in Anaheim from May 4 - 7 there will be a display of prayer shawls set up in the Prayer/Meditation Room. The shawls

will be distributed to those in need at the close of the gathering. The deadline for sending them to New York is February 25. Directions can be found in the church office. You've only got a few days. Ladies (and gentlemen) warm up those fingers, it's time to make those needles fly.

### **SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION MAKES PLANS FOR SUMMER PROGRAM**

Save July 20-22 for attending the School of Christian Mission Summer event at Daemen College. This summer's bible study is "Shalom-Salaam-Peace" and will be led by Rev. David Lubba. Each participant will choose to take either India-Pakistan or Globalization as their focus study. Many more details have been published in the *WNY Spectrum newsletter* (available at church).

This is an experience that once you attend, you will want to come back for every year. There is also a separate program for high school youth. Questions can be directed Carol Forden who will be delighted to speak to you about this opportunity for spiritual and cultural enrichment.

### **THE END OF YEAR MISSIONS REPORT**

Once again WUMC has paid its World Service, Shared Ministries and Buffalo District fair



share portion of \$52,869 in full (formerly known as apportionments). Thanks to your faithful stewardship, we were able to send the December payment the week before Christmas. All 2005 bills have been paid and a surplus of about \$11,900 will be carried forward to 2006. This, added to pre-paid pledges close to \$7,000, gives us a healthy head-start as we charge into 2006.

In addition to the above totals, we thought you'd also like to know that over \$3,000 was given to the six United Methodist Special Sunday offerings, over \$6,500 went to support local missions (like the Seneca Street UMC and Asbury Shalom Zone), almost \$12,000 was sent to UMCOR and Church World Service programs to assist people in the wake of domestic and overseas disasters and about \$4,400 was given in support of our youth ministries.

### **WONDERING WHY YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN GIVING ENVELOPES YET?**

Boxed sets of giving envelopes for 2006 were prepared last year and have been available to pick up in the church narthex since the new year. If a box was not

prepared for you, and you would like a set, please call the church office (634-4800). If you will not be able to come to church to pick up your giving envelopes, let the church office know and they will be mailed to you.



## Methodists in Fellowship

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Peace and Blessings to everyone, and welcome to our caring corner. We on the Member Care team have been meeting and putting together what we hope will be some good ideas for you and this ministry.

Our health ministry is taking off thanks to Shelley Kayne.

Don't forget to see Shelley on the second Sunday to have your blood pressure checked and we will be having a different health topic every month. It is our wish that all of our congregation remain healthy.

In the library you will find some magazines, one is the *Caregiver* magazine and the other is *Mature Years*, both of these magazines are wonderful. *Caregiver* has interesting and informative articles on areas of concern like Alzheimer's and Long Term Care insurance. *Mature Years* has Bible lessons, stories and health articles. Please stop and borrow one of these magazines or if you need any kind of information stop by the office and we will help you.

We are always trying to build up our resources if you know of books, magazines, articles or even video's which will help build our ministry or which contains helpful information, please let me know and I will try and get it. We also have the Conference Resource Center which has a wealth of wonderful information which we can draw upon.

I would like to apologize for the cancellation of our fall Flu Clinic, because of distribution problems, the VNA was unable to fulfill their commitment with us. However, we feel that if we could arrange to have it earlier in the fall, we would like to try again.

We are putting together information on a transportation ministry and we want to submit a grant application to the Niagara Frontier District for help in starting it. This grant comes from the Older Adult ministry and would be for about \$2,500.

We are also looking at putting together a history of Williamsville United Methodist Church and we would like to tape some of your stories. Stories about dances, socials, junior and senior youth groups, Elderteens trips and mission trips, so get your pictures together and be ready to relate your story.

As I think about the future for this ministry there are many doors being opened but it would not be possible without God as our guide. "With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27)

Peace and Blessings,  
Barbara Saltarella

### COMING NEXT MONTH

Join us for **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** on March 1 at 7:00 PM. The service of healing will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.



### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS RETURN

Soup dinners followed by a special program will be back again this year. These popular fellowship opportunities will continue throughout the Lenten season, starting Wednesday, March 8 through and including Wednesday, April 5. Be sure to check your March Messenger for program specifics.

### CIRCLE MEETINGS

**DORCAS CIRCLE** will meet in the church parlor at 10:30 AM on Thursday, February 9. We will be packing the items we have collected for Haven House.

**RACHAEL CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, February 9 at the home of Joyce Champ. The speaker will be Mary Kelly. Please bring a sandwich.

**CORRECTION:** The **BOOK CLUB** will meet on Friday, February **17**, (not the tenth as previously announced) at 7:30 PM at the home of Sally and Bud Jost. We will be discussing *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Please join us.

### THIRD ANNUAL FLORIDA SNOWBIRD GATHERING PLANNED FOR MARCH 18

WUMC Snowbirds and Snowflakes will gather on

Saturday, March 18 at noon for a potluck lunch. The Forden's will host the gathering at their clubhouse. A donation of \$5 will be asked of each participant to help cover the costs.



## LOVE LETTERS

Dear Friends

I want to thank you for your outpouring of love and support when my mom died in December. Your telephone calls, e-mails, cards and notes, cookies and gifts and especially your hugs were deeply appreciated by me and my whole family. May the warmth and glow of our advent candles light our way with hope, peace, joy and love as we journey through this year.

- Barb Weaver

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, meals and words of encouragement to me and my family during this time of rehab after my accident. The visits at the hospital and during rehab meant more to me than I can express. Thank you again for your love and support.

- Barbara Heximer

Heartfelt thanks to everyone here at Williamsville United Methodist for all the thoughts and prayers during Mike's recent 16-month deployment. Mike returned home safely from Iraq just in time for the Holiday season. We are grateful to have him home!

- Kelly Robertson

Dear Williamsville Angels,

Because of dear people such as you, the ministry continues at Seneca Street UM Church. Thank you for helping make Christmas extra special for the Seneca Babcock Community. Bless you from the bottom of our hearts. - Connie & Church Family

Well Folks, Christmas time is over and Ira and I are recuperating from our tremendous cookie sales. We had a great time (most of the time). Sometimes we wished more hands would come to our rescue and pitch in – but we all would have bumped and bounced off each other! We had the aroma of cookies surrounding us night and day.

I had a feeling we'd have healthy cookie sales this year and when many orders came in before Thanksgiving, I knew my hunch could be right. We were off to a rolling, cutting, baking and frosting start. I never envisioned we would reach the total of 81 boxes filled with two pounds of cookies each! I can hardly believe it now, in fact. Even if there wasn't profit involved, money could never replace the benefits we received from all you wonderful people. Our joy was seeing your enjoyment and hearing your compliments. Ira and I shared working together and shared the joy of giving. Our profit was huge in that respect. We have cleaned our mixing bowls and put away our cookie cutters, dare we say, "Wait 'til next Christmas!"

I had a nickname in my school days (oh, so long ago). It was Cookie – no lie! My school mates must have known something I didn't. And Ira's nickname at the steel plant was Smiley. Fits him to a tee, doesn't it?

Thank you everyone - we couldn't have done it without you.

- Blessings to you from Ira and Rena

Dear members of the Knitting Ministry,

We are so appreciative of people like you who are so wonderful and giving! We absolutely love the baby sweater set that was made for Aiden. He looks so cute in it. He's nice and warm in it too. Thanks again for your kindness.

- Karin & Aaron Achenbach

**CONGRATULATIONS** to delighted grandparents Edna and Mel Cabaltica on the birth of grand-daughter Lydia Kay Cabaltica to their son Rex and daughter-in-law Rebecca on January 24. We understand that, much to her father's relief, Lydia has Becca's ears, a very cute face, and a good head of hair. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

~ Kelly Robert-son's grandmother, Frances Holloway, passed away on Friday, January 6. Please keep Kelly's mother (Sharron Rich), uncles, and aunts in your prayers during this difficult time. ~ Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Kathryn (Kay) Winter who died January 6. We especially remember Kay's son Jim and daughter-in-law Nancy in their sadness at her loss. ~

## *Our Mission is to Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ!*

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